

The Board of Finance held a regular meeting on January 19, 2011 in the Meeting Room of Windham Town Hall, 979 Main Street, Willimantic, CT 06226

Members Attending: Barbara McGrath, Anita Sebestyen, Leo Santucci, Charles Pennewill, Anna Crawford.

Chairman, Barbara McGrath called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

Public comment

Lori Jeffers questioned the reimbursement eligibility of the bleachers proposed for the magnet school.

Approval of meeting minutes

Upon a motion by Charles Pennewill, seconded by Leo Santucci, to approve the meeting minutes from December 15, 2010.

Leo Santucci noted that the minutes were not as detailed as in the past.

The motion passed with Anna Crawford abstaining.

Presentation from the Tax Collector on 2010-2011 General Government and Willimantic Service District tax revenues.

The Collector of Revenues described some of the difficulties encountered in the current year collection process but was confident that the budgeted revenues will be obtained. Tax sales on delinquent properties will be held as one of several methods to meet the targeted revenues.

Presentation from Town Manager on 2011-2012 budget process

The Town Manager described the current year budget process. While he stated that the goal is to deliver a budget with a zero tax increase the unlikely probability of increased state aide and an expected grand list growth of no more than 1% , coupled with contractual wage and benefit increases, has made the process very challenging. The Town is looking at opportunities for savings in vacant positions, potential closure of the transfer station, additional fees for services as some of the ways to close the gap. The Town Manager has reached out to the School Superintendent to consider the advantages of co-locating town and board staff.

Town Controller's Report

The Town Controller presented year to date budget summary reports for the General Government and Willimantic Service District.

The audit is in progress, field work for the Board of Education should be completed this week and the focus will then be on town activities.

Any other business appropriate to come before the BOF

Barbara McGrath welcomed Anna Crawford to the Board of Finance.

Barbara McGrath noted Jay Handfield has resigned from the Board of Finance and thanked him for his service on the board.

It was suggested that at next months meeting that the following topics be presented to the Board of Finance:

Status of capital Projects (including senior center, magnet school, roads, vehicles and equipment, energy saving programs, etc.)

Presentation of business plan from the Willimantic Fire Chiefs Switchboard Association describing ways to reduce cost of dispatch services provided to Town.

Public comment

Teri Santucci suggested that since the chair of the School Building Committee reports to the Town Council the Board of Finance may wish to attend the Town Council meeting to avoid having two presentations from the School Building Committee.

Bernie Dauteuil expressed his desire to have local businesses donate goods and services to construct a new senior center.

Upon a motion by Anita Sebestyen, seconded by Leo Santucci, the meeting was adjourned at 8:51 p.m.

Attest: _____
Tom Pesce