

**TOWN OF WINDHAM  
TOWN COUNCIL**

**WINDHAM TOWN HALL MEETING ROOM**

**APRIL 20, 2010**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**1. Call to Order**

Mayor Eldridge called the Town of Windham Town Council meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

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

Town Council members absent: Arnaldo Rivera

**2. Pledge of Allegiance**

Mayor Eldridge lead all in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**3. Citizens and Delegations**

Harry Carboni, thanked Councilman Howe for requesting a response regarding the lighting on Main Street from Beets and CL&P, but stated that the issue is unacceptable. He also feels the cemetery is the gateway to the community and should be cleaned up; kudos to Matt Vertefuille; 10 year contract for waste disposal is too long.

Dawn Niles, stated that the final paperwork has been completed for the train car derailment in Windham is estimated to cost \$130,000 and would like the Town to endorse a letter to be reimbursed. She also noted that the cemetery project should get moving, but noted the fence should be mended prior to paving. She stated she is in favor of the 10 year trash contract.

Diane Rayhall, President of the First Taxing District would like an extra seat on the Magnet School Committee to be filled by a Windham(s) resident.

Teri Santucci, Encouraged all to attend the festivities of the Victorian Days from June 3<sup>rd</sup> to June 6<sup>th</sup>.

Charlie Kratt, feels there was not time for him to apply for the vacancy on the PZC, and asked that the system for volunteering on Boards/Committees be reviewed and that Steven Edelman be considered.

Peter Quercia, would like to apply for a seat on the Ethic Committee. Also feels the some of the employees in Town Hall are rude and there is a communication failure within.

Dotty Myers, concerned that the new trash buckets will break because they are thrown about, and requested that residents pick them up immediately so they aren't blowing in the road. She expressed concern with the size and weight of them.

Lori Jeffers requested a re-vote of the Magnet School, and would like to know who is responsible for the replacement for broken/stolen containers. Feels 10 years was decided after the close of the bids and is unfair. She also noted that there are currently no Republicans on the PZC.

Jeffrey Viens, agreed with Kratt that there is a flaw in the system for filling vacancies on Boards/Committees and lack of information getting out. He is in favor of the 10 year trash contract and feels the containers are sturdy and good for use. He urged members to vote no on the school budget.

#### **4. Adoption of Minutes**

- a. Discussion and possible action to adopt the March 16, 2010, regular Town Council meeting minutes.  
Underwood MOVED, Haynes seconded, to adopt the March 16, 2010, regular Town Council meeting minutes. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.
- b. Discussion and possible action to adopt the March 30, 2010, special Town Council meeting minutes.  
Underwood MOVED, Haynes seconded, to adopt the March 30, 2010, special Town Council meeting minutes. MOTION PASSED with all in favor except Iazzetta who abstained.
- c. Discussion and possible action to adopt the April 6, 2010, regular Town Council meeting minutes.  
Underwood MOVED, Haynes seconded, to adopt the April 6, 2010, regular Town Council meeting minutes with the correction of Iazzetta not being present. MOTION PASSED with all in favor except Iazzetta who abstained.

#### **5. Resignations**

Noted.

#### **6. Appointments**

- a. Discussion and possible action to appoint Daniel M. Lein to the Planning and Zoning Commission as a full member with term ending 12-28-2013.  
Santucci MOVED, Underwood seconded, to appoint Daniel M. Lein to the Planning and Zoning Commission as a full member with term ending 12-28-2013.
- b. Discussion and possible action to appoint Grace Adams to the Energy Commission as a full member with term ending 04-20-2011.  
Santucci MOVED, Haynes seconded, to appoint Grace Adams to the Energy Commission as a full member with term ending 04-20-2011.

#### **7. Presentations & Special Reports**

- a. Short demonstration of Town's website by Brian Hathaway, Information Technology Manager, including sign up process for Code Red and for email notifications.  
Brian Hathaway, Information Technology Manager, demonstrated the available uses and functions of the Town website and answered questions from the public and Council members.

#### **8. Mayor's Report**

Mayor Eldridge reported on the following noteworthy items: Many N. Windham residents didn't receive Census forms due to a postal error, Census 2010 has been contacted and will be resending; SAMA had a class graduate; tour of Janick (former Giant Vac) in South Windham; Love My Pet this Saturday from 10-2 at Jilson Square; No Freeze Shelter recognition dinner-Curtis Ehler recognized.

Erika Haynes added that the Town Wide Town Pride event was the biggest yet with over 400 volunteers. Thanked Mayor, Beets, Howe, Underwood, Vertefuille, the DeVivo's and ECSU for helping make this happen along with the hundreds of volunteers. She noted that over 9.5 tons of garbage was removed

#### **9. Town Manager's Report**

Noted a nice thank you from the Chiefs of Hebron Fire Department thanking Willimantic and

Acting Chief Marc Scrivener for their help at the recent fire at the American Legion in Hebron.

## **10. Discussion and Review of Communications**

None noted.

## **11. Resolutions and Ordinances**

Discussion and possible action to adopt a resolution to authorize Town Manager Neal J. Beets to sign the Open Space Grant application.  
Haynes MOVED, to adopt resolution # 2496

BE IT RESOLVED by the Town Council THAT

Whereas: The Town of Windham is interested in expanding Recreation Park to include land recently acquired through the Windham Mills, and

Whereas: the State of Connecticut Commission on Department of Environmental Planning is offering an Open Space Restoration Fund to communities through a grant program, and

Whereas: The Town of Windham qualifies as both a distressed municipality and as a targeted investment community for this program

Now, therefore, be it hereby resolved by the Town Council, that it requests the Board of Finance to establish a line item in the Town of Windham's capital improvement program for the Recreation Park addition project not to exceed \$45,000.

Further, that the Town Manager shall be authorized and directed to file an application on forms prescribed by the Connecticut DEP for the Open Space Grant in an amount not to exceed \$22,000.

Upon approval of said request, the Town Manager, or in the absence of the Town Manager, the Mayor shall be authorized to enter into and execute a Grant Contract and Preservation Restriction as may be necessary or required with the State for such financial assistance on behalf of the Town of Windham.

Howe seconded the motion. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

## **12. Reports of Committees, Boards and Commissions**

- a. Administration & Finance, Health and Human Services Sub Committee  
Chairman Donohue noted 3 items of importance: Publicity of "Ad-Hoc Open Government"; Review work of the Town Manager; Improving housing stock.
- b. Public Safety, Recreation and Public Works Sub Committee  
Chairman Iazzetta noted work on the following items: Magnet School-improving intersection of Tuckie Road/entrance to school; solid waste bid; sidewalks on High Street; retaining an architect for Windham Textile & History museum; repairs to garage-Gardner preparing list of items to be repaired; Senior Center feasibility study-Lawrence & Associates; Windham Hall of Fame; Open Space Grant; next agenda items-lights on Main Street.

## **13. Old Business**

- a. Discussion and possible action to award the solid waste and recyclables collection contract to the Willimantic Waste Paper Company for 10 years and contractor buys 95

gallon barrels for the amount specified in the proposal.

Matt Vertefuille, Director of Code Enforcement, presented the proposals received and the cost breakdowns. He brought one of the bins that are to be used and answered many questions from the Council.

Santucci MOVED, Haynes seconded, to award the solid waste and recyclables collection contract to the Willimantic Waste Paper Company for 10 years and contractor buys 95 gallon barrels for the amount specified in the proposal. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

- b. Discussion and possible action to award the senior center feasibility and needs assessment to Lawrence Associates in the amount of \$25,000.00.  
Iazzetta MOVED, Donahue seconded, to award the senior center feasibility and needs assessment to Lawrence Associates in the amount of \$25,000.00. After extensive discussion, MOTION PASSED with all but Donohue and Haynes in favor.
- c. Discussion and possible action to award the Windham Textile & History Museum Needs Assessment to Capital Studio Architects in the amount of \$15,250.00.  
Underwood MOVED, McDevitt seconded, to award the Windham Textile & History Museum Needs Assessment to Capital Studio Architects in the amount of \$15,250.00. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.
- d. Discussion and possible action to award the replacement of deteriorated sidewalks on High Street to McCarthy Concrete in the amount of \$87,484.00.  
Iazzetta MOVED, McDevitt seconded, to award the replacement of deteriorated sidewalks on High Street to McCarthy Concrete in the amount of \$87,484.00. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

#### **14. New Business**

- a. Discussion and possible action to move forward with a Windham Hall of Fame located at the Windham Town Hall.  
Howe MOVED, McDevitt seconded, to forward the Windham Hall of Fame item to Administration and Finance subcommittee. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.
- b. Discussion and possible action to set a town meeting for the annual budget on May 4, 2010 at 6:30 p.m.  
McDevitt MOVED, Howe seconded, to set a town meeting for the annual budget on May 4, 2010 at 6:30 p.m. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

#### **15. Future Agenda Items**

CBDG and emergency repairs at the Public Works Garage to be added to the next agenda.

#### **16. Citizens and Delegations**

Lorraine McDevitt, commented on the wonderful article in the Chronicle regarding the Police Department and feels once a month a different Town Office should be featured. She also is concerned for the state of Natchaug after the Magnet School.

Lori Jeffers, requested a re-vote on the Magnet School. She also questioned what happens when a car is parked in front of a trash barrel.

David Howe, commended everyone for their hard work during the Town Wide Town Pride spring cleanup, and noted the 1440 Boy Scouts group enjoyed the opportunity. He also invited all to view the tremendous clean up and renovation job at the Elks Club.

Katherine Eves, noted that she is looking forward to the new barrels for trash.

Joe Underwood, noted that the flags should be dropped down 6 inches or so on the street poles on Main Street so the light shows them off.

**17. Adjournment**

Iazzetta MOVED, Underwood seconded, to adjourn the Town of Windham Town Council at 9:06 p.m. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Submitted By:**

**Jessie L. Shea**  
**Clerk of the Town Council**