

WINDHAM FIRST TAXING DISTRICT

Monday February 4, 2013

Monthly Meeting Minutes

Call to Order:

President Diane Rayhall called the monthly meeting of the Windham First Taxing District to order at 1900 hours.

The following members were present: Diane Rayhall, Ted Colwell, Elaine Rogers, Joe DeMarchi, George Gillette, Jan Mott, Peter Bruscato and AnnMarie White.

Approval of Minutes January 7, 2013:

Peter Bruscato made a motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held on January 7, 2013 for approval. George Gillette seconded the motion, all in favor.

Treasurer's Report:

Jan Mott gave the treasurer's report and read the following information:

Account Balances:

Checking Account Balance:	\$ 3,293.82
Savings Account Balance:	\$174,893.30
Grant Match Reserve:	\$ 53,912.00
Grant Improvement Reserve:	<u>\$ 94,513.40</u>
Total:	\$326,612.52

Bills to Pay:

Chronicle	\$ 165.26
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George Gillette moved to accept treasurer's report, and pay the bill, Elaine Rogers seconded, all in favor.

Public Comment:

Anita Sebestyen, a Board of Finance member stated that there will be a town meeting on 2/12/13 in regards to the Natchang Roof. A petition was being circulated to have this issue go to a town wide vote. She asked the citizens to attend the meeting and persuade the Town Council to bring this issue to a referendum vote.

Dawn Niles stated that the town has received enough heart beats to become a Heartsafe Community for the next three years. There will be another round of CPR classes to be held in Windham on the last weekend in February. This class is free to any Windham resident. There will be a spaghetti dinner fundraiser held on 2/9/13 at the Windham Center fire house. They will be serving from 11:30 to 1:30 and 5 to 7 p.m.

Bill Rood and Dawn Niles are on the Charter Revision committee. Their next meeting is on 2/6/13. Dawn stated she has not been given enough information to make a decision on the police being town-wide. The figure will be high for the Windham's and she can't get any figures from the Town Controller, so at the next meeting she is going to recommend taking this issue off the list of changes to the Charter.

Guilford Smith Memorial Library

Afron Seal gave the January report. She stated they are the seventh library in the state to reorganize picture books by subject. Circulations have gone up and they received a \$7,700 grant from Microsoft to upgrade their computers. She will be looking for the \$40,000 from the District

for their budget, which will be presented at the March meeting. Joe DeMarchi asked about the Post office issue. She said it was a dead issue, but the library Board wanted to officially vote on it.

Windham Free Library

No report given.

Windham Youth Organization

Greg Job is planning their new season and their 2013 budget. WYO affiliated with another league. Registration will be held on February 16, 2013 and March 24, 2013. April 27, 2013 will be opening day. Their Applebee's fundraiser will be held on July 13, 2013.

Elaine Rogers Update on 3 Windhams

At their last meeting the three Chief's noted that they were asked for identical reports from the District Board. They want to know what the Board is looking for. Joe DeMarchi said the reports didn't have to be the same, just break out the mutual aid the same. Mike Licata asked for more direction. It was suggested to have Mark Herrick setup a sub-committee to come up with the report for the Board. Peter Bruscatto stated that we were getting away from the intent. There were special incidents on a report that were vague, but they have been corrected, and there was no need to setup this committee. It was decided that the only change needed was to have the extra percent rate added on the second sheet of the report.

The three Chief's would like a clarification of what could be spent in the Reserved Grantee Improvement account. Diane Rayhall stated this is for emergency reasons only. Joe DeMarchi stated that the departments should budget money for repairs to their buildings.

South Windham Fire Department

Helene Chapman read the January report. Their budget came in with a 5% increase without the Scot bottle cost.

Windham Center Fire Department

Lloyd Niles read the January report. Joshua Niles presented a preliminary budget with no increase.

North Windham Fire Department

John Wylie read the January report and presented a preliminary budget that included long range items. Peter Bruscatto asked what the priorities were for the long range items. The priorities were the Scot bottles, air conditioning and the roof. Diane asked if their Bingo helped, and John said he couldn't count on it. Ted Colwell asked for an explanation on the reason for the Scot bottle replacements. John explained that they had originally received grant money to purchase the bottles, now the money is not there, and they have also changed the laws and regulations on the bottles regarding the replacement of them. George Gillette excused himself from discussing their budget since he is a member of this department.

Because of the high cost of the bottle replacement, Dawn Niles suggested taking the cost out of the contingency fund this year, and then add it to the budget after that, just like they did with Windham Center.

John Postemski asked if each department had the liberty to move money from one line item to another. Diane said they did.

Old Business

Diane reminded Helene Chapman of the South Windham Fire department that they still needed to hand in their October report. Helene had it with her and gave it to Diane. Joe DeMarchi inquired about the status of the painting job at their fire house. Mike Licata said the interior was

finished and that in late March, early April, the exterior should be done. He asked the Board for \$350 payment for the interior painting portion to be released.

Diane reminded the three Chiefs for their tax abatements.

Diane said she talked to Sargent Powers of the State police and he told her the cost of a trooper was 140,000 to \$200,000. George Gillette asked Bill Rood if the police issue was going away with the Charter committee, he said he thought it would be for this cycle, but would be back in five years.

Michelle McClure didn't want to see the Willimantic police come out to the town. She noticed there were three Willimantic police cars that responded to a small fender bender in the city.

New Business

None.

Public Comment

The CPR course dates are February 26 at North Windham fire house, February 28 at the Willimantic fire department from 6 -9 p.m., and March 1 from 1to 4 and 6 – 9 p.m. at Windham Center fire house, and on March 2 from 6- 9 p.m. at South Windham fire house.

John French, a member of the Board of Finance brought the petition regarding the Natchaug school roof in case anyone wanted to sign it. He reminded the public about the meeting on 2/12/13 at 6:00 p.m. at the Middle School on this issue. Tony Fantoli said Neal Beets was finalizing the funding with the Senior Center. The location will be a portion of the old Access Agency. Their old building was going to be given to the Access Agency as a down payment. Tom White stated that the revaluation scheduled to happen wasn't going through. Windham citizens and businesses were being taxed on the 2005 revaluation. There is a group of people in town watching this issue.

Adjournment

Motion made by Joe DeMarchi to adjourn at 2126 hrs, seconded by Elaine Rogers, all in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

AnnMarie White
Clerk