

Minutes of the Windham Town Council & Willimantic Taxing District Special Meeting (with special invited guests, the Windham Board of Finance)

**Windham Town Hall Bellingham Auditorium, 2nd Floor
Tuesday, February 23, 2016 - 7:00 P.M.**

1. Call to Order

Mayor Eldridge called the Windham Town Council and Willimantic Taxing District Special Meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

Town Council members present: Mayor Ernest S. Eldridge, Charles Krich, Tony Fantoli, Nectalis Martinez, Tom DeVivo, Michael Lessard, Dennis O'Brien, James Flores, and Lynne Ide

Lorraine McDevitt and Charlotte Patros were absent.

Town Manager Neal Beets was also in attendance.

Board of Finance members present: Ton White, Tyler Griffin and Anita Sebestyen

2. Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Eldridge led all in the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Welcome to the Board of Finance.

Mayor Eldridge welcomed the Board of Finance members who were in attendance.

4. Citizens and Delegations: Public Comment.

Terry Connradt, 57 Serwan Avenue, Willimantic and Windham Representative on WRTD spoke in support of WRTD.

Rose Kurcinik, Windham resident and 39 year employee of WRTD spoke in support of WRTD.

James Flores, bus driver for WRTD spoke in support of WRTD.

5. Comment by Councilmembers and BOF Members.

Mike Lessard spoke about the possibility of CTfastrak providing service from Hartford to UCONN. He also provided information on the Board of Education Community Forum tomorrow night at 7:00.

Nectalis Martinez thanked the Town Council for passing the Resolution for Puerto Rico. He also spoke about all the good America provides to people.

James Flores noted he had served our country for 15 years and he shared his concerns about America and the big corporations.

Tom DeVivo provided information on the Annual Whitewater Fundraiser Dance on Saturday.

Tom White asked if information from Outside Agencies could be made available to the Board of Finance.

Lynne Ide stated Outside Agency information is available for the Board of Finance. She also noted the Town Council Administration and Finance Committee was reviewing the requests made by the Outside Agencies and that they would be making recommendations to the Town Council.

Tom DeVivo informed the Board of Finance members on the benefits of the chromebooks used by the Town Council.

6. Hear a Presentation from the Town Manager about his Recommended Budgets for the Town General Government and the Willimantic Taxing District for Fiscal Year 2016-2017.

- **Questions and Answers.**

Town Manager Neal Beets gave a power point presentation on his recommendations for the operating and capital budgets for the Town of Windham and the Willimantic Taxing District for fiscal year 2016/2017. He also briefly explained his recommendations and answered questions from the Town Council and Board of Finance members.

7. Future Agenda Items:

None

8. Citizens and Delegations: Public Comment.

Larry Tala suggested other options for creating revenue rather than eliminating leaf collection.

Charles Krich noted the Administration and Finance Committee will be holding a Special Meeting on March 1st at 6:00 P.M. to further review the Outside Agency funding requests and prepare their recommendations for the Town Council.

Ton DeVivo spoke about the CCM event on March 1st and volunteered to attend.

Town Manager Beets noted Economic Development Director Jim Bellano will be attending the CCM event on March 1st.

Tom White, 40 Mullen Hill Road, Windham, spoke about the insurance and retirement benefits for the Dispatch Center. He also spoke in support of the proposed bill being brought forward by State Representative Johnson regarding hospitals and budgetary pay for those running the hospital.

Lynne Ide explained the proposed bill introduced by State Representative Johnson that Tom White was speaking about. She noted the Public Health Committee will be holding

a Public Hearing tomorrow on it and people could go online to submit comments in support of the bill.

Dennis O'Brien thanked both Tom White and Lynne Ide for mentioning the bill. He also commented on another bill he supported regarding a certificate of need for reduction in services in a hospital. He explained the bill and noted he was going to write testimony on it.

Lynne Ide explained the deadline for submitting written testimony to be available for the hearing however she noted testimony could be submitted at anytime. She also explained the bill.

James Flores recognized Tom White for his understanding of action and reaction and spoke about the need to contract with local companies. He also encouraged the Town Council to trust the people in the budget process.

9. Adjournment

DeVivo MOVED, Krich seconded, to adjourn the Windham Town Council and Willimantic Taxing District Special Meeting at 8:30 P.M.

Submitted By:

Barbara J. McKinney
Clerk of the Town Council