

**Town of Winchendon**  
**Winchendon Finance Committee Meeting Minutes**  
**April 30, 2015**

**CALL TO ORDER:** 7:00 p.m.

**MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:** Ulysse Maillet, Thomas Kane, Robert Guenther, Darlene Rossi and Christian Orobello  
Absent: Ottmar Rau and Cyndi Leroy

**MATERIALS** Agenda for April 30, 2015 meeting  
Special and Annual Town Meeting Warrant

**PUBLIC HEARING**

**SPECIAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT**

Chairman Kane explained that the Finance Committee will withhold support if there is no explanation to an article. The purpose of this public hearing is to educate and understand what the article is about.

Article 1-A report of the Finance Committee.

Article 2-Veteran Services Deficit \$100,000. Jim Kreidler said that the FY15 deficit can be part of the legislation. He said that he doesn't know if it's going to be as high as \$100,000. Chairman Kane asked about the Veteran Agent and projected expenses. Jim said that with article 2 and 3 it will get us at the \$3.4 million.

Article 3-Health Insurance \$400,000. Jim said that a more accurate figure will be presented on the floor.

Article 4-\$60,000 to upgrade the financial software which is part of the deficit reduction plan. Donna the Town Accountant said they are working with Munis System. We are seeing what needs to be done in the system. She would like to move forward with Munis. We are vested with them. We need to get the system working properly. Ulysse Maillet asked if it is wise to appropriate \$60,000 if we might not be using Munis. Donna said that they are doing what is the most cost effective. We need to get all the operating systems integrated.

Article 5-Unanticipated out of district special education tuition. Ms. Harris from the School Committee said that we had extra students move into our system after the beginning of the school year. They are under special education. Chairman Kane asks what the numbers of students were. Ms. Harris said that she doesn't know. Chairman Kane said that the sending district is responsible for them. Ulysse said that no one from the School Department is here to answer our questions. Christian said we ask people to come here with the information. Ulysse said it is disrespectful to the Finance Committee. Kevin Miller commended the Finance Committee for bringing these questions forward. As a taxpayer I question if these are unanticipated. On the general government side cuts have been made. The information needs to be there. Stick to policies and practices and not approve article 5 and 6.

Article 6-Unanticipated unemployment costs. Ms. Harris said that we weren't notified until February 12th that there would be \$50,000 unemployment deficit. Robert Guenther asked what the unemployment figures were for previous year. Ms. Harris we weren't getting billed. Chairman Kane asked when they were layed off. Ms. Harris said that she didn't know. Chairman Kane explained that if they were anticipated in June 2014. If you lay off employees, you don't have to wait for the bills to come in to know there is going to be an increase in unemployment costs. It wasn't unanticipated. Kevin Miller said he would like to point out with the timeline layed out they should be anticipated at the beginning of the year. It has made it worse to us as a community.

#### ANNUAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT

Article 1 and 2 are usual and ordinary

Article 3-Revolving funds authorization article. Jim said that this is usual and customary.

Article 4-Jim said this allows income eligible seniors to volunteer and get money off on their taxes. Ulysse asked how many seniors were doing this. Jim said there are 8 this year.

Article 5-standard article

Article 6-GASB 45 Study \$7,500. Donna the Town Accountant said that this study measures what are OPEG requirements are.

Article 7-Usual and Customary general government budget article. Jim discussed the \$300,000 override that was voted last year. It is now \$307,500 because of the 2 1/2% increase. If article 2 and 3 on the Special Warrant don't pass then we don't have a balanced budget for FY15. It doesn't affect FY16.

Article 8-Water Enterprise Article

Article 9-Wastewater Enterprise Article

Article 10-Transfer Station Enterprise Article

Article 11- Jim said that this will be passed over.

Article 12-Kevin Miller said if the Finance Committee has received a detailed school budget as provided in the general government budget. Chairman Kane said that the school department has provided a detailed budget. We did ask for more information about grants which they did provide us. Christian

said that the superintendent wasn't present and that the format wasn't what we like to see. It was difficult to compare years and was hard to follow.

Article 13-Monty Tech Assessment. Chairman Kane said that Monty Tech did do a presentation. Christian commented that if the select board vote not to recommend, it gets paid anyway because it is an assessment. Jim Kreidler said at some point a line has to be drawn in the sand. Ulysse stated that we are sending around 140 students. How can we reduce that amount? We are paralyzing our school system. Robert Guenther said that he thinks there are some curriculum issues. It's not equitable with our school system.

#### Article 14-School Transportation Budget

Article 15-Ms. Harris from the School Committee said that our union voted to bring this forward. A level funded budget. Chairman Kane said this charge is part of indirect costs. If the town were to say no the overall town budget would be out of whack. We are all in this together. Jim said that the note came from Town Counsel. People should spend time to read the note. Kevin Miller stated that there is no source for this article. It doesn't meet the Finance Committee rules and regulations.

Article 16-Jim said that this was voted last year and died in session. We need to refile.

#### Article 17-Contractual sick leave buyback

Article 18-Jim explained that \$45,100 is the additional sum for the audit from Roselli, Clark & Associates. It is a prior year's bill.

Article 19-FY14bill paid out of FY15 appropriations. Jim said that these bills didn't get across the threshold in time.

Article 20-Jim Kreidler said this is a TIF agreement. This is for 8 years. This is an incentive to come and do business in Winchendon. Ulysse said that this is taxes only on the improvements of the base.

Article 21&22-Jim said this article is to publicly accept roads. The second is for easements. We will know at Town Meeting if this is necessary.

Article 23-Establishing an Audit Committee. This would consist of one member from the Board of Selectmen, Finance Committee and School Department. This would also include two residents of town.

#### Article 24-Establishing a Group Insurance and Benefits Committee.

Article 25-Jim said that this articles intention is good. There is a statute that multi-unit owners have to have their property inspected every 5 years. This would put some penalties if they don't get the inspection. Ulysse said that this is overkill.

#### Zoning Articles

Article 26-Guy Corbosiero a zoning board member discussed that this is a change of definitions.

Article 27- Mr. Corbosiero said that it is just adding allowing a special permit for sales and service to expand the uses. They are now allowing them with special permits in industrial. Adding a note that forces any vehicle not registered to be screened.

Article 28-Mr. Corbosiero said this is adding Gallery definition which was not noted before. This will allow Gallery Auctions to be in C1 and C2 by special permit.

Article 29-Mr. Corbosiero said this is to revise the definition of open air salvage yard to include "junk yard".

Article 30-Mr. Corbosiero said this has to do with car crushing. Some car dealerships or junk yards will allow them to do car crushing on site. Christian asked if it causes any environmental issues. Guy said that we have found no problems with it. Kevin Miller asked if there would be any affect to businesses. Guy said no this was brought up by businesses.

Article 31-- Mr. Corbosiero said this came up because of boat dealership, about allowing displays in front closer than the set back. Mr. Corbosiero said allows Planning Board to do a site plan review.

Article 32-Citizen Petition No one was there to speak on this article.

Jim Kreidler thanked the Finance Committee. He recognized his children. The wear and tear on my family was too much that is why I stepped down. Chairman Kane said this meeting is the last official act as Town Manager. He said he appreciates the time and effort that he has put in. He wishes him the best. Ulysse expressed his appreciation and wished Jim the best.

End of Public Hearing

The Finance Committee took a short break at 8:53 p.m. The Committee reconvened at 9:02 p.m. The Finance Committee proceeded to vote on the articles.

#### SPECIAL WARRANT ARTICLES

Article 1-4 A motion was made by Ulysse Maillet to approve articles 1-4. The motion was second by Robert Guenther. Vote 5 yes

Article 5&6 A motion was made by Ulysse Maillet to disapprove articles 5 and 6. The motion was second by Robert Guenther. Vote 5 yes.

#### ANNUAL WARRANT ARTICLES

Article 1-10 A motion was made by Ulysse Maillet to approve articles 1-10. The motion was second by Darlene Rossi. Vote on article 1-10 except article 2 5 yes. Article 2 Vote 4 yes and 1 abstained(Robert).

Article 11-passed over

Article 12-14 A motion was made by Ulysse Maillet to approve articles 12-14. The motion was second by Robert Guenther. Vote 5 yes.

Article 15 A motion was made by Ulysse Maillet to disapprove article 15. The motion was second by Robert Guenther. Vote 5 yes

Article 16-19 A motion was made by Ulysse Maillet to approve articles 16-19. The motion was second by Robert Guenther. Vote 5 yes

Article 20-21 A motion was made by Ulysse Maillet to approve articles 20-21. The motion was second by Robert Guenther. Vote 4 yes and 1 abstained (Darlene)

Article 22 A motion was made by Christian Orobello to disapprove article 22. The motion was second by Ulysse Maillet. Vote 5 yes

Article 23&24 A motion was made by Ulysse Maillet to approve articles 23 and 24. The motion was second by Robert Guenther. Vote 5 yes

Article 25 A motion was made by Ulysse Maillet to disapprove article 25. The motion was second by Robert Guenther. Vote 5 yes

Article 26-31 A motion was made by Ulysse Maillet to approve articles 26-31. The motion was second by Robert Guenther. Vote 5 yes

Article 32 A motion was made by Ulysse Maillet to disapprove article 32. The motion was second by Christian Orobello. Vote 5 yes.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Ulysse Maillet and second by Robert Guenther.

**Kane(Y) Maillet(Y) Guenther(Y) Orobello(Y) Rossi(Y)**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:23p.m.

Respectfully submitted.

Debra Dennis

Recording Secretary

Minutes Approved