

**MINUTES OF THE TOWN OF WINDHAM
WILLIMANTIC SERVICE DISTRICT REGULAR MEETING**

AND

**MINUTES OF THE TOWN OF WINDHAM
SPECIAL MEETING OF THE
WINDHAM TOWN COUNCIL**

**Windham Town Hall Bellingham Auditorium, 2nd Floor
979 Main Street, Willimantic, CT
Tuesday, February 24, 2015 - 7:00 P.M.**

1. Call to Order the Windham Town Council

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

2. Call to Order the Willimantic Service District

Chairman of the Willimantic Service District Tom DeVivo called the Regular Meeting of the Willimantic Service District to order at 7:00 P.M.

Town Council members present: Mayor Ernest S. Eldridge, Charles Krich (arrived at 7:03 P.M.), Tony Fantoli, Tom DeVivo, Joseph Underwood, Mark Doyle (arrived at 7:06 P.M.), Michael Lessard, James Flores, Christel Donahue and Charlotte Patros

Lorraine McDevitt was absent.

Town Manager Neal Beets was also in attendance.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Eldridge and Chairman DeVivo led all in the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. Citizens and Delegations: Public Comment

None

5. Council Comment

James Flores spoke about the last Board of Finance meeting and stated he was proud of them for asking tough questions regarding the breakdown for the budget surplus. He encouraged the Town Council to do their homework and do the same. He also asked which department had the budget surplus.

Mayor Eldridge addressed the questions of Councilman Flores.

Tom DeVivo spoke about the recent tax warrants that were issued. He stated he hopes in the next tax season the Town Council will have a policy to go out to bid for the services of the Sheriff. He noted the 15% charge that is currently being charged by the Sheriff is negotiable and is the maximum amount that can be charged by law.

6. Presentation by, questions to, requests for information of, and discussion with the Town Manager about operating and a capital budgets for the Town of Windham General Government and the Willimantic Service District (to become the Willimantic Taxing District, effective July 1, 2015). Possible direction to the Town Manager.

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 Service District (Willimantic Taxing District 7/1/2015) for fiscal year 2015/2016. He also briefly explained his recommendations and answered questions from the Town Council.

7. Possibly set dates for further review and discussion of the capital and operating budgets for the Windham Town Council and the Willimantic Service District.

Town Manager Beets recommended the following dates for further review and discussion of the capital and operating budgets for the Windham Town Council and the Willimantic Service District:

- **Tuesday, March 3, 2015:** Regular meeting of the Windham Town Council at 7:00 P.M. in the Town Hall Bellingham Auditorium. Budget review with Department Heads.
- **Thursday, March 5, 2015:** Special meeting of the Willimantic Service District at 7:00 P.M. in the Town Hall Bellingham Auditorium. Budget review with the Chief of Police and Fire Chief.
- **Tuesday, March 10, 2015:** Special Meeting of the Windham Town Council at 7:00 P.M. in the Town Hall Bellingham Auditorium. Budget Direction.
- **Thursday, March 12, 2015:** Special Meeting of the Willimantic Service District at 7:00 P.M. in the Town Hall Bellingham Auditorium. Budget Direction.

9. Citizens and Delegations: Public Comment

Ruth Yuste spoke about the WRTD bus schedule being cut and the need for public transportation.

Gayatri Phadker urged the Town Council to consider the funding request from WRTD and spoke about the need for public transportation.

Julian Cook spoke about the need for public transportation and the benefits for the Town of having students live here.

James Flores thanked the students for attending and speaking at the meeting and encouraged the Town Council to consider WRTD's request.

Henry Crane, Windham Street, Willimantic, noted he attended the WRTD Public Hearing and asked the Town Council to invite the Town of Mansfield to attend the meeting when WRTD makes their request for funding from the Town of Windham.

Christel Donahue noted she comes from a Country that has a regular private bus service however she explained the costs it takes to run such a service. She spoke in support of public transportation and suggested everyone, including the riders, get together to ask for better service and to contribute to the cost. She also stated she has no knowledge of where to catch the bus in Town.

Tom DeVivo acknowledged that transportation is a tough issue in Eastern CT. He also reminded the Willimantic Service District members that the Town Charter is now online. He asked that they all review it so they can bring their questions forward for the Town Attorney to address. He stated they will have to formulate how they will govern themselves beginning July 1st and noted there have been some changes in the Charter that impact them.

Mayor Eldridge thanked the students for coming and encouraged them to contact their State Representatives. He also agreed with Council member Donahue regarding the costs involved in public transportation.

10. Adjournment

Doyle MOVED, Underwood seconded, to adjourn the Windham Town Council Special meeting at 8:40 P.M. All were in favor. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Doyle MOVED, Underwood seconded, to adjourn the Willimantic Service District Regular meeting at 8:40 P.M. All were in favor. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Submitted By:

Barbara J. McKinney
Clerk of the Town Council