

The Board of Finance held a special meeting on **April 8, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.** in the **Bellingham Auditorium at Town Hall, 979 Main Street, Willimantic, CT 06226**

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

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

Chairman Lynne Ide called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

### **2. Public Comment**

Diane Rayhall commented the first taxing district is working on their budget. There needs to be a discussion on the dispatch and what is going to be done. We should be working together.

Dawn Niles commented on the allocation of dispatch. Put together a study group and discuss how to allocate dispatch. There is a difference in services. Windham choose not to have police coverage and to use the State police. We should not be paving the French club when it is a private entity.

Tony Fantoli commented the French club should be paved for the new polling place instead of the Windham Center Fire Department. He also commented on dispatch services.

Mike Lessard commented that on a prior committee they did not want the Willimantic Police going out to the Windham's and if dispatch is not taken out the budget may not pass.

Henry Crane commented on dispatch and the Willimantic Police will not go out to the Windham's. If we dump the dispatch then the State would take over. By having dispatch in the Town budget, then everyone will pay for dispatch because it is a Town wide service. It is the same as plowing the Town roads.

Mayor Ernie Eldridge commented on keeping the outside agencies as they are. If the Board is going to keep Dispatch services then open the Charter Revision and change it.

Bernie Dauteuil commented on the Service District budget and the increase in police overtime. We need to help keep police officers here in Town. The Windham Center Fire House polling location should be changed to the French Club due to the traffic issue at the fire house.

Joseph Demarchi commented on dispatch Windham is already paying \$54,000 on dispatch and doesn't feel the Windham's should be paying more.

Thomas DeVivo commented moving dispatch to the General Government budget creates transparency. There is no dispatch contract with the Willimantic Service District, it is with the Town. The new contract will count calls differently. Paying based on call volume won't work with new contract. We need a 911 dispatch center and the cost to be allocated fairly.

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

There was no Board of Finance comment.

#### **4. Discussion and possible action on the 2015-2016 Proposed General Government Budget**

The department heads are present to discuss their budget.

Tax Collector, Gay St. Louis – 1% increase is due to Quality Data Service. The cost for parking software is approximately \$0.75 per ticket. There is also an additional cost for supplies.

Assessor – Joan Paskewich – under 1% increase.

Service contact line in FY15 budget is \$5,000 and there was a transfer of \$7,000 to revise the budget.

Board of Assessment Appeals – increase is so Board of Assessment Appeals members could attend a course/class and any new members can get a book.

Town Clerk – Patty Spruance – \$3,000 Increase in indexing and recording. Vital records is a new line in the budget this year to better track recordings. The Historic Documents Restoration is a grant that the Town has received every year and starting next year, this needs to be listed as an expense in the budget. Advertising has increased based on current year expenditures. A spreadsheet of revenues was presented to the Board.

Registrars – Bunny Lescoe and Nancy Rivera – a contract with French Club is being discussed tonight.

The Town would pave 2 handicap spaces and take care of any other state mandated disability ADA issues. The Town would not have to pay rent until cost of the work was paid off.

The office has been moved to the second floor and a request for a copier is in the budget because they had been using the Town Clerks copier.

There is \$10,000 in the Capital Improvement Plan for poll books. These are the checking books when you go to vote. With these new book, the registrar can see who has voted in real time. The secretary of State will be certifying a list of vendors - about 35 towns use the program that has been looked at.

Mary Demaro – Human Services commented moving expense was moved to relocation assistance.

Requested General Asst – Nonreimb be increased to \$5,250. This is used for diversion funds which was \$10,000 and the Town Council decreased it to \$1,250. There were other funds available because of the cold weather and now there are no longer any funds because cold weather is over. This is for helping the homeless.

Senior Center – budget represents the Senior Center being moved to Main St. Additional personnel will be needed when the move happens. Increased population anticipated and an additional case worker will be needed. January 1, 2016 is an approximate move in date. Will come back with a six month cost for the Senior Center and will give a breakout of outside contractors costs.

Outside Agencies – 2 new agencies this year – Perception Programs and CLICK. Will be getting lists of all the increases and copies of applications for the Board.

Tara Risley – Recreation – overall there is a decrease when all budgets are put together.

There was an increase in advertising.

Brian Hathaway – IT – Increase in equipment for copier at Senior Center.

\$2,500 for nutmeg network. To re-broadcast meetings the cost would be \$350 per month x 12 months or \$4,200.

Drusilla Carter – Library – increase is mainly in salaries and benefits. \$3,500 increase for computers and printers.

Jim Bellano – Economic Development – anticipates advertising and networking costs but feels the budget that was put together is good.

Neal Beets spoke on behalf of Peter Zvingilas and the increase in demolition and security is for when a property needs to be secured and the Town has to secure the property. A lien is put against the property when this happens. The costs for taking down a building has increased due to hazards in the building.

Joe Gardner – Engineer – Budget increased due to personnel costs.  
Capital Improvement Plan – LoCIP Projects include - new ceiling in Auditorium, Duggan building roof and new ceiling. In the Town Managers office – insulate floor to reduce cold.  
Energy projects – a gas boiler has been installed in museum but we need to work on heat and air conditioning. New controls in Kramer building, ventilation in pool. New storm windows in auditorium with leftover funds from energy projects.

Brad Wojick – Pubic Works – Machinery and Equipment increase in vehicle repair parts  
Snow removal went over by \$102,000 this year and they used less sand and salt.  
Professional services is a new line item for drug testing in Public Works Maintenance.  
Solid waste increase is due to the contract.

Tom Pesce – Finance – Increase due to anticipated retirement. Service contracts increase for financial software costs for a full year and the maintenance on the previous contract.  
Debt Service - increased from bonding and the energy performance lease. The energy performance lease may be refinanced to reduce the cost.  
Other benefits - increase in workers compensation. May be going to self insured to save money.  
Would like to consolidate life insurance, medical insurance, FICA/Medicare lines to the lines in Other Benefits.  
Liability insurance – still waiting for final numbers for next year.  
Transfers out to other programs- 10,000 increase to Kramer is based on last years actual, \$5,000 increase in recreation, and the last 2 lines are for the 1,000,000 reappropriation of fund balance on the first page. \$150,000 is for grant match and \$850,000 for RCIP

Paul Hongo – Personnel – increase is in salaries and benefits

Animal control – increase in medical insurance because a part-time employee is taking the medical insurance where the town pays 50%.

Neida Rosado & Neal Beets

Town Council – there is no increase.

Municipal administration – increase in Professional affiliation - SECOR - \$8,000 fee to join

Town Hall – increase in service contracts \$8,000 NEGOG GIS system

Need to redo the front door of Town Hall for handicap accessibility \$25,000 in buildings and improvements.

No action was taken.

For the April 15<sup>th</sup> meeting, the Board would like the following information:

Pg. 60 - Update figures on Senior center staff

Pg 58 - Non-profit agencies applications

Pg 67 - clarification on \$15,000

Dispatch allocation if put back the way it was

Collection of taxes – where we are based on % - can we adjust the % for uncollected taxes

**5. Discussion and possible action on the 2015-2016 Willimantic Service District budget**

No action was taken

**Discussion and possible action on the 2015-2016 Capital Improvement Plan**

Discussion to move \$25,000 of Building & Improvements from page 36 to the Capital Improvement Plan and any other projects in budget than can be moved.

No action was taken.

**7. Future agenda items**

Audit presentation at May Regular meeting

**8. Public Comment**

James Flores commented meetings need to be coordinated so two important meetings are not going on at the same time. Need more diversity in the police department. He will not support the budget but asks the Board to keep the budget as it is and let the people decide. If we campaign for the budget we will get more people to come out to vote.

Thomas DeVivo commented on the Board of Education’s request of \$748,000. He would like to see the budgets sent to voters as they are.

Mike Lessard commented to leave the budget as they are. Ambulance should not be in the Willimantic Service District budget.

Bernie Dauteuil commented there should be a study done on dispatch. This Town should come together and stick together as one Town.

Jan Mott commented there is a dispatcher for police and one for fire and all surrounding towns. The cost for dispatch is \$521,083.00.

Kevin Hoxie commented on the police department officers only working so many hours like when you have a CDL license. The Police Department is short staffed and working a lot of overtime. Officers are tired and then accidents can happen. Is there a limit to the number of hours an officer can work.

**Adjournment**

Upon a motion by Thomas White, seconded by Tyler Griffin the meeting was adjourned at 9:42 p.m.

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