

MEETING MINUTES
TOWN OF WINDHAM TOWN COUNCIL COMMITTEE ON
PUBLIC SAFETY, RECREATION, AND PUBLIC WORKS
Wednesday June 26, 2013 at 7:00 PM
Windham Town Hall, Court Room
979 Main Street
Willimantic

1. Call to Order.

Chair Charles Krich called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

Committee members present: Charles Krich, Lorraine McDevitt, Dawn Niles,
Tom DeVivo, Arnaldo Rivera

Town Staff Present: Town Engineer Joe Gardner, Fire Marshal/ Emergency Management
Director Mike Licata

2. Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Citizens and Delegations.

Lloyd Niles stated on June 17 a kayaker was rescued below Scotland Dam. He would like Life Safety Awards to be presented to the Fire Departments and members involved in rescue. He suggested at September Windham Service District meeting and that the members of the subcommittee to attend.

Mike Licata suggested the Council issue a proclamation.

Amy Vas Nunes questioned RFP for Animal Control Services. She felt it was confusing and not clear what Town was looking for. She also would like to see the ball field at Lauter Park converted into a dog park.

Lorraine McDevitt thought it was a good idea and suggested that Tara Riskey attend the next meeting.

4. Town Council Committee Member Comments.

Arnaldo Rivera said he was proud of way Lauter Park looked except for trash at skate park.

Tom DeVivo said Public Works was responsible for park maintenance

Dawn Niles said she has not seen problem. Questioned that kids on bikes are still using skate park not BMX park. She stated bathrooms are not clean and the baseball fields are not being kept up. Overall she thought Lauter Park was a showcase with recent upgrades.

5. Approval of Minutes from Meeting on April 24, 2013.

A motion was made by Arnaldo Rivera and seconded by Tom DeVivo to approve the minutes as submitted.

The motion passed with Lorraine McDevitt abstaining.

6. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Emergency Operations Center

Mike Licata explained how Center operates. He stated the decision on whether to open is the Town Managers. During snow storm last winter Town Manager had made decision not to open. Dawn Niles questioned that Governor had declared a state of

emergency should not the Windham Emergency Operations Center then open? Mike Licata explained that in this area there were no significant problems, so need was not there.

Lorraine McDevitt questioned about recent heavy rain that flooded Main Street and notifying residents.

Mike Licata stated in future Town could use its notification system.

Dawn Niles would like all three Chiefs notified of future decisions regarding opening the EOC.

The Town Manager will be requested to attend next meeting to discuss his decision on not opening the EOC.

A motion was made by Dawn Niles seconded by Lorraine McDevitt to move item 8 to next on the agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

8. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Lighting on Main Street during Holidays and Events

Lynn Duvall suggested creation of a study group to look into lighting and funding. Public Works has been working with Riley Company on lighting. Public Works has created a report on lighting. Riley Company is willing to assist at no cost as long as they get the work. If not then they would want to be paid.

The consensus of the subcommittee was for them to develop a plan and come back to the subcommittee.

A motion was made by Dawn Niles seconded by Lorraine McDevitt to move item 9 to next on agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

9. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding RFP for Animal Control Services

Lt. Jack Reed from the police department stated dog pound was operating better. The number of dogs was down.

Dawn Niles said she had received complaint that Town was no longer using Pet Finder. Lt. Reed said he would look into.

Dawn Niles stated she wanted Police Department to oversee RFP process only. The Town Manager should be responsible for overseeing a contract.

The Committee then reviewed RFP and made several revisions. A motion was made by Dawn Niles and seconded by Lorraine McDevitt to accept the revisions and passed unanimously.

7. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Contract Negotiations Between Town of Windham and Willimantic Fire Chiefs Association

Chief John Wylie explained how membership works.

A motion was made by Dawn Niles that a new Memorandum of Understanding be developed for a two year period that any participating department would have three votes comprised of the Chief Officers or their designees and the Town Council shall appoint one member from the Public Safety, Recreation and Public Works Committee or their designee. The motion was seconded by Lorraine McDevitt.

Tom DeVivo suggested this be taken to the Fire Chiefs first and then if they are ok with it then take to Council.

Dawn Niles suggested Town needs to work with Town's labor attorney to make dispatch workers town employees.

Tom DeVivo suggested unwinding current situation. He suggested Association hire town to write checks, Association take over paying employees and pension. Then workers would no longer be town employees.

The motion was voted on and passed unanimously.

9. Review of Town Bids

A motion was made by Lorraine McDevitt seconded, by Tom DeVivo to recommend to the Council the award of the Town Hall Heating System Replacement to Carboni Plumbing and Heating in the amount of \$66,062.06.

10 Adjournment.

A motion was made by Dawn Niles to adjourn the meeting at 9:10 pm. The motion was seconded by Lorraine McDevitt and passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted
Joseph Gardner
Town Engineer