

The Board of Finance held a regular meeting on **April 15, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.** in the **Bellingham Auditorium at Town Hall, 979 Main Street, Willimantic, CT 06226**

Members Attending: Lynne Ide, Paula Haney, Anita Sebestyen, Thomas White, Ken Folan, and Nectalis Martinez

1. Call to Order

Chairman Lynne Ide called the meeting to order at 7:24 p.m.

2. Public Comment

Bill Powers commented on the Board of Education budget and would like to see additional funds. Also commented on the ambulance and things are not spread equally. There is a lot of confusion without discussion and information.

Tom DeVivo commented on dispatch and voting on the contract.

Henry Crane commented on dispatch and not billing on call volume but billing as a Town.

Keile questioned if the PILOT is a 50/50 split or something different.

Joe Marsalisi commented it is National Dispatcher week and would like to recognize all the dispatchers out there.

Mark commented on dispatch and the cost is based on call volume and population. Windham does pay for calls. If you are using most of the service then you should pay for what you use.

3. Board of Finance Comment

Anita Sebestyen commented on listening to neighbors and that 7 members on Town Council are from the Willimantic Service District. The Willimantic Service District can out vote the other members. A study by an outside entity would be the way to go. People in Windham are saying they already pay their fair share. If people were thinking about one Windham dispatch has created a bigger divide.

Thomas White commented on dispatch and some people from the Willimantic Service District think this is a wrong idea. He has sat on boards as a Willimantic resident and as a Windham resident. Pay for services you want. Dispatch was set up a long time ago and it has worked.

Ken Folan commented on having one town and one mill rate. We are not one town yet and a study should be done.

Paula Haney commented on the Willimantic Service District and not everybody has used the services just like not everybody has used the school system. Because of the confusion, a study is a good idea.

4. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Upon a motion by Ken Folan, seconded by Thomas White to approve the meeting minutes from April 1, 2015.

The motion passed unanimously

Upon a motion by Thomas White, seconded by Ken Folan to approve the meeting minutes from April 8, 2015.

The motion passed unanimously.

5. Chair's Report

Lynne ide commented we do not have to make final decisions tonight and may have a meeting next Tuesday.

Information from previous meetings was reviewed. Topics mentioned were : Outside agencies and Senior Center. Question about textile museum. Update on tax collections and may make changes on percentage collections. One time expenditures that could be moved out of the budget and to the CIP, paving at French Club, dispatch, reflect on the \$780,000 for BOE. Adjustments to Town Hall improvements. Homeless diversion fund. Page 39 increasing funds for new equipment

Questions for ballots have to be submitted 45 days before referendum.

6. Presentations and Special Reports

Presentation from Tax Collector, Gay St. Louis, on current year tax collections.

Gay St. Louis commented that we need to be realistic on tax collections. 4,000 motor vehicle warrants have gone out to people who did not pay anything. We've collected \$569,000 from those warrants so far. Motor vehicle is complex. She thinks we will be down about \$400,000 this year and \$200,000 will be from motor vehicle. Not billing in July of 2014 is part of not receiving tax payments. Motor Vehicle Supplemental collections is up, but prior year collections is down \$25,000, and interest liens collections is down \$60,000. She asked the Board to leave collection rate as it is. Current collection rate is 97.5%.

7. Discussion and possible action on the 2015-2016 Proposed General Government Budget

Upon a motion by Thomas White, seconded by Anita Sebestyen to remove \$571,000 from 10542090-53010.

Thomas White commented that both parties should get together and work together on this issue.

Lynne Ide commented to work with the Town Council and set up a task force and then take action on this issue.

The motion passed unanimously.

Upon a motion by Thomas White, seconded by Anita Sebestyen to increase 105442090-53010 by \$182,379.

The motion passed unanimously.

Upon a motion by Thomas White seconded by Ken Folan to move line item 10541990-57250 in the amount of \$25,000, line item 10541430-57300 in the amount of \$35,000, line item 10545010-57340 in the amount of \$7,000 to the Capital Improvement Fund.

The motion passed unanimously.

Upon a motion by Paula Haney seconded by Nectalis Martinez to increase line item 10544010-58605 by \$4,000

Thomas White asked if this program is working.

The motion passed unanimously.

Upon a motion by Thomas White, seconded by Paula Haney to increase line item 10541430-54390 by \$5,000.

Thomas White commented there are a lot of people that watch us.
Anita Sebestyen commented that we need to make sure the quality is good.

The motion passed unanimously.

Upon a motion by Thomas White, seconded by Ken Folan to reduce line item 10541610-54390 by \$27,820 and also line item 43690 by \$27,820.

The motion passed unanimously.

Upon a motion by Thomas White, seconded by Anita Sebestyen to decrease line item 10548010-52600 by \$10,000.

The motion passed unanimously.

Upon a motion by Thomas White, seconded by Paula Haney to decrease line item#10541992-54390 by \$15,000.

Thomas White wants to make sure the Town does the upkeep up on the building.

The motion passed unanimously.

Upon a motion by Paula Haney seconded by Anita to reduce line item 10544230-51510 by \$27,850

The motion passed unanimously.

Upon a motion by Thomas White seconded by Ken to move all Life Insurance lines to 10548010-52965.

The motion passed unanimously

Upon a motion by Thomas White, seconded by Ken Folan to move all medical insurance lines to 10548010-52800.

The motion passed unanimously

Upon a motion by Thomas White seconded by Nectalis to move all FICA/Medicare lines to 10548010-52200.

The motion passed unanimously.

Upon a motion by Thomas White seconded by Ken Folan to increase 10599000-59029 by \$780,000 and to increase the Reappropriation of Fund Balance by \$780,000.

The motion passed unanimously.

8. Discussion and possible action on the 2015-2016 Willimantic Service District budget

Upon a motion by Thomas White seconded by Anita Sebestyen to increase 10642037-53541 by \$338,704.

The motion passed unanimously.

Thomas White commented on the parking permit and would like to see how the year goes.

Upon a motion by Thomas White seconded by Ken Folan to move all police FICA/Medicare lines to 10642015-52200.

The motion passed unanimously.

Upon a motion by Thomas White, seconded by Ken Folan to move all police Life Insurance lines to 10642015-52965.

The motion passed unanimously.

Upon a motion by Thomas White, seconded by Nectalis Martinez to move all police Medical Insurance lines to 10642015-52800.

The motion passed unanimously.

Upon a motion by Thomas White seconded by Ken Folan to move all fire FICA/Medicare lines to 10642036-52200.

The motion passed unanimously.

Upon a motion by Thomas White, seconded by Ken Folan to move all fire Life Insurance lines to 10642036-52965.

The motion passed unanimously.

Upon a motion by Thomas White, seconded by Nectalis Martinez to move all fire Medical Insurance lines to 10642036-52800.

The motion passed unanimously.

9. Discussion and possible action on the 2015-2016 Board of Education budget

Thomas White commented he wants to help the Board of Education but wants the help to go to the kids.

Ken Folan commented on putting a question on the ballot.

Tracy Lambert commented she is working with parents to get the budget passed.

Upon a motion by Ken Folan seconded by Paula Haney to have an additional question on the ballot of appropriating an additional \$250,000 for the Board of Education budget.

The motion passed unanimously.

Ken Folan asked if Columbia would be coming back to Windham.

10. Discussion and possible action on the 2015-2016 Capital Improvement Plan

Upon a motion by Thomas White seconded by Ken Folan to remove paving at the French Club in the amount of \$10,000.

The motion passed unanimously.

11. Controller's Report

Tom Pesce presented the controller's report.

Current year revenue and expenditure reports were presented to the Board.

The refinancing of the Energy Performance Lease was reviewed for action by the Board.

12. Discussion and possible action on any General Government 2014-2015 transfer requests

There were no transfer requests

13. Discussion and possible action on any Willimantic Service District 2014-2015 transfer requests

There were no transfer requests

14. Discussion and possible action to approve refinancing of Energy Performance Lease

Upon a motion by Tyler Griffin, seconded by Paula Haney

Re: Appropriation and Bond Authorization of \$3,200,000 for the Refinancing of an Equipment Lease Purchase Agreement

RESOLVED, that the Board of Finance of the Town of Windham (the "Town"), subject to favorable recommendation from the Town Council, approves and recommends to the electors and all others entitled to vote at town meetings of the Town that the sum of \$3,200,000 be appropriated for the cost of the Refinancing of an Equipment Lease Purchase Agreement, such project to include (i) the repayment of that certain Master Equipment Lease Purchase Agreement by and between Banc of America Public Capital Corp. and the Town, dated as of May 8, 2007 which financed certain energy performance equipment and modifications to the Windham public schools and (ii) temporary and permanent financing costs (the "Project") and to meet said appropriation and in lieu of a tax therefor, bonds of the Town be issued pursuant to Chapter 109 of the Connecticut General Statutes, as amended, or any other provision of law thereto enabling, in the amount of \$3,200,000 or so much thereof as may be necessary after deducting grants or other sources of funds available therefor, which bonds shall be general obligations of the Town to which its full faith and credit is pledged.

The motion passed unanimously.

15. Old business

There was no old business.

16 New business

There was no new business

17. Future agenda items

Audit presentation at May Regular meeting

18. Public Comment

James Flores commented to make the ballot simple. Work as a team to pass the budget. Board members need to campaign for the budget as they do to get elected.

Henry Crane commented to populate the Windham Villages. Kids are going to have the opportunity to get an education that they choose to get.

Kevin Hoxie commented people are starting to pay attention. Governors council members have no faith in the Board of Education or teachers. It is going to be hard to get the budgets passed. Be careful with the Board of Education budget to get it passed. School is not free.

Bernie Dauteuil commented on the refinancing being a good thing. Dr. Adamowski said the Board of Education didn't have the right to enter into the energy performance lease contract.

19. Adjournment

Upon a motion by Thomas White, seconded by Nectalis Martinez the meeting was adjourned at 9:44 p.m.

Attest: _____
Thomas Pesce