

Minutes of the Willimantic Taxing District Regular Meeting

Windham Town Hall Bellingham Auditorium, 2nd Floor
Tuesday, April 26, 2016 - 7:00 P.M.



1. Call to Order.

Willimantic Taxing District President Lynne Ide called the regular meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

Members Present: Lynne Ide, Charles Krich (arrived at 7:11 P.M.), 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. Public Comment.

The following individuals spoke in support of hiring internally for the new Police Chief. They also spoke about the character, ethics and integrity of Lt. Rob Rosado as well as shared stories of his commitment to his family, fellow officers and community.

Mayor Eldridge, Rafael Calixto, Joe Marsalisi, K-9 Officer Paul Hussey, Mercedes Mercado, Ed Rivera, Arnaldo Rivera, Detective Chris Shepard, Officer Jose Santiago, Captain Ron Palmer, Tara Calixto, Corporal Joshua Clark, Lieutenant Alex Coriaty, Corporal Stan Parizo and Yolanda Negron.

Lieutenant Alex Coriaty also submitted a statement for the record. (See Attachment A)

Jan Maya-Schold suggested looking at all our options before hiring a new Police Chief.

4. Councilmember Comment.

Lorraine McDevitt spoke in support of hiring within the department and referred back to the hiring of Police Chief Maruzo-Bolduc.

DeVivo MOVED, Flores seconded, to move Item #9 up on the agenda to follow Item #4. All were in favor. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

9. Report from the Town Manager. Discuss and possibly take action.

a. A recruitment and interview process for a new Police Chief

Town Manager Beets reviewed and explained his recommendation for the tasks and timeline for the selection process for the Willimantic Chief of Police position.

DeVivo MOVED, McDevitt seconded, to post an internal notice and have this be an internal promotion. All were in favor except Krich who opposed. MOTION PASSED.

DeVivo MOVED, Flores seconded, to appoint an interview panel consisting of the Town Manager, 2 elected Taxing District officials, 2 Police Chiefs and 1 Willimantic Community Leader and 1 union member. All were in favor. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Flores MOVED, McDevitt seconded, to complete the process by June 1, 2016. All were in favor except Ide and DeVivo who opposed. MOTION PASSED.

DeVivo MOVED, Krich seconded, to add a special requirement that the ideal candidate live within 15 minutes of the Police Station. DeVivo, McDevitt and Krich were in favor. All others were opposed. MOTION FAILED.

Krich MOVED, DeVivo seconded, to appoint Lynne Ide as one of the Representatives of the Willimantic Taxing District. All were in favor except Ide who abstained. MOTION PASSED.

O'Brien MOVED, Martinez seconded, to appoint Tom DeVivo as the seconded Representative of the Willimantic Taxing District. All were in favor except DeVivo who abstained. MOTION PASSED.

DeVivo MOVED, Flores seconded, to move Item #8 up on the agenda to follow Item #9. All were in favor except Krich who opposed. MOTION PASSED.

8. Report from the Fire Chief. Discuss and possibly take action.

- a. Operating Statistics.
- b. Budget Update

Chief Scrivener reviewed the operating statistics including staffing, performance statistics, vehicles, projects and upcoming events. He noted with regards to the projects, the Fire Department will be working in conjunction with the State of Connecticut of Emergency Services Commissioner and other departments to address the barriers to minority recruitment. In addition Chief Scrivener provided information on the Cadet Program options available at the CT Fire Academy.

Chief Scrivener also noted 5 Firefighters attended the American Lung Association Fight for Air stair climb in Hartford. He commended them for their hard work and noted they came in 3rd place, with Firefighter Natalie Siebecker being the fastest female overall in the competition.

Chief Scrivener also reported briefly on the budget and noted he looks forward to working with the new Controller.

Chief Scrivener also answered questions from the Council. He also spoke in support of Lt Rob Rosado should the panel chose him as the new Police Chief.

DeVivo MOVED, Flores seconded, to move Item #7 up on the agenda to follow Item #8. All were in favor. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

7. Report from the Police Chief. Discuss and possibly take action.

- a. Operating Statistics.
- b. Budget Update.

Chief Maruzo-Bolduc reviewed the operating statistic and reported on the two significant car accidents, three robberies and the ramping up of the college parties in light of spring weekend as well as the Hopfest on Sunday. She noted there will be extra patrols in force to cover the busy weekend.

Chief Maruzo-Bolduc reported the Awards Ceremony will be held on May 24th in the Bellingham Auditorium at 6:00 P.M. She invited all to attend.

Chief Maruzo-Bolduc also reviewed the budget. She noted increases in some line items and explained the expenditures may be coming out of the wrong account. She is hopeful it will be taken care of in the new budget year.

In addition, Chief Maruzo-Bolduc spoke about the training and preparedness of her Officers and noted they are twice trained over what CT Standards require. She stated they are top quality candidates.

5. Approval of Minutes.

- a. Regular Meeting of January 26, 2016
- b. Special Budget Meeting of February 23, 2016
- c. Special Budget Meeting of March 22, 2016
- d. Special Budget Meeting of March 29, 2016
- f. Public Hearing on Budget on March 29, 2016

DeVivo MOVED, McDevitt seconded, to approve Items #5a, 5b, 5c, 5d & 5f. All were in favor except Krich and O'Brien who abstained. MOTION PASSED.

6. Discuss and possibly approve a motion setting the Town Meeting on the Willimantic Taxing District (WTD) Budget for Tuesday, May 3, at 6:30 pm in the Town Hall Bellingham Auditorium. (This WTD Annual Budget Town Meeting will immediately follow the Annual Town Meeting regarding the Town General Government budget and the Board of Education budget at 6:00 pm.)

DeVivo MOVED, McDevitt seconded, to approve a motion setting the Town Meeting on the Willimantic Taxing District Budget for Tuesday, May 3, at 6:30 pm in the Town Hall Bellingham Auditorium. All were in favor. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

7. Report from the Police Chief. Discuss and possibly take action.

- a. Operating Statistics.
- b. Budget Update.

Item #7 moved up on the agenda to follow Item #8.

8. **Report from the Fire Chief. Discuss and possibly take action.**
 - a. Operating Statistics.
 - b. Budget Update.

Item #8 moved up on the agenda to follow Item #9.

9. **Report from the Town Manager. Discuss and possibly take action.**
 - a. **A recruitment and interview process for a new Police Chief.**

Item #9 moved up on the agenda to follow Item #4.

10. **Public Comment.**

Marc Scrivener spoke as the Vice President of the Willimantic Athletic Club and noted there is a half marathon, a 10K and a 5K race on Saturday starting with the first race at 8:10 A.M. and beginning and ending at Jillson Square. He noted they are anticipating 600 runners from approximately 10 States attending and reported donations will be made to benefit the No-Freeze Shelter, Windham Youth Football, Sexual Assault Crisis Center of Eastern CT and Windham Center School PTO.

11. **Adjournment**

DeVivo MOVED, McDevitt seconded, to adjourn the Willimantic Taxing District Regular Meeting at 9:25 P.M. All were in favor. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Submitted By:

Barbara J. McKinney
Clerk of the Town Council

Attachment A

Members of the Town Council, Chief Lisa Maruzo-Bolduc, Deputy Chief Jack Reed, and community members all; I open this speech by respectfully requesting that you remain in house when deciding on the next Chief of Police. I further recommend that you promote Lt. Rob Rosado to the position of Chief of Police. No one has worked more closely with Lt. Rob Rosado than I have over his 18 year career.

Rob and I worked several years in the Community Policing Division under then Chief Milton King, the community policing division at that time was designed to better the quality of life in areas of town that were highly populated with narcotics dealers and users, and everyday street level crimes, such as prostitution, larcenies, armed robberies, and assaults. We often interacted with the youth within the community and tried to be positive role models for them.

This hard work and dedication led Lt. Rosado and I to the detective division whereby Chief Maruzo-Bolduc assigned us to rid the label of "heroin town" and eliminate the visible prostitution problem. Over the course of the next five years Lt. Rosado began to develop a rapore with various Federal Agencies such as FBI & DEA & ATF all while trying to make an impact on the heavy narcotics issues that the town faced. His efforts were dedicated to eliminating the low level street dealers while having a huge impact on the heavy narcotics dealers as well. We made 100's of narcotics arrests and numerous prostitution arrests over the course of those five years. The streets began to become clean as result of our tireless work ethic and dedication to the community while trying to change the label of Willimantic.

As a result Chief Maruzo promoted Lt. Rosado to the rank of Corporal, and eventually to the rank of Sergeant, and more recently to the rank of Lieutenant whereby he commands the detective division and is currently the SWAT Commander.

During my time with Lt. Rosado I've learned a few things about him; one he is always cold even during the months of June, July, and August. I've learned that Lt. Rosado is a dedicated, hardworking, intelligent person who in my opinion is a perfectionist. He and his wife have made the Town of Windham their home all while raising their daughter and opening their doors to other family members and friends.

I would like to make clear that Lt. Rosado has never asked me and or suggested that I or anyone else speak on his behave in reference to the position of Chief of Police. Furthermore, he would never ask any of us to lobby the council due to his race nor does he want anything given to him based on his ethnicity. The esteemed members of the town council, the Town Manager, Town Mayor, and Personnel Director should promote within the Willimantic Police Department because it is the correct thing to do. Lt. Rosado knows the community, he knows the needs of the city, he knows the citizens of the community, and he has worked the streets on a daily basis. Lt. Rosado has demonstrated his leadership abilities by supervising & investigating serious crimes, and while training other officers in firearms & tactics, he has led the detective division on various investigations, all while being in command of a SWAT team. He recently returned from three month training at the FBI Academy where he learned more leadership qualities .

Finally, I recommend that the Town Council not waste any funds on looking outside of the Willimantic Police Department because you have a most qualified individual in Lt. Rob Rosado standing right before you and with that I say Thank You.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lt. Alex Coriaty