

WINDHAM FIRST TAXING DISTRICT
Monday October 1, 2012
Monthly Meeting Minutes

Call to Order:

Vice-President Ted Colwell called the monthly meeting of the Windham First Taxing District to order at 1900 hours.

The following members were present: Elaine Rogers, Joe DeMarchi, George Gillette, Ted Colwell, Peter Bruscato and AnnMarie White.

Approval of Minutes:

Joe DeMarchi made a motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held on September 10, 2012 for approval. Elaine Rogers seconded the motion, rest in favor.

Treasurer's Report:

No report given.

Public Comment:

None.

Charter Revision Update

Dawn Niles stated a minor change discussed at their last meeting was to remove the payment language for the Board of Appeals. The committee was looking at the majority vote rule. The rule is you must have five affirmative votes to pass an issue. Committee wants to remove this language and replace with the Robert Rules of Order. They recommended that the Town Council and Mayor be two year terms to be more responsible to the community. Change the Ethics Committee to a two year term and allow two alternates. You must be eighteen years old and registered in the town. Create one finance department, not one for the town and one for education in order to be more fiscally responsible. Change the way you can do resignations by being able to e-mail it. The Mayor's role is changing to be more ceremonial, not running the town. Michael Licata asked if the Mayor can vote on the Town Council. Dawn stated the current charter removed his voting rights.

George Gillette asked if the Willimantic Police came out to the town, would they have to answer to this Board. No they would not. It would be setup like the ambulance service where they report to the Town Council and the Town Manager.

Guilford Smith Memorial Library

No report given.

Windham Free Library

The treasurer, Paul Siege introduced the new president of the Windham Free Library Evan Halpine.

Windham Youth Organization

No report given.

Elaine Rogers Update on 3 Windhams

The three Chief's meeting was at St. Joseph's to test out the new repeater. Elaine wanted to thank St. Joseph's for installing.

South Windham Fire Department

John Chapman read the September report.

Windham Center Fire Department

Lloyd Niles had computer problems, so no report given. He noted that the Windham Center Memorial Service will be held on November 3 at 2:00 p.m.

North Windham Fire Department

John Wylie read the September report. In the report, John stated there were physicals done on their members. Joe DeMarchi asked if the other departments were taking physicals and kept records. Helene Chapman stated they were getting dates for them. John Wylie confirmed records were kept by all departments and they were locked in their personnel files.

Old Business

Dawn Niles reminded Board that on October 15 the Chief of Police is to give presentation of police department coming out to the town at 7:00 p.m. George Gillette stated he would excuse himself of the vote because of being a dispatcher. George handed out a list of police calls in Windham from the Connecticut Uniform Crime Reports. John Wylie asked if the state roads would still be under the State Police, Dawn stated they would be. He stated that when the Willimantic police have come out to the town, the communication is not good with the volunteer fire departments. Dawn ensured that if the police were to be town wide, the Chief of Police would meet with the Chief of the fire departments to work on procedures. Peter Bruscato noted that on the report of police calls George handed out, there were no motor vehicle stops listed. He also noted that there were issues when the police have worked with the Willimantic fireman.

New Business

George Gillette handed out a list of required mandatory inspections that the fire departments must perform.

John Chapman stated the three fire departments bought a boat for search and rescue. It's a six passenger boat. They are working on getting training material together. Hopefully by spring they will be ready to use the new boat. The last boat was bought in the 1950's and is still useable.

Public Comment

John Wylie stated that the meeting of the public safety and the Town manager regarding the dispatch center was not moving in a good direction. He hoped there would be a contract in place by the next meeting. George Gillette recommended the Board should push to get a letter done stating that a contract should be signed so other towns would take an interest to use the center. Ted Colwell asked George to draft this letter.

Joe DeMarchi brought up that on Babcock Hill, people were upset with Camp Horizons because of the way they were expanding and are unsure if these new areas are zoned for use of the camp. Ted Colwell asked if the camp was zoned for specific boundaries. Dawn Niles, a member of the Planning and Zoning commission, believed they were. Dawn Niles stated they would look into this issue.

Adjournment

Motion made by Joe DeMarchi to adjourn at 1954 hrs, seconded by Peter Bruscatto, all in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

AnnMarie White
Clerk