

**Town Council – Town of Windham
Administration, Finance, Development, Health & Human Services Committee**

**Windham Town Hall, Bellingham Auditorium
Tuesday, September 13, 2016 - 6:30 P.M.**

Public Hearing

to hear public comment on renaming the Willimantic Public Library
or some part of the library after Mary Lou DeVivo.

1. Call to Order.

Chairperson Krich called this public hearing of the Town Council's Administration, Finance, Development and Health & Human Services Committee public hearing to order at 6:30 p.m.

Members present: Charles Krich, Tony Fantoli, Lynne Ide, Dawn Niles, Dennis O'Brien.

2. Public Comment.

Judd Ayer, Willimantic Library Board chair, stated that a state law would require retagging every item in the library at a cost of \$150,000. Mary Lou DeVivo was very involved in literacy, especially children's literacy. He suggested naming the children's library the Mary Lou DeVivo Children's Library.

Lorraine McDevitt, Willimantic, mentioned Ms. DeVivo's involvement in the Windham Reads project. Anyone who does so much so selflessly should be remembered. Whatever the decision is, naming the building or the entire library, for all she contributed we have to do this.

Ernie Eldridge, Windham Center, reminded us that Mary Lou was a frugal person. Knowing the frugal person she was, the children's library should be named after her.

Michelle Lund stated that she knew Mary Lou as a neighbor and her son's kindergarten teacher. A portion of or the whole library should be named after her. She is very deserving of this honor.

Susan Johnson, Willimantic, volunteered to ask the Office of Legislative Research to look into naming the library after Mary Lou DeVivo. She stated that, whatever we chose to do, the library or some portion of it should be named after Ms. DeVivo.

Cliff Lund remembered Mary Lou as a person who gave of herself to the community in so many ways. Either option (naming the entire library or the children's library) is ok - We need to recognize her as one of the people who really stood out.

Dennis O'Brien, Willimantic, has lived in town for 42 years. There have been two people who have stood out – John Lescoe and Mary Lou DeVivo. Mary Lou DeVivo deserves to be honored.

Carol Burley stated that she was a friend of Mary Lou's. Mary Lou was the salt of the earth. She is all in favor of honoring Mary Lou in some way.

Shirley Mustard, Willimantic, could not be present but the Chair read a letter she submitted in which she indicated that she could not support naming the entire library after Mary Lou DeVivo but favored naming the children's library after her.

3. Adjourn.

O'Brien MOVED, Niles seconded, to adjourn the Administration, Finance, Development, Health & Human Services Committee public hearing at 6:41 p.m. All were in favor. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles Krich
Chair