

WINDHAM FIRST TAXING DISTRICT
Windham Center Fire House
Monday December 5, 2011
Monthly Meeting Minutes

The following members were present: Diane Rayhall, Elaine Rogers, Peter Bruscato, AnnMarie White, Jan Mott, Mark Herrick, and Donald Potter.

Call to Order:

President Diane Rayhall called the monthly meeting of the Windham First Taxing District to order at 1902 hours.

Approval of Minutes November 07, 2011:

Elaine Rogers moved to accept minutes dated November 07, 2011; Mark Herrick seconded the motion, all in favor.

Treasurer's Report:

Jan Mott gave the treasurer's report and read the following information:

Account Balances:

Checking Account Balance:	\$ 22,755.28
Savings Account Balance:	\$131,047.32
Grant Match Reserve:	\$ 48,912.00
Grant Improvement Reserve:	<u>\$111,335.90</u>
Total:	\$314,050.50

Bills to Pay:

None

Elaine Rogers moved to accept treasurer's report, seconded by Donald Potter, all in favor.

Public Comment:

Diane Rayhall welcomed Tony Fantoli, the newly elected Windham Town Council member. Anita Sebestyen introduced herself as a member of the Board of Finance and she represents both City and town of Windham. She stated that if there are any concerns in the Windham villages to please give her a heads up. She can be reached through the Mayor, or if you contact the Town Hall for her contact information.

Guilford Smith Library

Afron Seal gave her report and handed out flyers of the upcoming events coming up in December. She's looking forward to the joint meeting with the three libraries. The library has had volunteers from Camp Horizons for the past six months. The camp's job coach asked if they could clean the library, and the library agreed they could. This would save the library approximately \$400. Diane Rayhall stated she saw the owner of McClintock Roofing and thanked him in person for his help with the library roof.

Windham Free Library

Carol Sandusky the Director of the library gave the quarterly report. Diane Rayhall asked when the joint meeting of the three libraries was going to take place. In January at the Windham Center School and anyone can attend. Elaine Rogers stated it's the 115th anniversary of the library and they have put out an historic calendar, the price is still to be determined.

Windham Youth Organization

Greg Job the Vice President of WYO stated the season has started early with registration taken place at the Middle School. Some parents are giving the registration as a Christmas gift. In February they will be holding more registrations at Kraemer School. June 9th is the Applebee's fundraiser from 8 – 10 a.m. \$5 tickets.

South Windham Fire Department

Chief John Chapman read the November report.

Diane asked for an update on the switchboard because she was going to attend the Board of Finance and Town Councils meetings.

Windham Center Fire Department

Chief Lloyd Niles read the November report. He also noted that they received help from the Tennant Tree Service with the lights on the tree used for the tree lighting.

North Windham Fire Department

Chief John Wylie read the November report.

Elaine Rogers Update on Three Windham Fire Departments

At the last Chief's meeting State Representative Susan Johnson attended to discuss Storm Irene. The fire departments mostly guarded down wires while waiting for CL & P to respond.

Old Business

Chief John Wylie handed out a flyer regarding prices of hydrant flags. Approximately 200 were needed. Chief Wylie stated that a discount could be taken based on the quantity ordered. Diane asked if he had spoken to the Water Department. He had not, but will contact Mr. Hooper. Peter Bruscato suggested keeping the price under \$2,000. Elaine Rogers made a motion to purchase fiberglass flags and not to exceed \$2,000 in total cost, Peter Bruscato seconded, all in favor. Diane said we could revisit this issue next year if more were needed.

Elaine Rogers asked if there was any resolution on the speeding ticket issue. Diane explained the situation to Anita and Tony and asked them to research and help resolve. Diane will get back to them with the exact amount the Town owes the Windham First Taxing District.

Mike Licata, the President of the South Windham Fire Department said the time has come for the windows to be replaced on the fire department. He's looked at vendors to replace the windows on a metal building. The ten windows vary in distance and depth in the walls. He has four vendor quotes ranging from \$5,000 to \$24,000. Diane explained that all four quotes need to come to the Directors and then a Special meeting will need to take place since cost is over \$2,000.

The building committee is also looking into the signage, driveway and painting issues with the building and will be bringing these issues to the Board in the future. Elaine Rogers asked if the

fire department had a building fund for some of this cost. There is a fund and they can use it for some of this cost.

Joshua Niles, President of the Windham Center Fire Department stated they have been discussing the LED lights for the Christmas tree. They just replaced all the bulbs on the tree this year and they have many more bulbs left. They are trying to decide if stay with existing tree or move it to the smaller tree. They will get opinions from the villages before proceeding.

Pete Bruscatto asked Mike Licata when the Fire Marshall's office will be reconciled in the town. The District was supposed to get reports. Diane Rayhall said she is planning on meeting with Mike to move forward. Diane stated she had discussed with Chief Niles and Chief Wylie about the black radio boxes on the elementary schools. There was miscommunication when the wires were cut for them. At the North Windham school; the superintendent cut the wires for cost savings. Both Chiefs were unaware that this happened at the schools. Peter thought the boxes were functional, but could not speak for the inside of the building. Mike Licata will write a letter to the schools to have the boxes removed from the buildings.

New Business

Joshua Niles, President of the Windham Center Fire Department, stated there was a crack in the service bay wall. There was water coming into the building and to correct this issue, the driveway will need to be dug up.

Lloyd Niles stated he was working with St. Joseph's Living Center to put a radio system in their basement. Currently, if a fire fighter went into the basement, they could not use their radio to communicate. He brought a proposal to the Center for approximately \$5,500 and they will pay for the system. This should happen in the spring.

Chief Niles stated if another storm occurred, the Center could take 10 handicapped people on a temporary basis and the regency could also take some. Chief Niles told Mike Licata he was not happy that during a storm the shelter for the Windham's was located in Mansfield. Mike explained that he was directed to not open a shelter because Windham's numbers of outages was low. Mike stated he was ready to use Windham Tech as a shelter because they have a generator and he also had Eastern University for three days, but was directed to use Mansfield facility. Seal Afron noted that many people came to library for water. She thought better communication was needed. Mike thought a municipality package could be put together in case of an emergency.

Mark Herrick said it was important to be consistent with this process. Mike said with this storm, it brought up issues to address and it was a gradual progression. Elaine Rogers asked if Windham was the only town that was regionalized. It was not. Chief Niles asked Mike if Scotland was regionalized. Mike notes it was. Chief Niles asked if Jerusalem Road could go to Scotland being much closer than Mansfield. Mike said they could, but sometimes smaller towns have bigger issues. Victor Rayhall asked Mike that if another storm occurred, would Windham be prepared to handle. Mike said yes. Mike explained that after a storm, the first 72 hours is up to the town to handle situation because it takes the State that long to get up and running. Don Potter was concerned for the people who didn't have power, how where they to get notified to go to Mansfield. He thought the communication should happen before the storm. Joshua Niles asked Mike when the shelters are opened, before or after the storm. Mike stated they open early. Diane Rayhall stated she would not want to travel up Route 195 to get to the shelter. AnnMarie White asked if some kind of notification could go out with the tax bills. Mike could do something like that, he'd have to discuss with the town. All three fire departments have a generator and could get together and come up with a plan. The notice could be put in the paper to move in a positive

direction. Chief Niles stated that there is an officer's meeting next week and they will discuss it there.

Diane Rayhall reminded the fire departments and the libraries to start getting their budgets together. She wanted their budgets to come in January. She would like a 0 increase.

Public Comment

Tony Fantoli stated when the new Magnet School is completed it can be used as a shelter. It will be equipped with fire hydrants and a generator. The next magnet School meeting will be at the North Windham fire department and anyone can attend. Diane stated there's a lot of blasting. There is more ledge than anticipated. If anyone wants to tour job site they can contact John Wylie or Tom DeVivo.

Adjournment

Motion made by Elaine Rogers to adjourn at 2024 hrs, seconded by Mark Herrick, all in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

AnnMarie White
Clerk