

The Board of Finance held a regular meeting on February 16, 2011 in the Meeting Room of Windham Town Hall, 979 Main Street, Willimantic, CT 06226

Members Attending: Barbara McGrath, Anita Sebestyen, Charles Pennewill, Anna Crawford, and Nina Ricardez.

Chairman, Barbara McGrath called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

### **Public comment**

None.

The Board Chair welcomed Nina Ricardez , the Town's newest board member, to the Board of Finance.

### **Approval of meeting minutes**

Upon a motion by Charles Pennewill, seconded by Anita Sebestyen, to approve the meeting minutes from January 19, 2010.

The motion passed unanimously.

### **Presentation from Willimantic Switchboard Firechief's Association**

John Wylie, of the **Willimantic Switchboard Firechief's Association** presented the history, current financial status, budget request, and explained the process of obtaining additional member towns. The quality and types of services provided were also described. The Board chair mentioned that the town had previously received a proposal to perform fire and townwide dispatch services from QVEC for \$50,000. Discussion centered around the quality and breadth of service provided by WSFCA and the ability of another provider to continue to deliver equal services. Ray Evans and Joe Marsalisi assisted in the presentation.

### **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 and town is nearly complete. In order to allow sufficient time to finalize the report a 30 day extension will be requested. The revised proposal from Great West for the town pension fund has not yet been received. Other documents were presented as follows:  
CCM's preliminary analysis of the Governors budget and its impact on Windham,  
Summary of proposed bill # 5953 concerning delinquent motor vehicle property tax and DMV registrations,  
Fire / EMS town data profile,  
GASB 45 Disclosure report dated February 11, 2011 for police and fire pension obligations as of June 30, 2010, prepared by Hooker and Holcombe.

Final Energy audit reports prepared by Celtic energy for the Willimantic Library, Kramer Building, Textile museum and Dugan Mill, Willimantic Police fire complex, and Windham Town Hall.

**Any other business appropriate to come before the BOF**

It was stated that at next month's meeting (March 16<sup>th</sup>), the Town Manager would present the budget as recommended by the Town Council. The Board of Education budget would also be received. It was suggested that tentatively the Board of Finance would meet every other Wednesday during budget deliberations.

**Public comment**

Ray Evans spoke as a resident and stated that the civilians that operate the switchboard do a superb job and asked that the Board be sensitive to this high level of service when deliberating on the budget.

George Gillette, one of the telecommunicators, spoke in favor of continuing the existing dispatch center operations because it is a vital community service that is done with sensitivity and professional excellence.

Mayor Eldridge suggested that perhaps the new and improved equipment should help lower the per call cost and could be used to help market the operations to some of the neighboring Towns.

Upon a motion by Charles Pennewill, seconded by Anita Sebestyen , the meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Tom Pesce