

# Minutes of the Willimantic Taxing District Special Meeting

Windham Town Hall Bellingham Auditorium, 2nd Floor  
Tuesday, March 29, 2016 - 7:00 P.M., or immediately  
following the Public Hearing on the Willimantic Taxing  
District Budget

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## 1. Call to Order

Lynne Ide, President of the Willimantic Taxing District, called the special meeting to order at 7:12 P.M.

Members Present: Lynne Ide, Charles Krich, Nectalis Martinez, Lorraine McDevitt, Thomas DeVivo, Dennis O'Brien and James Flores

Town Manager Neal Beets was also in attendance

## 2. Pledge of Allegiance

Willimantic Taxing District President Lynne Ide led all in the Pledge of Allegiance.

## 3. Citizens and Delegations: Public Comment

Ernie Eldridge, 146 Windham Center Road, Windham, spoke as a resident business owner. He referred to the Town Charter and asked for clarification regarding who is responsible for paying employees.

## 4. WTD Member Comment

Willimantic Taxing District President Ide reviewed the agenda and noted the crucial item on the agenda was to resolve the budget for the Willimantic Taxing District. She also noted that Items #6 & #7 were placed on the agenda for discussion purposes only and suggested any Councilmembers who had thoughts and/or concerns on those items should bring them forward.

## 5. Discuss and possibly act on a collective bargaining agreement with any thoughts Firefighters Union IAFF Local 1033.

DeVivo MOVED, McDevitt seconded, to approve the collective bargaining agreement for the Firefighters Union IAFF Local 1033. All were in favor. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

## 6. Discussion of Police Chief's Retirement

Councilmembers shared their thoughts and concerns regarding the approach to take for hiring the next Police Chief. The discussion included the need to review language in the Charter for hiring, educational criteria for the position and the question as to whether to recruit from within the Department or to post the position publicly.

For the record, Councilmember Flores stated "I do not accept Chief Lisa's resignation".

**7. Discussion of Fire Department Recruitment**

Councilmembers discussed recruitment for the Fire Department and the need to have programs and outreach in place to attract people to the Department. Suggestions and concerns were also discussed regarding better communication with the Fire Chief and the Department.

**8. Discuss and possibly act on the Capital Budget and Operating Budget for the Willimantic Taxing District.**

DeVivo MOVED, McDevitt seconded, to send the Willimantic Taxing District Capital Budget to Town Meeting on May 3, 2016. All were in favor. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Krich MOVED, DeVivo seconded, to reduce line item 10642010-57330 Office furnishing & equipment by \$2,000 from \$5,000 to \$3,000. All were in favor. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

McDevitt MOVED, Martinez seconded, to increase line item 10642030-53545 Recruitment by \$10,000 from \$0 to \$10,000. All were in favor. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Krich MOVED, DeVivo seconded, to reduce line item 10642033-51530 Overtime by \$10,000 from \$330,000 to \$320,000. All were in favor. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

DeVivo MOVED, Krich seconded, to reduce line item 10642010-54390 Service Contracts by \$5,000 from \$13,870 to \$8,870. All were in favor. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Krich MOVED, O'Brien seconded, to reduce line item 10698000-58890 by \$10,000 from \$100,000 to \$90,000. All were in favor. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

DeVivo MOVED, Krich seconded, to approve the Willimantic Taxing District budget as amended in the amount of \$10,519,973 and to request the Town Clerk to finalize the ballot question when she finalizes the Town budget ballot questions so as to coordinate the ballots. All were in favor. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Willimantic Taxing District President Ide thanked the staff, the volunteers, the Council and all others for their work on the budget.

**9. Future Meetings**

**a. Tuesday, April 26, 2016:** 7 pm Regular Meeting of the Willimantic Taxing District.

**10. Citizens and Delegations: Public Comment**

Henry Crane, Windham Street, Willimantic, spoke about promoting from within. He also noted he is happy about the proposed fire fighter program and possible scholarships.

Fire Captain Ron Palmer thanked the Council, Personnel Director Paul Hongo, Town Administration and the Fire Fighter Union for their support.

James Flores noted he does not accept the resignation of Chief Maruzo-Bolduc and suggested the Council reconsider the possibility of retaining her as Police Chief. He also noted he will be supporting the Board of Education budget presented by Dr. Garcia and the principal and not the budget presented by the School Governance Council.

Nectalis Martinez, Main Street, Willimantic, spoke about the positive tone and actions of the meeting and expressed his love for the community.

Lorraine McDevitt thanked the Police Chief, Fire Chief and all Departments for their hard work. She also shared with the community the challenge to the departments for coming in with a 0% increase in their budgets.

Charles Krich joined Willimantic Taxing District President Ide in thanking everyone who was involved in the budget process. He noted the difficulty, challenges and team work it took to get the job done. He also spoke about the excellent discussions that took place throughout the meeting and the cooperative spirit it shows with all the unanimous votes.

**11. Adjournment**

DeVivo MOVED, McDevitt seconded, to adjourn the Willimantic Taxing District Council special meeting at 9:02 P.M.

**Submitted By:**  
**Barbara J. McKinney**  
**Clerk of the Council**