

WINDHAM TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES



REVISED: SPECIAL TELECONFERENCE MEETING

Windham Town Hall Meeting Room

Tuesday, January 7, 2014 - 7:00 P.M.

1. Call to Order

Mayor Eldridge called the Town of Windham Regular Town Council Special Teleconference meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

Town Council members present: Mayor Ernest S. Eldridge, Charles Krich, Tony Fantoli, Tom DeVivo, Lorraine McDevitt, Mark Doyle, James Flores, Charlotte Patros and Christel Donahue.

N. Joseph Underwood and Michael Lessard were excused.

Town Manager Neal Beets was also in attendance.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Eldridge led all in the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Citizens and Delegations: Public Comment

Sign-in to speak using the Town Clerk's Speaker's Sign-In Sheet, on the left side of the Council table by the Deputy Town Clerk.

Al Korucynski, 32 Pennywood Lane, Willimantic, spoke in support of funding the purchase of musical instruments for Windham Public Schools.

4. Town Council Comment

McDevitt explained the Public Safety, Public Works, Environment, Culture and Recreation Committee had discussed possibly instituting a program for our Town offices to become youth friendly and she asked the Council to consider this. She suggested through the Board of Education and Town Manager Beets they find Juniors and Seniors to shadow Department Heads. She noted Joe Gardner and the Fire Department have had students shadow them and she believes this is very advantageous in keeping our students in the community and having them partake in the community. McDevitt also stated the instruments for the school are very important and she believes the school board has made some movement to make that happen. In addition she stated does not agree that the students are disadvantaged, however she believes the community is disadvantaged and has been overlooked by the State.



Doyle noted as a point of order under Robert's Rules Item 12b would need to be revised.

Flores shared his concerns regarding the Charter Revision Commission and is questioning whether they will be able to meet their deadline given the resignations they have faced. He asked if the Commission could be given an extension.

DeVivo spoke about a recent article in the New Haven Register regarding heroin use in Eastern CT. He noted he was a member of the Council in 2002 when 5 articles about heroin use damaged our community for a decade which included housing values to drop and low enrollment in ECSU. He stated we are not the heroin capital and he would like 60 Minutes and the Hartford Courant to come back to our Town to report on the positives of our Town. He noted drug use is still among us however it does not lead our community. He believes we should be proud of the strides we have taken to make our community a better place and we should be thinking of the future.

Krich thanked DeVivo for his words and noted we often focus on the negative and forget about the strides we have made in Town. He also noted because the Council was not planning on meeting tonight he had made other plans and would have to leave about 8:15.

5. Adoption of Minutes

a. Discuss and possibly move to adopt the minutes for the December 17, 2013, Town Council Meeting.

DeVivo MOVED, McDevitt seconded, to adopt the minutes for the December 17, 2013, Town Council Meeting. All were in favor except Doyle and Donahue who abstained. MOTION PASSED.

6. Resignations.

a. Barbara McGrath as a regular member of the Charter Commission.

NOTED

7. Appointments.

a. Victor Rayhall as a regular member of the Charter Commission with a term to expire when the Charter Commission sunsets.

b. Cathleen Eldridge (no relation) as a regular member of the Economic Development Commission.

c. Pam Shorey as a regular member of the Charter Commission with a term to expire when the Charter Commission sunsets.

DeVivo MOVED, McDevitt seconded, to vote on Items 7a thru 7c as one. All were in favor. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

DeVivo MOVED, McDevitt seconded, to appoint Victor Rayhall as a regular member of the Charter Commission with a term to expire when the Charter Commission sunsets, Cathleen Eldridge as a regular member of the Economic Development Commission and Pam Shorey as a regular member of the Charter Commission with a term to expire when the Charter Commission sunsets. All were in favor. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

8. Presentations & Special Reports.

a. Presentation about the fund requests from the BOE that have been approved by the BOF subject to the approval of the Town Council and Town Meeting:

- (1) Musical instruments for Windham Schools**
- (2) Interior improvements at Natchaug Elementary**
- (3) Performance Plus Software and a Literacy Program for Windham Schools**

b. Presentation about a micro-grid at Sweeney Elementary and the Windham Middle School.

John French, Chair of the Finance and Audit Committee of the Board of Education gave a brief presentation regarding the request for funding on the musical instruments, interior improvements at Natchaug Elementary and the Performance Plus Software and literacy program.

Ray Sinclair, Director of Bands at Windham High School, explained the condition of the instruments and the need for them to be replaced.

Wayne Donaldson, Director of Buildings and Grounds at Windham Public Schools, briefly spoke about the need for an ice fence around the perimeter of the school to ensure the safety of the children.

John French, Chair of the Finance and Audit Committee of the Board of Education, explained the benefits the students would have with the enhancement of the Performance Plus Software and Literacy Program. He also explained how they would be tested with the program.

The presentation of the micro-grid at Sweeney Elementary and the Windham Middle School is postponed until the regular Town Council meeting on January 21st.

9. Mayor's Report.

Mayor Eldridge reported a letter was received today via email from Bob Rath regarding an article in The Chronicle that was misleading about the timeline and construction at the former YMCA. Mayor Eldridge provided the Council with a copy of the letter and explained its contents.

10. Town Manager's Report.

None

11. Discussion and Review of Communications.

- a. Water Main Break**
- b. OPM designation of Windham as a member of SCCOG**
- c. Letter from ECSU President Elsa Nunez**
- d. Revaluation FAQ's**

Town Manager Beets gave a brief update on the status of the following:

- Water Main Break – Town Manager Beets explained there was a significant water main break and the difficulties in the working conditions to repair the break due to the freezing temperatures. He noted the road was not in good shape however when the weather warms up it will be repaired.

- OPM designation of Windham as a member of SCCOG – Town Manager Beets noted as shared with OPM Windham’s desire to be in SCCOG, OPM has sent a letter in agreement and proposes the necessary steps be taken to move forward.
- Letter from ECSU President Elsa Nunez - Town Manager Beets stated a response from President Nunez had been received agreeing to provide assistance to the Willimantic Police Department, when staffing allows, to address the issues with student activities.
- Revaluation FAQ’s - Town Manager Beets noted FAQ’s are available and will be translated to Spanish as well. He also noted the information will be available on the Towns website. In addition, Town Manager Beets stated informal hearings are being held for those who would like to discuss their new valuation.

MOTION: Doyle MOVED, Krich seconded, to amend the agenda to strike the current language in Item 12b and replace the language to reflect the new Resolution. All were in favor. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

12. Resolutions and Ordinances.

- a. Discuss and possibly move to adopt a Resolution setting a Town Meeting on Tuesday, January 21, 2014, at 6 PM, in the Bellingham Auditorium to consider a request from the BOE for \$161,197 in unbudgeted expenditures for musical instruments to be paid for out of the Town’s Fund Balance.**

Krich read Resolution #2614 and moved for its adoption.

Krich MOVED, DeVivo seconded, to adopt Resolution #2614. All were in favor.

**Musical Instruments
for Windham Public Schools**

BE IT RESOLVED by the Town Council THAT

1. The Town of Windham appropriate \$161,197.00 from the Town’s undesignated Fund Balance in order that the Board of Education may fund the purchase of Musical Instruments; and
2. The Town Council moves to a Town Meeting on January 21, at 6:00 pm in the Bellingham Auditorium, Windham Town Hall, 979 Main Street, Willimantic, CT, to consider whether to approve this appropriation and expenditure.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

- b. Discuss and possibly move to adopt a Resolution setting a Town Meeting on Tuesday, February 18, at 6:30 PM, in the Windham Town Hall Meeting Room, to consider a request from the BOE amending Resolution #2585 pertaining to the Natchaug Roof, increasing the Appropriation and Bond Authorization by \$206,440.14 from \$1,361,802 to \$1,568,242.14 to replace the roof at the Natchaug School and to make other repairs and improvements in connection therewith.**

Krich MOVED, DeVivo seconded, to waive the reading of Resolution #2615. All were in favor. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Doyle MOVED, DeVivo seconded, to adopt Resolution #2615. All were in favor.

RE: Amending Resolution 2585 pertaining to the Natchaug Roof, increasing the Appropriation and Bond Authorization by \$206,440.14 from \$1,361,802 to \$1,568,242.14 to replace the roof at the Natchaug School and to make other repairs and improvements in connection therewith, and to Set a Date for a Town Meeting to consider the Additional Appropriation and Authorization of \$206,440.14

RESOLVED, that the Town Council of the Town of Windham (the “Town”) hereby approves and recommends to the Board of Finance that:

(i) To increase the sum appropriated by **\$206,440.14** resulting in a total appropriation of **\$1,568,242.14** 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”), said appropriation being inclusive of any and all State of Connecticut (the “State”) and Federal grants-in-aid.

(ii) It is expected that approximately 80% of the cost of the reimbursable portions of the Project will be paid with State grants, leaving the Town responsible for approximately **\$280,000** in cost, plus a currently undetermined amount of cost for portions of the Project that may be deemed ineligible for state reimbursement. To meet the Town’s local portion of said appropriation and in lieu of a tax therefor, bonds of the Town are hereby authorized to 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 **\$1,568,242.14** 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 cost of the Project.

(iii) The Town Manager and the Treasurer be authorized to issue and sell temporary notes of the Town not to exceed **\$1,568,242.14** in anticipation of the receipt of proceeds from the sale of the bonds authorized above and to determine the amount, date, date of maturity, interest rate, form and other details of such notes or bonds, pursuant to Chapter 109 of the Connecticut General Statutes, as amended, or any other provision of law thereto enabling, provided that the proceeds from the sale of such notes shall be used for said purpose.

(iv) The Town Manager and the Treasurer shall sign the bonds or notes by either manual or facsimile signatures and that the law firm of Pullman & Comley, LLC is designated as bond counsel to approve the legality of the bonds or notes.

(v) The Town Manager is authorized to designate a bank or trust company to be the certifying bank, registrar, transfer agent and paying agent of the bonds or notes; to sell the bonds or notes at public or private sale; to deliver the bonds or notes; and to perform all other acts which are necessary or appropriate to issue the bonds or notes. If the bonds or notes authorized by this resolution are issued on a tax-exempt basis, the Town Manager and the Treasurer are authorized to bind the Town pursuant to such representations and covenants as they deem necessary or advisable in order to maintain the continued exemption from federal income

taxation of interest on the bonds or notes, including covenants to pay rebates of investment earnings to the United States in future years.

(vi) The Board of Education is hereby authorized in the name and on behalf of the Town to apply and shall apply to the State Department of Education and any other entity which may provide a grant for this Project for any and all grants which may be available for the Project.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town reasonably expects to incur expenditures (the “Expenditures”) in connection with the capital project for which a general functional description is provided above. The Town reasonably expects to reimburse itself for the cost of the Expenditures with the proceeds of general obligation bonds and notes of the Town described above. The maximum principal amount of such bonds is not expected to exceed **\$1,568,242.14**. This declaration of official intent is a declaration of official intent made pursuant to Treasury Regulation Section 1.150-2.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that should the resolution authorizing the additional appropriation of **\$206,440.14**, for a total appropriation and bond authorization of **\$1,568,242.14**, be approved by the Board of Finance, a Special Town Meeting is hereby called to be held on Tuesday, February 18, 2014 at the Windham Town Hall, Meeting Room, 979 Main Street, Willimantic, Connecticut at 6:30 p.m. to consider and vote upon this resolution for an additional appropriation and authorization for the Natchaug School as set forth above.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

- c. **Discuss and possibly move to adopt a Resolution setting a Town Meeting on Tuesday, January 21, 2014, at 6 PM, in the Bellingham Auditorium to consider a request from the BOE for \$150,000 in unbudgeted expenditures for Performance+ software and a Literacy Program to be paid for out of the Town’s Fund Balance.**

Fantoli read Resolution #2616 and moved for its adoption.

Fantoli MOVED, McDevitt seconded, to adopt Resolution #2616. All were in favor.

**Performance Plus Software and Literacy Program
for Windham Public Schools**

BE IT RESOLVED by the Town Council THAT

1. The Town of Windham appropriate \$150,000.00 from the Town’s undesignated Fund Balance in order that the Board of Education may fund the purchase of Performance Plus software and a Literacy Program; and
2. The Town Council moves to a Town Meeting on January 21, at 6:00 pm in the Bellingham Auditorium, Windham Town Hall, 979 Main Street, Willimantic, CT, to consider whether to approve this appropriation and expenditure.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

- d. Discuss and possibly move to adopt a Resolution setting a Town Meeting on Tuesday, February 18, 2014, at 6:30 PM, in the Bellingham Auditorium to approve the receipt and expenditure of approximately \$709,350 in DEEP grant funds and to authorize expenditure of approximately \$500,000 in unbudgeted Town funds to be paid for out of the Town's Fund Balance, all contingent upon approval of the BOF and Town Meeting and contingent upon applications being made for additional grant funds.**
Postponed until January 21, 2014 Town Council meeting.

13. Reports of Committees, Boards and Commissions.

None

14. Old Business.

None

15. New Business.

None

16. Future Agenda Items

None

17. Citizens and Delegations: Public Comment

Doug Lary, 183 Summit Street, Willimantic, shared his concerns regarding the recent resignations and limited time for the Charter Revision Commission to complete their work. He encouraged Town Council members to attend their meetings and commended Jessica Niles for the great job she has done in capturing the essence of the meetings in the minutes.

18. Adjournment

DeVivo MOVED, Doyle seconded, to adjourn the Windham Regular Town Council Special Teleconference meeting at 8:09 P.M. All were in favor. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Submitted By:

Barbara J. McKinney

Clerk of the Town Council