

WINDHAM TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

WINDHAM TOWN HALL MEETING ROOM

Special Meeting:

Joint Meeting with the Willimantic Service District

Tuesday, March 1, 2011 - 7:00 P.M.



1. **Call to Order**

Mayor Eldridge called the Town of Windham Council meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Town Council members present: Mayor Ernest S. Eldridge, Erika Haynes, Jerry Iazzetta, N. Joseph Underwood, Charles Krich, Christel Donahue, Lorraine McDevitt, Mike Lessard, Kevin Donohue and Teresa Santucci

Town Council members excused: Arnaldo Rivera

Department Heads in attendance: Brad Wojick, Mary DeMarco, Patricia Spruance, Gay St. Louis, Mike Licata, Ted Perch, Matt Vertefeuille, Tara Risley-Marquez, Brian Hathaway, James Finger, Don Muirhead, Joan Paskewich, Marc Scrivener and Lisa Maruzo-Bolduc. Police Captain Cliff Spinner, Executive Secretary Neida Rosado and Finance Assistant Karen Williams were also in attendance.

Town Manager Neal Beets was also in attendance.

2. **Pledge of Allegiance**

Mayor Eldridge led all in the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. **Citizens and Delegations**

Lori Jeffers, Willimantic, noted she was unhappy that the Board of Education and the Town Council budget meeting were the same night. She feels by having the meetings on the same night the Town Council isn't able to attend and both the Board of Finance and taxpayers have to choose which meeting to attend. Ms. Jeffers also shared her concerns on the Magnet School and questioned what the Town was doing for the kids that will not be attending the Magnet School.

Leo Santucci, 74 Windham Street, Willimantic, spoke about the energy issues. As former Chairman of the Energy Commission he recommends this go back to committee before making any decisions to take funding from Capitol Improvements.

Jean de Smet, Willimantic, stated she was also a former member of the Energy Commission and was very disappointed in the change of direction that is being taken with

regards to the energy improvements. She explained the commission had spent two years researching and interviewing people and feels the members of the Energy Commission should have been consulted. She also noted the commission was told numerous times to use performance based contracting and to have a professional engineer oversee the contracting. She urges the Council to send this back to committee to be re-evaluated and feels a lot of money could be lost if we don't do the improvements as a whole. In addition, she hopes hiring local people to work on the Magnet School project will be considered.

4. Adoption of Minutes

a. Discussion and possible action to adopt the February 15, 2011 Town Council meeting minutes.

Underwood MOVED, Haynes seconded to adopt the February 15, 2011 Town Council meeting minutes. All were in favor except Santucci and Krich who abstained. MOTION PASSED.

b. Discussion and possible action to amend the amended minutes of January 18, 2011.

Haynes MOVED, Donohue seconded to amend the amended minutes of January 18, 2011 back to the original minutes as originally presented. All were in favor except Krich who abstained. MOTION PASSED.

5. Resignations

NONE.

6. Appointments

NONE.

7. Presentations & Special Reports

NONE.

8. Mayor's Report

Mayor Eldridge reported he had a great time Friday at the Lucky Frog grand opening and he was happy to see that many of the Council members were there.

He also reported the Energy Commission and the Economic Development Commission is in need of members.

9. Town Manager's Report

Mr. Beets reported he had received a letter from the State Department of Transportation indicating the paving of Main Street was on the State schedule. He noted the project would begin at the Frog Bridge and continue to Friendly's where the road splits. Mr. Beets stated he would keep the Council informed on the project.

10. Discussion and Review of Communications

NONE.

11. Resolutions and Ordinances

NONE.

12. Reports of Committees, Boards and Commissions

a. Administration & Finance, Health and Human Services Sub Committee

Mr. Donohue reported there many issues in front of the Sub Committee: Ethics Ordinance, possible ATV Ordinance, strategies relating to Town owned properties, reorganization of Town functions and the Town Charter. He noted the Sub Committee would report back to the Council at a later date.

b. Public Safety, Recreation and Public Works Sub Committee

Mr. Iazzetta reported the Sub Committee held a special meeting on February 23 and discussed the energy efficient projects, the process and criteria for selecting Cupid, a proposal from the Columbia-Windham Soccer Alliance regarding Shetucket Plains Road Park which was postponed until the March meeting, the Capitol purchases for Public Works for 2011-2012, a new draft ordinance on Solid Waste and Disposal that Co-Recycling Officers Matt Vertefeuille and Scott Clairmont are working on and will be discussed at the next meeting.

c. SIFT, Strategic Initiatives to Finance Teaching

Ms. Haynes reported she would have the SIFT Interim Report on March 15th.

13. Old Business

Mr. Beets stated a searchable copy of the proposed Town budget was on the website. He also noted a list of questions from Ms. Haynes had been received, answered and emailed to Council members and was available to the public. In addition, Mr. Beets made available a number of other handouts. He also addressed the questions asked at the previous meeting regarding the SAFER and COPS grants and explained how they are administered by the Town.

a. Discussion and possible action by the Town Council on the proposed Town of Windham General Government budget for FY 11-12. See Below.

b. Discussion and possible action by the Willimantic Service District on the proposed Service District budget for FY 11-12. See Below.

Acting Fire Chief Marc Scrivener explained the SAFER grant and gave a brief background on how it's utilized. Mr. Scrivener answered questions from the Council.

Chief Maruzo-Bolduc explained the COPS grant and stated the department received \$550,256 from a grant they had applied for in March 2009 that was to be used over a 3 yr period. She noted there were no expenses incurred to the Service

District. She also explained the only item not covered by the grant was the purchase of a weapon which is approximately \$500.00. Chief Maruzo-Bolduc answered questions from the Council.

Mr. Beets explained his proposed recommendations with regards to the Allocation of PILOT funds.

Town Department Heads answered questions from the Council.

A lengthy discussion followed on the proposed Town of Windham General Government budget for FY 11-12 and on the proposed Service District budget for FY 11-12.

No action was taken.

14. New Business

- a. Discussion and possible action by the Town Council that energy efficiency improvements are to be performed under a performance based contract based on the recommendation by the Public Safety, Recreation and Public Works Sub Committee.**

Santucci MOVED, Krich seconded, to postpone taking action on the energy efficient improvements and recommended it go back to the Public Safety, Recreation and Public Works Sub Committee until they have more information. All were in favor. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

- b. Discussion and possible action by the Town Council to have Public Works Superintendent proceed with the equipment purchases for fiscal year 2011-2012 per the five year Capitol Equipment Purchase Plan.**

Iazzetta MOVED, McDevitt seconded, to have Public Works Superintendent proceed with the equipment purchases for fiscal year 2011-2012 per the five year Capitol Equipment Purchase Plan. All were in favor. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

- c. Discussion and possible action by the Town Council to approve the Granicus contract for broadcasting meetings.**

Brian Hathaway, Technology Manager, explained Granicus and the cost and benefits of the system.

McDevitt MOVED, Haynes seconded to move the discussion and possible action by the Town Council to approve the Granicus contract for broadcasting meetings until the March 15 meeting. All were in favor except Krich who opposed.

15. Future Agenda Items

- a. Possible Special Council Meeting on Tuesday, March 8, at 7 pm, in Town Hall for the Town Council and the Willimantic Service District to continue to discuss and possibly act on their respective budgets for FY 11-12.
- b. The SIFT Interim Report deferred until the 1st meeting in April.

16. Citizens and Delegations

Lori Jeffers, Willimantic, stated the polling places should be moved out of the schools. She also believes the budgets are too big. She thinks there will be problems with the Education and General Government budgets and feels taxpayers have no more to give. She would also like resolutions passed with respect to the Allocation of PILOT funds and Mill Rates for multiple service districts.

Neida Rosado, Back Road, Windham, informed the Council that the difference between this fiscal year and last fiscal years budget is \$271,000 of which \$324,000 is being proposed for outside agencies. She noted the difference was \$53,000. She explained outside agencies do not serve every resident of the Town whereas the Town Hall in fact does. She asked that the Council take into account who is actually being served with respect to outside agencies.

Leo Santucci, 74 Windham Street, Willimantic, noted we have to look at the big picture: the world, the state and locally. He feels structural changes need to be made to union contracts. He thanks the Town Manager and Council for a doing good job and noted he is pleased to be a resident of the Town.

Henry Crane, Windham Street, Willimantic, stated he is glad that after hearing many complaints about meetings not being broadcasted someone is doing something about it.

17. Adjournment

Donohue MOVED, Underwood seconded, to adjourn the Town of Windham Town Council meeting at 9:55 pm. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Submitted By:

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