

Windham First Taxing District~ Regular Meeting

Monday, December 7, 2015, 7 p.m.

Windham Center Fire Department

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

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

Approval of the Minutes dated November 2, 2015 ~ Minutes will be available at the next meeting due to file corruption.

Treasurer's Report~ Jan Mott presented the bills and account balances. He noted the following bills:

The Chronicle	\$181.69	Legal
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Total	\$181.69	
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Account balances ~

Checking	\$27,738.32	
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Operations Savings	\$175,344.82	
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Reserve Grant Match	\$63,912.00	
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Reserve Grantee Improvement	\$164,966.00	
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Total	\$431,961.14	
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We have spent \$433,166.18 of our \$853,538.00 budget to date. Motion to accept the report and pay the bills was made by Elaine Rogers, seconded by Peter Bruscato. Motion accepted unanimously.

Public Comment ~

Dawn Niles gave an update on the Light Parade and the Toy Drive. Dawn thanked all the fire departments that attended the parade. 333 children stopped by to see Santa at the Town hall. Dawn stated that she was pleased to play Mrs. Claus. A reminder of the Toy Drive on December 12th from 8a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Walmart in North Windham and the BJ's in Willimantic. The Toy Store Giveaway is scheduled for December 19th from noon to 5 p.m. at the Kramer Building. Books are being donated by the Guilford Smith Library, Windham Free Library and Willimantic Readiness / Windham Reads.

Theodore Colwell wanted to congratulate (18) Windham residents for participating in the Manchester Road race. He did not state which residents participated.

Guilford Smith Library ~

Afton Seal presented the report for the month. She announced that Sara Boyd had been hired as a new librarian. Afton thanked the Chronicle for all the publicity. The library raised \$1,200.00 from the Book/Bake Sale and several donations were received for the food drive for the Soup Kitchen. Movie Friday's with free popcorn will continue check the calendar of events * see attached.

Windham Free Library ~

Carol Santa Lucia presented the quarterly report. She noted circulation for September was 716, 862 for October and 773 for November. There have been (22) visits from students at Windham Center School since October 15th. Herrick Electric provided maintenance for a light fixture. Carol stated that Lori Guillard had been updating Facebook with articles and new book selections. * see report.

Report from WYO (Windham Youth Organization) ~ Greg Job stated that registration would be held the last (2) Saturdays in February and the first (2) Saturdays in March to be held at Gauthier Field.

Windham Center Fire Department ~

Chief Lloyd Niles presented the report noting (66) calls for the month of November (28) of them being mutual aid. There were (8) training sessions for the month. * See attach report. Chief Niles is looking forward to doing a demonstration with a daycare or the libraries with “Daphne” the Dalmatian. She was a success at the Open House.

Bill Powers thanked the fire department for selling house signs to its residents, it’s a good idea.

South Windham Fire Department ~

Chief Patrick Farley presented the report noting (63) calls for the month of November with (3) being mutual aid and (44) being automatic aid. There were (6) training sessions for the month. *See attached reports. Bill Powers questioned what an unauthorized burn was; Chief Farley explained that it was someone burning without a permit.

North Windham Fire Department ~

Chief Jeff Wrana presented the monthly report noting (55) calls for the month November with (7) of them being mutual aid. There were (4) training sessions noted for November. *See attached report.

Old ~

Chief Farley gave an update regarding the proposed replacement of Engine Tank 104. He has spoken with a grant writer for assistance. The grant writer recommended only submitting a grant request to AFG for \$350,000.00 which is approximately half the cost. This is a more common practice when requesting this type of grant. The population amount of 20,800 has pushed the match from 5% to 10% of the cost. With that increase the South Windham Fire Department would be looking for \$35,000.00 from the Grant Match Fund. The difference in the funding would be sought through manufactures loans or possibly rural development. They are currently looking at (2) manufacturers.

Motion made by Elaine Rogers to approve \$35,000.00 grant match funds from Grantee Improvement Fund, seconded by Theodore Colwell. Brief discussion was held. Motion modified to state the following: To approve \$35,000.00 from Grantee Improvement fund to the South Windham Fire Department upon approval of their application for the AFG (Assistance to Firefighters’ Grant) grant. Motion accepted unanimously.

Motion made by Dawn Niles, seconded by Elaine Rogers to have a special meeting for voters to address the expenditure for the South Windham Fire Department prior to the January 4, 2016 meeting at 6:30 p.m. at the Windham Center Fire Department. Motion accepted unanimously.

President Rayhall explained to Bill Powers that Attorney Kepple will be discussing the ethics issue with the Town Attorney Cody.

Bill Powers stated that the first meeting for *Firefighter Incentives* will be held on December 30th at 7 p. m. This will be an organizational meeting and Windham Center Fire Department offered to host all the meetings.

President Rayhall moved the Dispatch Contract to the January meeting pending Attorney Kepple’s review. Brief discussion held regarding executive sessions.

New ~ President Rayhall reminded all that budget season is starting and to have budgets prepared soon. She also questioned if all fire hydrant flags have been put up. All Chief's advised that they have been.

President Rayhall informed the board that she had been notified that the WFTD had been named in a law suit for a male that had fallen outside the court house on Valley Street in Willimantic. She stated that it was handled through the insurance group and the town attorney. The WFTD was found not liable for the male fallen because it occurred in the city.

Public Comment ~

Michael Lessard stated that the Town Council would be having a working meeting on December 8th. There was also a brief discussion regarding the schools/ teachers/curriculum and the NASC will be assessing the schools. Bill Powers questioned if there would be public comment at the meeting on December 9th. The answer was unknown.

Dawn Niles stated that the Toy Drive was in need of adults to assist. President Rayhall stated that Windham High School juniors / seniors will be helping on December 19th.

Gene Chaine spoke about the ethics and that the town documents should be with Attorney Kepple. Brief discussion was held. Dawn Niles stated that it would be a good idea to follow but not necessary to follow.

Motion made by Elaine Rogers to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Bill Powers. Motion accepted and meeting adjourned at 1950 hours.

Respectfully submitted,

Helene E. Chapman

Clerk, W.F.T.D.