

WINDHAM FIRST TAXING DISTRICT
Monday September 10, 2012
Monthly Meeting Minutes

Call to Order:

President Diane Rayhall called the monthly meeting of the Windham First Taxing District to order at 1905 hours.

The following members were present: Diane Rayhall, Elaine Rogers, Joe DeMarchi, George Gillette, Ted Colwell and AnnMarie White.

Joe DeMarchi made a motion to add the Special Meeting on 6/4/12 to the agenda. Ted Colwell seconded the motion, rest in favor.

Diane Rayhall stated she received the liability insurance certificate from C & T Home Improvement.

Approval of Minutes:

Elaine Rogers made a motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held on June 4, 2012 for approval. ; Joe DeMarchi noted correction to Contingency Fund discussion to modify from three fire department's meeting to three chief's meeting, and Chief John Wylie said to correct Contingency Fund discussion to Grantee Improvement Fund. Joe DeMarchi seconded the motion, rest in favor.

Treasurer's Report:

Diane Rayhall gave the treasurer's report and read the following information:

Account Balances:

Checking Account Balance:	\$ 34,856.85
Savings Account Balance:	\$133,179.13
Grant Match Reserve:	\$ 53,912.00
Grant Improvement Reserve:	<u>\$ 94,513.40</u>
Total:	\$316,461.38

Bills to Pay:

Chronicle	\$653.37
Staples	\$194.98
Kepple & Morgan	\$1,500.00
HD Segure Insurance	\$5,466.00
Wilcox & Reynolds	\$31,831.00
C & T Improvement	\$1,200.00
The Hartford	\$151.00
Guilford Smith Library	\$21,000.00
Windham Free Library	\$21,000.00
North Windham FD	\$86,259.00

South Windham FD	\$80,989.00
Windham Center FD	\$88,626.00
WYO	\$8,400.00
WSFCA	\$29,000.00

Elaine Rogers made a motion to accept treasurer's report, seconded by Ted Colwell, all in favor.

Public Comment:

Dawn Niles stated that all AED's checked throughout town and were taken care of by code 1. Neal Beets said the town will cover the cost of the batteries and pads for the AED's. Ted Colwell asked where the AED's were located. They are in all the school, including Saint Mary's, Saint Joseph school, the Town Hall, Kraemer, Eastern, but not paying for the Eastern one. They can be purchased at BJ's.

Charter Revision Update

Dawn Niles stated some of the major changes discussed. One issue was that if a property owner had a \$1,000 in property, they could vote. The change was to \$5,000 to help clean up grand list. The Board of Finance and Board of Education were 4 year terms, recommended Town Council and Mayor be 2 year terms. They left the Board of Education structure alone. The Taxing District has not been discussed at all by the committee.

George Gillette asked if the committee wanted to push the Willimantic police out to the town, will there be a town discussion about it? Dawn stated there will be because it's required by law to do so.

The State Police gave them a report on the number of calls in the Town of Windham and they had 8,000 calls during the last fiscal year, with 1,000 of them at the Heights. The Willimantic police chief may want more staff if they are to come out to the town, but the Town Manager told Chief she would have to do so without adding anyone.

Guilford Smith Memorial Library

Afron Seal could not attend, so Ted Colwell spoke on her behalf. The library is in the process of hiring a children's librarian. They currently have three candidates. The summer programs did well and were well attended.

Windham Free Library

No report given.

Windham Youth Organization

No report given.

Elaine Rogers Update on 3 Windhams

In July did walkthrough of Camp Horizons and did a Mayday drill if trapped in burning fire. They had a long discussion regarding the Scot Air bottles that need to be replaced. They are \$400 to \$1,000 to replace. They also discussed the South street fire. South Windham got a new boat, but it hadn't been delivered yet.

South Windham Fire Department

Helene Chapman read the August report. She handed out flyers for the chicken barbecue to be held September 29.

Windham Center Fire Department

Lloyd Niles read the August report. They raised over \$2,000 for MS fund raiser.

North Windham Fire Department

John Wylie read the June, July and August reports. Elaine pointed out on June's report it stated they lost 500 inches of hose and asked if that should be feet, Chief Wylie said it should be feet. Joe DeMarchi asked for the definition of mutual aid calls. John clarified it could be all three Windham departments or when they run together with other outside fire departments.

Old Business

Diane asked the three Chiefs if they finished their service awards. They hadn't done them, but will get them done. Diane stated there will be a meeting setup to discuss the Grantee Improvement Fund with the Chiefs, Presidents, Directors and the public could attend. She requested that it be a night meeting. Joe DeMarchi asked if Windham Center asked for help with funding their building renovations, how does the town vote on it? It wouldn't be a ballot vote unless public submits a petition, and then it would go referendum. Mark Herrick stated the Taxing District has funded property, but doesn't own it. Windham Center is still in preliminary stages on the renovations, but when the time comes he will sit with Diane and the attorney to see how to proceed. Ann White mentioned there are federal grants available for building renovations and the department should look at them for possible funding.

Walls are being put on the Magnet School before winter. Mike Licata is working on the sprinkler systems.

Mike Licata said the window installation at the South Windham fire department was more involved than they thought, but will be completed by end of September. An outside faucet was used and leaked inside the wall. When they went to correct the leak, they found mold. The mold was taken care of and the cost was covered by insurance.

New Business

Diane asked Chief Wylie if he had discussion with Craig Gates on the demolition of the home next to Tractor Supply on Route 6. He hasn't talked with him yet, but it is in the works to tear it down and put up a two story building and that Joshua's Trust comes into play.

Mike Licata stated that at the last Zoning Board of Appeals meeting there was a discussion of a tree issue on Route 203. The State built the road on property owner's land. Property owner planted trees as a sound barrier and privacy, but is now a safety issue. The discussion was suspended for another month.

He also noted that the tracks on Route 203 were going to be re-done. They were cut back 3 feet, but should have been 9 feet. There will be a bottleneck there for a while.

George Gillette said the town ambulance was out of service again. He's tired of the Town paying for a service without a working ambulance. He's concerned that the backup ambulance is the one that is always breaking down. The older one that is more reliable will be replaced.

Tony Fantoli stated there was no option to keep the oldest ambulance. Joe DeMarchi stated the plan was every three years a new ambulance was to be purchased and the oldest one replaced.

Diane said George and she could make a case at the next Board of Finance and Town Council's meetings. Mark Herrick asked as a resident of Windham, what it's costing for an ambulance. Tony Fantoli thought the town covered 30% of total cost.

Chief Niles apologized to the District and the taxpayers in regards to the Scot bottles. They need to be replaced in 2013 and he neglected to put cost in his budget. Each department needs to replace roughly 20 bottles. Diane told Chief's to put in a new line item in their budget for this cost.

Diane asked if the special meeting could wait until Jan got back. The bottles were good until 12/31/12.

Tony Fantoli mentioned that there was \$110,000 cost incurred on the Magnet School that was not covered by the State. The cost was for storm damage, the Tuckie Road traffic survey, and the Pond survey. The two surveys were approved by the Town Council. Since the magnet school was changed to a STEM program the State had to put in another 2 million dollars, but town has to put in \$100,000.

Motion made by Elaine Rogers for a special meeting on November 5 at 6:00 before the regular meeting for the purchase of the Scot cylinders, seconded by George Gillette, all in favor.

Public Comment

None.

Adjournment

Motion made by Joe DeMarchi to adjourn at 2054 hrs, seconded by Elaine Rogers, all in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

AnnMarie White
Clerk