

WINDHAM TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES WILLIMANTIC SERVICE DISTRICT



WINDHAM TOWN HALL MEETING ROOM

Tuesday, March 9, 2010

Immediately Following Town Council Special Meeting

1. Call to Order

Mayor Ernest S. Eldridge called the meeting to order at 9:03 p.m.

Town Council members present: Christel Donahue, Teresa Santucci, Arnaldo Rivera, N. Joseph Underwood, Ernest S. Eldridge, Lorraine M. McDevitt, David Howe Sr. and Erika Haynes

Staff present: Town Manager Neal J. Beets, Personnel Director Don Muirhead, Fire Chief Ron Palmer, Police Chief Lisa Maruzo-Bolduc and Controller Tom Pesce.

2. Citizens and Delegations

Lori Jeffers, thanked the Town Council for hosting her again. Ms. Jeffers spoke regarding tax abatement and was concerned that Water Department Superintendent Jim Hooper gave a waiver for the water used for the splash park.

Jeff Veins, Columbia resident and Windham tax payer asked the Town Council to reconsider the proposed budget and give back to the Willimantic Police Department a cruiser. Mr. Veins stated that the Council always gives more to the Fire Department than the Police Department.

Iona Stone, Willimantic, concurred with Mr. Veins and informed the Town Council that in order for Police Officers and Firefighters perform the job correctly they need the right equipment especially because it is public safety.

Lt. Ray Evans, Willimantic, thanked everyone for going to the ribbon cutting for the New Willimantic Dispatch Center.

David Howe Sr. took leave of the chair to speak under citizens and delegations.

David Howe Sr., Willimantic, mentioned that he supports both the Fire and Police Departments. Mr. Howe stated that back in 1994 the Fire and Police Departments saved his home and the Willimantic Police responded to a burglary.

Neida Rosado, Windham, spoke in favor of the School Resource Officer, but as a Windham resident does not think is right that the Willimantic Service District taxpayers pay for it. Mrs. Rosado stated that it should be paid through the Town of Windham budget General Government Budget, which includes Board of Educations because is a Town problem not just a service district problem.

Brad Wojick, Windham, spoke in favor of the School Resource Officer and suggested that during the summer months the officer spends his/her time at Lauter Park and Recreation Park and to make sure is the same officer all year around.

Chief Lisa Maruzo-Bolduc mentioned that the budget presented reflects elimination of the parking monitor, which means no parking enforcement in the city. The Police Officers will enforce like parking on the wrong side of street, but not parking lots.

Mike Licata, Windham, spoke in support of the School Resource Officer. He mentioned that his wife was visiting the school and while there the police had to come for fights.

Lori Jeffers, Willimantic, spoke regarding problems that are happening in the schools in town. She requested that the Council move to a revote on the proposed Magnet School.

3. Adoption of Minutes

Underwood MOVED, McDevitt seconded to adopt the December 8, 2009 and January 19, 2010 meeting minutes. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

a. Discussion and possible action to adopt the December 8, 2009 meeting minutes.

See motion above.

b. Discussion and possible action to adopt the January 19, 2010 special meeting minutes

See motion above.

4. Mayor's Report

Mayor Eldridge thanked everyone who attended the opening of the new renovated Willimantic Dispatch Center.

5. Town Manager's Report

Neal J. Beets informed the Town Council that Congressman Joe Courtney walked Main Street and he was surprise to see a resident stop him and gave him a big hug and a kiss. Mr. Beets mentioned that it was nice to have him visit and walk Main Street.

6. New Business

a. Discussion and possible action regarding proposed Willimantic Service District Budget for FY 10-11

Town Manager Neal J. Beets informed the Council that there is no increase and the budget includes a full time School Resource Officer. It also includes the same allocation for PILOT funds.

Santucci MOVED, Rivera seconded, to amend the proposed budget by reducing the bottom line on page 179 by \$6,000.00. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Santucci MOVED, Haynes seconded, to except the budget for FY 10-11 as amended and forwarded to the Board of Finance. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

b. Discussion and possible action to appoint a Vice-Chairman for the Willimantic Service District Council

Underwood MOVED, Rivera seconded, to nominate David Howe Sr. as Vice-Chairman for the Willimantic Service District Council. MOTION PASSED with all in favor except Santucci, Donahue and McDevitt.

Donahue MOVED, Santucci seconded, to nominate Arnaldo Rivera as Vice-Chairman for the Willimantic Service District Council. MOTION FAILED with all in favor except Howe, Eldridge, Underwood and Haynes.

7. Citizens and Delegations

None.

8. Adjournment

Underwood MOVED, McDevitt seconded to adjourn the meeting at 9:56 p.m. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Submitted By:

**Neida I. Rosado
Town Council Clerk**