

# SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES FOR THE WINDHAM TOWN COUNCIL



**Windham Town Hall Meeting Room  
Wednesday, July 9, 2014 - 7:15 P.M. or as soon as the Public  
Hearing on the Town Charter concludes**

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**1. Call to Order**

Mayor Eldridge called this Special Meeting of the Windham Town Council to order at 7:50 P.M.

Town Council members present: Mayor Ernest S. Eldridge, Charles Krich, Tony Fantoli, Tom DeVivo, Mark Doyle, N. Joseph Underwood, Michael Lessard, and Christel Donahue.

James Flores and Lorraine McDevitt were excused.

Town Manager Neal Beets was also in attendance.

**2. Pledge of Allegiance**

Mayor Eldridge led all in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**3. Discuss and possibly move to send written comments from the Town Council to the Charter Revision Commission regarding the Report and Recommendations that the Charter Revision Commission provided to the Town Council.**

Tom DeVivo, as Chair of the Willimantic Service District, MOVED, and Underwood seconded, a motion to recommend in writing to the Windham Charter Revision Commission that the Town Charter be amended to allow the Willimantic Police Department to provide police services outside the boundaries of the former City of Willimantic, subject to the approval of the Willimantic Service District. Krich spoke in support, indicating this change would not require anything of anyone but would create an opportunity for the Willimantic Police Department to possibly bring in additional revenue. Fantoli spoke in opposition, saying it wasn't right. Lessard spoke in favor, saying the Willimantic Service District must agree and no one is requiring anyone to do anything. DeVivo spoke in favor, saying that among other things the motion would allow the Willimantic Police Department to provide a School Resource Officer at Windham Schools outside Willimantic. This MOTION PASSED 7-2, with Fantoli and Patros voting no.

Krich MOVED, DeVivo seconded, a motion to recommend in writing to the Windham Charter Revision Commission that it change the Council voting procedure back to what it



is today, with at least five affirmative votes necessary to adopt a Town Council motion. General discussion ensued. This MOTION PASSED 8-1, with Underwood voting no.

Krich MOVED, DeVivo seconded, a motion to recommend in writing to the Windham Charter Revision Commission that it clean-up their proposed Charter language pertaining to their proposed changes to the current service districts, and that a budget referendum be required in both service/tax districts to approve proposed service/tax district budgets. General discussion ensued about the effect of the Charter changes proposed by the Windham Charter Revision Commission, about the membership of the board of directors for each service/taxing district, about consistency, and about the role of the Board of Finance in reviewing budgeting decisions of the service/taxing districts. This MOTION PASSED 6-2-1, with Fantoli and Doyle voting no and Eldridge abstaining.

DeVivo MOVED, Krich seconded, a motion to recommend in writing to the Windham Charter Revision Commission that they strike all but the last sentence of section IX-3 of the proposed Town Charter, changing the last sentence to say that one Fire Marshall shall be appointed for the entire Town including both service/tax districts, and requesting that the remaining last sentence as amended be relocated within the Town Charter to a chapter dealing with the Town General Government. This MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Krich MOVED, Lessard seconded, a motion to recommend in writing to the Windham Charter Revision Commission that they clean-up punctuation and formatting in their next version of the Town Charter. This MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Patros MOVED, Doyle seconded, a motion to recommend in writing to the Windham Charter Revision Commission that they leave section VII-11 as it currently reads regarding the eligibility to serve on Town authorities, boards, commissions, and committees. This MOTION PASSED 7-2, with Doyle and Krich voting no.

Doyle MOVED, Fantoli seconded, a motion to recommend in writing to the Windham Charter Revision Commission that they not change the language of section III-3 of the Town Charter as it pertains to the make-up and composition of the Board of Education. Discussion ensued about state statutes, about the operation of the Board of Education, about consistency and inconsistency, and about checks and balances. This MOTION PASSED 5-4, with DeVivo, Krich, Eldridge, and Donahue voting no.

#### **4. Adjournment**

Underwood MOVED, DeVivo seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 8:53 p.m. This MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Submitted By:**  
**Neal Beets**  
**Town Manager**