

# TELECONFERENCE MEETING MINUTES

## WINDHAM TOWN COUNCIL

Windham Town Hall, Meeting Room  
Tuesday, July 15, 2014 - 7:00 P.M.

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### 1. **Call to Order.**

Mayor Eldridge called the Town of Windham Town Council regular meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

Town Council members present: Mayor Ernest S. Eldridge, Charles, Tony Fantoli, Tom DeVivo, Joseph Underwood, Mark Doyle, James Flores, Charlotte Patros and Christel Donahue . Lorraine McDevitt (via cell phone)

Town Council members excused: Michael Lessard

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.**

Peter Leeds, 9 Robin Road, Willimantic, spoke about the Town's recreational parks. He stated that Shetucket Park has not been seeded and the fields are over used. Mr. Leeds mentioned that the bleachers at Recreation Park are dangerous because they are too close to the field. He was disappointed because he attended the committee meeting and raised his concerns on the parks and the committee's solution was to build a new park.

Edith thanked all the seniors that attended the meeting tonight. She spoke in favor of the proposed new senior center located at the ACCESS building on West Main Street and stated that the location will benefit all seniors including the ones that live in the Housing Authority High Rise building.

Alice, 25 year member of the Senior Center, mentioned that the new building will be more accessible for the seniors and that it is a nice place to go to meet with friends.

Bill Powers, spoke regarding the Ethics Commission and mentioned that he worked for the Board of Education and they never received a copy of the Code of Ethics. He passed out documents for the record that pertains to code of ethics and the code for school professional employees. (Attachment A)



State Representative Susan Johnson, 120 Bolivia Street, Willimantic, thanked the town for working with her and the seniors. She advised the town to take their time through negotiations and she stated she will be glad to help the Town through the process.

**4. Town Council Comment.**

James Flores suggested moving the executive session to another location to accommodate the seniors by not having them move from the meeting room.

Tony Fantoli stated that on the proposed Town Charter it is not possible for the Willimantic Police to go into the Windham's and contract with Wal-Mart and/or force the Windham Taxing District to go to referendum.

Thomas DeVivo mentioned that the committee will be discussing the parking issue for the winter and they will hold a public hearing.

MOTION: C. Patros MOVED, J. Flores seconded, to move item 12a after 8b. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

**5. Adoption of Minutes.**

- a. Discuss and possibly move to adopt the minutes for the July 1, 2014, regular Town Council meeting.**

T. DeVivo MOVED, M. Doyle seconded, to adopt the minutes for the July 1, 2014, regular Town Council meeting. MOTION PASSED with all in favor, except C. Donahue who abstained.

**6. Resignations.** None.

**7. Appointments.** None.

**8. Presentations & Special Reports.**

- a. Presentation by Tracy Lambert, Chair of the Board of Education, and Robert Roach, Architect, about changes in plans, design, and costs for renovating Windham High School. (Action Item 14.a.)**

Board of Education will not be making a presentation at this time.

- b. Move to convene an executive session with the Town Attorney and the Town Manager regarding:**
- i. the purchase and sale of town property (Action Item 12.a.) with the Human Services Director, and**
  - ii. pending litigation, WALA vs. Town of Windham, with the Director of Code Compliance.**

T. DeVivo MOVED, J. Underwood seconded, to go into executive session with the Town Attorney Richard S. Cody, Town Manager Neal J. Beets, Human

Services Director Mary DeMarco and Director of Code Compliance Matthew Vertefeulle at 7:20 p.m. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

T. DeVivo MOVED, J. Underwood seconded, to adjourn the executive session at 8:15 p.m. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

**12. Resolutions and Ordinances.**

- a. **Discuss and possibly move to adopt a Resolution approving a purchase and sale agreement, and setting a Town Meeting on Tuesday, August 5, at 6:00 PM, in the Town Hall's Bellingham Auditorium pertaining to a new Windham Senior Community Center.**

T. DeVivo MOVED, C. Donahue seconded, to adopt resolution # 2643.

BE IT RESOLVED by the TOWN COUNCIL THAT

A Town Meeting be duly warned and held on September 16, 2014, at 6 p.m., in the Bellingham Auditorium, Town Hall, 979 Main Street, Willimantic, Connecticut, regarding the following:

1. To purchase from The Access Agency, Inc., real property located at 1315 West Main Street, Willimantic, Connecticut, in return for the consideration of no more than \$695,000. The consideration shall be paid by a combination of cash and property, to wit: \$300,000 in the value of municipal property located at 47 Crescent Street, Willimantic, Connecticut, the sale of which to The Access Agency, Inc. is authorized by this resolution, and the remainder in cash. Said purchase and sale shall be done in accordance with the terms and conditions as are set forth in a Contract of Sale.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

**9. Mayor's Report.**

No report.

**10. Town Manager's Report.**

Town Manager Neal Beets informed the Town Council that 116 more people voted in the referendum this time around.

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

None.

**13. Reports of Committees, Boards and Commissions.**  
**a. Administration, Finance, Economic Development, Health, and Human Service Committee. (Councilmember DeVivo)**

Chairman T. DeVivo stated that Magnet School drainage system has been addressed and changes are happening.

**b. Public Works, Public Safety, Environment, Recreation, and Culture Committee. (Councilmember Krich)**

Chairman C. Krich reported that they will be meeting next Wednesday.

**c. Capital Action Tri-Board. (Councilmember Doyle)**

Chairman M. Doyle reported that they have not met but would like the Town Council to take action on the Town's CIP Plan.

**14. Old Business.**

**a. Discuss and possibly take action about the renovation of Windham High School.**

No action taken.

**b. Discuss and possibly set a Public Hearing on Tuesday, September 15, at 6 PM in the Bellingham Auditorium to review proposed changes to the Housing Code.**

T. DeVivo MOVED, Doyle seconded, to set a public hearing on Tuesday, September 15, 2014 at 6 pm in the Bellingham Auditorium to review proposed changes to the Housing Code. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

**15. New Business.**

**a. If the BOE Budget Referendum fails, discuss and possibly move to authorize the Town Tax/Revenue Collector to issue property tax bills by August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2014, based on this fiscal year's town-wide mill rate: 29.06. (Note: if the BOE Budget Referendum passes, the BOF sets the new mill rate and the Tax/Revenue Collector will issue bills based on that new mill rate.)**

T. DeVivo MOVED, McDevitt seconded, to authorize the Town Tax/Revenue Collector to issue property tax bills by August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2014, based on this fiscal year's town-wide mill rate: 29.06. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

**16. Future Agenda Items**

- a. Tuesday, August 5, 2014: Regular Council Meeting.**
- b. Tuesday, August 19, 2014: Regular Council Meeting.**
- c. Tuesday, September 2, 2014: Regular Council Meeting.**
- d. Tuesday, September 16, 2014: Regular Council Meeting.**

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

James Flores spoke regarding a ticket he received from State Police, which states that his race is white. Mr. Flores mentioned that the information is incorrect and the statistics are not accurate, therefore they will continue to harass the minorities. Mr. Flores stated that he preferred to be listed as black because he sure is not white.

Thomas DeVivo stated that the Willimantic Police Department gets trained to fill out the information correctly.

**18. Adjournment**

T. DeVivo MOVED, J. Underwood seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 p.m.  
MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Submitted By:**

**Neida I. Rosado**