

The Board of Finance held a regular meeting on **October 21, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.** in the **Bellingham Auditorium at Town Hall, 979 Main Street, Willimantic, CT 06226**

Members Attending: Lynne Ide, Paula Haney, Anita Sebestyen, Nectalis Martinez, Tyler Griffin, and Ken Folan

1. Call to Order

Chairman Lynne Ide called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

2. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

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 Nectalis Martinez to approve the meeting minutes from September 16, 2015.

The motion passed with Ken Folan abstaining.

5. Chair's Report

Lynne Ide thanked the Board for all their support over the past few years and this will be her last meeting.

The next call with the auditors will be this coming Friday. The Town and Board of Education staff are working hard to get the audit completed by the end of the year. Someone else will need to be on the calls in November.

There was a newspaper article in Tuesdays paper regarding the consolidation of the Board of Education and Town finance offices. She was disappointed that a member of the Board of Finance was not included in the task force.

Lynne Ide urges the Board of Education and Town Council to include a member of the Board of Finance on the unified Finance office.

6. Presentations and Special Reports

Presentation from Town Assessor on Senior Citizen Tax Assistance Programs, Revaluation and changes in Motor Vehicle Taxation

Chandler Rose, Town Assessor, spoke about the Motor Vehicle Taxation changes. The State has passed a bill to tax all motor vehicles at the same mill rate of 32 mills. The public act does not include taxing districts. The Town Council has approved a change in software to Vision Government Solutions. This

will be used in the 2016 Grand List. This software is very user friendly and 132 other towns in Connecticut use this program. The next revaluation is scheduled for October 2018.

For senior citizen tax assistance, the town offers two programs. One is offered by the state and the second is the Town's local option. If a tax payer qualifies for the State program they automatically qualify for the Town's which is a \$150 credit. The state program is based on income and there are income limits set by the State. A taxpayer could receive a percentage off their tax bill and there is a maximum. Currently there are 225 people on the program and the total amount of the credit for last year was \$33,600. There are also exemptions for veterans, disabled individuals, and blind people. There is an additional veterans exemption that is based on the same income as the homeowners program.

7. Discussion and possible action on the Appropriation and Bond Authorization of \$1,000,000 for the Willimantic Public Library.

Upon a motion by Ken Folan, seconded by Tyler Griffin

Re: Appropriation of \$1,000,000 for the Willimantic Public Library Project and Bond Authorization of \$1,000,000 to finance such Appropriation

Resolved, that the Board of Finance of the Town of Windham (the "Town"), on recommendation from the Town Council, approves and recommends to the electors and all others entitled to vote at town meetings of the Town that the sum of \$1,000,000 be appropriated for the cost of the Willimantic Public Library Project, such project to include, but not limited to, renovations of the existing library building to include a meeting room and a dedicated computer room, upgrade of HVAC system, replacement windows, site work, equipment, shelving and furniture as well as engineering, architectural and temporary and permanent financing costs (the "Project") and to meet said appropriation and in lieu of a tax therefore, bonds of the Town be issued pursuant to Chapter 109 of the Connecticut General Statutes, as amended, or any other provision of law thereto enabling, in the amount of \$1,000,000 or so much thereof as may be necessary after deducting grants or other sources of funds available therefor.

The motion passed unanimously.

8. Controller's report

Controller's report was presented by Tom Pesce

We are working on the affordable care project.

Addition capital projects were reviewed for upcoming bonding such as Micro Grid project, roads and sidewalks.

Payroll with Munis has been going well. There are still some things to work out.

9. Discussion and possible action on any General Government 2014-2015 transfer requests

There were no transfer requests

10. Discussion and possible action on any general Government 2015-2016 transfer requests

There were no transfer requests

11. Old business

There was no old business

12. New business

There was no new business

13. Future agenda items

Task Force for Dispatch

14. Public Comment

Mayor Ernie Eldridge thanked the Board members for all their work.

Henry Crane thanked the Board for the senior citizen discussion on tax assistance. You can't ask for relief if you don't know what is out there.

Nectalis Martinez commented being on this Board. It has been a learning experience and he thanked the Board for all the work over the past few years.

15. Adjournment

Upon a motion by Anita Sebestyen, seconded by Tyler Griffin the meeting was adjourned at 7:51 p.m.

Attest: _____
Thomas Pesce