

WINDHAM FIRST TAXING DISTRICT
Windham Center Fire House
Monday February 6, 2012
Monthly Meeting Minutes

The following members were present: Diane Rayhall, Ted Colwell, Elaine Rogers, Peter Bruscato, AnnMarie White, Mark Herrick, and Donald Potter.

Call to Order:

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

Approval of Minutes January 09, 2012:

Peter Bruscato moved to accept minutes dated January 09, 2012; Elaine Rogers seconded the motion, all in favor.

Treasurer's Report:

Jan Mott did not attend the meeting so there was no report given.

Public Comment:

Dawn Niles gave an update with the Heartsafe Committee. Diane Rayhall is no longer a member. They are doing the CPR marathon again for residents. On March 27, it will be held at the North Windham Fire Department from 1-4 and 6-9, on March 29 at the Willimantic Fire Department from 6-9, on March 30 from 1-4 and 6-9 at the Windham Center Fire Department, and on March 31 at the South Windham Fire Department from 11-3 and 4-7. They are asking for a \$5 donation for AED batteries. They have asked the superintendent of schools for in service training, and it will be run by the Windham Paramedic Program. The committee is trying to find out how much money is in their fund, but the Town has recently merged small accounts into the General Fund, so it will take a little time to get that information. Dawn would like the money to be maintained by the Windham First Taxing District if possible. Ted Colwell would like to become a member of the Heartsafe Committee.

Dawn Niles stated there was a public hearing for the Charter Revision and they have 16 months to finish their work. Peter Bruscato asked if the copy of the Charter on the website was the most current version and Dawn replied that it was. Their meetings will be the first Thursday of every month, so the next meeting should be March 1 at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Hall. Ted Colwell suggested that when the committee goes through the long list of items to cover, to emulate items in town that work like the First Taxing District and discard ones that don't work well and to take advantage of resources in town.

George Gillette brought up his concern regarding the ambulance. He thought if the ambulance had trouble while transporting a patient that the town could be hit with a lawsuit. He hoped the Board would back the purchase of a new ambulance. Diane Rayhall said she was invited to the next Board of Finance meeting where the ambulance issue was to be brought up and she was in full support of purchasing a new ambulance.

Diane Rayhall would like to move the Elaine Rogers Update on Three Windham Fire Departments agenda item before the three Fire Departments line items for the next meeting.

Guilford Smith Memorial Library/Budgets

Afron Seal gave her January report and handed out a draft of their proposed budget. Ted Colwell said that at the next Board of Trustees meeting they are discussing a proposal to have WIFI capability.

Windham Free Library/Budgets

David Light did not attend, so there was no report given.

Windham Youth Organization /Budgets

Greg Job the Vice President of WYO presented their proposed budget. Registration will be in February, try-outs in March and opening day is scheduled for April 21. They will have a fundraiser at Applebee's on June 9. AnnMarie asked what the increase in their budget was for. Greg stated that registration was down and he wanted to provide the same service to the kids.

South Windham Fire Department/Budgets

Michael Licata provided their proposed budget. Diane stated she had a conversation with Wilcox and Reynolds and was told the increase was 2% and not 2.5% as noted in their budget.

Windham Center Fire Department/Budgets

Chief Lloyd Niles read the January report. Diane Rayhall asked Joshua Niles why they were putting money into a truck replacement fund. He stated that they estimate a new truck will be needed in 10 years, so the department thought by putting money away each year, there wouldn't be such a shock to taxpayers when they need to purchase the truck. He noted that all the departments had this line item in their budget. Chief Niles stated their budget is a bare bones budget, but Diane pointed out that they added a new line item for a building fund. Peter Brucato noted that this line item is common with most fire departments. Peter asked Joshua if this account would be an interest bearing account, he said it would be. Diane pointed out that she thought all the departments should be responsible and do more fundraising. Chief John Wylie stated that with additional training, most volunteers do not have time to fundraise.

North Windham Fire Department /Budgets

Chief John Wylie read the January report. He submitted their preliminary 2012 budget with a 2% increase.

Elaine Rogers Update on Three Windham Fire Departments

At the last meeting, just regular items were discussed, and that there was nothing new to report.

Old Business

Diane Rayhall stated that she was going to attend the library meeting, but the day of the meeting she was asked not to attend. Adel apologized for the confusion. She didn't realize that this was not an open meeting. Elaine Rogers was mortified when she learned that Diane could not attend.

New Business

Diane will be attending the next Board of Finance meeting in regards to the ambulance and to follow up on the parking ticket money status. Chief Niles stated that he is concerned with the department's cameras because they were old and that they don't make parts for them anymore.

Peter Bruscato thought the new cameras cost between five and eight thousand dollars. Lloyd is going to bring this item up for discussion at the next Chief's meeting. They can look at e-grants to see if they could cover the cost of this item.

Public Comment

Chief John Wylie stated the new exhaust system was installed in the North Windham Fire Department. He thought the invoice would come shortly.

The Chiefs are working on the Shelter Program. They are working on the details- when to open and for how long and if the EOC opens a shelter. There is a Town Council meeting tomorrow February 7 and they are going to discuss the shelter setup. Diane recommended that the Chiefs attend.

Chief Niles said he is working with Matt Vertefeuille and the Planning and Zoning Commission for a residential water system. Diane Rayhall thought this was a conflict of interest.

George Gill is the safety officer for the North Windham Fire Department and he was looking into getting vials for life items. He noted that there were a lot of elderly people in the trailer parks and to have these vials available to the officers would save time in an emergency.

Diane stated she along with Mark, and Peter attended the State Police meeting held because of recent break-ins. She found it to be very informative. She thought we should think about a resident state trooper with the magnet School coming. To have the Windham police come, we'd need 3 officers at \$100,000 each for the first year, and then each year after would be according to their pay.

Adjournment

Motion made by Elaine Rogers to adjourn at 1935 hrs, seconded by Mark Herrick, all in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

AnnMarie White
Clerk