

WINDHAM FIRST TAXING DISTRICT

Monday March 3, 2014
Monthly Meeting Minutes

Call to Order:

President Diane Rayhall called the monthly meeting of the Windham First Taxing District to order at 1904 hours.

The following members were present: Diane Rayhall, Ted Colwell, Elaine Rogers, Joe DeMarchi, George Gillette, Jan Mott, Peter Bruscato, Dawn Niles and AnnMarie White.

Approval of Minutes February 3, 2014:

Elaine Rogers made a motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held on February 3, 2014 for approval. Ted Colwell seconded the motion, all in favor.

Approval of Minutes February 11, 2014:

Elaine Rogers made a motion to approve the minutes of the special meeting held on February 11, 2014 for approval. George Gillette seconded the motion, all in favor.

Treasurer's Report:

Jan Mott gave the treasurer's report and read the following information:

Account Balances:

| | |
|----------------------------|---------------------|
| Checking Account Balance: | \$ 4,941.10 |
| Savings Account Balance: | \$123,701.66 |
| Grant Match Reserve: | \$ 63,912.00 |
| Grant Improvement Reserve: | <u>\$120,193.40</u> |
| Total: | \$312,748.16 |

Bills to Pay:

| | |
|---------------------------|---------------------|
| North Windham FD | \$ 60,446.00 |
| South Windham FD | \$ 56,694.00 |
| Windham Center FD | \$ 61,881.00 |
| Guilford Smith Lib | \$ 16,480.00 |
| Windham Free Lib | \$ 16,000.00 |
| WSFCA | \$ 29,489.00 |
| Town of Windham-Tax Abate | <u>\$ 22,501.00</u> |
| Total: | \$234,002.00 |

Elaine Rogers moved to accept treasurer's report, and pay the bills, Ted Colwell seconded, all in favor.

Guilford Smith Memorial Library - Budgets

John Gallen the Treasurer presented the 2014-2015 budget with a 5% increase. Joe DeMarchi said that last year's budget was not listed so he couldn't compare against this year's budget. He was hoping there would come in with a \$0 increase. Diane asked if they could come to the next meeting on March 17 with a budget listing last year and this year's budget side by side. Dawn Niles agreed and said it would give the Board a better idea of what the \$2,000 impact would be. Afron Seal noted that the library's budget had a \$0 increase for a couple of years and the 5% was a catch-up for them. Peter Bruscato appreciated that they kept their budget without an increase but there shouldn't be a catch-up. The Board represents the tax payers and the Board needs to

watch the budgets. Dawn Niles stated she was the one to propose the library be part of the District and advocated the library's importance. She thought 5% might be too high. Diane asked the treasurer to revise the budget form by adding last year's budget and have this year with a 3% increase for the next meeting. Afron Seal read the February report and the statistics from the Connecticut State Library. The carpet installation was moving forward and she was hoping for a May 1 grand opening. Joe DeMarchi asked her how many employees they had. They have 3.

Windham Free Library - Budgets

Paul Siege presented their budget with a 14% increase. This increase was high because of budgeting too low on fundraising. Peter Bruscatto said the Windham First Taxing District took on the libraries to help, but 14% was outrageous. Jan Mott asked if they had any Interest Income, and Paul said very little in interest bearing. Diane said who is a lover of the library; that as the President of the Board to bring a 14% increase to a vote is not in the best interest to the Town. She suggested bringing in a revised budget with side by side budget years and with a decrease to the next meeting on the 17th. Dawn Niles explained the budget process stating that the taxing District makes their recommendations and at the Town meeting, the people can bring it to a referendum vote. This meeting is the people's meeting. Carol Santulucia, the head librarian read the Quarterly report. Dawn Niles asked how the circulation through e-books was. Carol stated it was very little.

Windham Youth Organization - Budgets

Greg Job presented his budget with a \$0 increase. Registration is this Saturday at Kramer School and opening day is the last weekend in April.

Elaine Rogers Update on 3 Windhams

Their last meeting was very short. They discussed training under and through the ice. They also discussed the IAM Responding policy and the need for a Facebook policy in regards to graphic pictures being uploaded to Facebook. The departments are looking at the law. There is not an issue, they were being proactive.

South Windham Fire Department - Budgets

Mike Licata presented the budget with a 1.55% increase that calculates to a \$2,195 increase. Mike went through the line items that increased. He asked if he should be adding a line for the Scot bottles. Diane said he will add that line item on next year's budget. They will need to purchase 10 new Scot bottles next year. Joe DeMarchi asked what the Benevolent line item was for. Mike stated this was for the purchase of flowers if a death in the department. Joe also asked what the administration line item was so different between the three departments. The detail of what made up that line item differs between the three. Diane asked Mike to breakout the administration, dues and fire prevention as three separate items like the other two departments did. Dawn suggested he check with Charter for a better price for the land line cost. The Board accepted the 1.55% increase and asked that they submit this budget on March 17th. Helene Chapman read the February report.

Windham Center Fire Department - Budgets

Joshua Niles presented the budget with a 1.53% increase that calculates to a \$2,378 increase. Mark Herrick gave an update on the building RFP as head of the Building Committee. The Directors voted to keep the budget as is for the March 17th meeting, except Dawn Niles abstained. Chief Lloyd Niles read the February report.

North Windham Fire Department - Budgets

Chief John Wylie presented the budget with a 3% increase. Joe DeMarchi asked if he could revise his budget by lowering it like the other departments at 1.55%. Peter Bruscatto noted that

with the new school his Fire Prevention cost should be higher than the other two departments so a 2.5% increase would be acceptable. Jeff LaFlamme, a member of the North Windham Fire Department was confused on how the budget should be done because the department was asked by Board to budget for large ticket items, and then asked to reduce or remove it from the budget. Diane explained the normal increase to present was 3%, but this year was going to be a tough year because of the reval being done. John Wylie read the January and February reports. He also stated that next year they will be requesting the purchase of 12 new Scot bottles at \$1,085 each.

Old Business

Lloyd Niles gave an update on the switchboard. They are in the process of hiring an administrator. They are working on having a better relationship with the Town. Dawn Niles stated that she mentioned there will be free CPR courses this month. They will be held March 7 at the Willimantic Fire Department and March 14 at Windham Center Fire Department both at 6:00 p.m. She is tracking some proposed legislative bills that regard the cost of resident state troopers and overtime to municipalities. Diane said the last Monday of the month there will be a committee meeting on the policing prices difference. On March 22 a resident can put their name up to become a member on the Board. There will be a notice in the paper.

New Business

Dawn Niles mentioned there is another proposed bill about making volunteer fire departments employees under OSHA. Chief Niles thought the purchase of the new imaging cameras was very important and the Chronicle should be there when they are given to the departments.

Public Comment

Mark Herrick brought to the Board's attention of how hard it is to keep budgets down when the NFPA keeps changing their standards. Some states are trying to separate from the NFPA because of the cost. Lloyd Niles said he asked Congressman Courtney to come and listen to our compliant s about NFPA. Dawn Niles said there was going to a free Foreclosure Prevention Workshop in St. Joseph's basement on March 18. John Wylie understood the Board scrutinizing over his budget, and hoped the Board will scrutinize over the policing budget when it comes forward. Mike Sikoski thought it would more cost effective to contract with the Willimantic Police.

Adjournment

Motion made by Dawn Niles to adjourn at 2140 hrs, seconded by Peter Bruscato, all in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

AnnMarie White
Clerk