

Minutes of the Windham Town Council Regular Meeting

**Windham Town Hall Bellingham Auditorium, 2nd Floor
Tuesday, April 5, 2016 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 (arrived at 7:15 P.M.), Dennis O'Brien, Mike Lessard, James Flores, Nectalis Martinez, Lynne Ide, Dawn Niles and Charles Krich

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

Dawn Niles, resident of North Windham and HeartSafe Coordinator noted Windham has been awarded another 3 year re-designation as a HeartSafe Community.
(See Attachment A).

4. Town Council Comment

James Flores spoke about American Corporations hiding money in Panama.

Dawn Niles requested to go on record questioning why the Town Manager twice chose not to attend the Board of Finance meetings, first to present the budget and second for basically disregarding their request to attend. Councilmember Niles quoted sections from the Charter (Section 10-4 and Article 5a3) and from the Town Manager's job description (bullet point #6 - Duties). She believes he made some poor choice which she stated is somewhat like insubordination and she believes he should receive a reprimand from the Council.

Dennis O'Brien stated he agrees with the comments made by Councilmember Niles and urged that the Town Manager begin participating with the Board of Finance.

Councilmember O'Brien also requested an item be added to the agenda to discuss the Senior Center. In addition he spoke about Item 14b under Old Business regarding the reinstatement of pay increases for non union department heads and does not believe the

referral back to the Town Council is legal under the Town Charter. He noted Section 10-4 and 10-6 of the Charter. Councilmember O'Brien suggested the Board of Finance reinstate the money to the budget for the increases which then can be revisited by the Town Council.

Charles Krich stated he was neutral on Councilmember Niles request for a formal reprimand to the Town Manager. He did note however the Town Manager showed poor judgment in not attending the Board of Finance meetings. He also referred to the Town Manager's job description and urged him to attend the next meeting of the Board of Finance and act as a professional manager as our Representative as required.

Mike Lessard commented on the ceiling renovations. He also made reference to Councilmember O'Brien's comments with regards to Item 14b. Councilmember Lessard noted Item 14a had also been discussed and voted down at a previous meeting and hopes the same holds true as does for Item 14b.

Ton DeVivo stated hearing devices are available to the public at all meetings if needed for better sound quality.

5. Adoption of Town Council Minutes

a. Special Budget Meeting of March 15, 2016

DeVivo MOVED, Fantoli seconded, to approve the minutes of the Town Council Special Budget Meeting of March 15, 2016. All were in favor. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. (McDevitt arrived after vote was taken)

MOTION: O'Brien MOVED, DeVivo seconded, to add to the agenda: Discussion of the Senior Center negotiations with Access Agency during executive session with the Town Manager and Town Attorney. All were in favor. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

6. Resignations

None

7. Appointments, Reappointments.

a. Reappoint Grace Adams as a regular member of the Energy Commission, with a term to end April 20, 2021, as recommended by the Nominating Commission.

DeVivo MOVED, Fantoli seconded, to reappoint Grace Adams as a regular member of the Energy Commission, with a term to end April 20, 2021, as recommended by the Nominating Commission. All were in favor. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

b. Appoint T. Harrison Judd, IV as a regular member of the Library Board, with a term to end December 2, 2016, as recommended by the Nominating Commission.

DeVivo MOVED, Niles seconded, to appoint T. Harrison Judd, IV as a regular member of the Library Board, with a term to end December 2, 2016, as

recommended by the Nominating Commission. All were in favor. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

- c. **Appoint Kit Eves to an alternate position on the Zoning Board of Appeals, with a term to end on November 19, 2019, as nominated by the Democratic Town Committee.**

DeVivo MOVED, Niles seconded, to appoint Kit Eves as an Alternate member of the Zoning Board of Appeals, with a term to end on November 19, 2019, as nominated by the Democratic Town Committee. All were in favor. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

8. Presentations & Special Reports.

- a. **Presentation from the Code Compliance Director about creating a revolving fund with revenue from blight fines and foreclosures, and possible action.**

Code Enforcement Director Matt Vertefeuille explained the current Bight Ordinance with regards to fines collected and is asking the Town Council to consider authorizing the Town Manager to work with the Director of Finance to create a revolving fund with revenue from blight fines and foreclosures. He also explained the need for the fund and how the money would be used should the fund be created.

MOTION: Flores MOVED, Fantoli seconded, to send the request from Code Enforcement Director Matt Vertefeuille to the Administration and Finance Committee for review. All were in favor except DeVivo who opposed. MOTION PASSED.

9. Mayor's Report

Mayor Eldridge reported he and Councilmember DeVivo had attended the ribbon cutting for the new Arts Building at ECSU. He noted there will be a display by the Office of Community Engagement at Town Hall next Wednesday from 2:00 to 5:00 showcasing student involvement in the community.

10. Town Manager's Report

Town Manager Beets welcomed three ECSU students who are in attendance tonight to fulfill their course requirements and thanked them for attending.

Town Manager Beets also thanked Neida Rosado for her work on the new directional signage at Town Hall. He did note if offices change the signage could also change.

In addition, Town Manager Beets also reported on the ribbon cutting to be held on Saturday, May 14th for the trail. The grand opening of the trail segment will be held at 11:30 and the kayak and canoe launch will be held at 12:30. He noted several speakers will be in attendance and he urged Council members to attend.

11. Discussion and Review of Communications to Council

Letter from the Senior Center Advisory Board

Economic Development Roundtable discussion to be held on April 8th at QVCC in Danielson from 10:00 A.M. until noon. (handout provided by Councilmember Niles)

12. Discussion and Review of Agendas, Minutes, Reports of Town Boards, Committees, and Commissions

DeVivo questioned minutes from the Housing Authority (page 10) regarding discussion on the expansion of monuments at Father Honan Terrace and he asked the Town Manager to speak on the matter.

Town Manager Beets noted the Town had been approached by Veterans Advisor Mr. Woodbury asking if the Town would have any objections to using the property for an additional monument. He noted the property is in the name of the Housing Authority and the request was asked as a courtesy to the Town.

DeVivo also questioned whether fines were being charged for the numerous false alarms at Father Honan Terrace (page 10). He noted he did not think the residents should be charged the fines due to the fact they live in low income housing and cannot afford to pay the fines.

13. Resolutions and Ordinances

None

14. Old Business.

a. Discuss and possibly approve a proposal from Granicus to provide web-based replays of Town Council meetings, Willimantic Taxing District meetings, and meetings of other public bodies in the Bellingham Auditorium, at a cost of \$300/month plus \$3,500 startup costs for hardware, with these costs absorbed in the current year's IT budget and in the Council approve IT budget for FY 16-17.

DeVivo MOVED, Niles seconded, to approve a proposal from Granicus to provide web-based replays of Town Council meetings, Willimantic Taxing District meetings, and meetings of other public bodies in the Bellingham Auditorium, at a cost of \$300/month plus \$3,500 startup costs for hardware, with these costs absorbed in the current year's IT budget and in the Council approve IT budget for FY 16-17. DeVivo and Flores were in favor, Martinez abstained, and all others opposed. MOTION FAILED.

b. Discuss and possibly act on a request to reinstate pay increases for non-union department heads mirroring MEUI pay increases for unionized department heads, effective July 1, 2016.

For the record: Flores stated, "I wish I could cut the salary increases to all Department Heads and take away the cars".

After some discussion, Krich ruled Item #14b out of order.

15. New Business.

a. Discuss and possibly act on a collective bargaining agreement with Firefighters Union IAFF Local 1033.

DeVivo MOVED, McDevitt seconded, to approve the collective bargaining agreement with Firefighters Union IAFF Local 1033. All were in favor except Eldridge who abstained. MOTION PASSED.

b. Discuss and possibly move to convene an executive session with the Town Attorney to discuss pending litigation and claims, including Generations vs. the Town of Windham. In addition to the Town Council and Town Attorney, executive session attendees may include the Town Assessor and Town Manager. Possible action arising out of executive session.

DeVivo MOVED, Niles seconded, to convene an executive session at 8:20 P.M. with the Town Attorney to discuss pending litigation and claims, including Generations vs. the Town of Windham. In addition to the Town Council and Town Attorney, executive session attendees may include the Town Assessor and Town Manager and to discuss the Senior Center negotiations with the Town Attorney. All were in favor. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Councilmember Ide recused herself from the first part of the discussion due to the fact she sits on the Generations Board of Directors. She asked however that she be called in for the discussion on the Senior Center negotiations.

DeVivo MOVED, McDevitt seconded, to come out of executive session at 9:12 P.M. All were in favor. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

No action was taken

16. Future Agenda Items

None

17. Citizens and Delegations: Public Comment

None

18. Adjournment

DeVivo MOVED, McDevitt seconded, to adjourn the Windham Town Council Regular Meeting at 9:13 P.M. All were in favor. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Submitted By:

Barbara J. McKinney
Clerk of the Town Council

State of Connecticut Department of Public Health

Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention Program and
the Office of Emergency Medical Services

*In recognition of community efforts to improve survival from sudden cardiac arrest,
the town of*

WINDHAM

has met the criteria for re-designation as a

HEART Safe Community

Presented this 25th day of January in the year 2016



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Pino".

Raul Pino, M.D., M.P.H.
Acting Commissioner

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH



Raul Pino, M.D., M.P.H.
Acting Commissioner

Dannel P. Malloy
Governor
Nancy Wyman
Lt. Governor

March 15, 2016

Neal Beets, Town Manager
Town of Windham
979 Main Street
Willimantic, CT 06226

Dear Town Manager Beets:

On behalf of the Connecticut Department of Public Health and the American Heart Association, congratulations to your community for having met the renewal requirements of a designated HEARTSafe community.

This three-year re-designation, effective January 25, 2016, recognizes your community's continued commitment to provide improved cardiac response and care to the residents of your community utilizing the "Chain of Survival" of early 9-1-1 access, cardiopulmonary resuscitation, defibrillation and advanced care.

We commend you on your efforts to continue to save lives and improve the health of your community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Raul Pino".

Raul Pino, M.D., M.P.H.
Acting Commissioner

*Dawn -
Thank you for
all your hard
work!
Michelle*

Cc: Dawn Niles, HEARTSafe Coordinator, Windham Center Fire Department



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