

Minutes for a SPECIAL MEETING OF THE WINDHAM TOWN COUNCIL



WINDHAM TOWN HALL MEETING ROOM (to be moved to The Bellingham Auditorium if more room is necessary)

Tuesday, February 11, 2014 - 7:00 P.M

1. Call to Order

The Mayor called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

The Mayor led the group in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Citizens and Delegations: Public Comment

- a. April Burke spoke about community engagement and public transportation.
- b. Elizabeth Espitia spoke about public transportation.
- c. Tom Markland spoke about public transportation.
- d. Henry Crane spoke about the state budget.
- e. Dennis Cronin spoke about pre-school education and a contract for dispatch services.
- f. Dennis O'Brien spoke about public education, universal pre-school, and public transportation.
- g. Daniel Perry spoke about public transportation.
- h. Marta Aponte spoke about public transportation.
- i. Grace Adams spoke about the micro-grid project.

4. Town Council Comment

- a. Councilmember James Flores spoke about public transportation.

5. Introduction of State Legislators; remarks from each of them about this Legislative Session

- a. Senator Don Williams spoke about the upcoming session of the legislature, public transportation, homelessness, school readiness and pre-K education, and the micro-grid legislation.
- b. Representative Linda Orange spoke about the upcoming legislative session, pre-school education, and veterans services.
- c. Representative Susan Johnson spoke about the upcoming legislative session, early childhood education, and the micro-grid legislation.

6. Presentation from the state police regarding dispatch consolidation and other public safety issues affecting Windham.

Representative Susan Johnson introduced Colonel Stebbins and Major Darcy from the State Police. Colonel Stebbins reviewed the 9-1-1 call from Back Road about a home invasion, explained a failure of the State Police to respond in a timely fashion, apologized for this incident, and promised to correct the situation. Major Darcy reviewed calls for state police service from the Windham villages for 2013. Major Darcy also reviewed the arrest of two individuals connected to the home invasion on Back Road. Councilmember

Lessard asked about State Police response times to the Windham villages. Major Darcy said it depends on the nature of the call, but a maximum for a lights-and-siren response ought to be 15 minutes. Councilmember DeVivo asked about mutual aid between the State Police and the Willimantic Police. Major Darcy said mutual aid occurs on a case-by-case basis. Councilmember Fantoli asked about consolidated dispatch. Senator Williams, Representative Orange, and Representative Johnson all spoke about their reservations regarding consolidated dispatch of state police calls.

7. Discussion and possible action about issues important to the Town of Windham, which may include the following:

- a. Senior Center funding: THANK YOU!
- b. ECS, Education Cost Sharing funding
- c. Governor's Proposed Midterm Budget
- d. Downtown Parking Garage funding
- e. Micro-Grid funding for Sweeney Elementary and the Windham Middle School
- f. Uniform, statewide car tax?
- g. Windham Hospital changes?
- h. Dispatch funding
- i. Renovation of Downtown business facades
- j. Renovation of Town Hall
- k. Renovation of Windham's public school buildings
- l. WRTD and Public Transportation
- m. Other issues the Council, the BOF, the BOE, or our State Delegation would like to talk about

Councilmember Flores spoke in favor of more state and local funding for public transportation. Senator Williams asked for a specific plan or proposal for additional public transportation funding within the next two or three weeks so it could be considered in this session of the Legislature.

BOF Chair Lynn Ide spoke about five capital projects that the Town's Capital Tri-Board was working on: Windham High School renovation, a micro-grid, a downtown parking garage, library renovation, and development of the Noznick park property.

Councilmember DeVivo asked for state financial assistance with dispatch funding and for a downtown parking garage.

Representative Johnson spoke about Urban Action grants and the Economic Development Commission.

BOE Member John French spoke about PILOT funding and ECS, Education Cost Sharing. Senator Williams said he supported the Governor's proposed increase in ECS funding but that the Legislature would look closely at the PILOT funding issue.

Representative Orange said the Appropriations Committee is looking carefully at PILOT and dispatch funding.

The Mayor asked about rumors that Windham Hospital might be changing its business model. Representative Johnson and Senator Williams spoke about the changes in the health care industry but were unaware of any fundamental changes to the way Windham Hospital worked.

8. Citizens and Delegations: Public Comment

There were no further public comments.

9. Wrap-Up and Adjournment

The Mayor thanked Windham's state legislative delegation for attending. The Council Meeting adjourned at 9:01 PM.