

WINDHAM FIRST TAXING DISTRICT
Monday May 2, 2011
Monthly Meeting Minutes

Call to Order:

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

The following members were present: Diane Rayhall, Elaine Rogers, Donald Potter, Peter Bruscato, AnnMarie White and Sandra Millerd.

Diane Rayhall welcomed Sandra Millerd to the Board. She noted that Sandra was sworn in today.

Approval of Minutes April 4, 2011:

Elaine Rogers moved to accept minutes dated April 4, 2011; Don Potter seconded the motion, rest in favor.

Treasurer's Report:

Due to the absence of Jan Mott, this agenda item was skipped.

Public Comment:

None

Elaine Rogers Update on Three Windham Fire Departments

The Three Windham Fire Department meeting was held in South Windham. The round table discussion was regarding training. James Preston did a presentation on the Firefighters Cancer Foundation. Chief John Wylie said Mr. Preston explained that since 9-11, 109 responders died. This foundation is trying to raise money for breathing apparatus to help ease the breathing for the remaining responders. Each one costs approximately \$500. The foundation is trying to raise \$25,000 from each region. They are looking for \$1,000 from each fire department and asked if each department could do a fundraiser. Diane Rayhall said to Chief Wylie to get back to the district if they need help raising the money. Chief Wylie said everything is still pending; the departments haven't discussed this as a group.

Guilford Smith Library

Afron Seal wanted to thank the Windham First Taxing District for support of their budget. She gave the quarterly report. She stated they were closed for four snow days which made their hours less. Diane Rayhall asked if the collaboration of the Windham Reading program will have the books that are listed on the schools summer reading program. She said they will. Diane asked if the library had notified the Middle School on the babysitter's course. Afron said she did. Then Diane Rayhall asked if the library was doing anything for the months of June, July and August? Afron said they were, but their meeting was the next day and they were going to finalize the list of events for these months.

Windham Free Library

David Light wanted to thank the Board for their support. He asked what kind of a report the Board expected from him. Diane said she would like a quarterly report. She explained that if there were events and he didn't come to the meeting, he could e-mail the Board to keep them in the loop. Diane said the library will always be listed as an agenda item going forward. She also spoke with Barbara McGrath and was told the amount of money coming from the general fund might change. Diane asked David Light if he was going to stop applying for money from the town. He wasn't aware of this change, so this would be discussed in the future. David Light went on to say the board had one meeting since February. In March all three libraries got together. It was great and informal. They want a collegiate approach to things in the future. There will be a meeting this week to discuss how to move forward. Two people have come forward to run the Jazz In the Park program and the Windham Center School program has started. Diane Rayhall asked who will be running the Jazz in the Park. David said Mrs. Donahue and he couldn't remember who the other one was. Two weeks ago Jim Turner did a videotaping for Channel 14 of people being asked what the library meant to them.

Windham Youth Organization

Diane Rayhall stated that Pam could not be present; she was attending her daughter's baseball game. David Light stated that opening day was this past weekend and that there was a great turnout.

South Windham Fire Department

Chief John Chapman read the April report.

Windham Center Fire Department

Stan McClure read the April report. He stated they received the insurance check for a new carport.

North Windham Fire Department

Chief John Wylie read the April report. He attended the last meeting on the Magnet School. He met with Norman Allard, Neal Beets, Mike Licata and Tom Devivo. One fire hydrant on the school line was rejected by the state and one was put on the entrance side on the fork in the road. He drafted a letter to Mike Licata, on the importance of the positions of the fire hydrants and the back-up plan. This letter had to come from the fire marshal's office with his approval, and then sent to the State from him. Diane asked why she wasn't copied on this letter. She wants to be copied on any correspondence regarding the school. Elaine Rogers asked Chief Wylie why the State rejected the hydrant. He said the hydrant should only be used for a fire at the school and the location of this hydrant made this questionable. Peter Bruscato asked what the flow rates were for the hydrants. Norman didn't know this because he was just starting to put the prints together for the mechanical plans. Peter also asked what the static pressure was around St. Joseph's property. Chief Wylie replied around 90. He wasn't sure what the elevation would do on the pressure. Diane asked if they need another print design. He said it was still on the table. They are still questioning where to put the solar panels. Norman was not sure if the roof could hold the weight of the panels. Afron Seal asked what the projected opening day was. He said fall of 2013.

Old Business

Diane said the switchboard's budget was cut \$100,000 from the town's budget. The committee is doing an RFP for \$20,000 to look at cost of the switchboard. John Wylie said as a member of the Switchboard Association, they attended the Public Safety Committee meeting and expressed their concerns on moving the switchboard service to QV. They answered all the committee's questions. They said the building they are in gets a lot of use, and they may save money in the first year. If the grant doesn't cover the move, the town may be responsible to pay. Not sure if the town would have to pay back the equipment that came from the grant. John went on to say there is no profit to be made at the switchboard. They have allocated \$36,000 for an emergency fund in case something goes down. They are holding a zero increase to help the town. Helene Chapman said all dispatchers have to go through training, it's required by the State. There are only 30 phone sets to spread across the state. She went on to say how do you expect towns to come back to Willimantic's switchboard center when then newspapers say the switchboard is in trouble. Diane Rayhall asked if other towns have seen Willimantic's facilities. He stated many have seen them, but many are waiting on town's decision before they would commit to anything. Someone on the Public Safety committee asked to take the \$20,000 and put it toward recruiting towns, but the committee did not act on that suggestion.

New Business

None

Public Comment

David Light said it was most revealing to come to the annual meeting and hear about the switchboard services and how the community felt about them, and now he's concerned because the switchboard is in danger. Helene Chapman said when they met with the Public Safety committee it was not televised that night. QV can offer a cheaper price because they receive town and state money. David Light asked what he could do. Diane Rayhall said he could attend the next Board of Finance meeting and ask to reinstate the money to the switchboard, or he can vote the budget down. Diane said she told Barbara McGrath that she did the town an injustice by cutting the switchboard's money since she attended the last Windham First Taxing District's annual meeting and heard how the town overwhelmingly supported them.

Donald Potter stated the town could save money by not proposing to put money into the Kramer building for renovations. Diane noted that they want to renovate the third floor for finance and administration offices. This is a problem because it leaves the halls wide open and a child could be easily taken.

Diane noted that June will be the last meeting before the summer break. She reminded the fire chiefs to touch base with the Board when they decide what to do with raising money for the breathing apparatus.

Adjournment

Motion made by Elaine Rogers to adjourn at 1959 hrs, seconded by Peter Bruscato, all in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

AnnMarie White
Clerk