

**Town Council Administration and Finance, Health and Human Services
Sub-Committee Minutes for March 2nd, 2011**

- 1) **Call to Order:** 7:04pm

- 2) **In Attendance:** Joe Underwood, Erika Haynes, Michael Lessard, Christel Donahue, Kevin Donohue

- 3) **Citizens and Delegation:**
 - a) Lori Jeffers questioned the use of the term Chief Lisa instead of Willimantic Chief of Police on the agenda for today's meeting. She feels the agenda should be written more professionally. She does not believe that Town Manager Beets should be part of the Ethics Ordinance revision process. In addition, Lori was concerned that we only gave four days notice before having a public meeting on the ATV ordinance.

 - b) Henry Crane: Windham St.
Henry was hoping to set up a camera by his house catching the police doing something unprofessional, but instead commends the police for giving him nothing to tape. He believes the police are doing a great job.

- 4) **Vote to Approve February, 9th Minutes:** The minutes approved with Mike Lessard, Kevin Donohue, Christel Donahue, and Erika Haynes voting in favor, no dissensions, and Joe Underwood abstaining.

- 5) **Old Business:**
 - a) The address by Art Costa regarding land values and taxation has been postponed to the next meeting.
 - b) The plan for options for municipal reorganization. Erika Haynes led a discussion in which she laid out four approaches to this subject heading forward: 1) Research and analyze the history of reorganization in the Town. Erika believes it is important to understand the past decisions regarding this topic before moving forward. After being asked to provide input, Neil Beets suggested that James Finger provide some of the History to the Administration and Finance committee by the May meeting. The committee agreed and a presentation will be made at this time. 2) Allow Charter Commission to work on this subject. 3) Develop a new committee with specific goals regarding municipal reorganization. 4) Develop a new Ad Hoc committee to work with the issue of municipal reorganization.
 - c) Charter Reform: It costs approximately \$10,000 to do charter revision, but we need to complete it by the end of 2012 and no money has been placed in the budget for it. A suggestion was made to at least incorporate a placeholder in the budget for the money and to possibly begin the charter revision process this year. Kevin Donohue will begin talking to Town Manager Beets about budgeting for and where to amend the charter.

- d) Senior Center and Larger Issue of Town Space: Town Manager Beets made a presentation on his thoughts on how to better utilize The Kramer Building and Town Hall. As Mr. Beets laid the current blue prints and utilization of the both spaces, he made a few suggestions on how both spaces could be redone. He feels The Kramer Building could house a new Senior Center, The SilverBack Wrestling Club, Pre-School, ELL Center, Board of Education Offices, and Town Hall offices. He also suggested how the Town Hall could be restructured to better house its' offices, incorporate probate court space, a new meeting room, etc. He feels it would cost approximately \$750,000 to update the Town Hall and around \$2 – \$2.5 million to redo the Kramer Building. He believes renovating these buildings may be our best option, as a new Senior Center will cost approximately \$3 million to build. Town Manager Beets feels that the next step in exploring these options is to create a Tri-Board of possibly the Town Council, Board of Education, and the Board of Finance.
- e) Ethics Ordinance Revision: Town Manager Beets and Doug Lary from the Ethics Commission asked and were granted more time to condense the ethics document and present it at a later date.

6) New Business:

- a) - **Willimantic Chief of Police Lisa** spoke about her want for an ordinance to reduce the amount of ATV's in Willimantic. She handed out a packet outlining her suggestions; in addition to state and other town laws connected to this topic.
 - Mrs. Haynes asked if the noise ordinance could help alleviate the ATV problem and Chief Lisa said yes, but that it's difficult to enforce.
 - A suggestion was made to require ATV owners to register and pay a fee to own an ATV. The fees collected will go into an account to pay for vehicles, etc. that will help enforce this law. The Administration and Finance Committee will consider this and speak about it at a future meeting.

7) Citizens and Delegations:

a) Lori Jeffers = doesn't think we will have enough money for renovations to the Kramer building and Town Hall. She believes that people are still angry over the money spent on the future magnet school. In addition, Lori agrees something needs to be done about the ATV situation, but worries that people abiding by the rules will have their ATV's taken away.