

Minutes of the Willimantic Taxing District Regular Meeting

Windham Town Hall Bellingham Auditorium, 2nd Floor
Tuesday, September 22, 2015 - 7:00 P.M.



1. **Call to Order.**

Tom DeVivo, President of the Willimantic Taxing District, called the Willimantic Taxing District regular meeting to order at 7:02 P.M.

Members Present: Thomas DeVivo, Charles Krich, Lorraine McDevitt, Joseph Underwood, Mark Doyle (arrived at 7:37 P.M.), James Flores and Christel Donahue

Town Manager Neal Beets was also in attendance

2. **Pledge of Allegiance.**

District President Tom DeVivo led all in the Pledge of Allegiance

3. **Public Comment.**

Gil Texeira, South Street, Willimantic, referred to a newspaper article regarding South Street. He also spoke about the traffic, speed, noise and various signs on South Street.

Diane Ayer, Oxbow Drive, Willimantic, spoke about heavy pedestrian traffic and safety issues on South Street.

John Schwenk, 91 South Street, Willimantic, referred to a newspaper article regarding South Street. He also spoke about the noise on the street and a garage on 77 South Street.

Elaine Texeira, South Street, Willimantic, spoke about racing cars on South Street.

Richard Riquier, 149 South Park Street, Willimantic, spoke about racing cars and noise in the South Street area and the quality of life.

Heather Shepard, 91 South Park Street, Willimantic, echoed the other speakers and stated it was unbearable to live in that area.

Henry Crane, Willimantic, spoke in support of the Police cellblock renovations and sympathized with the residents in the South Street area.

4. **Councilmember Comment.**

James Flores spoke about South Street and the ongoing traffic issues.

Lorraine McDevitt spoke about speeding cars in general and the difficulty in being able to control the problem.

5. **Approval of Minutes for the July 28, 2015, Special Meeting of the Willimantic Taxing District.**

Underwood MOVED, Flores seconded, to approve the minutes of the July 28, 2015 Special Meeting of the Willimantic Taxing District. All were in favor. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

6. **Swearing-In of Lieutenant Ron Lemire by District President Thomas DeVivo.**
District President Tom DeVivo swore in Lieutenant Ron Lemire.

MOTION: Krich MOVED, McDevitt seconded, to move Item #9a up on the agenda to follow Item #6. All were in favor. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

9. **Report from the Police Chief. Discuss and possibly take action.**

a. **South Street Speeding and Noise Complaints. (Lt. Buckner)**

Lt. Buckner explained the measures the Police Department is taking to address the South Street speeding and noise complaints. He also answered questions from the Council including the number of infractions issued when the speed enforcement sign was in place. In addition Lt. Buckner explained a cease and desist order was issued to the owner of 77 South Street by the Code Enforcement Officer regarding the work being done on cars at that location.

Town Manager Beets explained what a cease and desist order is and the process that is used if not followed.

Town Engineer Joe Gardner explained that the Town follows the manual for uniform traffic control devices and he noted a few references that state stop signs do not work for speed control. He stated he believes enforcement is the solution. He also answered questions from the Council.

MOTION: Krich MOVED, McDevitt seconded, that the Town Manager with the assistance of the appropriate personnel, develop a traffic calming policy for the Willimantic Taxing District paying particular attention to the South Street area and that the policy be presented for discussion and possible action at the October meeting of the Willimantic Taxing District. All were in favor. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

7. **Discuss and possibly adopt a motion to hold an executive session to discuss a worker's compensation case with the Town's attorney on this case, Jay Berryman, Executive Administrator Neida Rosado, and Town Manager Neal Beets.**

Underwood MOVED, McDevitt seconded, to convene an executive session at 7:55 P.M. to discuss a worker's compensation case with the Town's attorney on this case, Jay Berryman, Executive Administrator Neida Rosado, and Town Manager Neal Beets. All were in favor except Flores who opposed. MOTION PASSED.

8. **Hear a Presentation, Discuss, and Possibly Take Action regarding Proposed Police Cellblock Renovation.**

Town Engineer Joe Gardner explained the process used to hire the firm Silver, Petrucelli and Associates for the proposed Police cellblock renovations. He introduced Architect Paul Jorgensen who gave a presentation on project. Mr. Jorgensen provided the Council with a copy of the proposed design and reviewed the plan, construction phasing and

timeline for the project. Mr. Jorgensen and Town Engineer Joe Gardner answered questions from the Council.

MOTION: Doyle MOVED, Underwood seconded, to continue with the project and send it forward to the full Town Council. All were in favor except Krich who opposed.
MOTION PASSED.

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

a. South Street Speeding and Noise Complaints. (Lt. Buckner)

Moved up on the agenda to follow Item #6.

b. Operating Statistics.

Lt. Buckner reported on ECSU student parties, parking issues and enforcement during winter storms. He also answered questions from the Council.

Lt. Rosado stated he would meet with the Parking Monitor to address the Council's concerns.

c. Budget Update.

• **transfer switch and generator (Town Engineer Joe Gardner)**

Town Engineer Joe Gardner explained the bid for the transfer switch and generator was awarded in June and noted installation will take place when the equipment is received from the manufacturer.

Town Engineer Joe Gardner also noted he, Police Chief Maruzo-Bolduc and Economic Development Director Jim Bellano are currently researching the possibility of parking kiosk in the area of ECSU and he explained how the kiosks work.

MOTION: Krich MOVED, McDevitt seconded, to add to the agenda Item #9d, discussion and possible action of adding parking kiosks in the environs of ECSU.

• **phone system (IT Director Brian Hathaway)**

IT Director Brian Hathaway gave a presentation on the phone system replacement. He noted he and Captain Reed have been accessing the current phone system and determined Frontier is the best choice for the new system. He also explained the pricing, features and functions of the services that will be provided through the phone system.

IT Director Brian Hathaway noted however there is a shortfall of in the current budget to fund the purchase.

Town Manager Beets recommended consulting with the Finance Department concerning the allocation of funds for the purchase.

d. Discussion and possible action of adding parking kiosks in the environs of ECSU.

McDevitt MOVED, Doyle seconded, to recommend that the Willimantic Traffic Authority develop a layout and plan for the Willimantic Taxing District to install

parking kiosks in the ESCU area. All were in favor except Flores who abstained.
MOTION PASSED.

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

a. Operating Statistics.

Captain Palmer reported on the Fire Departments current focus which includes ramping up fire prevention efforts in October especially in the local schools. He also noted training of the new firefighters is very active.

b. Budget Update.

He also reported that a committee is being formed to research possible grants and noted only one bid was submitted for the ambulance.

Captain Palmer answered questions from the Council including explaining who is responsible for responding during the Relay for Life event.

11. Public Comment.

Henry Crane, Willimantic, thanked the Council for listening to the Police/Fire Complex proposed renovations.

Joe Marsalisi, Willimantic, spoke as a citizen and not on behalf of the Dispatch Center, about the 911 phone system and the proposed phone system for the Police Department.

12. Adjournment

McDevitt MOVED, Underwood seconded, to adjourn the Willimantic Taxing District Council regular meeting adjourned at 9:33 P.M.

**Submitted By:
Barbara J. McKinney
Clerk of the Council**