

Minutes of the Willimantic Taxing District Special Meeting

Windham Town Hall Bellingham Auditorium, 2nd Floor
Tuesday, July 28, 2015 - 7:00 P.M.

1. Call to Order.

Chairman Tom DeVivo called the Willimantic Taxing District Special Meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

Members Present: Thomas DeVivo, Charles Krich, Joseph Underwood, Lorraine McDevitt, Mark Doyle (arrived at 7:33 P.M.), James Flores and Christel Donahue

Town Manager Neal Beets and Town Attorney Rich Cody were also in attendance

2. Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Tom DeVivo led all in the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Public Comment.

Greg Marchand, Willimantic, read a statement and requested it be included in the minutes. (See attached)

Doug Lary, 183 Summit Street, Willimantic, spoke about the voting on the budget, having committee's membership from more than one party and having electors included on the committees.

Lori Jeffers requested the By-Laws be more specific. She made suggestions regarding mandatory referenda's and spending.

Dawn Niles, North Windham, noted she was not in favor of creating the Willimantic Taxing District and questioned whether it was voted on properly. She also gave examples of how the Windham First Taxing District operates.

John McCommas, 29 Kathleen Drive, Willimantic, spoke about maintaining voters rights in referenda's and keeping voters informed before any amendments are made to the By-Laws.

Jean deSmet, Willimantic, spoke in favor of an automatic budget referendum. She also suggested a committee of citizens be formed to assist in writing the By-Laws and she requested the By-Laws not be passed as written.

Diane Ayer, Willimantic, spoke in favor of a mandatory budget referendum.

Ben Van Rheen, stated he was running for Town Council in November and thinks the Council will be doing a disservice if the budget is passed without voter input.

Dr. Robert Maine spoke in favor of checks and balances to maintain democracy and is in favor of having budget referenda's.

Jeff Viens, spoke in favor of a mandatory budget referendum and agrees with the comments made by Ms. Niles.

Joel Meyers stated the Council doesn't listen to the people. He thinks the budget will take longer to pass if the voters aren't involved in the process.

Harry Carboni spoke in favor of referenda's. He also spoke about the hospital budget cuts and layoffs.

Charlie Kratt, Monticello Street, Willimantic, commented on the process used in creating the budget and voter participation.

Ruth Hartunian-Alumbaugh, spoke about the Bu-Laws and giving people a choice.

Judd Ayer noted he came tonight to hear the issues regarding the By-Laws and stated he can see both sides.

Dawn Shayer, 15 Strongs Court, Willimantic, spoke about voter rights and asked that they not be taken away.

Grace Adams suggested holding all elections at one time.

4. Councilmember Comment.

None

5. Discuss and Possibly Adopt Bylaws.

Flores MOVED, Krich seconded, to accept the By-Laws with the amendment to Article III Section 3. All were in favor. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Flores MOVED, Krich seconded, to accept the By-Laws as amended. All were in favor. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

6. Election of Officers for the Taxing District.

a. Election of President.

Krich MOVED, Doyle seconded, to nominate Tom DeVivo as President of the Willimantic Taxing District. All were in favor except Underwood, Flores and DeVivo who abstained. MOTION PASSED.

b. Election of Vice President.

Donahue MOVED, McDevitt seconded, to nominate Charles Krich as Vice President. All were in favor except Underwood, Flores and Krich who abstained. MOTION PASSED.

c. Election of Treasurer.

Krich MOVED, Flores seconded, to nominate Lorraine McDevitt as Treasurer. All were in favor except McDevitt and Flores who abstained. MOTION PASSED.

d. Election of Secretary.

Krich MOVED, McDevitt seconded, to nominate Joseph Underwood as Secretary. All were in favor except Underwood and Flores who abstained. MOTION PASSED.

7. Discuss and Possibly Adopt a Regular Meeting Schedule.

McDevitt MOVED, Krich seconded, to adopt the 4th Tuesday of the month through January 2016 at 7:00 P.M. in the Windham Town Hall Bellingham Auditorium as the regular meeting schedule of the Willimantic Taxing District. All were in favor. MOTION PASSED.

8. Discuss and Possibly Act on Other Procedural or Organizational Matters.

It was suggested that notification be given to the Clerk, Chairman or Town Manager in the event a Council member will be absent
No action was taken.

9. Report from the Police Chief.

a. Operating Statistics.

b. Budget Update.

Chief Maruzo-Bolduc had no report on the Operating Statistics or Budget Update.

Chief Maruzo-Bolduc reported on some of the notable incidents during the month of July, including the complaints of fireworks on the 4th, the condition of the person who climbed the telephone pole, the machete assault on Milk Street and the head on crash on Jackson Street.

Chief Maruzo-Bolduc also reported on the status of the cell renovations, the Public Act regarding the use of Excessive Force and the purchase of cameras.

10. Report from the Fire Chief. The

a. Operating Statistics.

b. Budget Update.

Captain Palmer noted the Operating Statistics and Budget Update reports had been emailed to all Council members.

Captain Palmer answered questions from the Town Manager regarding response times to the Windham's. He assured the Council response times are in line with the NFPA National average and explained how calls are handled in the Windham's where there are volunteer departments. He stated the Fire Department takes response time very seriously and they always strive to reach higher standards.

11. Future Agenda Items.

None

12. Public Comment.

Dawn Shayer thanked the Fire Department for saving St. Mary's Church and spoke about the tremendous job they did.

Doug Lary, 183 Summit Street, Willimantic, thanked the Council for listening and inviting the Town Attorney to the meeting.

Ben Van Rheen, Ridgewood Road, Willimantic, stated the Paramedics and Fire Department saved his life many times.

James Flores is concerned that he is not being made aware of what is happening in Town. He thinks more transparency is needed.

13. Adjournment

McDevitt MOVED, Underwood seconded, to adjourn the Willimantic Taxing District Council Special meeting adjourned at 8:30 P.M.

Submitted By:

Barbara J. McKinney

Clerk of the Council

You plan to take away Willimantic residents' right to vote on the Willimantic Taxing District budget. Why would you change a system that is working well and represents your constituents? To me that isn't a democracy or republic it is a fascist philosophy and a dictatorship especially when the Directors will be the sole authority examining the budget and then voting on it.

In Article 3 Section 3; at the Annual Budget Meeting, the voter attending shall make no changes to the budget proposed by the directors but may approve or disapprove, by majority the budget presented to them; the voter may adjourn and refer, by majority vote of those attending.

I find this kind of funny, the idea of coming to a meeting, when there's an important meeting here such as the parking in winter meeting two council members, which are of the board for the parking rules didn't show up.

To continue, lastly in this same Section it reads, 'in any such subsequent District meeting voters shall have the same authority as in the annual budget meeting. The only authority voters should have is to vote at a referendum as usual otherwise the re really is no authority for the voters.

I promise I will file a Class Action Individual Capacity and an Official Capacity lawsuit for Corruption on the town and to every individual on the Directors board if this idea does not cease and desist immediately. How dare you come up with such a selfish fascist idea? I'm disgusted.

The meaning of Corruption is; dishonest or illegal behavior especially by powerful people (such as government officials or police officers)

: the act of corrupting someone or something

: something that has been changed from its original form

The Common Sense Party Gregg Marchand

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