

Minutes of the Willimantic Taxing District Board of Directors Regular Meeting

Windham Town Hall Bellingham Auditorium, 2nd Floor
Tuesday, August 23, 2016 - 7:00 P.M.



1. **Call to Order. Pledge of Allegiance.**

Lynne Ide, President of the Willimantic Taxing District, called the Regular Meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. and led all in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Members Present: Lynne Ide, Thomas DeVivo, James Flores and Charles Krich

Nectalis Martinez, Dennis O'Brien and Lorraine McDevitt were excused.

Town Manager Neal Beets was also in attendance.

2. **Public Comment.**

Bernie D'Auteuil, 168 Walnut Street, Willimantic, spoke about the importance of having crosswalks at the High School and asked that it be an agenda item on the Public Safety, Public Works Committee.

Kevin Hoxie, Ridgewood Road, Willimantic, shared his concerns with the staffing issues at the High School. He also noted the Board of Education meetings don't allow public comment and he doesn't think the Board of Education budget will pass.

Joe Gardner, Town Engineer, noted a crosswalk is being placed at the High School.

James Flores spoke about censorship regarding public comment at the Board of Education meetings, the backpack activity and those who participated in the event and the lack of community involvement from the staff at the Windham Public Schools. He noted for the record "Most of the Windham Public School staff don't care about the community, they only care about their paychecks."

3. **Councilmember Comment.**

Tom DeVivo thanked Joe Gardner, Wayne Donaldson, Brad Wojick and the Town Staff for working on the crosswalk. He noted he had contacted Mr. Donaldson and the School Board about the request for a crosswalk prior to putting it on the Public Safety, Public Works agenda as requested by Councilman Flores.

James Flores spoke about the lack of involvement the Windham Public School staff has in the community and its effect on the outcome of the budget. He also noted the participation from the Police Department and Town Staff in the backpack event. He stated he wished the Fire Department had participated.

4. Approval of Minutes.

a. Regular Meeting of June 28, 2016.

b. Regular Meeting of July 26, 2016.

DeVivo MOVED, Flores seconded, to approve the Regular Meeting minutes of June 28, 2016. All were in favor except Krich who abstained. MOTION PASSED.

DeVivo MOVED, Flores seconded, to approve the Regular Meeting minutes of July 26, 2016. All were in favor. MOTION PASSED

5. Report from the Police Chief. Discuss and possibly take action.

a. PD Operating Statistics.

Chief Rosado reported on the Operating Statistics including:

- the effectiveness of the Bicycle Officers
- the suspicious fire on 408 Ash Street
- the difference between rebroadcast and unknown stats
- the Citizen Police Academy scheduling information
- the graduation of Officer Moro from the Police Academy
- the meeting tomorrow with the ECSU Police Department and student affairs to address the return of students

b. PD Budget Update.

i. July of FY 2016-17

ii. Aggregate for FY 15-16 (preliminary, not audited)

Chief Rosado gave a brief budget update. He reported on the line items for meals and fringe benefits and noted the accounts should be rectified by the next meeting. He noted for the FY 15-16 the pension account had not been paid yet however there should be a \$200,000 balance after that has been paid. He also explained how the funding is acquired for the Citizens Police Academy. In addition, he answered questions from the Council.

c. Discuss and possibly approve transferring \$8,000 from contingency to the parking enforcement program to pay Quality Data Service (QDS) for new parking enforcement hardware and software.

Chief Rosado explained the benefits of the new parking enforcement hardware and software. He also explained the costs and revenues associated with the current parking program. In addition, Chief Rosado answered questions from the Council. Town Manager Beets also spoke on the benefits of the new parking enforcement hardware and software.

MOTION: Flores MOVED, DeVivo seconded, to appoint a committee to work with the Police Chief to better understand the parking situation. Flores was in favor and all others opposed. MOTION FAILED.

Flores stated for the record, "The discussion is open for the future, correct?"

d. Status of cell block construction project.

Town Engineer Joe Gardner provided a diagram of the proposed cell block project and gave an update on the status of the project. He explained the timeline for

bidding and noted the costs associated with the project including the construction estimate, architect fees, printing and other soft costs as well as the contingency amount. Mr. Gardner stated this project is being paid for by the taxpayers and is not State funded.

MOTION:Krich MOVED, Flores seconded, that we have small business and minority business enterprise set asides on this program even if they are not required and perhaps also for some local businesses and try to keep the money from going out of State or to other communities and that we make efforts to encourage small and minority business to participate in these public construction projects. All were in favor. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

6. Report from the Fire Chief. Discuss and possibly take action.

a. FD Operating Statistics.

Chief Scrivener reported on the Operating Statistics including:

- the staffing status and information on the new recruitment class
- response time averages and training hours
- destinations of incident responses and overlapping incidents
- notable incidents of interest
- annual inspection vehicle repairs
- contract with HGAC for the new fire truck
- the status of the firehouse software data migration to the cloud
- the completion of the Eversource substation cut-over on South Street
- the Host Community Drill (Millstone) planning meeting on August 11th
- his attendance at the SCCOG Regional Heroin Response Committee meeting on July 28th

b. FD Budget Update.

i. July of FY 2016-17

ii. Aggregate for FY 15-16 (preliminary, not audited)

Chief Scrivener gave a brief update on the status of the budget. He explained the process used for blanket purchase orders as well as how money is encumbered. In addition, he noted vehicle repair has been a friction area and should be kept in mind for the next budget year. Chief Scrivener also answered questions from the Council.

A discussion ensued regarding community engagement.

7. Report from the Town Manager. Discuss and possibly take action.

No Report

8. Future Agenda Items.

- Parking Issues and other issues that may impact the budget
- Town Vehicle Use Policy

9. Public Comment.

Ray Chaput, Willimantic, spoke about downtown parking problems, historical information of the city and questioned if Willimantic has dedicated anyone as a poet.

Kevin Hoxie, Willimantic, spoke about the \$45,000 request from the Board of Education and the possibility of moving the Board of Education maintenance department to the Public Works department.

Bernie D'Auteuil, 168 Walnut Street, Willimantic, spoke about the Board of Education and the money being requested to adjust the entrance for the daycare.

Jean Chaine, Windham Center, expressed his objections to sharing the details of employee evaluations.

James Flores spoke about not being able to speak at the Board of Education meetings and the lack of community engagement by the Windham Public Schools. He also spoke about the number of employees who live in Town and questioned why the budget can't be passed.

10. Adjournment.

DeVivo MOVED, Krich seconded, to adjourn the Willimantic Taxing District Regular Meeting at 8:53 P.M. All were in favor. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Submitted by:

**Barbara J. McKinney
Clerk of the Council**