

Minutes of the Willimantic Taxing District Board of Directors



Windham Town Hall, 2nd Floor Conference Room
Tuesday, September 27, 2016 - 7:00 P.M.

1. **President Lynn Ide called the Meeting to Order at 7:00 pm and led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.**
Members Present: Lynne Ide, Nectalis Martinez, Thomas DeVivo, James Flores, Lorraine McDevitt, Dennis O'Brien, and Charles Krich (arrived at 7:15 P.M).
The Town Manager was also present.
2. **Public Comment.** None.
3. **Councilmember Comment.**
Councilmember Flores talked about the First Amendment right to free speech and encouraged Councilmembers to allow the public to speak at both public comment sections of the agenda at Town Council Meetings.
4. **Approval of Minutes.**
 - a. McDevitt moved, Devivo seconded, the adoption without changes of the minutes for the WTD for their [Regular Meeting of August 23, 2016](#). All were in favor except O'Brien, who abstained. MOTION PASSED.
5. **Report from the Police Chief. Discuss and possibly take action.**
 - a. [PD News and Operating Statistics](#). Chief Rosado spoke about a very busy month of police activity. As reflected in his Report, the Chief spoke about a home invasion/burglary, a suspicious death that is now being treated as a homicide, and two domestic violence incidents.
The Chief noted that the Police Citizen's Academy is entering its third week and is proceeding well. The Chief also discussed upcoming promotions.
Councilmembers asked the Chief to make sure the media understand that the Windham Villages are not part of Willimantic, and that crime that occurs in the Villages should not be reported as crime in Willimantic. Councilmember Flores talked about a civilian police review board; Councilmember Krich and Chief Rosado agreed to do some research and report back, possibly at the November meeting. Chair Ide said that the question of a parking policy may be discussed at the October meeting. Councilmember DeVivo asked about increases in heroin and K2 overdoses. Councilmember McDevitt asked whether ECSU was cooperating in college party enforcement. Councilmember Flores asked that the number of hours WPD officers spend responding to calls in the Windham Villages be broken out in the statistics.
 - b. [PD Budget Update for current fiscal year](#). Chief Rosado noted that hiring a new officer may be delayed due to the payout on former Chief Maruzo-Bolduc's leave balances, and that overtime costs were up due to the five major crime investigations referenced above.

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

a. [FD News and Operating Statistics.](#)

Chief Scrivener noted that a fire recruit was scheduled to graduate from the Fire Academy in December. He spoke about working with Windham High School to encourage students interested in the fire service to attend the Fire Academy. The Chief also spoke about working with the volunteer fire departments to create CERT: a Community Emergency Response Team. He anticipated a 9-week program starting next January or February. Councilmember Krich asked about the Chief's work with the Connecticut Department of Emergency Services to encourage outreach and more hiring of women and minorities in the fire service. Chief Scrivener said that was a long-term, multi-year effort that was making slow progress. Councilmember Krich and Chair Ide asked the Chief to report to the Board at the WTD's October meeting on shorter-term, more immediate and local solutions to the hiring process.

b. [FD Budget Update for current fiscal year.](#)

The Chief expressed his concern about the vehicle repair line item, 54309. He said that budget item may have to be increased in the FY 17-18. budget.

c. Consider authorizing grant applications to FEMA for capital items in FY 17-18.

The Chief spoke at length about two grant applications to FEMA for financial assistance to obtain equipment and a new fire truck that, if approved, will require a 10% town financial match.

DeVivo moved, Flores seconded, a motion to authorize the Fire Department to apply for an AFG grant for \$158,000 for SCBA and other equipment, and to apply for a second AFG grant for \$957,000 for a new ladder-rescue truck. All were in favor.
MOTION PASSED.

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

a. [Possibly set a WTD mill rate for motor vehicles, contingent upon the BOE budget being approved at Referendum.](#)

Budget Coordinator Karen Williams explained the calculation of the vehicle mill rate, and answered other budget questions.

DeVivo moved, McDevitt seconded, a motion to approve a WTD vehicle mill rate of 1.65 mills contingent on voter approval of the BOE budget today. All were in favor.
MOTION PASSED.

8. Future Agenda Items. October: parking policy for Willimantic and FD diversity outreach.
November: civilian PD review board.

9. Public Comment.

Councilmember Flores commented about censorship.

10. Adjournment.

DeVivo moved, McDevitt seconded, a motion to adjourn at 8:44 pm. All were in favor.
MOTION PASSED.