

**Windsor Town Council
Council Chambers – Town Hall
February 1, 2010
Approved Minutes**

Public Hearing

To hear citizens' input on the FY 2011 proposed budget

Present: Mayor Trinks, Deputy Mayor Simon, Councilor Eleveld, Councilor Jubrey, Councilor Herzfeld, Councilor Jepsen, Councilor Marci, Councilor McKenney

Absent: Councilor McDonald

Mayor Trinks read the Public Hearing announcement at 7:17 p.m.

Public Comment

Mr. Rick Gaudet, 31 Holly Circle, spoke on behalf of the Windsor Diamond Club. Two years ago they came up with a proposal on dugouts and the only thing left was to approach the Town Council and discuss the funding. Unfortunately with the economy, the time was not right. At this time, the town still is facing a tough economy. They would like the Council to consider the dugout proposal for the FY 2011 budget. They have prepared a proposal and a PowerPoint presentation, which he will forward to the Town Council and Town Manager. We need to address our fields because the high school and several organizations will benefit. There is lack of enough fields. A few years ago, our town had to approach the Town of Suffield for some home games. Prior to Ellsworth field being made available, they played all their home games away. There are no restroom facilities. Port-a-lets were obtained last year. Prior to that, visitors were directed to the McDonalds on Bloomfield Avenue and players had to use the woods. There is no score board, no dugouts, no storage facility and no permanent fence. The batting cage facilities are also lacking. If there are any questions, please contact him.

Mr. Bernie Caliendo, 149 Tobey Avenue, addressed the conditions and lack of fields at Windsor High School. Most of the baseball fields in the presentation in other towns had dugouts, restroom facilities and most had batting cages. It's not an adequate presentation of our town and our baseball teams. The backstop is a safety issue. From 4:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m., the sun is shining in the pitcher's face. He is almost blinded and could get hit by a line drive. There is a cloth mesh there right now, but it is not opaque. The infield is also affected by the sun. John Fitch has better facilities than the high school fields. He hopes that the Town Council can find some financing to improve what we have and down the road make it even better.

Ms. Mary Barnett, 82 Hillcrest Road, has a son who is a pitcher for the Windsor Warriors. He and his teammates cannot see the ball when the sun is out. This must be

corrected before someone gets hurt. More screening must be installed and if possible the backstop should be extended.

Mr. Charles Button, 147 Pleasant Street, spoke about the baseball fields. There is a demand for baseball. Teams, even beyond high school, have a need for baseball facilities in town.

Mr. Bradshaw Smith, 23 Ludlow Road, said several years ago library hours were reduced. He would like to see them restored. At the minimum, library hours should be Monday through Thursday from 9:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m., Friday and Saturday from 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., and Sunday from 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. There is no extra cost for this restoration as the funds are already in the agency's budget. For as long as he can remember, the town has had a Highway Superintendent and a Parks Superintendent. Sometime in the past ten years, the Highway Superintendent was promoted to the newly created Operations Manager and the position of Parks Superintendent was eliminated. He distributed pictures of various park facilities to the Town Council. He said it is obvious that the Operations Manager does not care properly for the parks and other open spaces. Mr. Smith would like the position of Parks Superintendent restored. He outlined his opinion on what our budget priorities should be: to the maximum extent feasible to preserve existing facilities, programs and services – to the extent they are still relevant; to restore previous cuts to programs and services – to the extent they are still relevant and new facilities, programs and services. Since we are already so far behind with the first two items, he does not see how we could possibly even begin to accomplish the last item.

Ms. Coralee Jones, 1171 Matianuck Avenue, sees the major budget responsibility as the health and safety of people who live, work and visit Windsor. It's no accident that our crime rate remains low. It is the hard work of our police department. It is important that they receive funding for staffing and tools that they need. Also, since we are the oldest town, we should continue to provide funding to the Windsor Historical Society. She is also interested in the library. She was there today observing fathers with young children, a group with special needs, grandparents, etc. Our library is used extensively by all residents in Windsor. We need to continue to maintain our buildings and facilities. So much of our budget is tied up in supporting our schools. She is looking towards the superintendent to keep that budget in line. She is looking for the Town Council to not go down the path of our state representatives and senators. She knows the Council will put a budget together that the taxpayers will support and can afford. It's a tough job, but that's what you were elected to do.

Mayor Trinks closed the Public Hearing at 7:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristin Countryman
Clerk of the Windsor Town Council

cc: Town Clerk, Main Library, Wilson Branch