

**TOWN OF WINCHENDON
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES
MONDAY, JULY 30, 2018
4th Floor Robinson-Broadhurst Conference Room
109 Front Street, Winchendon, Mass.**

Present:

Audrey LaBrie, Chairwoman
Austin Cyganiewicz, Vice Chair
Barbara Anderson
Charles Husselbee

Keith R. Hickey, Town Manager
Linda Daigle, Executive Assistant

Absent :

Michael Barbaro

List of Documents Presented at Meeting:

- Memo dated July 26, 2018 from the Town Manager regarding Executive Session Discussions (filed)
- Resume of Joanne Goguen (filed)
 - Recommendation of Town Accountant Bill Schlosstein (filed)
- Memo dated March 2017 from Town Manager regarding the Purchase of 71 Pleasant Street (filed)
 - Map of property
 - Assessor Card

Chairwoman LaBrie called Executive Session to order at 9:37 P.M.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Exemption # 6 – To consider the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property if the chair declares that an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the public body

The Town Manager asked if the Town has any interest in this property at 71 Pleasant St. which was originally brought before them in 2017. The Town Manager noted the terms back in 2017 and believes it would now cost over \$300,000 for everything to prepare it for a parking area. The property owner has come back to us asking if the Town would want the property. It would still be \$175,000 for demolition and construction of the parking lot and \$3,000 for the sewer betterment. The property owner is asking what the Board would offer him for this property.

LaBrie asked if there were any funds or grant money that might be available. Hickey replied the funding would be town money, possibly free cash which would need Fall Town Meeting approval. He added it would be nice to have some additional parking. They discussed the parking needs in the area. Anderson didn't think it was the best use of the Town's resources. Cyganiewicz agreed looking to pursue other opportunities and asked if there was a grant that could be applied for. The Board decided to see if there were any grants available the Town Manager could seek out.

Exemption # 2 – To conduct strategy session in preparation for negotiations with non-union employees

The Town Manager informed the Board that after a lot of thinking, the Town Accountant, Bill Schlosstein, decided to accept the position of Business Manager of the Quaboag School Department in his hometown. He's been kicking this around about a month and he has been talking about it with him weekly.

Mr. Hickey told the Board that he wants to promote the Assistant Town Accountant, Joanne Goguen, to the position. She's been in municipal accounting over a decade in Gardner; she knows Munis and improved upon the payroll process here. He believes she is the right fit and would like to offer her the position. Ms. Goguen understands she will enter at a lower range. She wants to become a certified accountant which is a three year process. Bill has offered to be available after he does leave and expects before he leaves to close the books. We can hire Eric Kinshurf to do the tax forms and Schedule A to the Dept. of Revenue. Bill thinks he will be able to get the information to submit to the Dept. of Revenue to certify free cash before he leaves. He would be available to Roselli for the audit.

Mr. Schlosstein is asking the Board to allow his departure at the end of August instead of the sixty day notice. He would like to start the new school year in the new job and be available for questions throughout September and on to support us. Hickey said it was a difficult decision for Bill to make.

Hickey said moving forward and getting the blessing from the Board, the Town Accountant has a three year contract with the Board and he would like to offer it to Joanne and bring the contract before the Board at their August 20th meeting. We are seeking for someone to take over Joanne's current position. Hickey said he believes Joanne has the understanding of things and can maintain the integrity of the records that Bill has gathered. He would list in the contract some expectations and timelines for her in getting certified.

Hickey reviewed the compensation and the additional help coverage for Eric Kinshurf. He believes Joanne is the right person.


After a brief discussion, the Board agreed on the August 30th resignation date for Mr. Schlosstein and to offer the position to Joanne Goguen with the right terms.

Cyganiewicz moved to authorize the Town Manager to enter into negotiations with Joanne Goguen for the Town Accountant position; Anderson seconded. By roll call vote of all aye, the motion carried unanimously.

Anderson moved to adjourn from Executive Session; Cyganiewicz seconded. By roll call vote of all aye, Executive Session adjourned at 10:21 p.m.

Austin moved to adjourn Public Session; Cyganiewicz seconded. By vote of all aye, the meeting adjourned at 10:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Linda Daigle
Executive Assistant