



TOWN OF WINCHESTER – CITY OF WINSTED

Town Hall – 338 Main Street
WINSTED, CONNECTICUT 06098

FEB 23 2015

Minutes of Regular Meeting Water & Sewer Board Probate Conference Room, Town Hall, 338 Main Street, Winsted February 10, 2015

Call to order was made by Chairman Richard Nalette at 7:08 p.m. The following members were present: Richard Nalette, John Massicotte, Tim Moran, Tim O'Meara and David Villa. Also present were Jim Rollins, Director of Public Works and David Battista of Lenard Engineering.

Public Input – none

Update on Need for Historical Consultant for Dam Project: David Battista explained three years ago he did preliminary and engineering reports on the dams; these reports were in response to a letter from the State requiring repairs and were required to be eligible for USDA grant money; USDA gave the Town a small grant to cover the majority of the cost of the reports; got 7/8ths through the process when he was told to stop; explained what is outstanding – access to dams and status of the historic register (it's a federal law that work must be consistent with the National Historic Preservation Act); must apply for nomination into the National Preservation and then a determination can be made; proceeded to explain the process. T. O'Meara asked if additional money is available if it's deemed historic. Mr. Battista said there could be. Discussion followed regarding possible costs, the effect of the dam being deemed historic, the length of time for the process, the process could allow the Commission time to save for the project, etc. Mr. Battista said if the Board rejects the federal historic preservation funding process, will still need the historic clearances to get the permit. Discussion followed regarding if the dam failed and getting a historic engineer. Jim Rollins noted this is something that needs to be done and someone familiar with historical preservation engineering should write the proposal. **Motion** by T. Moran to **hire David Battista to write the request for proposals for a historic preservation engineer**. Second by T. O'Meara. *Discussion:* Discussion followed regarding Crystal Lake Dam should be the first priority, Rugg Brook serves as contingency water, this is a complicated project, complete transparency is needed, the proposal should take about a week to craft and taking the money from contingency. **Vote:** All in favor - *motion carried unanimous*. J. Massicotte asked if the 3-year old inspection will hold up. Mr. Battista said Crystal Lake was just re-inspected; noted each dam is on a different inspection schedule. Discussion followed regarding outstanding issues; the USDA will review Mr. Battista's reports at the same time as the historic preservation documents.

Update on Financials by Town Manager or Finance Director: Chairman Nalette noted neither is available; distributed copies of the budget. D. Villa expressed displeasure. Extensive discussion followed regarding billing cycles, staffing, co-mingling of funds, protecting ratepayers, etc. **Motion** by T. Moran to **demand the Town Manager and Director of**

Finance attend the next meeting; David Villa will present questions for staff three weeks in advance of said meeting. Second by T. O'Meara. *Discussion:* Discussion followed regarding money discrepancy findings from the King & King audit, water and sewer money should be segregated, separating the Water & Sewer Board from the Town, the Board subsidizes Town employees' salaries, co-mingling of funds, providing bank statements, etc. Chairman Nalette called to move the question. **Vote:** All in favor - *motion carried unanimous.*

Old Business

Extensive discussion followed regarding the water tank on Wallens Street, the Department of Public Health, original purpose of the tank, etc.

J. Massicotte noted \$2,000 should have been moved after the January meeting from the contingency line to the Crystal Lake Dam inspection line item.

Brief discussion followed regarding the purchase of the new truck.

Motion by J. Massicotte to *approve the minutes from January 13, 2015 as amended.* Second by T. Moran. **Vote:** All in favor - *motion carried unanimous.*

Extensive discussion followed regarding various line items including the manhole covers, labor time, etc.

New Business - none

Meeting adjourned at 8:08 p.m.

Minutes Respectfully Submitted,


Laurie Bessette
Minutes Secretary

Next Regular Meeting:

Probate Room
Tuesday, March 10, 2015
7:00 p.m.