



Date Approved/Released: 9/20/18

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School Committee Chair: Dawn Fronte

TOWN OF WINCHENDON  
TRI-BOARD MEETING  
School Committee, Finance Committee, Board of Selectmen  
Thursday, August 23, 2018  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor - Town Hall Auditorium

1. Call to order: 6:37 pm

**School Committee:**

Present: Greg Vine, Dawn Fronte, Larry Murphy, Felicia Nurmsen, Roann Demanche  
Steve Haddad, Superintendent, Joan Landers – Interim Superintendent

**Board of Selectmen:**

Present: Audrey LaBrie, Austin Cyganiewicz, Barbara Anderson, Michael Barbaro,  
Charles Husselbee

**Finance Committee:**

Present: Thomas Kane, Christian Orobello, Maureen Ward, Charles Corts, Douglas Delay  
Finance Committee Recording Secretary – Brianna Roberts

**Town Manager**, Keith Hickey,  
**Town Accountant**, William Schlosstein,  
**Impending Town Accountant**, Joanne Goguen,

6:37 pm G. Vine called the School Committee meeting to order. A. LaBrie called the Board of Selectman (BOS) to order. T. Kane called the Finance Committee to order.

2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Video/Audio recording disclosure: Barrie Martins
4. **Introduction of the New Interim Superintendent:**

G. Vine introduced Joan Landers, the Winchendon Public Schools' Interim Superintendent. Ms. Landers reviewed her history working in various school districts in several positions. J. Landers started out as a Special Education Teacher in Lynn, MA where she created a school for K-8 for students who might otherwise be sent out of district. She served as Director of Special Education, Director of Student Services, Assistant Superintendent of Per Pupil Student Personnel, the Asst. Director of Curriculum and Instruction, the Interim Superintendent and as Superintendent.

J. Landers noted her experience regarding budgets and negotiations, and the building of a new high school and solar projects. She noted she researched the district before applying and has spent a lot of time in district, attending events. She thanked Steve Haddad for helping her through the transition process. She is thrilled about the collaboration between the School and the Town; and will focus on moving the district forward. K. Hickey thanked S. Haddad for accepting him into the community in 2015, noting he stressed the critical relationship between the school district and the municipal government. He added 'J. Landers has some large shoes to fill. K. Hickey noted he served on the Interim Superintendent Committee. He welcomed Joan Landers, adding he is confident they will work well together.

M. Ward thanked S. Haddad for changing the culture of the schools, adding it was nice to see a local superintendent at local events. A. LaBrie stated 'Ditto and ditto' and thanked him for his service.

S. Haddad thanked everyone for the opportunity to serve the town and children of Winchendon, adding 'It's been 3 wonderful years.' He thanked them for making Winchendon the greatest town ever. G. Vine thanked S. Haddad for coming in at a very difficult time, when relations were not great and the people running the school business office were not doing the job expected of them. He added 'the District was in financial straits and S. Haddad kept the district going and provided the needed services'. He stated 'The town will be forever grateful and indebted to him'. G. Vine introduced Irene Woodward, the new Assistant Business Manager for the WPS. Ms. Woodward was welcomed.

D. Fronte moved to take the New Business out of order and move forward with "Discussion on Preliminary FY18 Financial Results". Second by F. Nurmsen. School Committee: 4-0-0. BOS: 5-0-0. Finance Committee: 5-0-0. Approved unanimously.

### 5. **Discussion on Preliminary FY18 Year Financial Results**

K. Hickey stated he is pleased the Town has made significant headway towards paying off the last of the deficit legislation 6 years early; and freeing up the \$400,000 of tax-payer's money that has been going to pay that debt. He has a 'draft' final free cash number but awaits confirmation from the Dept. of Revenue and the auditors. He thanked W. Schlosstein and R. Ikonen, for work individually and collaboratively, to get the town in this positive financial position. He thanked W. Schlosstein, who will be leaving the town later this year.

W. Schlosstein also thanked S. Haddad, noting it was important to him to be in a community that valued the school system from the municipal side. He also commended S. Haddad for his service to the Town and for working with him.

W. Schlosstein reiterated the financial figures being presented were in 'draft' form and have not received final approval from the state yet. He reviewed the General Fund Revenue accounts that showed the estimated revenues, the actual revenue and the exceeded revenue target of \$69,242. The Town is still awaiting reimbursements on abatements and exemptions from the state for approximately \$17,000. He noted the areas of strength, including license and permit revenues and associated solar field permits. Diligent efforts by the EMS Management with aggressive collections and the recovery of a special one-time grant. He reviewed individual line items.



6. **FY18 Year End Expenditure Report: Estimated vs. Actual**

W. Schlosstein highlighted those line items that turned back funds to the general account, noting the positive effect on the budget. Responding to L. Murphy, he noted the state assessments of \$245,630 is mainly due to the charter tuition and school choice assessment. He will discuss with R. Ikonen why the figures were so much lower than the estimate. T. Kane noted the Charter School enrollment/cost was less than projected; at \$10,000-13,000 that equals 20 students. W. Schlosstein reviewed line items that were sufficiently budgeted, showing a bottom line is a positive in expenditures of \$870,382. He reviewed the General Fund Draft Balance Sheet, that included the total Fund Balance and the Undesignated Fund Balance of \$1,099,658.27.

Explaining the calculations for Free Cash, he estimated the amount to be \$1,030,548. He does not see the state challenging any of the deficits. He noted timely and accurate financial reports from the school system aided the earlier than usual presentation of this report. Unspent appropriations from the WPS were \$32,426. Responding to G. Vine, he explained it was the goal for the school and town to pay off the deficit note with funds from the school and the general fund. He thanked all involved for being supportive. Responding to M. Ward, R. Ikonen reported that he is working closely with the Abrahams group and the FY17 should be submitted to the state soon. He noted that the state gave them an extension that was open ended.

7. **Discussion of Proposed Fall Town Meeting Schedule**

K. Hickey reviewed the history of the meetings. Due to the National Elections, he moved the Fall Town Meeting to Monday, October 29, 2018. He reviewed the relevant dates regarding the warrant and required public notifications. The Finance Committee will hold its Public Hearing on October 10<sup>th</sup>. K. Hickey noted the audit work should be completed in September; the numbers should be determined in time for Town Meeting and for free cash certification. He will discuss his suggestions for warrant articles with the BOS. He recommended paying off the deficit legislation in the amount of \$312,000, using some of free cash and to reinstate the \$95,000 used from stabilization. He noted the deficit note can't be paid off until March, 2019; the funds would be set aside until that time. He stated there are no other specific needs but items he would like the board to consider.

8. **Old Business:** None

9. **Comments:**

F. Nurmsen thanked W. Schlosstein for all he has done for Winchendon, adding he is a large part of why the town is where it is today with his incredible financial performance. She stated "Bill is a fantastic leader". L. Murphy echoed her comments and wished him the very best. T. Kane thanked W. Schlosstein for taking the time to explain the determination of the figures so the public could understand. He appreciates his persistence and work he has done. On behalf of the BOS, A. LaBrie publicly thanked the Town Accountant for everything he has done for Winchendon, adding "it has been a pleasure having you on the roster at Town Hall". S. Haddad thanked him for working with the school and R. Ikonen, and wished him the best of luck. He also thanked him for kind words he shared at an earlier School Committee meeting, stating "you have been a true friend."

In response to M. Ward, G. Vine reported that the contract for J. Landers mirrored Mr. Haddad's in regard to salary, adding that it was prorated.

10. Adjournment: 7:31 pm.

M. Barbaro moved to adjourn. Second by D. Fronte. Approved: School Committee - 4-0-0. The Board of Selectmen - 5-0-0. The Finance Committee - 5 -0-0.

Respectfully submitted: Barrie E. Martins, School Committee Recording Secretary