

The Board of Finance held a regular meeting on **October 17, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.** in the **Meeting Room of Windham Town Hall, 979 Main Street, Willimantic, CT 06226**

Members Attending: Lynne Ide, Anita Sebestyen, Charles Pennewill, Thomas White, and Nectalis Martinez

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

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

### **2. Public Comment**

Mary Gallucci of North St. commented schools are for the children. Funds for repairs should have been included in the budget. Natchaug School should be considered the same as all other schools. Do the renovation now or will cost more in the future.

Kevin Hoxie commented he is not in favor of the Natchaug School roof.

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

Anita Sebestyen commented the new ambulance has arrived.

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

Upon a motion by Anita Sebestyen seconded by Charles Pennewill to approve the meeting minutes from September 19, 2012.

The motion passed with Thomas White abstaining.

### **5. Chair's Report**

Lynne Ide commented the letter of agreement for the audit has been signed. The auditors met with the Town today and will be meeting with the Board of Education next week.

### **6. Presentations and Special Reports**

Presentation from Great West:

Shannon Grant from Great West presented the Board with handouts on the Municipal Retirement Plan. The asset allocation was reviewed. David Gelorian from Great West presented the Board with a handout. His presentation was on the history of the Town with company. The Town started this pension plan in 1964. In 2006 Great West acquired Met Life.

Presentation on Magnet School additional appropriation:

Thomas DeVivo gave presentation on the additional appropriation for the Magnet School. The school was originally an environmental and cultural studies school but has now changed to a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) school. There are costs the state will not reimburse such as bonding, insurance, storm damage, traffic study, and they will not pay for costs twice (example fence was put up but part was knocked down by hurricane). The project is on schedule. The action by the board is to send this to a town meeting.

Presentation on Natchaug School Roof:

Murphy Sewell gave a presentation on the replacement of Natchaug School Roof. Robert Roach, an architect that was hired to do a study on Natchaug School Roof, gave a presentation on the cause of damage to the roof, construction of the roof, and leaks in the roof that caused damage to the attic. The roof does not meet current codes. The repairs would bring the roof up to code, and replace the decking. The building can then be used as swing space.

Charles Pennewill commented we would be wasting money on the building.

Thomas White commented there is no 10 year plan. Enrollment has gone down. Why keep a building open when it will need additional work?

Tracy Lambert commented the middle school cannot house a full elementary school. Kramer will not be a Board of Education building, and the high school has no available classroom space that can be used as swing space.

Anna Ortiz commented it was decided to move the kids out of Natchaug School because the roof was not safe to hold snow.

Anita Sebestyen questioned how many students the high school and middle school are designed for.

Anna Ortiz replied the high school was designed for 1,100 students and there are 800 students currently enrolled. The middle school was designed for 1,000 students and 750 students are currently enrolled.

Murphy Sewell commented the middle school is newest school and will not need repairs.

Anita Sebestyen questioned if the state reimbursement has to be used for school use.

Anna Ortiz replied the building has to remain under the care of the Board of Education.

Charles Pennewill questioned what happens when the Board of Education no longer wants the school and it is turned over to the Town. Does the Town have to pay back the reimbursement funds?

Anna Ortiz replied, the Board of Education will use the school for at least 7 years.

## **7. Discussion and possible action on Magnet School additional appropriation**

Lynne Ide commented on the Town Council resolution that was passed last night. The town meeting will be November 20<sup>th</sup> at Town Hall.

Upon a motion by Thomas White, seconded by Nectalis Martinez,

**RE: Additional Appropriation of \$2,000,000 for the Windham Magnet School to expand the educational curriculum of the School to Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics, Bond Authorization of \$2,000,000 to meet the Town's Local Share of Such Appropriation.**

**RESOLVED**, that the Board of Finance of the Town of Windham (the "Town"), on recommendation from the Town Council, recommends to the electors and all others entitled to vote at town meetings of the Town that the sum of \$2,000,000 Windham Magnet School, including but not limited to, the acquisition of real property, site improvements, the creation of athletic fields, building construction and the purchase and installation of information technology and furnishings and all alterations, repairs and improvements in connection therewith, as well as engineering, architectural and temporary and permanent financing costs (the "Project"), said appropriation being in addition to the appropriation approval at referendum on June 28, 2006, and to meet the local share of such appropriation and in lieu of a tax therefor, bonds of the Town be issued pursuant to Chapter 109 of the Connecticut General Statutes, as amended, the Charter of the Town or any other provision of law thereto enabling, in the amount of \$2,000,000 (in addition to the bonds approved at referendum on June 28, 2006) or so much thereof as may be necessary after deducting grants or other sources of funds available therefor provided, however, that no money shall be spent or bonds issued pursuant to this resolution until after the State has approved a grant for the Project.

Furthermore, a special Town Meeting is to be held on Tuesday, November 20, 2012 at the Windham Town Hall, Meeting Room, 979 Main Street, Willimantic, Connecticut at 6:30 p.m. to consider and vote upon the resolution for the Windham Magnet School as set forth above.

Thomas White commented he is in favor of this.

Charles Pennewill would like the town meeting to be moved to a location that can hold a lot of people with adequate parking and the meeting should be televised.

Lynne commented on the board being fiscally responsible and let the voters decide.

Nectalis Martinez commented Connecticut will lead in medical research and educating children in science and math. This is the right thing to do.

The motion passed unanimously.

## **8. Discussion and possible action on Natchaug School Roof**

Upon a motion by Thomas White, seconded by Anita Sebestyen to,

**RE: Appropriation of \$1,330,000 to replace the roof at the Natchaug School, Bond Authorization of \$1,330,000 to fund the roof replacement and to meet the Town's Local Share of Such Appropriation.**

**RESOLVED**, that the Board of Finance of the Town of Windham (the "Town"), on recommendation from the Town Council, recommends to the electors and all others entitled to vote at town meetings of the Town that the sum of \$1,330,000 be appropriated for the cost of the replacement of the roof at the Natchaug School, including but not limited to, all repairs and improvements in connection therewith, as well as engineering, architectural and temporary and permanent financing costs (the "Project"), and to meet the local share of such appropriation and in lieu of a tax therefor, bonds of the Town be issued pursuant to Chapter 109 of the Connecticut General Statutes, as amended, the Charter of the Town or any other provision of law thereto enabling, in the amount of \$1,330,000 or so much thereof as may be necessary after deducting grants or other sources of funds available therefor provided, however, that no money shall be spent or bonds issued pursuant to this resolution until after the State has approved a grant for the Project.

Furthermore, a special Town Meeting is to be held on Tuesday, November 20, 2012 at the Windham Town Hall, Meeting Room, 979 Main Street, Willimantic, Connecticut at 6:30 p.m. to consider and vote upon the resolution for the Windham Magnet School as set forth above.

Thomas White commented there is use in other schools. Kids will be leaving the current schools to go to the Magnet school. It is a waste to put funds into this school when there is space available in other schools. If the Board of Education gives the school back to the Town then the Town should put the school up for sale.

Charles Pennewill commented he agrees with what Tom White said. He is not in favor of this project. He is for education but cannot support this project.

Anita Sebestyen commented they need a 10 year plan. She is pro education but also a tax payer.

Lynne Ide commented this is a tough decision

The motion failed with 4 no votes and 1 yes vote.

## **9. Controller's Report**

The controller's report was presented by Tom Pesce.

The Town met with the new auditors and will be setting up a schedule.

The final draft of the request for proposal for financial software is being reviewed. The request for proposal for banking services is being discussed with the Board of Education.

Current year revenues and expenditures for the Town and Willimantic Service District were reviewed. There is a deficit in the senior center account with paying off a debt. The senior center will be selling assets and turning funds over to the town. There will be an expense for demolition of a barn that is unsafe. There are currently no funds budgeted for demolition. The Town should be reimbursed by the property owner's insurance company and a lien will be put on the property to recover the costs for demolition.

#### **10. Discussion and possible action on any General Government 2012-2013 budget transfer requests**

There were no transfer requests.

#### **11. Discussion and possible action on any Willimantic Service District 2012-2013 budget transfer requests**

There were no transfer requests.

#### **12. Discussion of possible Board of Finance priorities for fiscal year 2013**

Lynne Ide asked if there are any additional priorities.

Thomas White questioned if there are a bunch of projects going on, why we don't go out to bond on all projects instead of pieces.

Charles Pennewill commented the Board of Finance has tried to get a capital plan together.

Lynne commented on starting the budget process with joint meeting of the Board of Finance, Board of Education, and Town Council.

Thomas White questioned if there was a contract with the dispatch center.  
The Mayor replied no, there is no contract at this time.

Lynne questioned if anyone would like to follow-up with the dispatch center contract?  
Charles Pennewill volunteered.

Thomas White questioned if the Town council ever did anything regarding the Ambulance Fund allocation?

The Mayor replied it was shot down. Lynne Ide will ask the Town Council again.

#### **13. Discussion and possible action to reschedule the November regular meeting date**

Upon a motion by Thomas White seconded by Charles Pennewill to reschedule the regular meeting on November 21, 2012 to a special meeting on November 28, 2012.

The motion passed unanimously.

**14. New Business**

There was no new business.

**15. Future Agenda Items**

There were no future agenda items.

**16. Public Comment**

Kevin Hoxie commented he is happy with the Board's decision on the Natchaug School roof.

James Flores commented we are having a referendum for the Magnet school. This could change people's feelings about the school. The people voted for a cultural school and now it has changed.

Bernie Dauteuil commented the Board of Education does not maintain their buildings. The Town should hire someone to look for grants. The funds are out there to bring money into the Town. He is glad the board did not approve the Natchaug roof.

**17. Adjournment**

Upon a motion by Thomas White seconded by Charles Pennewill the meeting was adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

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