KNOW YOUR LOCAL GOVERNMENT



Your Town Government

This pamphlet is issued as a public service by The Shafeek Nader Trust for the Community Interest. The Trust is a charitable and educational organization whose purpose is to strengthen democratic practices by people in communities.

YOUR WINCHESTER TOWN GOVERNMENT

The town of Winchester, Connecticut operates under a Home Rule Charter. The Board of Selectmen determines policy and appoints the Town Manager who administers the policy and the day to day affairs of the Town. The Annual Town Budget Meeting has the final authority to approve the budget for the Town.

THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN

The Board of Selectmen consists of seven members elected at large by the citizens of the town. Selectmen serve a term of two years. The Mayor is chosen by the Selectmen and serves as their Chairman presiding over the meetings and performing other duties consistent with the office. The Mayor receives yearly compensation of $1,500, and the other Selectmen receive compensation of $1,000.

APPOINTMENTS WHICH ARE MADE BY THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Town Manager
Town Attorney
Planning and Zoning Commission
Zoning Board of Appeals
Board of Tax Review
Park and Recreation Board
Economic Development Commission
Water Pollution Control Authority
Inland Wetlands Commission
Housing Authority
Ethics Commission
Fire Chief

INFORMATION ABOUT MEETINGS

Selectmen meet regularly on the first and third Mondays of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the Town Hall Courtroom. An Agenda is prepared for each meeting and is available in the Town Clerk's Office at least 24 hours before the meeting.

Minutes of each meeting are taken by the Town Clerk and are available within 7 days of the meeting. Votes upon any issue are available within 48 hours of the meeting.

All meetings of the Selectmen are open to the public. Meetings may be closed for Executive Session in a few, specific, limited cases.

THE TOWN HALL COURTROOM



PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Public comment is usually scheduled for 7:00 p.m. Anyone may speak during the public comment period. The board may limit the time allowed if the comments are lengthy. Some of the topics which have been raised in the public comment period are requests for street lights, comments about particular departments, suggestions about needed repairs or other things the town should do. Almost any topic dealing with local government is in order at the public comment period.

You should state your name when you begin to speak. A microphone is provided so that everyone can hear your comments.

APPOINTMENTS WHICH ARE MADE BY THE TOWN MANAGER

Director of Public Works
Director Social Services
Chief of Police
Building Official
Fire Marshal
Recreation Director
Senior Citizen Director
Director of Finance
(The Director of Finance appoints the Tax Collector, the Assessor and the Treasurer.)