

WINDHAM FIRST TAXING DISTRICT  
Windham Center Fire House  
Monday October 3, 2011  
Monthly Meeting Minutes

The following members were present: Diane Rayhall, Elaine Rogers, Peter Bruscato, AnnMarie White, Ted Colwell, Jan Mott, Mark Herrick, and Donald Potter.

**Call to Order:**

President Diane Rayhall called the monthly meeting of the Windham First Taxing District to order at 1902 hours.

**Approval of Minutes September 12, 2011:**

Elaine Rogers moved to accept minutes dated September 12, 2011; Mark Herrick seconded the motion, rest in favor.

**Treasurer's Report:**

Jan Mott gave the treasurer's report and read the following information:

Account Balances:

Checking Account Balance:	\$ 23,415.32
Savings Account Balance:	\$ 48,654.27
Grant Match Reserve:	\$ 48,912.00
Grant Improvement Reserve:	<u>\$111,335.90</u>
Total:	\$232,317.49

**Bills to Pay:**

The Chronicle	\$ 150.50
Total	<u>\$ 150.50</u>

Ted Colwell moved to accept treasurer's report and pay the bill, seconded by Elaine Rogers, all in favor.

**Public Comment:**

Representative Susan Johnson discussed upcoming legislation that affects firefighters on the 2011 report. She highlighted the item where taking pictures during an emergency call has become a problem. She also noted that firefighters have a streamline process for Worker's Comp. Another item in the report was that firefighters can withdraw water from wetlands if needed. Representative Johnson can setup times to meet with the fire departments if needed. She thanked Elaine Rogers for being at the meeting to discuss the problems that occurred in the town when the hurricane hit. She'd like the Fire Chiefs to let her know of any concerns that had regarding the storm.

Dawn Niles spoke on behalf of Town Council Member Kevin Donahue regarding Charter Revision since he could not make the meeting. A letter was sent to Diane Rayhall from Kevin Donahue that she read. In the letter there were two questions for the Windham First Taxing

District looking for background. Attorney Nick Keeple, was suppose to be at the meeting to interpret the letter, but was unable to attend. Dawn Niles had a discussion with Kevin about the redundancy in procedures. To correct this problem, Kevin thought it might help to include the Windham First Taxing District in the Charter. Chief John Wylie asked if it would spell out all entities, Dawn said it would. She also said she would like to know what Attorney Keeple would say about this and to ensure the protection of the Taxing District.

The Charter Revision committee is not setup yet, so Diane Rayhall asked the Directors to make a motion to table this item until their Attorney can look at this. Ted Colwell made the motion, Elaine seconded.

Peter said he'd like clarification on the chain of command, and asked if the Taxing District be an independent entity. Will someone from the Taxing District need to report to the Town Council or will a Service Town Council member report? He suggested you need a liaison from the Service District to the Taxing District. Dawn thought that the Taxing District will still have input into public comment.

Diane suggested looking at the bylaws of the Taxing District and that they need to change now that the libraries are added. Diane will have a ruling from the Attorney at the next meeting.

Diane asked again if all in favor to table this issue, all in favor.

Lloyd Niles said he was trying for a year and a half to get a new ambulance since they only had 1 ambulance. He stated this was not a Willimantic or Windham First Taxing district issue, this is a town issue. He requested as a citizen for the Windham First Taxing District to look into this issue. Dawn Niles said there was an ordinance in place regarding the ambulance. Every three years a new ambulance is to be bought, but the ambulance funds have been used for different reasons than what was stating in the ordinance. The ambulance account is currently at a negative balance. Dawn recommended a letter from the Board might help. Peter Bruscato gave the Board an update of the current ambulances. The oldest ambulance is from 2002 and is the most reliable with 90,000 miles. The second ambulance is a 2007 and causing headaches. It's been out of service for 45 days. In Willimantic they have 6 people on a shift and they do about 5,000 runs a year, 3,800 of them are medical calls. This is more than Norwich. Diane asked for a copy (copy of what), Dawn will get. Dawn stated that at the Town Council meeting it was requested by the Town Manager to approach the volunteer Fire Departments to see if they had any vehicles to trade in for the ambulance. Diane didn't agree with this request. Donald Potter stated that \$600,000 was put given back to the school board, and wondered if that was part of the money. Diane stated that the \$600,000 went for a ladder truck.

Diane said they can elect to have her and Elaine go to the next Town Council meeting and bring this issue up, but Victor Rayhall suggested that Diane go to Neal Beets and get an update. Diane Rayhall made a motion that someone go to the next Town Council meeting and voice their concerns with the ambulance, Mark Herrick seconded, Peter Bruscato abstained.

### **Guilford Smith Library**

Afron Seal gave her report and read the upcoming events for the library. Their Book and Bake sale made almost \$1,000 and she thanked supporters that attended. She noted they had some maintenance issues that happened. They had no electricity for three days and cost \$900 to fix. They had a tree removed and got three bids for a leak in the roof. There wasn't any singles off, but the flashing around the chimney needs to be replaced. McClintock Roofing volunteered to do the work at no cost. Their maintenance budget of \$2,000 was gone. October 14<sup>th</sup> they were having a Spaghetti Supper from 5 -7 p.m. at the Congregational Church. Tickets were being sold

at the door. They were having donated baked goods and what was left over would go to the women's shelter. Funds raised were for their summer programs. Diane Rayhall said it was good to coordinate their Book and Bake Sale with the South Windham Fire departments Chicken Barbecue.

### **Windham Free Library**

David Light stated their annual meeting was held on September 19<sup>th</sup>. He pointed out his appreciation to the Taxing District's support to them. He stated they take on the whole school for the Windham Center school program. It's been in place for 5 years and is very coordinated with the school liaison. This program is very successful and they receive good feedback from the teachers. The library board is looking at getting kids out to the library during the summer. Next year is their 115<sup>th</sup> anniversary and they are looking to do a special fundraiser. Elaine Rogers has been going through artifacts and literature on the history of the town. The library would like to put together a calendar to show these artifacts and are hoping to have it done by December 1<sup>st</sup>. They are going to have quarterly meetings. Diane Rayhall asked how he planned on promoting the calendar. David stated through friends, e-mail, the Post Office, but they really haven't decided yet. Joshua Niles suggested added advertisements to calendars, but David didn't want to promote ads, just the history.

### **Windham Youth Organization**

No one present to report.

### **South Windham Fire Department**

Helene Chapman read the September report.

### **Windham Center Fire Department**

Chief Lloyd Niles read the September report. Lloyd pointed out to Representative Johnson that the fire departments meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month if she wanted to come and discuss CL&P's response time to the hurricane.

Diane asked if they had money budgeted for new Christmas lights for the tree. Dawn Niles said they had \$1,000 in an account for the lights. They are looking for at updating. Elaine Rogers suggested getting LED lights and Ted Colwell said to get enough lights to cover the whole tree.

### **North Windham Fire Department**

Before the Chief gave his report, Diane wanted to thank him for attending the Youth Day at North Windham School. Willimantic donated the trailer to show kids how to get out of the house if it was on fire. Chief John Wylie read the September report.

### **Discussion to Move to Public Hearing on NWFV Vehicle Exhaust Capture System for November**

Diane brought up some other November dates for the next meeting because it falls on Election Day. It was decided the next meeting will be held on November 7<sup>th</sup> at the North Windham Fire Department. Diane will need to post the public hearing and regular meeting location change.

### **Elaine Rogers Update on Three Windham Fire Departments**

There was nothing to report.

### **Old Business**

Diane and Elaine attended the CL & P meeting. There were lots of Willimantic complaints. No other Windham residents were there, but Elaine really spoke passionately on how the fire departments couldn't get around easily because of the down trees.

Diane said the Magnet School had their ground breaking. Town's people complained about the blasting, a driveway had cracked, and that Tom DeVivo was addressing these issues. No one can just go up to the site. They had 2 incidents where one gentleman was removed by police, and there was a minor car accident.

### **New Business**

Diane will follow up with Attorney Nick Peeple regarding the Charter Revision issue.

### **Public Comment**

Chief Lloyd Niles said he was looking to do a fire prevention day at Windham Center School, and that between October 31 and November 4, Route 203 was going to be shut down while the railroad beds were redone. Mark Herrick said the DOT was going to issue a press release and put up signs.

David Light asked what the Taxing District had to do with Charter Revision. Dawn Niles explained the difference between the Willimantic Service District, the Windham Service District and The Windham First Taxing District. She said the Windham First Taxing District pays a portion of the switchboard and the ambulance comes from the general fund. Diane stated she wants to be sure the Windham First Taxing District is listed as an independent entity in the Charter .

Jan Mott questioned if the town found the money owed to the Taxing District from the police grant. Diane stated the \$4,100 that went to the town has not been give to the Taxing District. The report of cars ticketed was given to the Willimantic Police Department, but it's not a dead issue. Representative Johnson said any concerns about blasting should go to Norman Benjamin since he is responsible for the contracting of the Magnet School. Diane stated the compliant of debris falling on surrounding properties was being taken care of by Joe Gardner and James Finger. Dawn Niles was told by Lynn Duval that Halloween will happen on Main Street. The Festival of Lights parade was also going to be held. Dawn spoke to Mark Scrivener from the Willimantic Fire Department and he said they are planning to attend. Diane asked how the Festival was funded. Dawn said the Festival didn't have the support of businesses since many are closed at the time it is held. Diane said the Windham First Taxing could pitch in to help fund. Dawn said the funding was to come from the DeVivo family and the Elks Club. Diane made a motion to donate no more than \$500 for the Festival of Lights, Jan Mott seconded. Mark Herrick said he was uncomfortable with this motion. He didn't feel the Taxing District should get involved in donating. Elaine Rogers rescinded the motion.

### **Adjournment**

Motion made by Elaine Rogers to adjourn at 2038 hrs, seconded by Ted Colwell, all in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

AnnMarie White  
Clerk