

Windham First Taxing District~ Regular Monthly Meeting

Monday, April 6, 2015, 7 p.m.

Windham Center Fire Department

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

Members present were: Diane Rayhall, Helene Chapman, Dawn Niles, Jan Mott, Elaine Rogers, Theodore Colwell, Bill Powers, Joseph Demarche, and Peter Bruscato were present.

Motion made by Bill Powers, seconded by Elaine Rogers to move Public Comment. Motion accepted.

Public Comment ~

President Diane Rayhall explained that nothing could be voted on because the notification for the meeting was not posted in the required 10 days prior to the meeting. All budget discussions and authorizations are tabled to May 5, 2015. She apologized for any inconvenience. There can only be discussions for New / Old business and no action can be taken.

No other public comment.

Old ~

Dawn Niles gave an update regarding 911 Dispatch. She advised that the Town Council and the Board of Finance had met. That the funding currently in the Willimantic Service District budget was being moved to the general government budget. Currently, 35% of the ambulance costs are in the general government budget. If the budget passes the Windham's will be taxed twice for 911 services. There is a Board of Finance meeting scheduled for April 8, 2015 available people should go to voice their opinions.

Joseph DeMarchi stated that he thought it was a conflict that Thomas DeVivo was on the Town Council because he has vested interest because of his large business in town. Bill Powers questioned Michael Lessard if any questions were brought up during for discussions. He stated that it was discussed at the end of the meeting. Lessard asked if there was a benefit to the Windham's and was told no and the vote immediately ensued pushing it to the general government budget.

Chief Niles President of the Willimantic Switchboard Fire Chief's Association spoke about the budget for the Switchboard that their budget accounts for Willimantic Service District to cover one fulltime 24/7/365 dispatcher position dedicated to just police. It is why the Willimantic Service District cost is higher than others that are based on a base fee with additional for call volume. Lebanon has already signed their contract and he explained that all departments dispatched would need to sign an agreement or contract moving forward. Chief Niles would like to present it at next month's meeting.

Joseph DeMarchi stated that Tolland Dispatch charges by call volume and questioned if Willimantic did the same, they do stated Chief Niles.

New ~

None

Public Comment ~

Chief Niles stated that the Windham First Taxing District was set up to protect the Windham Villages and taxpayers. He would like to see the taxpayers support the dispatch center.

Stanley Maclure spoke about the progress on Windham Center Fire Department's building. He stated that they received four quotes. The department would like to use Kenyon & Cutter Architects, they have been working with the department to save money by exploring all options. Maclure stated that eventually they would need to look to lending agencies and / or possibly Joseph Courtney's office to assist with funding the project.

President Rayhall stated that the District's attorney and Department's attorney would need to meet to discuss funding from the WFTD. She recommended a presentation at the next meeting.

Joseph DeMarchi questioned if the WFTD gives funding for the building is the building owned by the District? Could the building just be remodeled? We will need to look at the schematics.

Mark Herrick, Windham Center, stated that the building committee toured the building with OSHA. They have outgrown the building, they must operate the vehicles very carefully, as there is little room around the vehicles. They have to train carefully because of the lack of space as well. The department has not been cited but they are citable. Herrick thanked the District on behalf of the department for the funds for the RFP.

Bill Powers stated that the fire department is like any other business that includes mortgage, utility bills etc. into their budgets. This business provides fire / rescue / EMS services and they carry the First Responder State License (R1) for their respective areas.

John Wyllie, North Windham stated that funding received by the departments becomes the departments to use to operate.

President Rayhall addressed Gene Chaine about the meeting. She stated that he said he was unable to make contact with the president. President Rayhall stated that she had taken time away from her family holiday to address Mr. Chaine's issues and that she had not received any communications from him. She stated that if there was something of concern he should be contacting her.

The Annual Meeting will be Tuesday, May 4, 2015. REMINDER to bring driver's licenses to be able to vote.

Motion made by Dawn Niles to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Bill Powers. Motion accepted and meeting adjourned at 1938 hours.

Respectfully submitted,

Helene E. Chapman

Clerk, W.F.T.D.