

TOWN OF WINSLOW, MAINE
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
Minutes of Meeting
March 11, 2013

REGULAR MEETING

1. Roll call attendance was taken with seven (7) members present.

Ray Caron, Ken Fletcher, Catherine Nadeau, Jerry Quirion, Steve Russell, Gerald Saint Amand and Benjamin Twitchell.

Michael Heavener, Town Manager was present along with Attorney Bill Lee.

2. Recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion by Mr. Caron and seconded by Mr. Twitchell to move Executive Session to the end of the agenda. Motion carried. Unanimous.

3. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings

Motion by Mr. Quirion and seconded by Mr. Russell that the minutes of the meeting held on February 11 be approved. Motion carried. Unanimous.

4. Appointments

Motion by Mr. Russell and seconded by Mr. Twitchell to reappoint Cathy Nadeau to the Personnel Appeals Board for a 3-year term. Motion carried. Unanimous.

5. Communications

- a. Legislative Update

- b. Other

1. Copy of Minutes from Kennebec Water District meetings held January 17 & February 7.
2. Copy of Minutes from the Winslow Safety Committee meeting held January 16.
3. Copy of Minutes from Kennebec Sanitary Treatment District meeting held January 17.
4. Copy of 2012 Service Report from Delta Ambulance.
5. Copy of KVCOG newsletter "The Dispatch.
6. Copy of Municipal Review Committee memo regarding changes in Municipal Solid Waste Management.

6. Reports of Committees and Commissions
 - a. Town Manager's Report

MUNICIPAL BUILDING RENOVATION & CONSTRUCTION PROJECT

I am pleased to report that our Municipal Building Renovation and Construction project came in under budget by \$1,623. Council Order No. 14-2012 authorized total project expenditures of \$735,721. Total project costs came in at \$734,097.

We originally budgeted \$638,408 for the Police Department portion of the project. We had \$10,251 in additional costs related to change orders and \$1,987 in additional costs that was not paid directly to the contractor. Total costs for the Police Department project is \$650,646.

We had budgeted \$97,313 for the Town Office portion of the project and our actual costs came in at \$83,451, leaving us a balance of \$13,861.

Funding for the total project was placed in two separate accounts and therefore project funds need to be transferred from one account to another. In the Council Packet is Resolution No. 10-2013, which if approved will authorize me to transfer project funds from the Municipal Building Capital Account to the Police Facility Capital Account to cover the additional costs related to that portion of the project.

WATERVILLE/WINSLOW NATURAL GAS UTILITY?

After months of evaluating our energy options in this region the Sustain Mid Maine Coalition's Energy Team made an appeal to the Waterville Development Corp. to fund a study to determine the feasibility of forming a consumer or municipal owned natural gas district to serve Waterville and Winslow. The Waterville Development Corp. committed \$40,000 to help fund the study. The SMMC Energy Team believes the formation of a gas district could allow this region to negotiate more favorable gas prices. Such a district would also allow us to begin distributing natural gas in the form of mini districts before a high pressure gas line arrives in our area. Forming a gas district will require action by the State Legislature.

Our State Representative (Councilor) Catherine Nadeau worked closely with Energy Team to develop enabling legislation, which will be submitted to the Legislature for consideration. Councilor Kenneth Fletcher has been a vital member of the Energy Team and assisted in the development of the enabling legislation. The legislation, if enacted, would authorize Waterville and Winslow to form a natural gas utility with exclusive rights to distribute natural gas in our communities.

At their meeting on Tuesday, March 5th, the Waterville City Council voted to support the enacting legislation.

In the Council Packet are two resolutions, which if approved would endorse the enabling legislation and express our interest in joining the Kennebec Valley Gas District. The study being performed will shed more light on the feasibility of forming such a district. If the Council is agreeable I would like to contribute \$5,000 of our TIF funds to support the study.

TAX ACQUIRED PROPERTY

On February 25, 2013, we acquired 7 properties due to unpaid property taxes. I have already been contacted by the previous owners of two of the properties who have expressed an interest in reacquiring their property.

Within the next week I will be contacting the previous owners of all the properties and informing them on what the cost will be to reacquire their property. They will be given 90 days to pay the cost in full.

b. Department Reports

Reports were received from the Assessor, Code Enforcement, Police Department, Public Works, Fire Department, Parks & Recreation and Library.

c. Treasurer’s warrant approved and signed by the Finance Committee during the Month of February.

No. 15.....	\$ 725,008.24
No. 16.....	\$ 523,986.38
Total	\$ 1,248,994.62

d. Financial Report

Motion by Mr. Russell and seconded by Mr. Quirion to approve all reports.
Motion carried. Unanimous.

TABLED BUSINESS

1. Resolution No. 4-2013: Providing for Authorization for the Town Manager to Extend the Final Completion Date for Phase II of the Town’s Remodeling Project with Peachey Builders. (One Reading) Sponsored by Gerald Saint Amand.

Motion by Mr. Quirion and seconded by Mr. Twitchell to remove Resolution No. 4-2013 from the table. Motion carried. Unanimous.

Motion by Mr. Quirion and seconded by Mr. Caron to adopt Resolution No. 4-2013. Motion carried. Unanimous.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Resolution No. 9-2013: Providing for Urging The Maine State Legislature To Craft A Biennial State Budget That Prevents A Significant Increase In Property Taxes. (One Reading) Sponsored by Gerald Saint Amand.

Motion by Mr. Russell and seconded by Mr. Quirion to adopt Resolution No. 9-2013.

Mr. Fletcher questioned if this was a bipartisan Legislative request. He acknowledged that the town should report to the Legislature the impact of the proposed Biennial State Budget. He suggested the council send a letter and presented a draft letter. After a lengthy discussion the council took votes on three options.

Motion by Mr. Quirion and seconded by Mr. Russell to amend the motion to send the letter along with Resolution No. 9-2013 if the request for a Resolution was a bipartisan Legislative Information Request on the proposed budget. Motion denied. 3 – 4.

Motion by Mr. Russell and seconded by Mr. Quirion to send Resolution No. 9-2013 only.
Motion denied. 3 – 4.

Motion by Mr. Russell and seconded by Mr. Quirion to send the letter only.
Motion carried. Unanimous.

2. Resolution No. 11-2013: Providing for the endorsement of the creation of the Kennebec Valley Gas District by the Legislature of the State of Maine for the exclusive distribution of natural gas in Winslow and nearby cities and towns as set forth in L.R. 1177.

Motion by Mr. Caron and seconded by Mr. Quirion to adopt Resolution No. 11-2013.
Motion carried. Unanimous.

3. Resolution No. 12-2013: Providing for Expressing the Town’s intention to join the Kennebec Valley Gas District after its creation by the Legislature of the State of Maine.

Motion by Mr. Quirion and seconded by Mr. Russell to adopt Resolution No. 12-2013.
Motion carried. Unanimous.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion by Mr. Caron and seconded by Mr. Twitchell to enter into Executive Session pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. s 405(6)(A); Personnel Matters, 1 M.R.S.A s 405(6)(C); Acquisition of Real Property and 1 M.R.S.A. s 405(6)(E); Consultations with legal counsel at 8:15 p.m.

Motion by Mr. Quirion to exit Executive session at 9:10 p.m.

1. Resolution No. 10-2013: Providing for The Transfer of Funds from the Municipal Building Capital Account to the Police Facility Capital Account. (One Reading) Sponsored by Gerald Saint Amand.

Motion by Mr. Russell and seconded by Mr. Quirion to adopt Resolution No. 10-2013.
Motion carried. Unanimous.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mr. Quirion and seconded by Mr. Russell to adjourn the meeting.
Motion carried. Unanimous.

The meeting adjourned at 9:12 p.m.

ATTEST: _____
Town Clerk of Winslow Maine