

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

**Windham Town Hall Bellingham Auditorium, 2nd Floor
979 Main Street, Willimantic, CT
Tuesday, March 3, 2015 - 7:00 P.M.**

1. Call to Order

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

Town Council members present: Mayor Ernest S. Eldridge, Tony Fantoli, Tom DeVivo, Lorraine McDevitt, Joseph Underwood, Mark Doyle (arrived at 7:39 P.M.), Michael Lessard, James Flores Christel Donahue and Charles Krich (left at 8:32 P.M.)

Charlotte Patros was absent.

Department Heads in Attendance: Tara Risley-Marquez, Matt Vertefeuille, Mary DeMarco, Brad Wojick, Scott Clairmont, Marc Scrivener, Druscilla Carter, Paulann Lescoe, Gay St. Louis, Patricia Spruance, Tom Pesce, Mike Licata, Joe Gardner, Joan Paskewich, Brian Hathaway, James Finger and Peter Zvingilas

Executive Administrator Neida Rosado and Personnel Director Paul Hongo were also in attendance.

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

None

4. Council Comment

Charles Krich stated he was not feeling well and may be leaving the meeting early.

James Flores asked for clarification on the \$1.5 million surplus. He asked if it could be broken down and questioned who makes the decisions on how the surplus is used.

Tom DeVivo questioned how the meeting was going to be run based on the way the agenda was posted.

Town Manager Beets addressed the questions from Councilman Flores and Councilman DeVivo.

Joe Underwood requested the Department Heads give the page number when presenting their individual budgets.

5. Presentation by, questions to, requests for information of, and discussion with the Town General Government Department Heads about operating and capital budgets for the Town of Windham General Government. Possible direction to the Town Manager.

Mary DeMarco explained the process used for funding Outside Agencies and how the committee determines how funding is granted. She noted Representatives from WRTD, WRCC and the Mill Museum were at the meeting tonight to provide information to the Town Council on their need for funding.

WRTD – Representatives Rose Kurcinik and Terry Coonradt provided the Town Council with information outlining the ridership data of the Storrs-Willimantic bus and the Willimantic City Bus. They also provided the funding request history dating back to fiscal year 2009. Representative Kurcinik reviewed the information presented and explained WRTD’s need for continued funding.

WRCC – Representative Pat Calvo provided the Town Council with information on the Windham Youth Services Bureau Program and the Juvenile Review Board and gave a brief presentation on both. She explained the partnership WRCC has with the Town and the need for the Town to continue funding the programs.

Bill Woodbury, Veterans Service Officer since 1994, provided the Town Council with information outlining the Soldiers, Sailors and Marines Fund as well as the eligibility requirements needed for assistance. He also explained the services provided to the Veterans and their widows in our community and the need for more volunteers.

Windham Textile & History Museum – Representative Jaime Eves gave a short presentation on the needs of the Museum and the funding requested from the Town. He explained the role of the Museum, the number of paid memberships, the amount of visitors served by the Museum including students and non-residents and the amount of money that is needed to continue running the Museum.

Town Department Heads - Each Department Head addressed the Town Council and briefly reviewed their department’s budget. They also answered questions from the Town Council.

6. Future Agenda Items

None

7. Citizens and Delegations: Public Comment

James Flores stated he thought the presentation from Brad Wojick and Scott Clairmont of Public Works was very disrespectful and he would like them to apologize to the community. Mr. Flores asked the Town Manager and Personnel Director to address this with Mr. Wojick and Mr. Clairmont.

Doug Lary, 183 Summit Street, Willimantic, spoke about the presentation from Information Technology Manager Brian Hathaway. Mr. Lary shared his thoughts with regards to the Nutmeg Network, the need for better computer software in some departments and the color copier for the Senior Center.

8. Adjournment

DeVivo MOVED, McDevitt seconded, to adjourn the Windham Town Council Special Budget meeting at 10:17 P.M. All were in favor. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Submitted By:

Barbara J. McKinney
Clerk of the Town Council