

**SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES**  
**TOWN OF WINDHAM BOARD OF COUNCIL SUBCOMMITTEE**  
**PUBLIC SAFETY, RECREATION AND PUBLIC WORKS**  
**Wednesday February 9, 2011 at 6:30 PM**  
**Windham Middle School Auditorium**  
**123 Quarry Street**  
**Willimantic**

**1. Call to Order.**

Chairman Jerry Iazzetta called the meeting to order at 6:38 pm.

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

Town Staff Present: Town Engineer, Joe Gardner, Public Works Superintendent, Brad Wojick, Recreation Director Tara Risley

**2. Pledge of Allegiance**

**3. Citizens and Delegations.**

Mary Jane Crotty gave a perspective on use, serve 300 families, have used Kramer first floor since 2005. In 2008 moved from Columbia to Kramer. Moved two adult classes to basement and used part of cafeteria. After the fire decided to leave area open so it could be used by groups and Pre K. In June wrestling began, she is uncomfortable regarding safety, would like a wall if to continue. There are 100 children in program

Dianne Terricone stated that it was appalling that a child does not have opportunity to ride a bike. Need to make appropriate space. Currently a terrible environment. Children need a decent place to learn and grow. Need a reasonable solution.

Bev York asked what criteria are used to select cupid. She then read what was in Windham Recreation's flyer, "a person who has had a positive impact on Windham."

Peter DiCarli from Silverback Wrestling Club acknowledged and respect Pre K program. Stressed they work with youth from young age through college. They have program with ECSU for counseling. Kramer is only place that permanently fits their program. Want to fund raise \$250,000 for improvements.

Elizabeth Martin works for Early Childhood Program. Advocate for children. This would not happen in any other school building. They serve young vulnerable population. Feels they are being bullied out of space.

Rafael Calixto was a member of Siverback, was an educator, feels club is getting a bad rap. Club needs a home. Request that the building be looked at to find an area. Noted that there are over 100 students in program.

Lorraine McDevitt arrived at 6:55 pm.

Lynn Duvall stated, she was there to talk about town pride, nominations for cupid. Did not understand criteria for selection. Felt it did not need to be a town resident. Six cupids in past were not from town.

Victoria Lowe has a tiny office in basement of Kramer, concerned about cramping of space and how it affects her office.

Joyleen Albarracin read a letter in Spanish and English to committee.

Baltazar Gonzalez wrestles for Siverback, was not good in school, now high honors because of club.

Dianne Rayhall, Board of Education Member, stated Kramer was a town building, no one is bullying anyone, cafeteria was always town's. When fire took place former First Selectman Jean DeSmet had wanted to use space as a conference room. Preschool was to use first floor not cafeteria.

Jamie Valentine said he had no side Siverback gives a lot back to town. It would be a shame if closed down.

Alex Vargas stated he was a problem child until he got into wrestling. Became focused, tutors helped with grades.

Dennis Cronin in favor of both programs, Pre K use during day, Silverback use at night. There should be a compromise.

#### **4. Approval of Minutes**

##### **Special meeting October 21, 2010.**

A motion was made by Lorraine McDevitt seconded by Arnaldo Rivera to accept minutes as corrected to note that Arnaldo Rivera was at meeting. Motion passed with Krich abstaining

##### **Special meeting December 14, 2010.**

A motion was made by Lorraine McDevitt to accept minutes as written. Motion was seconded by Jerry Iazzetta and passed with Rivera and Krick abstaining.

##### **Special meeting on January 4, 2011.**

A motion was made by Lorraine McDevitt seconded by Arnaldo Rivera to accept minutes as corrected to note that Arnaldo Rivera was at meeting. Motion passed with Krich abstaining

#### **5. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Silverback Wrestling Club Request for Space.**

Jerry Iazzetta passed out hand written motion from Council meeting. He passed out a memo from the Town Manager. He stated need to find out whose space cafeteria is. He felt it is Town space not schools.

Town Engineer gave an update on space study he was working on with Town Manager looking at usage in town hall and Kramer.

Lorraine McDevitt stated back in 1995 Board of Education said Kramer was no good. They needed a new Middle School. Now they are back, problems gone. She noted cafeteria was used as a teen center.

Arnaldo Riveria noted his wife was a pre school teacher, he appreciates Siverback Club, his son is a wrestler. He had concerns regarding hygiene, cleanliness. Need to evaluate and share best as can. Committee should wait until study is done.

Charles Krich stated he would like committee to make a statement of support for Siverback. Things are not perfect, there are matters to address. Shared use should be accepted as a mindset. There are details to work out.

Jerry Iazzetta noted there has been a problem, 2,3, 4 groups want to use same space. He has no problem with Silverback club. He would like to have information on usage of building, what other proposals have been made, what other uses there could be. He noted there was a Kramer use study committee formed some time ago. That committee should be looking into use.

Lorraine McDevitt stated she did not want Silverback to be moved again.

Jerry Iazzetta stated committee needs to walk building and hold a special meeting on just this issue. He would like a use study done within the next month.

A motion was made by Lorraine McDevitt that the Town Manager look into existing usage, who owns areas, recommend usage, and identify who is looking to use space. The motion was seconded by Arnaldo Rivera and passed unanimously.

**6. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Revising Section 13-161 Sidewalk required; width; specifications for construction of the Code of Ordinances.**

Jerry Iazzetta reviewed proposed changes to ordinance. Arnaldo Rivera made a motion to postpone item 6. Motion was seconded by Charles Krich and passed unanimously.

**7. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Bids for Public Works Equipment.**

Public Works Superintendent Brad Wojick explained bids received for various pieces of equipment and repairs to the lights at Recreation Park. . He reviewed memo from his assistant dated January 18, 2011. A motion was made by Lorraine McDevitt, seconded by Arnaldo Rivera to recommend to the Council the purchase of the equipment and light repairs. The motion passed unanimously.

**8. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Purchases for Public Works Equipment.**

Jerry Iazzetta requested that the Public Works Department update the six year capital Equipment Purchase list be updated.

**9. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Energy Efficiency Projects of Town Buildings.**

The Town Engineer reviewed list of recommended energy equipment replacements for town buildings. Jerry Iazzetta asked that the list be revised to show costs for each item along with projected energy savings and number of years for payback.

**10. Discussion and Possible Action to Sell Old Buffalo-Springfield Roller to Big Boy Toys, LLC in the amount of \$1,000 with Funds Being Placed in the Public Works Restoration Fund.**

A motion was made by Lorraine McDevitt seconded by Arnaldo Rivera to sell the roller. The motion passed unanimously.

**11. Citizens and Delegations.**

Brad Wojick spoke as a citizen that the Recreation Department should be moved from the Town Hall to Kramer.

Peter DiCarli said there were alternative proposals. He noted that the third floor was used for storage. Regarding hygiene the janitors closet was now locked. The pre school area floor was washed and buffed. Wrestling area not cleaned at all.

Dianne Taricone thanked committee, Kramer was a town recreation facility, pre k was a school facility for academics. Need to come together.

Alicia Rivera agreed gym was a golden egg. Pre K has been using basement for five years. They are willing to share.

John Bennet, stated he founded club, that it started in Kramer.

Rafael Calixto stated the wrestling club was part of recreation department. They were a town program. They were not asking for money. Regarding hygiene complaint they clean mats before and after using. He noted there were no showers.

**12. Executive Session Regarding Selection of Cupid.**

The Committee went into executive session at 8:25 pm. with invited guests Recreation Director Tara Risley, and Mayor Ernest Eldridge.

The Committee came out of executive session at 8:45 pm.

**11. Adjournment**

the committee adjourned immediately after the executive session.

Respectfully Submitted  
Joseph Gardner  
Town Engineer