

**TOWN OF WINSLOW, MAINE
SPECIAL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES**

Wednesday, August 19, 2020 at 7:00 pm
Meeting was held in the Parks & Recreation Building
114 Benton Avenue, Winslow, Maine

AT 7:00 P.M.

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

1. Roll Call

Attendance was taken with the following Town Councilors present: Ben Twitchell, Jerry Quirion, Jeff West, Lee Trahan & Ray Caron. Councilors Steve Russell and Patricia Ayer were absent.

Also present: Code Enforcement Officer Adam Bradstreet, Town Assessor Judy Mathiau, Fire Chief Ronnie Rodriguez, Police Captain Haley Fleming; Finance Director Tanya Groce; Town Clerk Lisa Gilliam, Winslow School Superintendent Peter Thiboutot, several members of the Winslow Fire Department and several Winslow residents.

2. Recite the Pledge of Allegiance

3. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings:

- None

4. Communications:

- **Council appointments to KVCOG**

After a brief discussion, the Council appointed Mr. Quirion and Mr. Trahan to the KVCOG Board.

5. Reports of Committees and Commission:

- None

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

Councilor Patricia Ayer arrived at 7:02 p.m.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Order No. 17-2020:

Providing for: Authorization by the Town Council to amend the Town of Winslow 2020-2021 Fiscal Budget.

Motion by Mr. Twitchell to open discussion on Order No. 17-2020; motion seconded by Mr. Quirion.

Motion to discuss passed 6-0.

Mr. Caron explained the Council's concern of a shortfall in the budget that caused the mil rate to increase; he noted that this discussion was

taking place after the annual budget had been approved a few months prior. The Town Assessor, Judy Mathiau, spoke and said the new mil rate was based on the budget the Council approved a few months ago. Discussion continued.

The Council discussed taking \$400,000 from the fund balance account to help make up the difference and doing so would not affect the mil rate. Councilors expressed their concern with doing anything that would change the town's bond rating. Mr. Twitchell said he would like to see the scheduled road work continue. Ms. Mathiau suggested a workshop with the Council to explain the process from finalizing the budget to creating the mil rate. Ms. Mathiau noted that any changes made today would force her to start the process over and doing so could take an additional 2 to 3 weeks. Discussion continued.

Motion by Mr. Twitchell to leave the budget as is which would change the mil rate from 18.64 to 19.20 and would keep the town's bond rating in good status; motion seconded by Mr. Quirion.

Roll Call: Y Ben Twitchell
 Y Jerry Quirion
 A Steve Russell - *absent*
 N Patricia West
 N Jeff West
 N Lee Trahan
 N Ray Caron

Motion failed by a vote of 2-4.

Motion by Mr. Trahan to use \$370,000 from surplus; motion seconded by Ms. Ayer.

Roll Call: N Ben Twitchell
 N Jerry Quirion
 A Steve Russell - *absent*
 Y Patricia West
 N Jeff West
 Y Lee Trahan
 N Ray Caron

Motion defeated by a vote of 2-4.

Motion by Mr. West to take \$188,000 from surplus and put the difference onto the tax rate; motion seconded by Mr. Twitchell.

Roll Call: Y Ben Twitchell
 Y Jerry Quirion
 A Steve Russell - *absent*
 N Patricia West
 Y Jeff West
 N Lee Trahan
 N Ray Caron

Motion ended with a tie vote 3-3.

Motion by Mr. Caron to use \$250,000 from fund balance and apply it to the 2020/2021 budget with the difference applied to the mil rate; motion seconded by Mr. West.

Roll Call: Y Ben Twitchell
 Y Jerry Quirion
 A Steve Russell - *absent*
 N Patricia West
 Y Jeff West
 N Lee Trahan
 Y Ray Caron

Motion passed by a vote of 4-2.

Motion by Mr. Quirion to waive the 2nd reading of Order No. 17-2020; Motion seconded by Mr. Twitchell.

Roll Call: Y Ben Twitchell
 Y Jerry Quirion
 A Steve Russell - *absent*
 Y Patricia West
 Y Jeff West
 Y Lee Trahan
 Y Ray Caron

Motion passed by a vote of 6-0.

Mr. Caron thanked Ms. Mathiau for the work she does each year with the town budget.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Fire Chief Ronnie Rodriguez informed the Council that the Fire Department had been awarded a grant in the amount of \$97,000 from FEMA for the purchase of self-contained breathing apparatuses. Chief Rodriguez said there was a 30-day window to accept the grant and he asked the Council if they would authorize him to accept the money.

Motion by Ms. Ayer to authorize Fire Chief Ronnie Rodriguez to accept a \$97,000 grant from FEMA for the Winslow Fire Department; motion seconded by Mr. Trahan.

Roll Call: Y Ben Twitchell
 Y Jerry Quirion
 A Steve Russell - *absent*
 Y Patricia West
 Y Jeff West
 Y Lee Trahan
 Y Ray Caron

Motion passed by a vote of 6-0.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mr. Quirion to adjourn the meeting; motion seconded by Mr. Twitchell.

Roll Call: Y Ben Twitchell
 Y Jerry Quirion
 A Steve Russell - *absent*
 Y Patricia West
 Y Jeff West
 Y Lee Trahan
 Y Ray Caron

Motion passed by a vote of 6-0.

Meeting adjourned at 8:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa J. Gilliam
Town Clerk