

# MINUTES of the Windham Town Council Regular Meeting

Windham Town Hall Bellingham Auditorium, 2nd Floor  
Tuesday, May 5, 2015 7:00 P.M.

## 1. Call to Order

President of the Windham Town Council, Joseph Underwood called the Windham Town Council Regular Meeting to order at 7:01 P.M.

Town Council members present: Charles Krich (arrived at 7:08 P.M.), Tony Fantoli, Tom DeVivo, Lorraine McDevitt, Joseph Underwood, Mark Doyle, Michael Lessard, James Flores, Christel Donahue and Charlotte Patros

Mayor Eldridge was absent

Town Manager Neal Beets was also in attendance.

## 2. Pledge of Allegiance

Windham Town Council President Underwood led all in the Pledge of Allegiance.

## 3. Citizens and Delegations: Public Comment

Olivia Grajeda, Willimantic resident, informed the Town Council that it was hepatitis awareness month. She stated she takes care of people who have hepatitis and noted there will be a support group meeting on May 27<sup>th</sup> from 5:00 P.M. to 7:00 P.M. at St. Paul's Church.

Kevin Hoxie, Ridgewood Road, Willimantic, spoke about the Board of Education budget and his concerns on where the money is being spent. He noted he supports more money for teachers however he questioned the need for having both a Deputy & Assistant Superintendent.

Barbara McGrath, Windham Center, informed the Town Council that she and other representatives of the Switchboard Association were at the meeting if the Town Council had questions when speaking on Item #14a.

## 4. Town Council Comment

James Flores reminded everyone that next Tuesday May 12<sup>th</sup> is the budget referendum on all three budgets; Willimantic, Windham and the Board of Education. He noted the polls will be opened from 6:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M. and encouraged the community to come out to vote.

Tom DeVivo noted the microphones were live all the time. He stated they have not yet been reconfigured and reminded everyone that anything said will be broadcast live.

**5. Adoption of Minutes**

**a. Meeting on April 7, 2015 – Special Training Session.**

DeVivo MOVED, Fantoli seconded, to adopt the minutes of the April 7, 2015 Special Training Session meeting. All were in favor. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

**b. Meeting on April 7, 2015 – Regular Council Meeting.**

DeVivo MOVED, Fantoli seconded, to adopt the minutes of the April 7, 2015 Regular Council meeting. All were in favor. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

**c. Meeting on April 14, 2015 Study Session.**

DeVivo MOVED, Flores seconded, to adopt the April 14, 2015 Study Session meeting. All were in favor except McDevitt, Doyle and Krich who abstained. MOTION PASSED.

**d. Meeting on April 21, 2015 – Regular Council Meeting.**

DeVivo MOVED, Lessard seconded, to adopt the April 21, 2015 Regular Council meeting. All were in favor. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

**6. Resignations**

None

**7. Appointments, Reappointments**

None

**8. Presentations & Special Reports**

None

**9. Mayor's Report**

Windham Town Council President Underwood commended those who took part in participating and organizing the race this weekend.

**10. Town Manager's Report**

Town Manager Beets reported on the synthetic marijuana that was being circulated through Town. He explained the hospital and police are doing the best they can to address the situation however he noted there have been reports on three television networks. Town Manager Beets also explained the bizarre behavior of those under the influence of the drug and urged anyone to call 911 if they witness someone showing signs of this type of behavior.

Town Manager Beets also reported a tentative agreement was reached with the Teamsters Union and it will be on the May 19<sup>th</sup> agenda for Town Council approval. He stated MEUI has already been approved and there may be another bargaining union that may be ready for approval at the next meeting as well.

In addition, Town Manager Beets reported the Board of Finance held the annual Town Meeting for the budget referendum which will be May 12<sup>th</sup>.

#### **11. Discussion and Review of Communications.**

**a. Agendas, minutes, and reports from various Town boards, committees, and commissions**

DeVivo referred to the Water Pollution Control Authority (Sewer Dept) minutes and noted there was no mention of holding another Public Hearing on the sewer rate increase as requested by the Town Council. He feels if the Commission has \$8 million dollars in the bank they could hold a real meeting at the Town Hall Bellingham Auditorium for the public.

#### **12. Resolutions and Ordinances**

**a. Discuss and possibly adopt a Resolution authorizing the sale of 9 Bolivia Street and setting a Town Meeting on June 2, 2015, at 6:30pm in the Town Hall Bellingham Auditorium.**

DeVivo read the Resolution and moved for its adoption.

DeVivo MOVED, Flores seconded, to adopt Resolution #2660 authorizing the sale of 9 Bolivia Street and setting a Town Meeting on June 2, 2015, at 6:30pm in the Town Hall Bellingham Auditorium. All were in favor.

## **Be It Resolved by the Town Council That**

the Town Council recommends to the town meeting that the Town sell property located at 9 Bolivia Street to Neil Mesick Jr. for the consideration of \$56,000 under the terms and conditions of the contract that has been prepared for the transaction by the Town Attorney, and to authorize the Town Manager to sign, execute and deliver such contracts, instruments and documents that are reasonably necessary to consummate the transaction.

To move to a Town Meeting on June 2, 2015 at 6:30pm.

### **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**MOTION:** Flores MOVED, DeVivo seconded, to add to the agenda under Item 15b and to follow Item 12a, discussion and possible action to direct the Town Manager to use the electric sign board to remind people to vote in the May 12<sup>th</sup> budget referendum. All were in favor.

**MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**15 b. Discussion and possible action to direct the Town Manager to use the electric sign board to remind people to vote in the May 12<sup>th</sup> budget referendum.**

DeVivo MOVED, Flores seconded, to direct the Town Manager to use the electric sign board to remind people to vote in the May 12<sup>th</sup> budget referendum.

**13. Reports of Committees, Boards and Commissions**

None

**14. Old Business**

- a. Discuss and possibly approve a motion to convene an executive session with the Town Attorney and the Town Manager regarding a potential dispatch agreement with the Willimantic Switchboard Association, and potential purchase and sale of land for a Senior Center.**

DeVivo MOVED, Doyle seconded, to convene an executive session at 7:24 P.M. with the Town Attorney and the Town Manager regarding a potential dispatch agreement with the Willimantic Switchboard Association, and potential purchase and sale of land for a Senior Center. All were in favor. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

DeVivo MOVED, Lessard seconded, to come out of executive session at 8:35 P.M. All were in favor. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

- b. Discuss and possibly take action regarding a dispatch agreement with the Willimantic Switchboard Association.**

Krich MOVED, DeVivo seconded, that the agreement for Dispatch Services for the Town of Windham, draft dated April 29<sup>th</sup> 2015, be approved with a modification to paragraph 14 – Termination, that the language would be that during the termination of this agreement the parties shall resolve the question of the Town's ownership of property secured by the Town through grants or other funds particularly 911 emergency services. All were in favor. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

**15. New Business.**

- a. Discuss and possibly move to set a Public Hearing on June 2, 2015, at 6:45pm in the Town Hall Bellingham Auditorium to hear public comment regarding the Town of Windham's Neighborhood Assistance Act applications for fiscal year 2015.**

DeVivo MOVED, Doyle seconded, to set a Public Hearing on June 2, 2015, at 6:45pm in the Town Hall Bellingham Auditorium to hear public comment regarding the Town of Windham's Neighborhood Assistance Act applications for fiscal year 2015. All were in favor. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

- b. Discussion and possible action to direct the Town Manager to use the electric sign board to remind people to vote in the May 12<sup>th</sup> budget referendum.**

Moved up on the agenda to follow Item 12a.

**16. Future Agenda Items**

None

**17. Citizens and Delegations: Public Comment**

Lloyd Niles thanked the Town Council for signing the agreement with the Switchboard Association and he stated he is looking forward to working with the Town.

Bernie D'Auteuil, 168 Walnut Street, Willimantic, is concerned that it is uncertain about who owns what between the Town and the Switchboard Association. He questioned who would be responsible for repairing equipment if it breaks. He also suggested a message be sent to the Capitol to fix things once and for all from top to bottom.

James Flores reminded everyone to vote in the May 12<sup>th</sup> budget referendum. He noted in the past an average of only 12% of the community has voted in budget referendums and he is working on improving voter turnout.

Kevin Hoxie, Ridgewood Road, Willimantic, stated voter turnout is down because taxes still go up and we don't get ahead.

**18. Adjournment**

DeVivo MOVED, Lessard seconded, to adjourn the Windham Town Council Regular meeting at 8:54 P.M. All were in favor. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Submitted By:**

Barbara J. McKinney

Clerk of the Town Council