Windham First Taxing District~ Regular Monthly Meeting

Monday, October 6, 2014, 7 p.m.

Windham Center Fire Department

President Diane Rayhall called the monthly meeting of the Windham First Taxing District to order at 1905 hours.

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

Approval of the minutes dated October 6, 2014 Meeting.

Correction Ellen Lang presented the report for the Windham Free Library and clarification on the policing meetings September 22, 2014 would be the working meeting of the WFTD sub committee and September 9, 2014 would be the meeting with the Service District.

Motion made by Elaine Rogers, seconded by Jan Mott to accept the minutes as presented. Motion accepted unanimously.

Treasurer's Report ~ Jan Mott presented the treasurer's report with the following account balances and bills to pay:

	Checking	$542.94	
	Reserve Grant Match	$63,912.00	
	Savings	$479.50	
	Grantee Improvement reserve	$116,361.01	
Total of Account Balances		$181,295.45	
Bills to Pay -	The Chronicle	$160.40	legal ad
	North Windham FD	$77,255.00	
	South Windham FD	$57,575.00	
	Windham Center FD	$62,835.00	
	Guilford Smith Lib.	$16,320.00	
	Windham Free Lib.	$16,480.00	
	Total bills	$236,225.40	

Total income to date $119,839.01, we have spent $68,947.00 of our $825,742.00 budget.

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2014 NOV 10 P 3:04

Patricia P. Spman

WINDHAM TOWN CLERK

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Motion made by Elaine Rogers to accept the report as read and pay the bills, seconded by Dawn Niles. Motion accepted unanimously.

Public Comment ~

Gene Chaine from 275 Scotland Rd., Windham Center questioned how the fire department accounts are listed on the Treasurer's Report. Jan Mott explained the disbursements and accounts for the fire departments are contractual amounts paid out at intervals.

Bill Powers of Scotland Rd., Windham voiced concerns over the speed limits signs (25 mph advisory school zone) being removed in the area of the Windham Center School. Although they currently meet State Department of Transportation regulations, the concern is that traffic still travels at excessive speed by the school. Mr. Powers has requested a traffic study be conducted; however a general study was conducted not a school study. He has addressed his concerns at the Town of Windham Public Safety Committee meetings. The data that was received was old data from the Spring of 2011 and school was not in session.

Mr. Powers also voiced concerns about vehicles being parked along the side of the road during school events. Chief Niles also stated that he had concerns from a first responder point of view and being able to get apparatus through the area in the event of an emergency.

Michael Lessard of South Windham stated that the traffic study was suggested and completed. He added that the cost to add lights such as hose in the area of the Charles Barrow STEM School on Tuckie Rd. would cost approximately $80,000.00. Parking spaces at Windham Center School are supposed to be increased to 40 spaces.

A lengthy discussion was held.

Motion made by Dawn Niles to move the discussion to New Business, seconded by Joseph DeMarchi. Motion accepted unanimously.

Guilford Smith Library ~

Afton Seal presented her monthly report. She gave an update on the "Library Passport" over 100 participated and Guilford Smith Library is the library in the state with a bathtub. Michele Maclure is organizing the Book Sale. There will be a Board of Director's meeting on October 23, 2014 at 7 p.m. at the library.

Flyers for upcoming events were made available.

Windham Free Library ~

Carol Santa Lucia presented the annual report for the Windham Free Library. The computers are being replaced in November, something that the library has saved for. Bibliomation was having issues and rather than try to update Windows 98 / XP it was more cost effective to replace the out dated

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computers. Classes from Windham Center School will be visiting the library starting on October 9, 2014 Pre-K through 5th grade. Joseph DeMarchi questioned how they were able to track the circulation. Carol explained it is done through the computer.

Report from WYO (Windham Youth Organization) ~

No representative.

Report from sub-committee on policing ~

Dawn Niles stated that there were approximately 30 residents in attendance of the public meeting on September 22, 2014. Of those in attendance only one person was in favor of changing the current policing. There will be another public hearing on October 27, 2014. A proposed draft should be ready for the November 3rd meeting.

Marsha Hilsenrad of Windham questioned the cost of more officers. It was brought to the attention of the District that before any change in the policing plan can move forward a change is necessary to the Town Charter. There needs to be language that allows for the district to seek other policing. There will be a question on the ballot for the November election.

President Rayhall stated that the names of the committee members were inadvertently left out of the February 2014 minutes. She needed a motion to add the names to the February minutes or disband the committee and re-establish it. Motion made by Joseph DeMarchi to add the following names to the February minutes: Dawn Niles, Michael Lessard, Victor Rayhall, Tony Fantoli and George Gillette. Seconded by Elaine Rogers. Motion accepted unanimously.

Report from Elaine Rogers / Windham Fire Departments Liaison ~

No report.

South Windham Fire Department ~

Chief Patrick Farley presented the report noting (69) calls for the month of September with (6) being mutual aid and (43) being automatic aid. There were (2) training sessions for the month. See attached report

Windham Center Fire Department ~

Chief Lloyd Niles presented the report noting (68) calls for the month of September (21) of them being mutual aid. See attached report. Chief Niles thanked all those who attended the annual Firefighter Memorial on Sunday October 5, 2014 at 2 pm. On September 20, 2014 members of the Windham Center Fire Department received Life Saving awards for the structure fire in Scotland on April 1, 2014. The members were able to find the occupant and remove her from the residence. See attached report.

North Windham Fire Department ~

Chief Jeff Wrana presented the monthly report noting (46) calls for the month of September with (7) of them being mutual aid. There were (3) training sessions noted for September. See attached report.

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Windham Center Fire Department

Old ~

President Rayhall stated that she had been in contact with Michael Licata, President of the South Windham Fire Department with regard to the painting project. Licata stated that due to HIPPA who could not give the reason for the contractor not completing the work due to health issues. President Rayhall was supposed to receive an email with figures for new painting contractor, not received yet. Chief Farley stated that the department had other contractors out to look at the building and submit quotes to finish the project. There has already been $1,950.00 paid to the original painter leaving a balance of $950.00. The department realizes that anything of the remaining balance will need to be paid by them.

Joseph DeMarchi made a motion to place time limits / penalties that reduce cost on contracts between all entities and those that they contract with when projects are not completed. Seconded by Dawn Niles.

Theodore Colwell and Elaine Rogers opposed, all others in favor.

Joseph DeMarchi questioned Chief Niles (President of the WSFCA) if the Dispatch Center was moving to close in on a contract with the Town. Chief Niles explained that he thought that an agreement would be reached soon. He also stated that there were negotiations with another town to return to the Dispatch Center. The Dispatch Center is currently looking to hire a full time and a part time dispatcher. The full time dispatcher would be to replace Joanne Miles who has taken the Chief Dispatchers position.

Peter Bruscato commented that the Chief Dispatcher is a good focal point to have and able to deal with issues in a timely manner.

The WFTD also received a Thank You card from the Guilford Smith Library.

New ~

President Rayhall reminded everyone of the budget process. She would like to see drafts ready fr the December meeting. Budgets will also be discussed during the January, February meetings and two meetings in March. She would like a breakdown of the truck line items from the fire departments. Chief Niles disagrees, he believes that the District is asking for too much. Chief Wrana agreed with Chief Niles. Chief Farley stated that South Windham has been breaking it down in their budget. Joseph DeMarchi stated that he thought it was too much to ask for. Elaine Rogers stated that we are supposed to support the fire departments not nitpick them.

Dawn Niles stated that with regard to the speed limit signs the district can request them but there will be a cost. Bill powers stated that the State of CT will put the signs up if there is a need shown.

Dawn Niles stated that the WFTD through the Town of Windham needs to request the appropriate study be conducted. (School Zone Study) Also have Specializing 25 mph signs put up ASAP. Tony Fantoli stated that 85% of the operators were traveling 43 – 49 mph on average. Chief Farley stated that if they are going to add additional parking at Windham Center School no parking signs should also be installed.

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Windham Center Fire Department

Dawn Niles explained the lack of a traffic commission / Calming committee in Windham. The Town council did not follow through with the Town Manager. A lengthy discussion was held.

Motion made by Dawn Niles to ask the Town Manager to install special signage 25 mph and no parking signs at Windham Center and North Windham Schools, seconded by Elaine Rogers. Motion accepted unanimously.

Public Comment ~

Bill Powers thanked the WFTD for its action on the signage issue. Mr. Powers also spke with Joanne Miles on different street / place names such as Beaver Brook Park, Bibbons Pond. She will be working on the issue.

Gene Chaine spoke about the budgets. He asked that he and 2-3 members of the board speak with the fire departments outside of the forum to discuss their budgets. Joseph DeMarchi stated that this is not a good idea. And its not fair to only question the fire departments. DeMarchi stated that if someone has questions they should attend the meetings to ask the questions. Peter Bruscato reminded Mr. Chaine that Public and elected officials cannot meet privately. Elaine Rogers reminded Mr. Chaine that fire department budgets cannot be based on square inch, they are based on vehicles, membership etc. Chief Niles questioned if there had been any complaints to te Board of Directors, He only recalls (2) in 20 years. He feels that the fire department is under attack and it's not fair.

Joseph DeMarchi reminded everyone that South Windham FD's increase last year was 1.55 %, Windham Center FD's was 1.53% and North Windham FD's was 2.2 %. Total combined budgets were approximately $500,00.00 and the mill rate was only 0.001860. We could not have a paid department for that cost.

Dawn Niles also stated that the fire departments are totally volunteer, not paid, with fixed cost.

Motion made by Elaine Rogers to adjourn, seconded by Joseph DeMarchi. Motion accepted and meeting adjourned at 2030 hours.

Respectfully submitted,

Helene E Chapman

Helene E. Chapman

Clerk, W.F.T.D.

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