

# WINDHAM TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

## REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

### WINDHAM TOWN HALL MEETING ROOM

Tuesday, February 5, 2013 - 7:00 P.M.



#### 1. **Call to Order**

Mayor Eldridge called the Town of Windham Council meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

Town Council members present: Mayor Ernest S. Eldridge, Charles Krich, Tony Fantoli, Tom DeVivo, Lorraine McDevitt, N. Joseph Underwood, Kevin Donohue, Arnaldo Rivera, Mark Doyle and Christel Donahue

Jerry Iazzetta was excused.

Town Manager Neal Beets was also in attendance.

#### 2. **Pledge of Allegiance**

Mayor Eldridge led all in the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### 3. **Citizens and Delegations: Public Comment**

Pam Viens, Columbia resident and Windham taxpayer, noted she had spent the day at the Capitol and clarified the type of car she drove and the style of house she lives in. Ms. Viens also spoke about a new assessment she received on her property on 111 Carey Hill.

Jeff Viens, Columbia resident and Windham taxpayer, stated landlords are always under the scrutiny of Code Enforcement. He then shared his concerns about the building on Church Street and its blown-out windows and falling bricks. He believes the safety of our citizens is at risk and it should be a priority of the Town Manager to secure the building.

Bill Rood, North Windham, questioned why the Natchaug School Roof issue is not going to referendum. He also spoke against a new senior center.

#### 4. **Town Council Comment**

Mark Doyle reiterated his comments from the last Board of Finance meeting. He stated the Council is the lead governing body of the Town and he believes now is the time for the three Boards to come together to form a committee or redo the Capital Improvement Committee to work on the 10 year Capital Improvement plan for the schools so it doesn't turn into a Natchaug Roof problem.

#### 5. **Adoption of Minutes**

- a. **Discussion and possible action to adopt the minutes for the January 15, 2013, Town Council Meeting.**



DeVivo MOVED, Underwood seconded, to adopt the minutes for the January 15, 2013 Town Council Meeting. All were in favor except Doyle who abstained. MOTION PASSED.

6. **Resignations.** Receive the resignation of:
  - a. Paula Haney from the Charter Review Commission – NOTED.
  
7. **Appointments. Discussion and possible action to appoint or reappoint, as appropriate:**
  - a. **Re-appointment of Patricia Szczys as an Alternate Member of the Conservation, Open Space & Agriculture Commission, with a term ending 1/1/2017.**

Underwood MOVED, DeVivo seconded, to re-appoint Patricia Szczys as an Alternate Member of the Conservation, Open Space & Agriculture Commission, with a term ending 1/1/2017. All were in favor. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.
  
8. **Presentations & Special Reports**
  - a. **Presentation by Town Planner James Finger, and request for initial Council direction, about whether the Town should consider reducing or eliminating building permit fees for solar photo voltaic installations.**

Town Manager Beets distributed a copy of the proposed reduction in permit fees for solar applications and noted the process the Town has followed to date. Town Planner James Finger also explained the benefits of the program and answered questions from the Council.

**MOTION:** DeVivo MOVED, Underwood seconded, to send the request about whether the Town should consider reducing or eliminating building permit fees for solar photo voltaic installations to the Energy Commission with a response at the first meeting in April. All were in favor. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.
  
9. **Mayor's Report**

Mayor Eldridge reported he had attended the ribbon cutting for the new salon at Tyler Square, “Marinello School of Beauty”.

He also reported on the opening of the “Michael’s” store at the East Brook Mall. Mayor Eldridge reported interviews had been held at our Town Hall and 66 people had been hired which included 45 people from Windham.
  
10. **Town Manager's Report**

Town Manager Beets reported on the following: the scheduled dates for the CPR certification/recertification training, the Governor’s proposed budget and its possible effects on Windham, the February 19<sup>th</sup> Council meeting as the date for the Town Manager’s recommended budget presentation, the March 19<sup>th</sup> Council meeting for a presentation from the Federal EPA Region 1 from Boston regarding the Mill 4 site and the upcoming Town Wide Town Pride event.
  
11. **Discussion and Review of Communications**

None

**12. Resolutions and Ordinances**

- a. None.

**13. Reports of Committees, Boards and Commissions**

**a. Administration, Finance, Health, and Human Services Subcommittee**

K. Donohue reported the Committee will be meeting tomorrow. He noted there were several agenda items including the audit which the Committee is concerned with. He also noted they would be reviewing the analysis that has been approved by the Council, the non-profit funding requests, and the process of a neighborhood center.

**b. Public Safety, Public Works, Culture, and Recreation Subcommittee**

Rivera reported a Special Meeting will be held tomorrow for the selection of Cupid.

**14. Old Business**

- a. None.

**15. New Business**

**a. Discussion and possible motion to set a public hearing on Tuesday, February 26, 2013, at 7 PM, in the Town Meeting Room, Windham Town Hall, to receive public comment regarding the Town of Windham's 2013 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) application.**

DeVivo MOVED, Doyle seconded, to set a public hearing on Tuesday, February 26, 2013, at 7 PM, in the Town Meeting Room, Windham Town Hall, to receive public comment regarding the Town of Windham's 2013 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) application. All were in favor.  
MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

**16. Future Agenda Items**

- a. Magnet School update at the first meeting in March

**17. Adjournment**

K. Donohue MOVED, Doyle seconded, to adjourn the Town of Windham Town Council Meeting at 7:40 P.M. All were in favor. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Submitted By:**

**Barbara J. McKinney**

Clerk of the Town Council