

MEETING MINUTES
TOWN OF WINDHAM BOARD OF COUNCIL SUBCOMMITTEE
PUBLIC SAFETY, RECREATION AND PUBLIC WORKS
Wednesday December 28, 2011 at 7:00 PM
Windham Town Hall Auditorium
979 Main Street
Willimantic

1. Call to Order.

Chairman Jerry Iazzetta called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Committee members present: Jerry Iazzetta, Lorraine McDevitt, Charles Krich, Tom DeVivo, Arnaldo Rivera

Town Staff Present: Town Engineer, Joe Gardner, Public Works Superintendent Brad Wojick, Charles Obbrais Recreation Department.

Tom DeVivo made a motion to move item seven to after Item 5. Motion was seconded by Arnaldo Rivera and passed four to one with Jerry Iazzetta voting no.

2. Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Citizens and Delegations.

Harry Carboni commended board, said council doing a good job. He was concerned legislators try to curry favors with police and fire departments, there are now two ambulances. He would like to see improved services for seniors. Asked for statistics on ambulances, such as how long out of service.

Dawn Niles, Concerned that new ambulance out of service again. Ambulance fund was to buy new ambulance every three years. We need equipment that works. In 2009 there was an 82.5% collection rate. Wants to make sure fund is being used correctly.

Lorraine McDevitt said we should have two working ambulances and a third as a backup. Jerry Iazzetta asked Dawn Niles to send information she has to him.

Tom White stated dispatch RFP should look at bids for 3 to 5 years of services. Cupid should not be limited to just Windham residents. Regarding ambulance fund cannot charge 100% of benefits of firemen to fund.

Faith Kenton the current cupid thinks previous cupids should be included in selection process for new cupids.

Mark Scrivener the acting Willimantic Fire Chief said here to answer any questions.

Peter Quercia noted there were two citizens and delegations on agenda. He asked if public could ask questions during meeting.

Jerry Iazzetta said no, unless asked to participate.

Joe Marsalisi said it was time to get a new ambulance. Keep one as a backup.

He pointed out, neighboring town had to respond because no ambulance was available.

He had a Board of Selectman resolution that that a sinking fund was to be established to buy a new ambulance every three years.

Henry Crane complimented subcommittee that there was a second citizens and delegations.

Jerry Iazzetta noted that the next agenda would conform to the standing rules.

George Gillette believes other dispatch agencies would not do as good a job as current. He invited council members to come down and spend a few hours at center. Mayor Ernie Eldridge thanked committee members for serving. Believed cupid should not be limited to Windham residents. He would like to see another ambulance. He had voted against a third because of concerns that there would then be extra staff. He stated dispatch does a great job.

4. Approval of Minutes from the May 25, 2011 Meeting.

A motion was made by Lorraine McDevitt to accept minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Charles Krich and passed with Tom DeVivo and Arnaldo Rivera abstaining.

5 Election of a Chair and Vice Chair

Tom DeVivo nominated Jerry Iazzetta as Chair. No other names were presented. One vote was cast to make Jerry Iazzetta chair.

Tom DeVivo nominated Arnaldo Rivera as Vice Chair. No other names were presented. One vote was cast to make Arnaldo Rivera vice chair.

7. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Dispatch Center Request for Proposals

Jerry Iazzetta stated he had requested information of process six months ago. Then found out WinCog had issued RFP in November. He asked if any member had any questions.

Tom DeVivo asked who wrote it. Jerry Iazzetta responded WinCog.

Tom DeVivo had questions regarding police presence at window and how to keep staffed if switched to another dispatch center.

Lorraine McDevitt stated lots of parents looking for directions stop at the dispatch center asking for directions to eastern University. She believes the current staff do an excellent job and does not want to change.

Charles Krich referred to an email from the Town Manager. He believes we should give up looking elsewhere and fix what we have. He expressed his displeasure with the Quinnebaug Valley Dispatch proposal. He stated we need to provide stability and then get neighboring towns back.

Arnaldo Rivera asked why are we spending town funds on studies when other towns are getting grants.

Tom DeVivo pointed out we have a revenue shortfall. Need to look at other revenue sources such as alarms.

Jerry Iazzetta pointed out that the Finance Board cut \$100,000 from the dispatch center budget. Dispatch Board needs to look at cuts first while maintaining same level of service.

Lorraine McDevitt stated they need to be vigilant on where funds are spent.

Joe Marsalisi chair of the dispatch finance committee said they were in good shape. Their Director had retired and Ray Evens from the police department was acting as volunteer administrator.

Jerry Iazzetta said he would like more information such as what would happen if we abandoned center. Would we have to give grant money back? Was it in writing that the Board of Finance would put the \$100,000 back in. How can the dispatch center generate more funds.

Tom DeVivo asked that the Town Manager have issue on next agenda. If we run out of funds what happens? If we lay off employees Town has to pay unemployment. Charles Krich stated Dispatch doing a great job need to resolve funds with Board of Finance.

6. Schedule of Meetings for 2012.

Jerry Iazzetta asked the members to continue having meetings the fourth Wednesday of the month. The consensus was to maintain the current schedule.

8. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Cupid Selection and Holiday Lighting Contest.

Jerry Iazzetta asked if residents where no longer asked to nominate neighbors. Charles Olbrais of the Recreation Department stated nominations have dwindled. They advertise contest in newspaper, flyers, town journal newspaper..

Jerry Iazzetta asked members regarding cupid there thoughts on whether cupid should be limited to Windham residents.

Tom DeVivo felt it should not be restricted.

Lorraine McDevitt felt it should not be restricted.

Arnaldo Rivera felt it should be open to anyone.

Charles Krich felt a resident should be given preference. He requested that notice add PREFERABLY live in Windham.

Charles Olbrais to type up notice and send to committee to review.

Jerry Iazzetta stated there would be a special meeting of the Committee on Wednesday February 8, 2012 at 6:00 pm in executive session to select the Cupid.

9. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Capital Purchases for the Next Two Years.

Public Works Superintendent Brad Wojick presented a five year list and reviewed equipment purchased this past year.

Jerry Iazzetta requested that the Town Engineer find out how much money is in the fund.

10. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Ambulance Fund.

Jerry Iazzetta asked how much money was in the fund? He questioned where does collected money go?

A motion was made by Tom DeVivo to recommend to the council that they go out to bid for a new ambulance. The motion was seconded by Charles Krich.

Acting Chief Mark Scrivener stated he believed there was \$50,000 in fund. A new ambulance will cost between \$170,000 to \$290,000.

Jerry Iazzetta commented there are ten firemen in the ambulance budget. We need to get one that works. He wants it clear that staff would be for two ambulances.

Mark Scrivener stated never intent to staff three ambulances.

Lorraine McDevitt pointed out that at meetings she has attended the third ambulance would be a backup.

Jerry Iazzetta requested a four year accounting of expenditures from the ambulance fund. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Charles Krich to request the Town Manager and Controller provide a four year accounting of expenditures from the ambulance fund. The motion was seconded by Arnaldo Rivera and passed unanimously.

11. Update on Road Bond Expenditures and Roads Paved.

The Town Engineer gave an update on roads paved, moneys spent, and funds remaining to pave roads and rebuild sidewalks for next two years.

12. Update on Hop River Bike Path Project

The Town Engineer gave an update on efforts to finalize design and resolve costs.

13. Citizens and Delegations.

Peter Quercia thanked board for opportunity to speak again.

Mayor Ernest Eldridge stated he was in favor of third ambulance. Dispatch does a fabulous job. Wording of Cupid ad does not need to change.

Tom White stated the Council is to set policy, it is a mistake to tell another board what to do. There needs to be more talk between boards. There was never a motion or vote by the Finance Board to restore funds to the Dispatch Center if needed.

George Gillette stated they also work with Police Department, major crimes, prepare warrants.

10. Adjournment

A motion was made by Lorraine McDevitt to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 pm. The motion was seconded by Tom DeVivo and passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted
Joseph Gardner
Town Engineer

