

## **First Taxing District Sub-Committee on Policing**

### **Draft Minutes for August 11<sup>th</sup> 2014**

**Call to Order:** 7pm

**In Attendance:** Dawn Niles, Mike Lessard, Tony Fantoli, Vic Rayhall,

**Absent:** George Gillette

**Citizens and Delegations:** None

**Approval of Minutes from June and July meetings:** Mike made a motion for the committee to accept the June minutes; as well as post the Willimantic and State police department presentations for the June and July meetings. The motion passed unanimously.

**Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Proposal from Willimantic Police Department:** After discussing the issue, the committee came to the agreement that more questions need to be answered by the Willimantic Police Department before we can have a hearing and present our data to the members of the First Taxing District.

- Mike wanted to know how taxes would change in the Windham's if we contracted the Willimantic Police. - Diane Rayhall will gather that information for the next meeting.
- Tony pointed out that adding the Willimantic Police Department would mean losing the two State Police Officers currently presiding over Windham Heights.
- Dawn mentioned along with Tony that we need actual costs for adding the Willimantic Police Department. How much would gas cost, equipment? What liability would we have if a police officer was sued, etc.
- Mike mentioned that it's beneficial that the Willimantic Police force knows our community well; in addition to our school systems. He added that their knowledge of the schools would be beneficial if there was a lockdown.
- Tony and Dawn made the point that whatever decision is made, crime won't stop, but it may be deterred.
- Tony added that it is important that the public know that we won't see cops all over the street of Windham; we will just see one at all times.

#### **Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Proposal from the State Police:**

The group discussed how the Windhams would lose the two State Police officers located at Windham Heights if the town decided to contract the Willimantic Police Department.

- Tony mentioned that the location of Windham is situated near different State Police Departments; meaning that there is usually a State Police Officer in the area regardless of us having a resident State Trooper or not.

- Tony said that a good resident trooper will know the area, people, etc, but how much overtime would we have to pay for a trooper that goes over his/her shift?
- Dawn added....do we have any control over the amount of overtime given to a resident state trooper that is scheduled to work an eight hour a day shift?
- Dawn stated that we are not allowed to enter into a contract with a surrounding town; such as Scotland, because they have a different police troop.
- It was mentioned that there would not be a replacement for our resident state trooper for vacation time, but the police would send another trooper if ours' was ill.
- The professional time of the State Police Resident Trooper does come out of his/her work week.
- Vic wanted to know who determines what experience and pay level of trooper we will receive. In addition; do we have the power of changing state trooper if we feel his/her pay is too high?

**Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Public Hearings:**

The first public hearing is scheduled for Monday, September 29<sup>th</sup> at 7pm at the Windham Center Fire Department

**Review Timeline:**

1) Before September 1<sup>st</sup> = a) Dawn will e-mail Chief Lisa and the State Police on any remaining questions that we may have.

b) Vic will ask Diane Rayhall to determine how our taxes will be affected by each plan.

2) The next working meeting will be on Monday, September 8<sup>th</sup> at Windham Center Fire Department

3) First Public Hearing on the Windham Police Issue – Monday, September 29<sup>th</sup> 7pm at Windham Center Fire Department.

4) Possible working meeting or 2<sup>nd</sup> hearing on October 13<sup>th</sup> (location tbd).

**Public Comment:** None

**Adjournment:**