

WINDHAM TOWN COUNCIL

MEETING MINUTES

Windham Town Hall Bellingham Auditorium, 2nd Floor

Tuesday, December 16, 2014 - 7:00 P.M.



1. Call to Order.

Mayor Eldridge called the Town of Windham Town Council regular meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

Town Council members present: Mayor Ernest S. Eldridge, Charles Krich, Tony Fantoli, Tom DeVivo (arrived at 7:14 PM), Lorraine McDevitt, Michael Lessard, James Flores and Christel Donahue

Mark Doyle, Joseph Underwood and Charlotte Patros were excused

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: Public Comment.

Bill Powers, 355 Scotland Road, Windham, read a statement for the record.
(See Attachment A)

Charlie Kratt, Monticello Street, Willimantic, spoke in support of the Dispatch Center and the need for the Town to come to an agreement with them.

Lorraine McDevitt stated she was going to make a motion to add discussion of the Dispatch Center to the agenda under Item 14b. She also shared her frustration with the lack of response from the Town to come together to reach an agreement with the Dispatch Center.

Henry Crane, Windham Street, Willimantic spoke in support of the appointment of Josh Eves, Mike Sikoski and Peter Hughes to the Ethics Commission.

Peter Hughes introduced himself and gave a brief background on himself. He also shared his interest in serving on the Ethics Commission.

Kathy Dubay, small business owner and resident of Windham, spoke about her interests and intentions regarding the property on 9 Bolivia Street and 358 Jackson Street.



4. Town Council Comment.

Tom DeVivo spoke about the event that took place Saturday night in the Bellingham Auditorium put on by the Vulturetown group. He stated the event was awesome and we should have more events like that.

Mike Lessard suggested putting comment boxes back in each office at the Town Hall.

Town Manager Beets explained the comment boxes were originally recommended by the Administration and Finance Committee however after 2 years the committee saw no need to continue with them.

James Flores noted he will be making a motion later in the meeting to vote on appointing members to the Ad Hoc Executive Review Committee for the Town Manager.

Mayor Eldridge reported the gentleman who organized Saturday night's event thanked the Town and is looking forward to holding the event again next year.

5. Adoption of Minutes. Discuss and possibly move to adopt the minutes for:

a. the December 2, 2014, regular Council Meeting.

DeVivo MOVED, McDevitt seconded, to adopt the minutes for the December 2, 2014, regular Council Meeting with the correction from \$1.28 billion to \$128 billion that Councilman Flores stated Morgan Stanley received during Town Council Comment. All were in favor. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

b. the December 3, 2014, emergency Council Meeting.

DeVivo MOVED, McDevitt seconded, to adopt the minutes for the December 3, 2014, emergency Council Meeting. All were in favor except Flores, Lessard and Krich who abstained. MOTION PASSED.

6. Resignations.

None

7. Appointments, Reappointments.

a. Bill Powers, as a regular member of the ad hoc Well Building Committee.

b. Tracy Lambert, as regular member of the ad hoc Well Building Committee.

c. Paul Kalajian as a regular member of the ad hoc Well Building Committee.

d. Steven Werth, as a regular member of the ad hoc Well Building Committee.

e. Peter G. Hughes, as a regular member of the Ethics Commission, with a term to expire on December 15, 2015.

f. Delia Berlin, as a regular member of the Windham Library Board, with a term to expire December 2, 2015.

g. Mary Lou DeVivo, as a regular member of the Windham Library Board, with a term to expire December 2, 2017.

h. Olga Kurnyk-Ezis, as a regular member of the Windham Library Board, with a term to expire December 2, 2016.

i. Neil Mesick, as a regular member of the Windham Library Board, with a term to expire December 2, 2017.

j. Merle Potchinsky, as a regular member of the Windham Library Board, with a term to expire December 2, 2017.

- k. **Bob Horrocks, as a regular member of the Windham Economic Development Commission, with a term to expire December 15, 2019.**
- l. **Joshua Eves, as a regular member of the Windham Ethics Commission, with a term to expire December 15, 2017.**
- m. **Mike Sikorsi, as a regular member of the Windham Ethics Commission, with a term to expire December 15, 2017.**
- n. **Judd Ayer, as a regular member of the Windham Library Board, with a term to expire February 2, 2016.**

Flores MOVED, McDevitt seconded, to take Item 7a–7n as on item. All were in favor. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

DeVivo MOVED, McDevitt seconded, to appoint all individuals in Item 7a-7n. All were in favor. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

8. Presentations & Special Reports.

None

9. Mayor's Report.

Mayor Eldridge reported he and Dennis O'Brien had attended the CCJEF meeting and noted there was little clarification on the case and it has been postponed indefinitely. He did note that he had information available if anyone was interested in reading about the case.

Mayor Eldridge reported he had seen Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus at the Library on Thursday and had also attended a CLICK event.

Mayor Eldridge also thanked Dawn Niles, Karen Gilbransen, Anita Sebestyen and Tom DeVivo for the Stuff the Fire Truck. He also thanked Windham Center, North Windham and South Windham Fire Departments for their participation. He stated food was brought to the Soup Kitchen, blankets were brought to the No Freeze Shelter and there were plenty of toys.

10. Town Manager's Report.

Town Manager Beets reported Jean de Smet will be giving a presentation on the Energy Commission and Michael Callahan will be giving a presentation on the Micro-Grid Project. He explained energy cost are rising throughout Connecticut and all of New England and the Town is doing everything it can to be more energy efficient.

Town Manager Beets also answered questions regarding the Police and Fire pension.

11. Discussion and Review of Communications.

- a. **Copies of minutes from various, boards, commissions, committees, per Council's request.**

DeVivo reported the Windham High School Building Committee noted ACME Lightning Rod LLC had made a mistake in their quote and were requesting more money however it appeared they had not read the plans correctly. DeVivo also reported there was discussion regarding repairing the floors and noted there is some funding left to take care of the repairs however it can't be done while school is in session.

DeVivo also questioned whether building fees could be waived if the First Taxing District requested it for the building of the new Fire Station.

12. Resolutions and Ordinances.

- a. Consider and vote on a Resolution Regarding an Appropriation and Bond Authorization of \$1,000,000 for the Willimantic Public Library Project, and to set a Town Meeting for 6:30 PM on Tuesday, January 20, 2015, in the Town Hall Auditorium.**

Krich read the Resolution and moved for its adoption.

Krich MOVED, DeVivo seconded, to adopt Resolution #2651 Regarding an Appropriation and Bond Authorization of \$1,000,000 for the Willimantic Public Library Project, and to set a Town Meeting for 6:30 PM on Tuesday, January 20, 2015, in the Town Hall Bellingham Auditorium. All were in favor.

**TOWN OF WINDHAM
TOWN COUNCIL
RESOLUTION #2651**

RE: Appropriation and Bond Authorization of \$1,000,000 for the Willimantic Public Library Project.

RESOLVED:

that the Town Council of the Town of Windham (the "Town") approves and recommends to the Board of Finance that the sum of \$1,000,000 be appropriated for the cost of the Willimantic Public Library Project, such project to include, but not limited to, renovations of the existing library building to include a meeting room and a dedicated computer room, upgrade of HVAC system, replacement windows, site work, equipment, shelving and furniture as well as engineering, architectural and temporary and permanent financing costs (the "Project") and to meet said appropriation and in lieu of a tax therefor, bonds of the Town be issued pursuant to Chapter 109 of the Connecticut General Statutes, as amended, or any other provision of law thereto enabling, in the amount of \$1,000,000 or so much thereof as may be necessary after deducting grants or other sources of funds available therefor. The bonds shall be general obligations of the Town to which its full faith and credit is pledged.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that should the appropriation and bond authorization be approved by the Board of Finance and the voters at Town Meeting,

(i) the Town Manager and the Treasurer be authorized to issue and sell such bonds and notes in anticipation of such bonds and to determine the amount, date, date of maturity, interest rate, form and other details of such bonds and notes, pursuant to Chapter 109 of the Connecticut General Statutes, as amended, or any other provision of law thereto enabling; and

(ii) the Town Manager and the Treasurer shall sign the bonds and notes by either manual or facsimile signatures and that the law firm of Pullman & Comley, LLC is designated as bond counsel to approve the legality of the bonds; and

(iii) the Town Manager and the Treasurer, or either of them, is authorized to designate a bank or trust company to be the certifying bank, registrar, transfer agent and paying agent of the bonds; to sell the bonds and notes at public or private sale or negotiation; to deliver the bonds and notes; and to perform and comply with all requirements of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, and to perform all other acts and execute such documents which are necessary or appropriate to issue the bonds and notes including, but not limited to, the execution and delivery of a bond purchase agreement, tax compliance agreement and bond insurance agreement; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town reasonably expects to incur expenditures (the "Expenditures") in connection with the capital project for which a general functional description is provided above. The Town reasonably expects to reimburse itself for the cost of the Expenditures with the proceeds of bonds of the Town described above. The maximum principal amount of such debt is not expected to exceed \$1,000,000. This declaration of official intent is a declaration of official intent made pursuant to Treasury Regulation Section 1.150-2; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that should the Board of Finance approve an appropriation and bond authorization for the Willimantic Public Library Project, a Special Town Meeting is hereby called to be held on January 20, 2015 at the Windham Town Hall, Bellingham Auditorium, 979 Main Street, Willimantic, Connecticut 06226 at 6:30 p.m. to consider and vote upon the resolution for the Willimantic Public Library Project as set forth above.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

13. Reports of Committees, Boards and Commissions.

a. Jean de Smet, Chair of the Windham Energy Commission.

Jean de Smet gave a presentation on the work the Energy Commission has done since 2006 when the Commission was established and noted they are now trying to focus on where to put the Town's energy moving forward. Ms. de Smet also provided the Council with the Ordinance that established the Commission as well as an annual report from the Commission. In addition she answered questions from the Council.

b. Michael Callahan, Member of the Sweeney/WMS Micro-Grid Building Committee.

Michael Callahan gave a brief presentation on the status of the Sweeney/WMS Micro-Grid Building Committee. He outlined the work the Committee has done since it was established in August. He also explained the challenges they are facing with trying to put a project budget together and noted they will be asking the State for an extension and modification to their contract.

MOTION: McDevitt MOVED, DeVivo seconded, to add to the agenda Item 14b, discussion on the Dispatch Center. All were in favor except Krich who abstained and Flores who did not vote.
MOTION PASSED.

14. Old Business.

a. Discuss and possibly act or give the Town Manager direction regarding the sale of Town property at 9 Bolivia Street and 358 Jackson Street.

Zoning Officer Matt Vertefeuille showed a map describing the property at 9 Bolivia Street and 358 Jackson Street and provided the Council with the bidding information. He also answered questions from the Council.

McDevitt MOVED the question, DeVivo seconded, all were in favor except Krich who opposed. MOTION PASSED.

DeVivo MOVED, Krich seconded, to sell 358 Jackson Street to Michael Connor for \$21,000. All were in favor except Flores who abstained. MOTION PASSED.

Flores MOVED, Lessard seconded, to remove the restrictions and allow Ms. Dubay to purchase the property at 9 Bolivia Street. Flores was in favor with Krich, Fantoli, DeVivo, McDevitt, Eldridge, Lessard and Donahue opposed. MOTION FAILED.

Lessard MOVED, Flores seconded, to re-advertise the property at 9 Bolivia Street with the restrictions currently in place. All were in favor. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

b. Discussion on the Dispatch Center

McDevitt asked for an update on the status of the agreement for the Dispatch Center. She also asked why it was not on tonight's agenda as requested.

After some discussion Krich explained there had been a meeting with the Town Manager, Attorney Barbara McGrath, Chief Niles, John Wylie and himself this afternoon. He reported the meeting was a good meeting and will continue after the holidays. He asked that everyone remain confident the process is working.

MOTION: DeVivo MOVED, Lessard seconded, to add to the agenda Item 15a, discussion and possible action concerning cleaning and snow removal of the bus shelters in Town. All were in favor. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

15. New Business.

a. Discussion and possible action concerning cleaning and snow removal of the bus shelters in Town.

DeVivo MOVED, Lessard seconded, to authorize the Town Manager to direct town staff to clean the debris and snow from the bus shelters. DeVivo, Lessard and Flores were in favor with Fantoli, Krich, McDevitt, Eldridge and Donahue opposed. MOTION FAILED.

Krich MOVED, Lessard seconded, that the Town Manager write to the bus company to request that the bus company better maintain the shelters. All were in favor except Flores and Donahue. MOTION PASSED.

16. Future Agenda Items

a. Tuesday, January 6, 2014: Discussion and possible action to convene an executive session to discuss the Dispatch Center agreement

17. Citizens and Delegations: Public Comment.

Corey Krohn state he does not understand the process used for selling the properties on Jackson Street and Bolivia Street and asked for clarification.

Lloyd Niles, North Windham suggested that when the State cleans the highways they should bring in people to clean the bus shelters if they own them or to have people who need to do community service clean them.

Joe Marsalisi, Willimantic, stated it is the citizens who use them so why don't we as a Town clean them.

James Flores spoke about the meeting with the Dispatch Center and questioned why it was a closed door meeting. He believes it is a public issue and should be discussed in public.

18. Adjournment

DeVivo MOVED, McDevitt seconded, to adjourn the Windham Town Council Regular meeting at 9:28P.M. All were in favor. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Submitted By:

Barbara J. McKinney

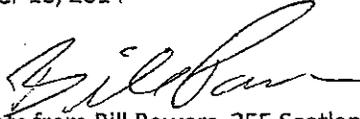
Clerk of the Town Council

Attachment A

Town Council

Town of Windham

December 16, 2014



Comments from Bill Powers, 355 Scotland Road, Windham, CT.

Recently there has been much discussion concerning the evaluation of our Town Manager. Clearly there are many facets to be considered in such an evaluation. Since the avenues available to the public as part of the evaluation process are unclear to me, may I offer this brief commentary based on my experience with Mr. Beets. I have contacted him several times for either information or clarification or as a teacher of Civics and Street Law or as a citizen. He has always been helpful. He responds promptly and in a friendly, respectful way. I have been received in a warm, friendly manner. He is pleasant, conscientious, patient, thorough, competent and most of all very professional.