

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 10, 2020

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilor Ruggiero

ROLL CALL

Present: Councilor Stephen Ruggiero, Councilor Barbara Flockhart, Councilor Rob Demarco, Councilor Peter Christopher, Councilor Tracey Honan, Councilor Nick LoConte, Councilor Rich Ferrino, Council Vice President James Letterie, President Philip Boncore

3. MINUTES

- 4.a Approval of October 20, 2020 Minutes, as circulated
Motion by Council Vice President James Letterie
2nd by Councilor Rich Ferrino.

Approve: Councilor Stephen Ruggiero, Councilor Barbara Flockhart, Councilor Rob Demarco, Councilor Peter Christopher, Councilor Tracey Honan, Councilor LoConte, Councilor Rich Ferrino, Council Vice President Jim Letterie, President Philip Boncore
Motion Passes 9-0

5. GENERAL INFORMATION & RECOMMENDATIONS

President Boncore discusses the Covid Cases in Winthrop and that the Governor has amended the "metric system" for determining your town. Winthrop has since changed from Red to Yellow.

The Governor has issued a new order for the inside gatherings are supposed to be 10 people and outside are 25.

The town will be adopting this order.

Order #53 changes time and stay at adds a stay at home advisory beginning at 10:00 pm

Order #55 defines that all persons in MA over the age of 5 must wear a mask, whether indoors or outdoors...

These are orders of the Governor and our Board of Health will be abiding by them for our Town.

6. PUBLIC HEARING

- 6.a Town Council transfer \$25,000 for the Dog Park Funding

Vice President Letterie reports this was heard at the Finance Committee Meeting and will be voted on in Old Business

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

Astrid Weins from the BOH very concerned of the Covid Cases in the town.

Our rate is continuing to grow and is very concerning. New confirmed cases are up by 800% in comparison to end of July. We need to do everything we can to have our citizens follow the rules.... stop blaming demographics...we need to step up to support the effort to stop the spread.

Includes WPD, and all involved...Meredith is doing the best she can do...the Health Dept. will need more help.

Two of Meredith's students have tested positive and she lost their help.

8. CORRESPONDENCE

None from Council Clerk

Councilor Flockhart received a letter to thank Joanne DeMato for her hard work with this election.

President Boncore agrees, she and her staff did a fantastic job. The fact that we had our count by 11 pm that evening was amazing.

9. COMMITTEE REPORTS

9.a Finance Committee

Joint SBAC & MFC Finance Sub

Ordinance Review Committee

Virtual Town Hall with Councilor Demarco

Finance Committee -2 items: Transfer of \$25,000 Dog Park -Positive Recommendation.

OPEB Funding-Will take months to be processed, and down road we will have to have a mechanism in town to adopt. We will have to look different alternatives as to how to be able to fund. This motion begins the process.
Positive Recommendation

Joint SBAC & MFC

Vice President Letterie reports on this meeting of the Tennis Courts. Meeting will continue and thanks ConCom for their approval of project.

More recommendations will be coming back. Should take about 6-8 months, hoping to begin at the beginning of the new year.

This will be a state-of-the-art tennis court.

Ordinance Review Committee

Councilor Ruggiero gives update, going to have multiple forums for people to participate.

Committee will most likely reconvene soon.

Virtual Public Safety Meeting

Councilor Flockhart reports on this meeting and the input from Kaestle Boos Engineering that have two designs, the A Field, and the Golf Course 7th Hole. Information can be found on website for entire presentation.

Councilor Ferrino, agrees with Councilor Flockhart but must do more review on funding.

Vice President Letterie, very impressed with presentation, believes many people in town know we need this building, but can the town afford? There will be several meetings over next months to give costs and funding information. There is a lot to consider.

President Boncore states a committee will be appointed for financial information and placement of building.

Councilor DeMarco asks if the Golf Course would be salvagable if they take the 7th hole.

President Boncore reports that this is still under review...

Virtual Meeting with Councilor DeMarco went very well, had Councilor Flockhart for questions along with Superintendent Howard who answered many questions concerning the schools...all in all a very informative meeting.

10. TOWN MANAGER REPORT

Town Manager Faison reports on the importance of the Covid Spread and restrictions. It will be some time before a vaccine is available.... we must follow the rules and hopes that people will continue to try and put the community first.

It is not one group or one site, it is including all. This is one of the oldest demographic communities in Boston, ...connect dots, we put ourselves in a precarious position with these numbers. Asking community, try as hard as possible to get out of this position. We need to stress personal responsibilities for all, only so much the town can do without everyone's cooperation.

Public Health Director Meredith Hurly reports on the current town's Covid statistics and presents information. **All updated information is available on website at <https://www.town.winthrop.ma.us/board-health>**

Tomorrow will be a flu clinic from 10-2 pm across street from town hall, Cummings School. Also planning on doing pediatrics clinic.

President Boncore asked if the high dose will be available for the seniors.
Yes, there will be 25 and more are being ordered.

Councilor DeMarco questions spelling errors on paperwork for Covid testing while enduring long lines. Have we given thought that people can fill their own info out online to avoid these problems?

Town Manager Faison replies it is currently being explored, as Suffolk Downs is doing, we are working with Fallon to have this testing go smoother.

Councilor DeMarco questions the UNH Halloween party and do these cases count in Winthrop. Meredith answers only ones that come back to Winthrop

Vice President Letterie asks about positivity tests, if someone test pos. and then goes several times, is this still considered a positivity test.

Meredith answers that though people get tested several times after testing positive and then gets tested again and name wrong, statistically it does not matter but does factor into the final count of this. If people get tested positive then test within a certain amount of time and it comes back positive it will be considered in our denominator factor.

Covid Testing Site will be open until 12-31-20

Councilor Flockhart reports that it is on the form if you have gotten tested previously.
Meredith answers that this info is more important to Fallon other than the states multiple testing.

President Boncore asks people to please get tested.

Meredith replies that multi generations within families are testing very quickly and it spreads.

DPW Director Steve Call gives an update on the CBD Project. Updated information can be answered on the Town's Website at <https://www.town.winthrop.ma.us>

11. SCHOOL DEPARTMENT UPDATE

President Boncore reports on School Committee meeting and their review of the metric change. The school must stay in the yellow for at least 3 weeks prior to opening school. Superintendent Howard looking at Jan. for a Hybrid schedule.

You must have feasibility to bring students in, we may not have the feasibility within our schools. School Dept. will be meeting with the BOH at their next meeting and hoping that Jan. 4, 2021 school will be opening.

12. OLD BUSINESS

12.a OPEB Trust Fund Adoption

Vice President Letterie reads motion in full for the record of these minutes (See Attached Motion

Motion by the Finance Committee with a Positive Recommendation

Discussion

CFO Anna Freedman gives background on OPEB

No 2nd Needed

Voting For: Councilor Stephen Ruggiero, Councilor Barbara Flockhart, Councilor Rob Demarco, Councilor Peter Christopher, Councilor Tracey Honan, Councilor Nick LoConte, Councilor Rich Ferrino, Council Vice President James Letterie, President Philip Boncore Voting Against: None

12.b Town Council transfer \$25,000 for the Dog Park Funding (See Attached Motion)

Motion by the Finance Committee with a Positive Recommendation

No 2nd Needed

Discussion

Councilor Ferrino asks if ConCom has approved.

DPW Director answers that the ConCom has agreed that a walk thru has been done and an OOC will be written by the ConCom.

Town Council can vote on this as the OOC will still have to be done.

Voting For: Councilor Stephen Ruggiero, Councilor Barbara Flockhart, Councilor Rob Demarco, Councilor Peter Christopher, Councilor Tracey Honan, Councilor Nick LoConte, Councilor Rich Ferrino, Council Vice President James Letterie, President Philip Boncore Voting Against: None

12.c Town Council vote to create a Special Article for the proceeds of the Sale of

Buses Due to Free Cash not being certified yet, we must amend this motion.

Motion by Vice President Lettiere to rescind original motion voted on at our 10-20-20

2nd by Councilor Ferrino

Voting For: Councilor Stephen Ruggiero, Councilor Barbara Flockhart, Councilor Rob Demarco, Councilor Peter Christopher, Councilor Tracey Honan, Councilor Nick LoConte, Councilor Rich Ferrino, Council Vice President James Letterie, President Philip Boncore Voting Against: None

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Motion by Council Vice President James Letterie to Approve Main Motion as Amended

2nd by Councilor Rich Ferrino.

Voting For: Councilor Stephen Ruggiero, Councilor Barbara Flockhart, Councilor Rob Demarco, Councilor Peter Christopher, Councilor Tracey Honan, Councilor Nick LoConte, Councilor Rich Ferrino, Council Vice President James Letterie, President Philip Boncore Voting Against: None

13. NEW BUSINESS

13.a Town Council Transfer for Lead Line Replacement Project

Motion by Councilor Rich Ferrino to Refer to the Finance Committee.

2nd by Councilor Peter Christopher.

Voting For: Councilor Stephen Ruggiero, Councilor Barbara Flockhart, Councilor Rob Demarco, Councilor Peter Christopher, Councilor Tracey Honan, Councilor Nick LoConte, Councilor Rich Ferrino, Council Vice President James Letterie, President Philip Boncore Voting Against: None

14. PUBLIC COMMENT

Wendy Page -Thanks Councilor DeMarco for his Virutal Meeting and encourages other councilors to also have one.

Questions the current situation with the MBTA, are we as a town looking at the ramifications if the bus lines are cut which could cause many issues of transportation within our town.

Town Manager Faison reports that they were announced yesterday, and our local service could be reduced, our Ferry will not be as it is not funded by the MBTA.

DPW Director Calla, comments on dog park maintenance to be as friendly as possible, will rely on residents being responsible, bags and barrels type of park. More P stone areas. A successful dog park is both the towns and people responsibility.

Noted that under the Cares Act, an enforcement officer has been hired.

Cares act money must be used by end of year. Still advocating for additional work from the the Federal Government.

Leo Rodrigues-new resident to Winthrop as of 2019.

Thanks Councilor DeMarco and Councilor Christopher for responding to his emails. He discusses the water and sewer rates and per his review we are among the top 10 in mass for water and sewer rates. He continues to discuss the rates and his investigation in them.

He believes an audit is necessary and what the issues are. Urges all to look at this issue.

Colleen Murphy-Thanks all

Asks why street sweeping stop, shouldn't it continue to keep streets and sewers clean?

DPW Director Calla answers it is hard during winter to do street sweeping but that the catch basins are cleaned on a regular basis.

Public Hearing Closed.

15. PUBLIC RELATIONS / UPCOMING EVENTS

Vice President Letterie reports that two citizens Bob Wynn & Barbara

Flavin have been invaluable to the Citizens on Finance Advisory Committee are resigning.

President Boncore reports committee openings and asks public to please consider and complete an application.

Fall Forum- November 24, 2020 at 7:00 PM Via Zoom

Happy 245 Year to the Marines

Veterans Day small ceremony honoring the Vets at TH, but due to Governors Orders it will be small.

Committee Openings for Board of Health and Citizens Finance Advisory

16. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Council Vice President James Letterie to Adjourn at 8:39 PM
2nd by Councilor Rich Ferrino.

Voting For: Councilor Stephen Ruggiero, Councilor Barbara Flockhart, Councilor Rob Demarco, Councilor Peter Christopher, Councilor Tracey Honan, Councilor Nick LoConte, Councilor Rich Ferrino, Council Vice President James Letterie, President Philip Boncore

Voting Against: None

A DVD of this meeting is available from WCAT / www.youtube.com

Public Documents used in the meeting are available at Town Managers Office.

Documents Used in this Meeting:

Handwritten Notes / Committee Openings Documents Roll

Call Log

Written Motions / Verbal Motions

Respectfully submitted,

Town Council Clerk

Denise Quist

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING OF NOVEMBER 10, 2020



TOWN OF WINTHROP

OFFICE OF THE TOWN MANAGER

Town Hall, 1 Metcalf Square, Winthrop, MA 02152 Telephone: 617-846-1077 Fax: 617-846-5458

Austin Faison
Town Manager

Town Council Motion

October 14, 2020

Fiscal Year 2021

Motion Summary

Title: OPEB Liability Trust Fund Adoption
Motion ID: TCM21-003

Motion Details

Motion Type: Adopt
Submitted by: Austin Faison, Town Manager
Date Submitted: 10/14/2020

Text of Motion:

RESOLVED: That, the Town of Winthrop hereby accepts the provisions of Chapter 32B, Section 20 of the Massachusetts General Laws, as amended by Chapter 218, Section 15 of the Acts of 2016 (the "Act"); and establishes an Other Post-Employment Benefits Liability Trust Fund (the "OPEB Fund");

RESOLVED: That, in accordance with the Act, the Town of Winthrop hereby designates the Treasurer of the Town of Winthrop to serve as Custodian of the OPEB Fund (the "Custodian");

RESOLVED: That the Treasurer/Custodian be designated as the Trustee of the OPEB Fund, with all the powers and responsibilities identified under the Act and this vote;

RESOLVED: That the Treasurer/Custodian, as Trustee, be authorized to employ investment consultant(s), as well as outside custodial service(s) to hold the monies in the Fund, and to pay for those services from the OPEB Fund;

10-20-20

Council President Boncore refers this motion to the Finance Committee

11-10-20

Motion by the Finance Committee with a Positive Recommendation

No 2nd Needed

Voting For: Councilor Stephen Ruggiero, Councilor Barbara Flockhart, Councilor Rob Demarco, Councilor Peter Christopher, Councilor Tracey Honan, Councilor Nick LoConte, Councilor Rich Ferrino, Council Vice President James Letterie,
President Philip Boncore Voting Against: None

Town Council Motion

October 15, 2020

Fiscal Year 2021

Motion Summary

Title: Dog Park Matching Funds
Motion ID: TCM21-004

Motion Details

Motion Type: Transfer from Reserve
Submitted by: Councilor Jim Letterie
Date Submitted: 10/15/2020

Text of Motion

I move that the Town Council transfer \$25,000 from the Capital Stabilization Fund to General Fund Special Article #019605-581XX FY20 Dog Park Matching Grant to provide a 20% funding contribution towards the Winthrop Foundation's awarding of a grant of \$100,000 (80% Winthrop Foundation / 20% Town of Winthrop) for a Dog Park; or take any other action thereto.

Funding Details

Funding Source			Funding Destination		
Account	Description	Amount	Account	Description	Amount
964	Capital Stabilization Fund	\$25,000	0196052-5881XX	FY20 Dog Park Matching Grant	\$25,000

Capital Stabilization Balance before pending Motions: \$ 2,390,966.03
Motion Pending: 25,000.00
Balance: \$ 2,365,966.03

10-20-20

Council President Boncore refers this motion to the Finance Committee

Motion by the Finance Committee with a Positive Recommendation

No 2nd Needed

Discussion

Voting For: Councilor Stephen Ruggiero, Councilor Barbara Flockhart, Councilor Rob Demarco, Councilor Peter Christopher, Councilor Tracey Honan, Councilor Nick LoConte, Councilor Rich Ferrino, Council Vice President James Letterie, President Philip Boncore Voting Against: None



TOWN OF WINTHROP

OFFICE OF THE TOWN COUNCIL

Town Hall, 1 Metcalf Square, Winthrop, MA 02152 Telephone: 617-846-1077 Fax: 617-846-1742

MOTION

Submitted By: CFO, Anna Freedman

Date: 11-10-20

TEXT OF MOTION

Text of Motion

MOTION: I move that the Town Council amend the motion adopted at the October 20, 2020 Town Council meeting for a transfer of \$21,275 from Free Cash to strike that motion text and replace it with the following text: The Town shall transfer \$21,275 from Fund 853 Sale of Town Property Fund to a Special Article in the General Fund to be titled FY21 Bus Sale Supported Programs; or take any other action thereto.

Funding Details

Funding Source			Funding Destination		
Account	Description	Amount	Account	Description	Amount
853	Transfer Out	\$21,275	0196058-588xxx	FY21 Bus Sale Supported Programs	\$21,275

10-20-20

Motion by Finance Committee

No 2nd Needed

Motion to Amend by Vice President Letterie that the Town Council create a Special Article from Free Cash totaling no more than \$21,275 to be used for school purposes for activities concerning athletics or co-curricular activities

Main Motion as Amended

Approve: Councilor Stephen Ruggiero, Councilor Barbara Flockhart, Councilor Rob Demarco, Councilor Peter Christopher, Councilor Tracey Honan, Councilor LoConte, Councilor Rich Ferrino, Council Vice President Jim Letterie, President Philip Boncore
Motion Passes 9-0

11-10-20

Town Council vote to create a Special Article for the proceeds of the Sale of Buses Due to Free Cash not being certified yet, we must amend this motion.

Motion by Vice President Lettiere to rescind original motion voted on at our 10-20-20
2nd by Councilor Ferrino

Voting For: Councilor Stephen Ruggiero, Councilor Barbara Flockhart, Councilor Rob Demarco, Councilor Peter Christopher, Councilor Tracey Honan, Councilor Nick LoConte, Councilor Rich Ferrino, Council Vice President James Letterie, President Philip Boncore
Voting Against: None

Motion by Council Vice President James Letterie to Approve Main Motion as Amended
2nd by Councilor Rich Ferrino.

Voting For: Councilor Stephen Ruggiero, Councilor Barbara Flockhart, Councilor Rob Demarco, Councilor Peter Christopher, Councilor Tracey Honan, Councilor Nick LoConte, Councilor Rich Ferrino, Council Vice President James Letterie, President Philip Boncore
Voting Against: None



TOWN OF WINTHROP

OFFICE OF THE TOWN MANAGER

Town Hall, 1 Metcalf Square, Winthrop, MA 02152 Telephone: 617-846-1077 Fax: 617-846-5458

Austin Faison
Town Manager

Town Council Motion

November 4, 2020

Fiscal Year 2021

Motion Summary

Title: FY21 Lead Line Replacement Project (Contract 8)
Motion ID: TCM21-005
Amount: \$750,025
Funding Source: MWRA Lead Line Replacement Program

Motion Details

Motion Type: Borrowing Authorization
Submitted by: Austin Faison, Town Manager
Date Submitted: 11/4/2020

Text of Motion

MOTION: I move that the Winthrop Town Council adopt the following order:

ORDERED: That the Town appropriates the sum of SEVEN HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND TWENTY FIVE DOLLARS (\$750,025) to pay costs of replacing lead water service lines, including all costs incidental and related thereto; that to meet this appropriation, the Treasurer, with the approval of the Town Manager, is authorized to borrow said amount under and pursuant to M.G.L. c.44, §7(1), or pursuant to any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefor; that the Treasurer, with the approval of the Town Manager, is authorized to borrow all or a portion of such amount from the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (the "Authority") and in connection therewith to enter into a loan agreement and/or financial assistance agreement with the Authority and otherwise to contract with the Authority with respect to such loan and for any grants or aid available for the project or for the financing thereof; that the Town Manager is authorized to accept and expend any grants or aid available for the project or for the financing thereof, provided that the amount of the authorized borrowing for the project shall be reduced by the amount of any such grants or aid received; that the Town Manager is authorized to take any other action necessary to carry out this project; and that any premium received upon the sale of any bonds or notes approved by this order, less any such premium applied to the payment of the costs of issuance of such bonds or notes, may be applied to the payment of costs approved by this order in accordance with M.G.L. c.44, §20, thereby reducing the amount authorized to be borrowed to pay such costs by a like amount.

Funding Details

Funding Source			Funding Destination		
Account	Description	Amount	Account	Description	Amount
	MWRA BORROWING	\$750,025	New-Water/Sewer	FY21 Lead Line Replacement Project (Contract 8)	\$750,025

11-10-20

Motion by Councilor Rich Ferrino to Refer to the Finance Committee.
2nd by Councilor Peter Christopher.

Voting For: Councilor Stephen Ruggiero, Councilor Barbara Flockhart, Councilor Rob Demarco, Councilor Peter Christopher, Councilor Tracey Honan, Councilor Nick LoConte, Councilor Rich Ferrino, Council Vice President James Letterie, President Philip Boncore Voting Against: None