

**DRAFT MEETING MINUTES
TOWN OF WINDHAM TOWN COUNCIL COMMITTEE ON
PUBLIC SAFETY, PUBLIC WORKS, ENVIRONMENT, CULTURE AND
RECREATION**

**Wednesday May 28, 2014 at 7:00 PM
Windham Town Hall, Court Room
979 Main Street
Willimantic**

1. Call to Order.

Chairman Charles Krich called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Committee members present: Lorraine McDevitt, Mike Lessard, James Flores

Town Staff Present: Town Engineer Joe Gardner, Assistant Public Works Superintendent Scott Clairmont.

2. Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Krich led all in a moment of silence as the flag was missing.

3. Citizens and Delegations.

Bill Powers expressed concern with signage at the Windham Center Elementary School, and the sign on Route 14 at Back Road indicating location of Beaver Brook Pond boat launch.

4. Town Council Committee Member Comments.

James Flores requested under item 10 to discuss bilingual staff at dispatch and fact that there is a television at the dispatch center.

5. Approval of Minutes from Meeting on April 23, 2014.

A motion was made by Lorraine McDevitt to approve the minutes as submitted.

The motion was seconded by Mike Lessard. The motion passed unanimously.

6. Update on Conditions of Playing Fields in Town Parks

Scott Clairmont gave an update. He noted primary grass growing season coincides with spring soccer season. Shetucket Plains Park there is no water for irrigation. There was a joint decision by the soccer league and public works to rest Shetucket Plains this year. Other fields in Windham are being used. He noted they shift field lines to adjust goal locations. There has been no loss in fields being used. Scott noted he has \$12,500 per year for seed and fertilizer for all town fields and parks.

Chairman Krich requested Scott come back at next meeting with what he believes he needs to properly maintain the fields and parks.

7. Presentation by Victor Funderburk on a Cultural District to Serve Economic Development Purposes

Mr. Funderburk explained need and provided examples of what other communities have done to develop a Cultural Arts District. He noted current businesses within the downtown area.

Lorraine McDevitt noted she is part of a group working towards this. She noted James Flores also attends meetings.

A motion was made by Lorraine McDevitt to recommend to the full council that the Council fully support efforts to enhance arts and to work cooperatively to create an Arts and Entertainment District. The motion was seconded by Mike Lessard and passed unanimously.

8. Discussion and Possible Action to Award a Contract for Sidewalk Construction

Town Engineer reviewed the sole bid for the project.

A motion was made by Lorraine McDevitt seconded by Mike Lessard to recommend to the Council that the sidewalk project be awarded to New England Concrete. The motion passed unanimously.

9. Discussion and Possible Action to Award a Contract for HVAC Control System at the Safety Complex

Town Engineer Joe Gardner reviewed the two bids received for the project.

A motion was made by Lorraine McDevitt seconded by James Flores to recommend to the Council that the project be awarded to Emcor Services, New England Mechanical. The motion passed unanimously.

10. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Dispatch

Lorraine McDevitt explained that Lloyd Niles chair of the Association had retained an attorney who would be working closely with the Windham Town attorney to develop an agreement. The goal was to complete in July and bring to the council.

Lloyd Niles reported they had promoted one of the dispatchers to act as director for six months.

James Flores requested how many of dispatchers were bilingual. He also had concerns with there being a television in the dispatch center.

Lloyd Niles stated the television is not a distraction. He noted they were in process of hiring two additional part time staff.

11. Citizens and Delegations

Bill Powers restated his concerns including cars parked on both sides of the road at Windham Center School.

Lloyd Niles agreed that it could be a problem for emergency vehicles.

Peter Leeds stated he would be calling chair regarding his concerns which included need for a dog park, No grass seed planted in bare spots, Public works will not adjust goals at Recreation Park, and no games were being played in Windham by the Columbia/Windham Soccer Association.

Bernard Dauteuil reported on an incident he had walking his dog and a loose pit bull. He was not satisfied with police response. He noted he had requested from the fire marshal a list of fire departments that had responded to fire at Saint Mary's church. He was still waiting on list.

14. Adjournment

A motion was made by Mike Lessard to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 pm. The motion was seconded by Lorraine McDevitt and passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted
Joseph Gardner
Town Engineer