

The Board of Finance held a regular meeting on **March 21, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.** in the **Meeting Room of Windham Town Hall, 979 Main Street, Willimantic, CT 06226**

Members Attending: Lynne Ide, Anna Crawford, Anita Sebestyen, David Hemenway, Jeffrey Smith, and Thomas White

### **1. Call to Order**

Chairman Lynne Ide called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

### **2. Public Comment**

Harry Carboni spoke in support of the need for a senior center and not for the renovation of Town Hall.

Kevin Hoxie spoke in support of a new senior center and does not support the new parking garage.

Charles Krich asked the Board to support the budget as presented.

Bernie Dauteuil asked why there are not enough funds within the ambulance fund to purchase an ambulance and commented that transparency needs to be better.

### **3. Board of Finance Comment**

There was no Board of Finance comment.

### **4. Approval of Meeting Minutes**

Upon a motion by Anita Sebestyen, seconded by Anna Crawford to approve the meeting minutes from February 15, 2012.

The motion passed unanimously.

### **5. Chair's report**

Lynne Ide commented there will be weekly meetings on Wednesdays for the budget.

The request for additional funding for dispatch services will be acted upon at a later time, after the request has been presented and approved by the Town Council. Item number 8 will be pulled from the agenda to be discussed at a later time and that this suggestion was at the request of the Windham First Taxing District and after consultation with the Town Controller.

A presentation on the various employee health care options will be scheduled for an upcoming meeting.

## **Presentations and Special Reports**

### **Presentation on Town and Willimantic Service District Budgets**

Town Manager, Neal Beets presented the Town and Willimantic Service District budgets that have been recommended by the Town Council. There is a .25 mill rate increase for the Town and a .23 mill rate increase for the Willimantic Service District.

There is a senior center budget in the Town's budget for taking over the building and this also includes an additional part-time position.

The ambulance fund is also included in the Town's budget. In previous years the ambulance fund was a separate enterprise fund.

The capital budget has a one year plan and five year plan. The Town Manager is recommending the Town pay towards capital improvements for the education system. The public uses these facilities as well as the students. The track at the middle school needs to be reconstructed. The impact is \$184,000. We need a reliable source for capital funds.

Thomas DeVivo chairman of the Willimantic Service District commented on highlights for the Willimantic Service District budget. They support the move on the ambulance budget to be included in the Town's budget. They also added an interfund transfer from the Town to the Willimantic Service District to cover the supervision of animal control by the police department. The animal control has been changed to part-time employees. They also added another car for the police department. They would like a parking enforcement person so they reduced the budget by 10,000 when they added a third vehicle. They also reduce contingency by 35,000. They added 50,000 in revenues for there to be a police officer at the high school. They are looking for good quality service in the Willimantic Service District.

### **Tri-board update:**

Practices and procedures were reviewed with the finance department and the different services the current bank offers. Consolidating with the Board of Education was talked about.

## **7. Controller's report**

### **Update on the FY 2010-11 audit**

The controller stated that the remaining open items are the reconciliation between the Town and Board of Education. The auditors need to review the Town and Board of Education pension plan documents.

Lynne Ide suggested a conference call be made with the auditor, Town Manager, and Town Controller.

Dave Hemenway would like to have a meeting with the Mayor. We need to have an audit completed before the board looks at a budget. Reorganizing the finance department may be necessary.

Status of Met Life repapering agreement:

The town anticipates supporting a final repapering agreement with Great West and will be working with the Town Attorney.

1/3 of MetLife stock shares have been sold.

Any other information as appropriate:

A budget document was presented showing the mill rate for the Town and Willimantic Service District with the proposed Town Council budget.

A document regarding the medical insurance through the State of Connecticut was presented. This is being reviewed and considered as well as going self insured for medical insurance.

There was also a document from Holdsworth regarding the ambulance fund and the income received from billing for ambulance services.

A memo from the assessor regarding the grand list growth was presented to the Board.

The status of the current year budget was discussed and current year budget reports were presented. One area of concern is in the overtime accounts in the Willimantic Service District.

**8. Discussion and possible action to approve payment of \$1,600 from the Willimantic Service District to the Windham First Taxing District for a grant reimbursement.**

Upon a motion by Anita Sebestyen, seconded by Anna Crawford to postponed this item to a future meeting.

The motion passed unanimously.

**9. New Business.**

The proposed budget schedule was presented.

Jeffrey Smith commented we are not policy decision makers. We need to decide what the Town can afford. Is the Board of Education, Town and Willimantic Service District mill rate what the tax payers can afford.

Thomas White is in favor of just cutting the bottom line but raised questions on revenues and where they are allocated.

Anna Crawford commented the public has the right to ask questions on the budget.

Upon a motion by David Hemenway seconded by Anna Crawford to accept the budget schedule as presented.

The motion passed unanimously.

### **10. Future Agenda items**

Action item regarding the WFTD request for grant reimbursement

Update on the 2010-2011 audit

### **11. Public Comment**

Bernie Dauteuil commented there are big things that are going to happen in Town. The finance board needs to be part of the Town. There needs to be a change in personnel at the Board of Education.

Kevin Hoxie supports the need for the audit, and also supports the need for new textbooks and school sports.

Dave Hemenway commented he agrees on having an audit done. He also suggested buying one cruiser every year.

### **12. Adjournment**

Upon a motion by Anita Sebestyen, seconded by David Hemenway the meeting was adjourned at 8:48 p.m.

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Thomas Pesce