

Windham First Taxing District~ Special Meeting

Monday, January 4, 2016, 6:30 p.m.

Windham Center Fire Department

President Diane Rayhall called the special meeting of the Windham First Taxing District to order at 1835 hours.

Members present were: Diane Rayhall, Helene Chapman, Elaine Rogers, Theodore Colwell, Bill Powers, Jan Mott, Joseph DeMarchi and Peter Bruscato were present. Dawn Niles was absent

Public Comment ~ None

Motion made by Elaine Rogers, seconded by Theodore Colwell to approve \$35,000.00 from the Grantee Improvement Fund to the South Windham Fire Department upon approval of their application to a firefighter grant. (FEMA AFG).

Discussion – Chief Patrick Farley confirmed that they would not be coming to the Board of Directors unless the AFG was approved. The grant process closes January 15, 2016, it could take up to a year to receive notification of acceptance. Peter Bruscato questioned the current amount of that fund, Treasurer Mott advised that currently there was \$63,912.00 in that account and it was slated to receive another \$25,000.00 during the next budget approval on April. The fund had not been being funded because the fire departments had not been receiving grants the last few years.

Bill Powers question the cost of the truck, Chief Farley stated that it was approximately \$450,000.00. They would be applying for \$350,000.00 through the grant process. The anticipated grant match of 10% is \$35,000.00 with the remainder of the purchase price being funded through outside sources, such as manufacturer funding, Rural Development or a bank loan. Once approved it could take 8-9 months for the truck to be built. Chief Farley stated that they were looking at Pierce out of Wisconsin. Peter Bruscato advised that there needs to be a bid process because of the federal money. He believed that Pierce was on the bid list and as long as it was in the bid referring to height and length restrictions the department could purchase forego the bid process. Chief Farley stated that Pierce was the only vender that could meet those restrictions.

Joseph DeMarchi questioned if the WFTD provided the grant match funds who would own the fire truck. After a brief discussion ownership stays with the fire department because the WFTD cannot own property. Gene Chaine, Windham Center stated that that he thought that this should be examined.

Paul Seige, Windham Center stated that in his opinion the WFTD were not allowed to accumulate funds. Chief Lloyd Niles stated that the fire departments being able to apply for these grants saves the District and the fire departments money. John Wylie, North Windham explained that this AFG is straight forward and clear cut. The Grant Match Fund was established Windham Center and South Windham received AFG grants to help with the matching funds. The departments could not rely on getting the grants. But when they did they would have to 5% match them.

Helene Chapman stated that over the past years all of the fire departments have received at least one grant each. South Windham received two grants; funding over \$140,000.00 that could not have been budgeted for. Bottom line budgets would not have been accepted by the district with increases to support the purchases made with the grants.

Vote on Motion ~ 30 people on attendance including the Board of Directors (President call only vote to break a tie). 29 available votes, 29 voters yes, 0 no, no abstentions. Motion approved unanimously.

Public Comment ~

Joseph DeMarchi apologized for starting the discussion but felt that the district needed to be well informed. Gene Chaine stated that with open conversation there is less negativity.

Motion made by Elaine Rogers to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Peter Bruscato. Motion accepted and meeting adjourned at 1905 hours.

Respectfully submitted,

Helene E. Chapman

Clerk, W.F.T.D.