

*Windham First Taxing District~ Regular Monthly Meeting*

*Monday, March 2, 2015, 7 p.m.*

*WindhamCenter Fire Department*

President Diane Rayhall called the monthly meeting of the Windham First Taxing District to order at 1910 hours.

Members present were: Diane Rayhall, Helene Chapman, Dawn Niles, Jan Mott, Elaine Rogers, Theodore Colwell, Bill Powers, Joseph Demarche, and Peter Bruscato were present.

***Approval of the minutes dated January 5, 2015 Meeting.***

Motion made by Elaine Rogers, seconded by Joseph Demarchi to accept the minutes with the following corrections: correct spelling of Dawn Niles under Nomination of Board Member Bill Powers; correct spelling of Peter Bruscato on page 4, under Windham Center Fire Department. Motion accepted, with Bill Powers abstaining.

Treasurer's Report ~ Jan Mott presented the treasurer's report with the following account balances and bills to pay:

Checking	\$37,875.77
Reserve Grant Match	\$63,912.00
Operations Savings	\$49,146.28
Grantee Improvement reserve	\$116,361.01
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Total of Account Balances	\$267,295.06
Bills to Pay -	
North Windham FD	\$61,256.00
South Windham FD	\$56,364.00
Windham Center FD	\$62,254.00
Guilford Smith Library	\$16,280.00
Windham Free Library	\$16,520.00
The Chronicle	\$132.31
The Chronicle	\$159.51
Pollard Water	\$445.01
WYO	\$8,400.00
Total	\$251,324.52

Total income to date \$747,035.93, we have spent \$653,686.45 of our \$825,742.00 budget.

Elaine Rogers questioned who Pollard Water was; they are the company for the hydrant flags. Joseph Demarchi questioned how many hydrant flags were purchased, Jan Mott stated 25.

Dawn Niles inquired about the \$5,000.00 for the "Traffic Commission Grant".

Motion made by Elaine Rogers to accept the report as read and pay the bills, seconded by Theodore Colwell. Motion accepted unanimously.

### ***Public Comment ~***

Dawn Niles discussed Heart Safe. She noted that there were two free CPR classes held in the month of February. (19) Nineteen people were trained at Willimantic Fire Department, (22) twenty-two people participated at Windham Center Fire Department and Windham Center was planning another session on March 11<sup>th</sup> from 6-8 p.m. because of the overwhelming interest. (14) Fourteen people have already signed up.

Dawn Niles spoke about Fire Fighter tax abatement. Teresa Conroy, Linda Orange and Susan Johnson encourage updated legislation to increase the tax abatement from \$1,000.00 to \$1,250.00. The original legislation was passed in 2000 allowing towns to give abatements up to \$1,000.00. There is a Planning and Developing Committee meeting scheduled for March 6<sup>th</sup> and she encouraged everyone to write letters to Susan Johnson in support.

Tony Fantoli gave an update on the signage for the areas of the schools. The Town Council recommended that the request be sent on to the State through Neal Beets, Town Manager. Bill Powers stated that he observed CT State Police having (5) five vehicles pulled over recently. Great to see they are out enforcing the speed limits.

Dawn Niles gave an update on the Eastern CT Firemen's Training School. She stated that the State Government cut the funding to \$0. This will raise the cost of training new firefighters from \$650-\$700 to \$2,000.00 each. She encouraged everyone to contact their representatives and senators to ask them to vote no.

Gene Chaine, WindhamCenter questioned what the \$5,500.00 "Other Income" was listed on the "Treasurer's Report" under Government Budget? Jan Mott explained that it was bank interest. Mr. Chaine also questioned interest on accounts held by the Fire Departments (SCBA, truck etc.) what happens to it? Dawn Niles stated that for Windham Center Fire Department interest earned rolls over into its respective account. A brief discussion was held and Joseph Demarche reminded everyone that the fire departments are private entities and are contracted.

### ***Guilford Smith Library ~***

Afton Seal presented her annual report. Afton reported that they had \$2,500.00 in Fund Raising events. She noted several maintenance updates including the new carpet made possible from funds from the Windham First Taxing District. Afton also noted a new community sign for the post office. Among the accomplishments for the year was that the library donated 13 boxes of food and many bake goods to the soup kitchen and the Women's Shelter. The library instituted direct deposit for payroll as well. Afton stated that the library had been open for 183 days for the year. Afton thanked many including the South Windham Fire Department for their continued support during the Halloween Party, Babysitting classes and Fire Prevention. See report.

President Rayhall questioned with the Willimantic Library closing for (3) three months for renovations was the library prepared to if needed for summer programs. Afton stated that she is in communication with their librarian to offer assistance.

### ***Windham Free Library ~***

Carol Santa Lucia presented quarterly report. Carol stated that the library received \$94 donation from WindhamCenterSchool and \$2,270 during their annual appeal. She advised that (3) three computers were purchased for Logistics in North Windham. WindhamCenterSchool finished class visits December 18, 2015, there was a total of 32 classes and over 700 children's visits. Carol stated that Lori Guillard had created a Facebook website for the library and was maintaining it. See report.

Paul Seige presented the budget. Noting a 5% increase for a total of \$43,435.00. Mr. Seige stated that they are actively looking for grants to help with some of the improvements to the Dr. Hunt office. Theodore Colwell questioned why there was line item for bibliomation. Dawn Niles questioned why the line item for audio visual was brought to \$0. Paul stated that funding for bibliomation was not needed. A discussion was held.

Dawn Niles questioned if we the Board could act on budgets that were presented. Joseph Demarche asked if we really needed the March 16<sup>th</sup> meeting date if we were to proceed with sending the presented budgets to the Annual Meeting. Discussion held. Joseph Demarche reminded everyone that Windham Free Library did not have an increase last year, so this was in theory 2 ½ per year.

Motion made by Dawn Niles to accept the proposed budget for \$43,435.00 and send it to the annual meeting, seconded by Elaine Rogers. Motion accepted, unanimously.

### ***Report from WYO (Windham Youth Organization) ~***

Greg Job presented the budget of \$14,000.00, noting no increase again this year. He also reminded everyone of the registrations scheduled for March 14<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> at Gauthier field. Also again May 1<sup>st</sup> weekend. He also stated that there would be a fundraising breakfast at Applebee's on May 31<sup>st</sup> from 8-10 a.m.

Motion made by Joseph Demarche to accept the proposed budget of \$14,000.00 and send it to the annual meeting, seconded by Dawn Niles. Motion accepted, unanimously.

### ***Report from Elaine Rogers / Windham Fire Departments Liaison ~***

Elaine Rogers advised that the fire departments had completed their physicals. There was nothing further.

### ***WindhamCenter Fire Department ~***

President Josh Niles presented the budget of \$165,462.00, noting a 5.33 % increase. He stated that they reallocated funds to different line items to soften the increase. He noted a decrease in training as one of the areas. Dawn Niles recused herself because of her membership with the department. Josh stated that some of the increase was including (2) SCBA packs per year. He also stated that they would be applying for a FEMA grant but can't rely on receiving one, so they must continue to budget for the expense. Discussion was held. Bill Powers encouraged support of critical equipment.

Motion made by Elaine Rogers to accept the proposed budget of \$165,462.00 and send it to the annual meeting, seconded by Theodore Colwell. Motion accepted, Dawn Niles abstained.

### ***South Windham Fire Department ~***

President Michael Licata presented the budget of \$157,567.00, noting a 9.47% increase. He stated that the only increases were to the insurance line item (2.9%) and the addition of the line items SCBA Cylinders and SCBA; that those line items were added at the request of the Board of Directors. Dawn Niles questioned if any of the line items had been adjusted to accommodate the increase. Michael Licata stated that none of the other line items had been increased, except for the insurance which was beyond their control. Dawn Niles also questioned what was covered under building maintenance. Chief Farley stated that covered the building upkeep and any improvements. Chief Farley also explained the SCBA line item. He stated that even budgeting the \$12,000.00 (cost of 2 packs per year) it was going to leave them two short when they expire and that they would take the additional required from those from another line item such as new equipment. South Windham Fire Department packs are due to expire August 2016.

Motion made by Elaine Rogers to send South Windham's budget to the March 16<sup>th</sup> meeting, seconded by Joseph Demarche. Peter Bruscato noted that with the 2.9% increase that was beyond their control, their budget was still below the other budgets. Discussion was held.

Motion failed with Peter Bruscato, Joseph Demarche, Dawn Niles and Bill Powers no votes, Theodore Colwell and Jan Mott abstained, Elaine Rogers Yes.

Motion made by Dawn Niles to send South Windham Fire Department proposed \$157,567.00 budget to the annual meeting, seconded by Bill Powers.

Motion accepted with Peter Bruscato, Dawn Niles, Elaine Rogers yes votes, Joseph Demarche no vote, and Theodore Colwell and Jan Mott abstentions.

### ***North Windham Fire Department ~***

Chief Jeff Wrana presented the budget for the North Windham Fire Department noting a 3.5 % increase, \$5,234.74 for a total of \$159,745.74. Chief Wrana noted the increase was due to the 2.9% increase in the insurance and the addition of the line item SCBA packs / cylinders. Chief Wrana explained that he was trying to keep funding down and utilize a step process for the increase required for the SCBA pack replacements. Discussion was held. There would be no mil rate increase if the line item for SCBA/ cylinders was increased from \$2,500.00 to \$3,500.00. The increase would be 4% instead of 3.5%.

Motion made by Dawn Niles to increase the proposed North Windham Fire Department of 3.5 %, \$159,745.74 to 4% for a total of \$160,746.00 and send it to the annual meeting; Seconded by Elaine Rogers. Motion accepted, unanimously.

### ***Old ~***

An official letter of resignation was received from George Gillette. Dawn Niles Stated that she had not met with the fire marshal to date. Joseph Demarchi volunteered to meet with the fire marshal and Michael Lessard.

W.S.F.C.A (Dispatch Center) update was provided by President Lloyd Niles. He stated that Town of Windham Attorney Cody would be reviewing the MOU for the Town. He hopes to have it signed soon. This will help move forward with retaining Lebanon returning to the dispatch center. There is a meeting March 3<sup>rd</sup> with the Town Council. Joseph Demarche questioned if KX (Colchester Dispatch) was letting Lebanon out of its contract. Peter Bruscato spoke about the W.S.F.C.A. buy out of the contract. No details because it is a contract that is not signed. Chief Niles also stated that at the beginning of the fiscal year the W.S.F.C.A. would be looking to sign 5 year renewable contracts with all agencies of the Switchboard. He stated that Attorney McGrath would be crafting the contract.

*New ~*

President Rayhall appointed Dawn Niles and Helene Chapman to the nominating committee for the year 2015-2016. There will be an article in the newspaper announcing the voting and budgets. Anyone interested in running for the Board of Directors are urged to contact either Dawn or Helene.

*Public Comment ~*

Chief Lloyd Niles suggested that staggering the seats on the Board of Directors for every other year for some of the positions. President Rayhall stated that the terms of office are set by the By-Laws.

Chief Patrick Farley stated that he had sent a thank you letter to The Chronicle to thank residents for clearing fire hydrants during the snow storms. He also thanked the public works and water departments, as well as members of the South Windham Fire Department.

A brief discussion was held regarding the Guilford Smith Library budget.

Elaine Rogers made a motion to increase the Guilford Smith Library budget by 5% (the same as the Windham Free Library) and send it to the annual meeting, seconded Jan Mott. Motion accepted by Peter Bruscato, Joseph Demarche, Dawn Niles, Elaine Rogers, Jan Mott and Bill Powers; one abstention by Theodore Colwell.

With all budgets being sent to the annual meeting there will be no meeting March 16, 2015.

The Annual Meeting will be Tuesday, April 7, 2015. REMINDER to bring driver's licenses to be able to vote.

Motion made by Dawn Niles to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Elaine Rogers. Motion accepted and meeting adjourned at 2040 hours.

Respectfully submitted,

Helene E. Chapman

Clerk, W.F.T.D.