

**TOWN OF WINCHENDON
BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2017
Town Hall, 2nd Floor Auditorium
109 Front Street, Winchendon, Mass.**

Present:

Barbara Anderson, Chairwoman
Audrey LaBrie, Vice-Chair
Michael Barbaro
Austin Cyganiewicz

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

Absent: Amy Salter

List of Documents Presented at Meeting:

- Town Manager Memo regarding “Request from Owner of the IGA to Retain Wine and Malt Package Store License” (attached)
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The meeting was called to order by Chairwoman Anderson at 6:31 p.m. with the *Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America*.

Announce audio/video recording disclosure – There was no one who announced they would be audio or video recording the meeting this evening.

Selectman Barbaro moved for a five minute recess allowing time for the fifth member of the Board to join them: Selectwoman LaBrie seconded. By a vote of all aye, the motion carried unanimously and the Board recessed at 6:32 p.m.

The Board reconvened at 6:48 p.m.

SELECTMEN’S COMMENTS: There were none this evening.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS: There were none this evening.

APPOINTMENTS/RESIGNATIONS: N/A

PERMIT/LICENSE APPLICATIONS/PUBLIC HEARINGS: N/A

NEW BUSINESS: N/A

OLD BUSINESS:

Central Supermarket, LLC Wine and Malt Package Store License – Chairwoman Anderson noted the owner of the supermarket was before the Board recently and there was a split decision with four members in attendance. The Board chose to hold the decision for a full Board as Selectwoman LaBrie was not in attendance. Unfortunately, Selectwoman Salter is running late this evening and they still have four members. The Town Manager advised if it is a majority vote this evening, the decision will be made. If there is a 2-2 tie, we could continue to wait until Selectwoman Salter arrives.

While waiting for Ms. Salter to arrive, the Town Manager said he had some announcements this evening. The Director of Development, Tracy Murphy, wanted to make people aware that there is still fuel assistance money available. For those who qualify, it is up to \$500 per household. Applications can be obtained from the Planning

office at Town Hall, the Senior Center or the CAC. There is also housing rehab money available, so please reach out to the Planning and Development office. The office is requesting that the Chestnut St. residents return their surveys. They cannot apply for CDBG money without the surveys returned for supporting information. The survey information is kept strictly confidential.

Mr. Hickey announced the Town was awarded the designation of a Green Community. This is based on a lot of work the community has done the last couple of years passing some zoning laws and the Board of Selectmen passing a couple resolutions. The Town will receive \$175,000 from the Commonwealth towards energy efficiency improvements that we apply for during the upcoming year. In the future, the Town can apply up to \$250,000 annually but it is a competitive process.

Mr. Hickey informed the Board that the DPW Director, Al Gallant, has been working on acquiring the street lights. He's hoping to come back before the Board in the next four to six weeks. Ultimately there will be a warrant article in May and the electric utility has determined the cost for us to acquire the street lights is nothing. We'll have to absorb the cost for LED lighting. Those funds will be paid from savings from the electric accounts we currently are using for the old street lights. The project will pay for itself over a three to four year period and will provide more energy efficiency.

Chairwoman Anderson went back to the Central Supermarket, LLC agenda item to discuss whether to allow the store to retain the license. Selectman Barbaro said in conversation with the owner, Mr. Szelest, two weeks ago, one of the specific points was to have his license stay on the property feeling it was important to move forward with the sale. Two days later he noticed the license for sale in the paper. With believing the owner was not planning on keeping it on site, **Selectman Barbaro moved the owner surrender his license at this time. Selectman Cyganiewicz seconded for discussion.** He agrees with Selectman Barbaro. He felt the Board tried working with the owner but it didn't seem like it was going to work out. The business owner left employees without jobs and presented a difficult situation for the community. Mr. Barbaro noted Mr. Szelest was not in attendance this evening to defend himself or let us know what he is trying to do. Mr. Hickey noted he was notified by certified and regular mail of the meeting this evening and we did receive back the green return receipt card signed.

Selectwoman LaBrie apologized for not being at the last meeting. She asked if they vote to surrender the license what the time frame would be. The Town Manager advised it could be immediately or a time specified by the Board. If the decision is appealed, there would be a buffer of time for a new license to be considered. There has been no definitive transfer or any specifics given to this office. Mr. Szelest had mentioned he had an interested party, but there has been no application submitted officially that a transfer was imminent.

By a vote of all aye, the motion carried unanimously.

The Town Manager stated he would notify the owner tomorrow morning to surrender his license immediately per the Board of Selectmen's action this evening.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT: There was no Town Manager's Report this evening.

MINUTES: There were no minutes for approval this evening.

COMMUNICATIONS: N/A

AGENDA ITEMS: The Board noted their next meeting is Monday, Feb. 13th and the Joint meeting with the School Committee, Finance Committee and Audit Committee would be Feb. 27th.

ADJOURNMENT:

With no need for Executive Session this evening, **Selectman Barbaro moved to adjourn; Selectwoman LaBrie seconded. By vote of all aye, the meeting adjourned at 7:01p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Daigle, Executive Assistant