

MEETING MINUTES
TOWN OF WINDHAM BOARD OF COUNCIL SUBCOMMITTEE
PUBLIC SAFETY, RECREATION AND PUBLIC WORKS
Wednesday April 27, 2011 at 7:00 PM
Windham Town Hall Auditorium
979 Main Street
Willimantic

1. Call to Order.

Chairman Jerry Iazzetta called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Committee members present: Teresa Santucci, Jerry Iazzetta, Arnaldo Rivera, Charles Krich

Town Staff Present: Town Engineer, Joe Gardner, Matt Vertefeuille Code Enforcement Director, Scott Clairmont Assistant Public Works Superintendent, Tom Pesce Controller

2. Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Citizens and Delegations.

Lori Jeffers, felt dispatch center should stay in town, complained about pedestrian signals on Main Street.

Teri Santucci, thanked the Town Engineer for printing package double sided.

4. Approval of Minutes from the April 6, 2011 Meeting.

A motion was made by Arnaldo Rivera seconded by Teri Santucci to accept minutes as written. Motion passed unanimously with Charles Krich abstaining.

5. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Dispatch Center.

Jerry Iazzetta stated he had item put on agenda as he was concerned with what was going on. The Council was not aware of proposals from another dispatch center. Finance Board was making policy decisions. He asked what our dispatch center does.

John Wylie, vice president of the switchboard association explained they dispatched for three Windham volunteer departments, Willimantic police and fire departments, Windham hospital paramedics and Franklin. Eight full and seven part time employees.

They have two work stations active, one for police calls, and one for fire calls. There is a third station available for use in an emergency or future growth.

Eight members all volunteers on a governing board, nonprofit agency.

Their budget is \$775,049, came in with a zero increase.

Jerry Iazzetta asked if the \$100,000 cut made by the Board of finance was from the \$775,049.

John Wylie responded yes and it was impossible to cut labor and maintain services.

Jerry Iazzetta pointed out that Franklin paid \$16,481, the Windham Fire Departments paid \$58,951, and the Willimantic Service District paid \$554,000. Teri Santucci asked what the per capita cost for Franklin was. Joe Marsalisi treasurer of the switch board association said it was not done that way. There was one dedicated person to the police department.

Jerry Iazzetta pointed out it was an important issue for town, he questioned how another agency could do the same for so much less. He asked for cost per call for next meeting. John Wylie estimated 27,250 calls to fire department, 20,000 calls to police department. Jerry Iazzetta questioned where \$25,000 for study the Board of finance wanted was coming from.

John Wylie discussed that state was doing a study of dispatch centers and should be done by August.

Jerry Iazzetta stated the proposal from QV Dispatch would prevent other towns from joining ours.

John Wylie reported center was state of the art. Issue was creating bad publicity.

Jerry Iazzetta asked if they had looked at how to reduce budget by \$100,000.

John Wylie reported they would have to lay off someone.

Jerry Iazzetta pointed out \$100,000 was 1/8 of their budget.

Lt. Ray Evans of the police department pointed out that the Willimantic Service District generates 78% of calls with the majority being to the police department.

John Wylie reported there are 10,000 visits to the center per year. They are trying to be more consumer friendly.

Lt. Ray Evans pointed out there are two prisoners added per day that are monitored by dispatch.

Teri Santucci asked why other towns left and what where they doing to get them back.

John Wylie responded that towns left because equipment was old, now have new equipment. Other dispatch centers with more towns receive more grant funds so offer lower rates.

Charles Krich suggested they contact Murphy Sewell, to help market the dispatch center as he teaches marketing at Uconn.

He stated Finance Board overstepped its bounds. This issue should have been through Council.

John Wylie stated they could add towns without a loss of service.

6. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Energy Efficiency Projects of Town Buildings.

Jerry Iazzetta asked Controller Tom Pesce about Energy Efficiency Projects.

Tom Pesce explained he had attended webinar on subject. He explained pros and cons.

He felt we were a step ahead as we had energy audits done. He explained there were additional costs with performance based contracts. Vendors borrow money, which is then built into cost of project.

Jerry Iazzetta asked if money was coming from tax base. He asked Tom for a recommendation.

Tom Pesce said we were well advanced, funds would come from reserve for capital expenditures.

Jerry Iazzetta said he was not in favor of using reserve.

A motion was made by Teri Santucci to recommend to the council so as not to deplete the reserve for capital expenditures that the town should pursue a performance based contract for energy efficiency projects. The motion was seconded by Charles Krich and passed with Krich and Santucci in favor, Rivera voted no, and Iazzetta abstained.

Jerry Iazzetta asked that issue not be on next council agenda as he wanted more time to think about issue.

The issue came up that former First Selectman had signed a contract with Celtic Energy to do an RFP to hire a performance based contractor. The agreement had not been approved by Board of Selectman. The agreement was later modified for Celtic to perform energy audits of town buildings.

A motion was made by Charles Krich to have the town attorney review the contracts to see if Celtic could claim it still had a contract to do an RFP. The motion was seconded by Arnaldo Rivera and passed unanimously.

7. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding a Replacement Solid Waste Ordinance.

Teri Santucci stated ordinance looked better.

Jerry Iazzetta questioned that is was a violation subject to a fine if you put the barrels out more than a day early. He questioned “what if you are leaving on a vacation?”

Matt Vertefeuille said they would work with people fine only true violators.

Jerry Iazzetta suggested a single page summary be made and delivered to all residents when rubbish is picked up.

Matt Vertefeuille agreed this could be done.

Scott Clairmont reviewed minor changes, primarily typographic corrections.

A motion was made by Teri Santucci to move the ordinance to the Council. The motion was seconded by Charles Krich and passed unanimously.

8. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Guard Rail bids.

Town engineer Joe Gardner explained bids and locations of guard rails. A motion was made by Arnaldo Rivera seconded by Teri Santucci to recommend award of contract to the low bidder in the amount of \$318,485. The motion passed unanimously.

9. Citizens and Delegations.

Lori Jeffers, complained that she heard bits and pieces, meeting should have been on tv. Board of Finance should not be making policy decisions. She claimed Willimantic Waste bought additional bins, wanted to know who paid for them.

John Wylie thanked committee. Stressed the personal service they provided.

10. Adjournment

A motion was made by Teri Santucci to adjourn the meeting at 9:50 pm. The motion was seconded by Arnaldo Rivera and passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted
Joseph Gardner
Town Engineer

