

Windham First Taxing District~ Regular Monthly Meeting

Monday, November 10, 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 and Joseph DeMarchi. George Gillette and Peter Bruscato were present.

Approval of the minutes dated October 4, 2014 Meeting.

Corrections to “Approval of minutes dated September 8, 2014” (date change), Dawn Niles was not present at the September meeting so she abstained from the approval of the September 8, 2014 minutes. And two spelling errors on page five were corrected.

Motion made by Elaine Rogers, seconded by Dawn Niles 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	\$5,992.94
Reserve Grant Match	\$63,912.00
Operations Savings	-\$4,954.39
Grantee Improvement reserve	\$116,361.01

Total of Account Balances	\$181,311.56
Bills to Pay - None	

Total income to date \$312,538.39, we have spent \$305,172.40 of our \$825,742.00 budget.

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

Public Comment ~

Gene Chaine from Scotland Rd., Windham Center is going to pass on any questions until new fire department budgets are presented. He believes that his question with regards to fixed expenses and mutual aid has been answered. He believes that the fire departments deserve a thank you for all the time away from their families and the training and budget time spent. He wanted to publicly thank the fire departments because word of mouth would help recruit new firefighters. Stanley Maclure from Windham

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Center Fire Department gave an update on the RFQ for the new fire station. There were 11 responses and 7 came out for the walk through. They have until November 17, 2014 to submit bids for the cost of designing the facility. Of the funds appropriated \$100.00 has been spent on advertising. Joseph Demarchi questioned if the department was looking at the existing parcel or looking to build elsewhere? Stanley Maclure stated that they were trying to keep at the same location but it might be more cost effective to move the location of the facility.

Chief Lloyd Niles gave an update on the dispatch center. He advises that once a contract has been drawn up, all departments that are serviced by the dispatcher center will be need to sign a contract. That includes the three Windham fire departments, Franklin, Willimantic, WCMH Paramedic and they are in the process of having Lebanon sign a contract as well as Willimantic Service District. He would like to sit with the Board of Directors with regards to the three Windham's.

Josh Niles announced the "Christmas Light Parade" will be November 28, 2014 at 6p.m. starting at Memorial Park. The Windham Center tree lighting will be November 30, 2014 at 6 p.m.

Dawn Niles advises that the Heart Safe Committee had AED's installed at the Barrow Stem school and the McSweeny Senior Center, also training was conducted.

Guilford Smith Library ~

Afton Seal presented her monthly report. Notable from the report is they will be purchasing a new community board that will be at the South Windham Post Office to replace the existing one that was damaged by the weather. There are repairs to be done to the wall in the basement. They cannot power wash the exterior of the building without taking off the paint. They are deciding what to do. The Book Sale will be November 22, 2014, thanks to Michele Maclure for all the hours she spends organizing the upstairs for the event. An event list for November and December was also presented by Afton. See report.

Flyers for upcoming events were made available.

Windham Free Library ~

Carol Santa Lucia presented the quarterly report for the Windham Free Library. It is noted that \$250.00 has been received for books and general Memorial donations, also donated was a circa 1855 map of Windham County. Carol noted that they were looking for prices to replace three computers and software. The children at Windham Center School have begun to visit the library. See report.

Report from WYO (Windham Youth Organization) ~

No representative.

Report from sub-committee on policing ~

Dawn Niles presented the report from the Policing Sub-committee. The committee is recommending a status quo. The numbers received from Chief Maruzo-Bolduc are not true numbers.

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They have not been approved by the Town Manager or Town Council. Tony Fantoli stated that we could lose the dedicated patrol if we contracted with the local Police Department. Michael Lessard stated that 90 percent of the people attending were not in favor of changing the policing. It was discovered through the process that CT State Police have assigned a trooper each shift to the Windham Service District. It is possible that this trooper can be pulled from the area if needed elsewhere, but they start their shift in the Windham's. This is in addition to the two troopers assigned to Windham Heights. Joseph Demarchi questioned if anyone had spoken with the Town Manager. When asked for firm numbers he declined. A lengthy discussion was held. See report.

Motion made by Elaine Rogers, seconded by Theodore Colwell to accept the report as presented.

Discussion- Dawn Niles thanked all the members of the committee for working well together. President Diane Rayhall also thanked the committee for all the hard work and dedication. Joseph Demarchi questioned if someone had put it in The Chronicle because there was an article about it already. Mark Herrick Plains Rd, Windham Center stated that 125 people attended the original policing meeting after the break-ins and they were passionate about it. CT State Police have added the trooper and we still have the two assigned to Windham Heights. Maybe time to put the issue to bed. Obviously it is not wanted by the community. The subcommittee did an excellent job. Dawn Niles stated that all meetings and minutes have been posted on the town website significant effort was made to keep everyone up to date with information. There are still questions about school resource officer, however.

Motion accepted unanimously.

Chief Lloyd Niles stated that there were 132 pages Emergency School Response for the School System. He also stated that the State Police were mentioned in the response plan, but they did not have input on the planning. It just has general knowledge and the fire departments were not involved in the planning as well. President Rayhall will follow-up with the Superintendent's Office.

President Rayhall also thanked Neal Braccidiferro, reporter from WILI Radio for making sure the public is well informed.

Report from Elaine Rogers / Windham Fire Departments Liaison ~

No report. Meeting was cancelled.

South Windham Fire Department ~

Chief Patrick Farley presented the report noting (82) calls for the month of October with (7) being mutual aid and (55) being automatic aid. There were (7) training sessions for the month. See attached report. Chief Farley also noted that Public education at the Guilford Smith Library for a Halloween event and a stand by assignment on Halloween. He also advised the Board that the painting had been completed on the building. The hydrant flags will be up soon.

Windham Center Fire Department ~

Chief Lloyd Niles presented the report noting (82) calls for the month of October (26) of them being mutual aid. There were (6) training sessions for the month. See attached report. Chief Niles noted

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that from July 1st to November 10th there have been 303 calls. He expects there to be 750-800 calls by July 2015.

North Windham Fire Department ~

Chief Jeff Wrana presented the monthly report noting (49) calls for the month of October with (7) of them being mutual aid. There were (3) training sessions noted for October. See attached report. Chief Wrana also announced that an Appreciation Dinner was held for Past Chief John Wylie. There was fire prevention held at North Windham and the Barrow STEM schools as well as “Touch a truck Day” at the Northeast Family Federal Credit Union. Hydrants flags will be going up.

Old ~

Dawn Niles would like to revisit the Fire Marshal Office to see if there is a dedicated fire marshal to the Windham's. It appears that Willimantic has a dedicated fire marshal from Willimantic Fire Department. Joseph Demarchi explained that all the fire marshal fall under the Town's Fire Marshal Office. Joseph Demarchi, Dawn Niles and Michael Lessard will look into how the fire marshal's office works and report back. President Rayhall stated that the District was supposed to receive monthly reports, nothing has been received. We need to understand the process.

Motion made by Dawn Niles to assign a subcommittee (Joseph Demarchi, Dawn Niles and Michael Lessard) to look into the fire marshal system, seconded by Elaine Rogers. Motion accepted, unanimously.

President Rayhall stated that she had attended the Public Safety committee meeting. Address the speeding in the Rt. 14 / Rt. 203 area. She also questioned having study done for the Rt. 6 / Rt. 203 school area. The May 2013 study was never completed. She is also waiting for a response from DOT on the “No Parking” signs and the “25 MPH”. No parking signs fall under State DOT not Town. Dawn Niles stated that she spoke with Joe Gardner who stated that we would not want to pay for the signs because they were possibly \$50.00 each We need to look into getting (2) “25 mph” signs and (2) “No Parking” signs and the District will cover the cost.

President Rayhall read a letter that she had sent.

New ~

President Rayhall would like to put together a committee of approximately (5) people to update the By-Laws.

President Rayhall advised that the budget drafts from everyone would be due at the December meeting. At the January meeting North Windham Fire Departments budget will be reviewed, February meeting will be Windham Center Fire Department's and at the March meeting South Windham Fire Department, WYO, Guilford Smith Library and Windham Free Library budgets will be reviewed. All budgets will be voted on at the Annual Meeting in April.

Joseph Demarchi stated that everyone should add the increases that they need, realistic numbers are needed. Dawn Niles also added that there needed to be long term planning. President Rayhall advised to add line items as needed.

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Public Comment ~

Gene Chaine reminded everyone that the right information at the right tie will get people enthusiastic.

Chief Niles stated that within (2) years they will be looking to replace all SCBA's (self-contained breathing apparatus) to meet the NFPA standards. He needs to replace (12) at the cost of approximately \$8,000.00 each. Joseph Demarchi questioned how new the packs were and if they had (20) year life span.

Dan Niles advises that the will be a meet and greet for the new superintendent of schools on November 25th from 6-7 p.m.

Motion made by Theodore Colwell to adjourn, seconded by Elaine Rogers. Motion accepted and meeting adjourned at 2024 hours.

Respectfully submitted,

Helene E. Chapman

Clerk, W.F.T.D.