

# *Village of Windham, Ohio*

## *Minutes of Regular Council Meeting*

*Held on December 19, 2023*

At 6:00 pm Mayor Scott Garrett called the Regular Council Meeting to order and led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call:       Lawrence Cunningham – Present       Sherri Pennington – Present  
                  Cheryl Belknap – Present               Terrie Altieri – Present  
                  Marilyn Gage – Absent                   David Belknap – Present

Also present were Village Solicitor Tom Reitz, Village Administrator Ryan Wagner, Housing Inspector Damel Walker, Officer Hartlaub, Sheila Moore, and other residents.

Mayor Scott Garrett swears in new Police Officer Shawn Barauskas at 6:02 p.m.  
Shawn Barauskas is officially a Village of Windham Police Officer the 19<sup>th</sup> of December 2023 at 6:03 p.m.

Terrie Altieri makes a motion to approve the November 28, 2023 Regular Council Meeting Minutes. Cheryl Belknap seconded the motion and it carried by a 4-1 Roll Call Vote with David Belknap voting No.

Fiscal Officer's Financial Reports by Katrina Washington

Income Tax collected Year to date November 30, 2023: \$617,155.90

The Expenditures for the month of November 2023: \$97,612.29 in checks and charges. Check numbers 38716, 38717, 38734, 38740, 38755, 38757, 38761, 38763 through 38766, 38768, 38769, 38771 through 38777, 38779 through 38784, 38787 through 38789, 38791 were paid from the primary checking account during November 2023 with 3 checks voided during the month. Direct Deposit Vouchers 954-2023 through 969-2023, 972-2023 through 992-303, and 994-2023 through 1011-2023 were also paid during the month of November 2023. The all funds balance for November 2023 was \$2,278,935.50.

Mayor Scott Garrett opens the floor for the Council President's Report.

Council President Lawrence Cunningham shares with Council that the topics can be discussed as we get to each committee. Sharing that a new Zoning Inspector was hired, Christina Stiere and that will be effective January 1, 2024. Council needs to go over how employees get paid overtime. What will happen with the water rates along with inspection rates. Also informing Council that Village Administrator Ryan Wagner signed off on selling a couple more lots. Council needs to go over the timeline for activating the stop light. Council President Lawrence Cunningham also shares with Council that the weather got real bad real quick the night before, but the Street employee got salt on the roads and got them looking pretty good.

Mayor Scott Garrett opens the floor to Terrie Altieri to present the Dispatchers Police, Fire and Rescue Reports for October 2023.

Terrie Altieri makes a motion to accept the Dispatch Police, Fire and Fire Board Rescue reports for November 2023. Sherri Pennington seconded the motion and it carried by a 5-0 Roll Call Vote.

Mayor Scott Garrett opens the floor for Mayor's Communication

Mayor Scott Garrett thanks those that were at the Christmas Parade of Lights. Further explaining that it was the largest we have had with around a hundred and fifty to two hundred (150-200) people. Mayor Scott Garrett also thanks everyone that helped make the event possible and for doing their parts.

Mayor Scott Garrett confirms that the roads were good when he came home during the winter storm.

Mayor Scott Garrett shares that it has been his pleasure for the last five (5) years to be the Mayor for The Village of Windham. Thanking everyone for the chance to serve The Village of Windham. Further explaining that he knows he is leaving it in very good

hands. Lawrence Cunningham is going to do a great job and The Village is going to do a lot of good things in the future.

Mayor Scott Garrett opens the floor for Finance.

Terrie Altieri makes a motion to approve the Fiscal Officer's expenditures for the month of November 2023 as reported. Cheryl Belknap seconded the motion and it carried by a 5-0 Roll Call Vote.

Terrie Altieri makes a motion to approve the all Funds Bank Balance for November 2023 in the amount of \$2,278,935.50 as reported. Sherri Pennington seconded the motion and it carried by a 5-0 Roll Call Vote.

Terrie Altieri does a read of tabled RESOLUTION NO. 2023 – 11 **A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN OHIO ELECTRIC SUPPLY AGREEMENT - PRICNG ATTACHMENT WITH ENERGY HARBOR, LLC.** WHEREAS, the Council of the Village of Windham has received an overture from Energy Harbor, LLC under which Energy Harbor, LLC could provide a projected savings on the cost of electrical utilities to the Village of Windham

Terrie Altieri makes a motion to remove RESOLUTION NO 2023-11 from the table. David Belknap seconded the motion and it carried by a 5-0 Roll Call Vote.

Terrie Altieri makes a motion to remove RESOLUTION NO 2023-11 from the agenda. David Belknap seconded the motion and it carried by a 5-0 Roll Call Vote.

Terrie Altieri reads RESOLUTION NO. 2023 – 18 **A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN OHIO ELECTRICITY SUPPLY AGREEMENT WITH INTERSTATE GAS SUPPLY, LLC, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

Terrie Altieri makes a motion to discuss RESOLUTION NO 2023-18. David Belknap seconded the motion and it carried by a 5-0 Roll Call Vote.

David Belknap shares that there are two (2) accounts missing on the Resolution. There are ten (10) accounts listed on the Resolution, but there are two (2) missing. Explaining that one is the Loyd Billman account for the traffic lights and the other is the Wilvern Dr lift station. Village Administrator Ryan Wagner is instructed to call and get those two accounts added.

Terrie Altieri makes a motion to end discussion for RESOLUTION NO 2023-18. Sherri Pennington seconded the motion and it carried by a 5-0 Roll Call Vote.

Terrie Altieri makes a motion to suspend the rules. Cheryl Belknap seconded the motion and it carried by a 5-0 Roll Call Vote.

Terrie Altieri makes a motion to approve RESOLUTION NO 2023-18. David Belknap seconded the motion and it carried by a 5-0 Roll Call Vote.

Terrie Altieri reads RESOLUTION NO. 2023 – 19 **A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN OHIO NATURAL GAS SUPPLY AGREEMENT WITH INTERSTATE GAS SUPPLY, LLC, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

Terrie Altieri makes a motion to discuss RESOLUTION NO 2023-19. Sherri Pennington seconded the motion and it carried by a 5-0 Roll Call Vote.

Terrie Altieri asks David Belknap is the Resolution has all the accounts listed. David Belknap says yes.

Terrie Altieri makes a motion to end discussion for RESOLUTION NO 2023-19. Lawrence Cunningham seconded the motion and it carried by a 5-0 Roll Call Vote.

Terrie Altieri makes a motion to suspend the rules. David Belknap seconded the motion and it carried by a 5-0 Roll Call Vote.

Terrie Altieri makes a motion to approve RESOLUTION NO 2023-18. David Belknap seconded the motion and it carried by a 5-0 Roll Call Vote.

Terrie Altieri reads **RESOLUTION R-2023-20 A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE 2024 TEMPORARY BUDGET AND AUTHORIZING THE FISCAL OFFICER TO SUBMIT THE BUDGET TO THE PORTAGE COUNTY AUDITOR AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

Terrie Altieri makes a motion to discuss RESOLUTION NO 2023-20. Sherri Pennington seconded the motion and it carried by a 5-0 Roll Call Vote.

Terrie Altieri makes a motion to end discussion for RESOLUTION NO 2023-20. Cheryl Belknap seconded the motion and it carried by a 5-0 Roll Call Vote.

Terrie Altieri makes a motion to suspend the rules. David Belknap seconded the motion and it carried by a 5-0 Roll Call Vote.

Terrie Altieri makes a motion to approve RESOLUTION NO 2023-20. David Belknap seconded the motion and it carried by a 5-0 Roll Call Vote.

Mayor Scott Garrett opens the floor for Safety and Personnel

Terrie Altieri opens the floor to Fiscal Officer Katrina Washington who then presents the idea of paying out unused vacation time to the employees rather than them losing the time. Explaining that the employees try to use it by leaving early or taking a day here and there. But then they get called in for an emergency or they have to come in to do labs. Fiscal Officer Katrina Washington explains that employees can currently carry over a week of vacation for the first two (2) weeks following their anniversary date with written approval. But after those two (2) weeks, they still lose it. Council and Village Administrator Ryan Wagner goes off topic. Sherri Pennington brings Council back to the topic Fiscal Officer Katrina Washington asked about and Council decides that employees can get cashed out for up to one week of unused vacation time after their Hire Anniversary Date. Village Solicitor Tom Reitz informs Council that they will need to amend their handbook.

Fiscal Officer asks Council if it is ok for her to go ahead and pay out any comp-time balances now rather than wait till the end of the year. Council agrees that those hours can be paid on now with the last pay of the year.

Terrie Altieri does a Second read **RESOLUTION 2023-15 AN RESOLUTION RETAINING CHARLES V. GASIOR, ATTORNEY AT LAW, AS SOLICITOR FOR THE VILLAGE OF WINDHAM, OHIO, AND FIXING HIS FEES FOR THE PERIOD FROM JANUARY 1, 2024 TO DECEMBER 31, 2025. WHEREAS, the Council of the Village of Windham has determined to provide for legal representation of the Village by hiring a Village Solicitor**

Terrie Altieri makes a motion to discuss RESOLUTION 2023-15. Sherri Pennington seconded the motion and it carried by a 5-0 Roll Call Vote.

David Belknap asks if his rate was one fifty (150) an hour. Village Solicitor Tom Reitz confirms.

Terrie Altieri makes a motion to end discussion on RESOLUTION 2023-15. Sherri Pennington seconded the motion and it carried by a 5-0 Roll Call Vote.

Terrie Altieri makes a motion to suspend the rules. Lawrence Cunningham seconded the motion and it carried by a 5-0 Roll Call Vote.

Terrie Altieri makes a motion to approve RESOLUTION 2023-15. David Belknap seconded the motion and it carried by a 5-0 Roll Call Vote.

Terrie Altieri makes a motion to hire Christina Stiere to serve as the Village of Windham's Zoning Inspector on a part time basis, working 20 hours a week without benefits, beginning on January 1, 2024, at an annual salary of \$7,200 a year with a six (6) month probation period. Cheryl Belknap seconded the motion and it carried by a 5-0 Roll Call Vote.

Mayor Scott Garrett spoke with Zoning Inspector Nick Bellas who said he would come in and help bring her up to speed. Instructing Fiscal Officer Katrina Washington that before he gets his final pay, all the passwords are given to Christina Stiere so she is

ready to go. Further explaining that Zoning Inspector Nick Bellas is willing to help, we just need to discuss the terms.

Council President Lawrence Cunningham asks Council when they would like to get the stop light working again. Council decides to post notice and have it running by January 15, 2023 at midnight.

Mayor Scott Garrett opens the floor for Utilities

David Belknap reads **RESOLUTION NO. R-2023- 17 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF REPLACEMENT WATER METERS AND ASSOCIATED EQUIPMENT AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

David Belknap makes a motion to discuss RESOLUTION NO R-2023-17. Terrie Altieri seconded the motion and it carried by a 5-0 Roll Call Vote.

Village Administrator Ryan says Mark Edwards came in and did a presentation for Council. The price is twenty-six thousand (26,000) for forty-six (46) meters, software and everything needed to switch over. Further explaining that he spoke with the representative and was told that for forty-eight thousand (48,000), the Village would be able to get a hundred and sixteen (116) meters with the software and everything. Mayor Scott Garrett asks what the price increase would be after January. Village Administrator Ryan Wagner informs Council it would be nine dollars (\$9). Fiscal Officer Katrina Washington asks Village Administrator Ryan Wagner if he spoke with the EPA about possible grants for new water meters. Reminding that he had mentioned before that the EPA really likes the no waste concept and the meter falls in that category. Village Administrator Ryan Wagner has not spoke to the EPA about grants. Further saying that is something we could look into in the future. Stating that they start putting their grants out there at the beginning of the year. So after January 1<sup>st</sup> he will reach out to them.

David Belknap asks if we are paying for a company to come in and install the new meters. Village Administrator Ryan Wagner says that our guys will go in and replace meters with the new ones as the old ones go bad.

David Belknap makes a motion to end discussion on RESOLUTION 2023-17. Sherri Pennington seconded the motion and it carried by a 5-0 Roll Call Vote.

David Belknap makes a motion to suspend the rules. Terrie Altieri seconded the motion and it carried by a 5-0 Roll Call Vote.

David Belknap makes a motion to amend the Exhibit A with the following specifics. In the place of the quantity of forty-six (46), the quantity of one hundred sixteen (116) will be substituted. And in place of the group one subtotal of twenty-six thousand one hundred dollars (\$26,100.00), the dollar amount of forty-eight thousand dollars (\$48,000) will be substituted. Terrie Altieri seconded the motion and it carried with a 5-0 Roll Call Vote.

David Belknap makes a motion to approve RESOLUTION 2023-17 as amended. Sherri Pennington seconded the motion and it carried by a 5-0 Roll Call Vote.

Mayor Scott Garrett opens the floor for Service Committee

Cheryl Belknap does a First Read of **ORDINANCE 2023-13 AN ORDINANCE ENACTING CODIFIED ORDINANCE CHAPTER 315 ENTITLED “MANUALLY-OPERATED TRAFFIC LAW ENFORCEMENT DEVICES,” ESTABLISHING CIVIL PENALTIES, AND REPEALING ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HEREWITH.**

Cheryl Belknap makes a motion to discuss ORDINANCE 2023-13. Terrie Altieri seconded the motion and it carried by a 5-0 Roll Call Vote.

Village Solicitor Tom Reitz informs Council that this is a company which has operated handheld speed cameras. They are not the automated mounted type that some municipalities have. Further explaining the difference between the handheld option presented to Council and the mounted type. Mayor Scott Garrett asks if this option will produce more revenue than not having it. Village Solicitor Tom Reitz says that while he does not have crystal ball to see how much revenue it would produce. With this option, you wouldn't have to pay an officer to go to court, write a ticket, etcetera. Mayor Scott Garrett says that is what he was wondering.

David Belknap asks if Council can get a report on how many speeding tickets, traffic accidents and stuff like that we've had this year. Further explaining that in the second line of the Ordinance it says it will reduce speeds, reduced speeds will result in fewer traffic accidents, related injuries or fatalities. Just so Council is informed, can they get those reports so they know how many we have had this year.

David Belknap asks about the retainer of twenty-five thousand (\$25,000). Village Solicitor Tom Reitz informs Council that they ask for twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) in order to set up. In Hiram; which it was left the same way in this contract; it was negotiated that the money does not have to be paid upfront. Instead your portion of each ticket gets applied toward the twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) until it is all paid off in full. Further explaining that there is a risk involved of entering into a five (5) year contract, but you don't have the risk involved of the Village in order to get it started.

Cheryl Belknap makes a motion to end discussion on ORDINANCE 2023-13. Terrie Altieri seconded the motion and it carried by a 5-0 Roll Call Vote.

Cheryl Belknap does a First Read on RESOLUTION 2023-16 **A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND THE FISCAL OFFICER TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH TARGETING AND SOLUTIONS LIMITED FOR SPEED ENFORCEMENT SYSTEMS IN THE VILLAGE OF WINDHAM**

Cheryl Belknap makes a motion to discuss RESOLUTION 2023-16. Terrie Altieri seconded the motion and it carried by a 5-0 Roll Call Vote.

Cheryl Belknap makes a motion to end discussion on RESOLUTION 2023-16. Terrie Altieri seconded the motion and it carried by a 5-0 Roll Call Vote.

Mayor Scott Garrett opens the floor for Economic Development

Council President Lawrence Cunningham informs Council that he has reached out to a few mayors and is going to visit a bunch. He is also going to look further into the Mayors Coalitions and trying to see what other resources are out there.

Mayor Scott Garrett opens the floor for Housing Reports

Housing Inspector Damel Walker informs Council that he spoke with Yoda and Luke and was told that we should hold off for another thirty (30) days to make sure that they get the properties fixed properly. If they don't then the charges can move forward.

Housing Inspector Damel Walker also informs Council that he would like to amend Ordinance 13.10a to increase the penalty from fifty dollars (\$50) to seventy-five (\$75). Also stating that the jail time can stay the same. Mayor Scott Garrett asks Village Solicitor Tom Reitz if that is doable. Village Solicitor Tom Reitz confirms that it is. Council agrees to have that done.

Council President Lawrence Cunningham asks Council if the Housing Inspection Fees will remain the same price or will they raise. Council says keep them the same.

Mayor Scott Garrett opens the floor to Village Administrator Ryan Wagner

Village Administrator Ryan Wagner informs Council that the salt shed is just about done and will pour the concrete Friday hopefully. Once that is done it will be ready to put salt in.

Village Administrator Ryan Wagner informs Council that upstairs should be done by the first of the year.

Village Administrator Ryan Wagner informs Council that he received a bid for the new utilities building that is going on the cold storage building. The bid is twentyish (20+) and is a small price to pay. He already has the prints and everything. They just have not been submitted to the county yet. If Council likes it then he can submit the drawings to the county. He has received one bid, he could get a couple more. The current bid is from Stiere for twenty-one thousand dollars (\$21,000) and can be split between departments. Village Administrator Ryan Wagner says that he will try to get some more bids. There is discussion about allocating leftover money from 2023 in funds so it doesn't come out of 2024 funds between Mayor Scott Garrett and Village Administrator Ryan Wagner. Terrie Altieri asks what is going on in the current Council Chambers that is getting converted into a garage. Mayor Scott Garrett is hopeful that by next year Council can start having that discussion because there are two (2) other projects that need to get done beforehand. Further explaining that in the past they talked about doing two (2) bays, but

recently there has been discussion about only doing one (1) bay. David Belknap asks about the holes that have already been cut for the lean tube. Wondering if they have been inspected, if they will stay stable, and will they eventually start collapsing in. Village Administrator Ryan Wagner says that the holes have not been inspected, he does not know how long they will stay stable and said that they will eventually start collapsing in. Further explaining that the idea was that the machine to drill the holes was already here. So they drilled the holes so that once there was approval they were done. David Belknap asks why the Village owns a backhoe. Suggests selling or giving it to the school and buying a front-end loader. Village Administrator Ryan Wagner thinks that is a bad idea and gives reasons of he thinks the Village should keep the backhoe.

David Belknap asks how much money is coming out for the future for water and sewer loans. Further explaining that the Previous Fiscal Officer, Cheree Taylor, always said that when the next phase came, it was going to get really tight.

Village Administrator Ryan Wagner says that everyone needs to keep in mind that when they talk about turning the area into garages, smoke rises. So all the smoke from the vehicles coming in and out of here is going to rise and go into the offices. If equipment is going to go in here, this area needs to be sealed up really well. Also thinks that two (2) bays is an overkill and taking away from our office space.

Village Administrator Ryan Wagner says that the water department on average is bringing in about six thousand dollars (\$6,000) a month. Wastewater is on average maybe four thousand (\$4,000) a month after everything. Sherri Pennington asks if there is still more money allocated to water than wastewater. Village Administrator Ryan Wagner says yes. Terrie Altieri says that she thought Council switched that. Village Administrator Ryan Wagner says that they talked about it but they never did. There is discussion on the topic. Mayor Scott Garrett asks if sewer is in the black right now for this year. Village Administrator Ryan Wagner says yes. Mayor Scott Garrett says that is the first time in years. Sherri Pennington says that if it costs more to run your waste, then why would you put more in water. Village Administrator Ryan Wagner agrees. Fiscal Officer Katrina Washington informs Council that when you look at the reports, water actually has more expenses than wastewater. Village Administrator Ryan Wagner says that they bring more in too. Fiscal Officer Katrina Washington says that if you look at the expenses for each month, the water department actually spends more money than the wastewater every year. Sherri Pennington asks why. Is it loans, is it this, is it that, why do they spend more because it doesn't cost a lot to make water. Fiscal Officer Katrina Washington says that water does have more loans than the sewer department. Village Administrator Ryan Wagner and Sherri Pennington talk overtop of each other and Fiscal Officer Katrina Washington. Fiscal Officer Katrina Washington further explains that she went back three (3) years and found that every year water had more expenses than the wastewater. Further explaining that they buy a lot more salt and chemicals. Mayor Scott Garrett and Cheryl Belknap talk over top also saying more chemicals are purchased. Village Administrator Ryan Wagner says that their expenditures might be a little more, but their revenue is a lot more. So when you average out the funds, water is still higher in the black than the sewer department is. Mayor Scott Garrett asks where are the funds for water and sewer right now. Village Administrator Ryan Wagner says sewer is five o eight. (508) and water is four sixty-four (464). Village Administrator Ryan Wagner suggests to Council to move the rates around like discussed before. Raising the low end. Mayor Scott Garrett says that we don't have to reinvent the wheel. Says to look and see what the other Villages around us are doing. Garrettsville is a good example to see how they do it.

Village Administrator Ryan Wagner informs Council that the Wastewater Superintendent received a quote for the filters that were put in. The way they are designed, when they get overloaded they have an overflow on them. It's a biological contact filter that creates a bacteria that goes through the water then it comes up and gets it's air and goes back under. It helps get rid of the CBODs. Eventually the water flows into the creek. The Wastewater Superintendent thinks that is a bad idea so he got a price to have it plumbed in so when it overflows it would go back into the plant to be retreated. The quote was for twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000). Terrie Altieri says do that instead of the lean tube. Mayor Scott Garrett thinks that environmentally we should be doing that.

Village Administrator Ryan Wagner informs Council that the camera came out and got everything cleaned out. The company found a manhole we didn't know existed. They ran the camera through lines on Green, Store, Bright, Horn, Blanton and found water breaks, crushed lines, roots in the pipes in the wastewater lines. There was also a bas spot on Store where they couldn't get through in about three (3) spots because of

roots. Mayor Scott Garrett asks what do we do about that. Village Administrator Ryan Wagner suggested addressing the worst spots first and dig up one section at a time to replace them over time. David Belknap suggests looking into tree removal as well. Village Administrator Ryan Wagner agrees.

Mayor Scott Garrett opens the floor to Guest Recognition that did not request to be added to the agenda

Sheila Moore asks if Council is reaching out to the building department because they would be changing the building usage. Mayor Scott Garrett informs Sheila Moore that The Village is not allowed to do anything at the moment until the County approves everything for upstairs then give them the plans for this.

Sheila Moore asks how Matt Stiere and Christina are related. Terrie Altieri informs Sheila Moore that Matt is her son. Sheila Moore has concerns about the conflict of interest between the new Zoning Inspector and Matt Stiere doing the work in the Village. With him getting permits here and she is the Zoning Inspector. Village Administrator Ryan Wagner says that he gets the permits because if the Village gets the permits, we get fifty percent (50%) off. And those permits have to come from the county.

Sheila Moore is glad that the speed issue is going to be addressed.

Mayor Scott Garrett opens floor for last chance for Council to speak on any subject

David asks about the quote for Howard Alarm to include all departments. Village Administrator Ryan Wagner does not know, he will look into it. Clerk of Council Katrina Washington reminds him that he was supposed to look into getting Howard Alarm for the sewer plant so they covered everything. Village Administrator Ryan Wagner said the sewer plant went with that other one.

David Belknap asks about the employee evaluations for raises for next year. Mayor Scott Garrett and Lawrence Cunningham have talked about it.

David Belknap asks about the electrical situation for the outside lights, wondering if that has been figured out. Council President Lawrence Cunningham informs Council that the Water Superintendent is going to get ahold of her. Village Solicitor Ryan Wagner says that all he has to do is; anybody can do it. All they have to do is pull that wire out of that breaker and then just cut it in her box and then we are golden. David Belknap just thinks that if it's getting rented out, it should have lights. Village Administrator Ryan Wagner informs Council that there has been four or five (4-5) rentals this month.

David Belknap brings up the water and wastewater rent, giving examples of why the water and sewer could use the money instead. Wondering what is the reason for keeping it right now. Council President Lawrence Cunningham thought it got voted down. Sherri Pennington agreed but said it would get discussed once Mayor Scott Garrett was present. Mayor Scott Garrett informs Council that since Rob put this in place, the Village has been able to give employees raises, we were able to get new equipment. Mayor Scott Garrett suggests going to the residents for a new levy to see if they are willing to pass one. This process has been working for a long time. Before this, there was a long time employees weren't getting any raises until Rob did this. Further explaining that when you don't have raises, you lose employees. If we can go to our residents and say we need more money. Show them why and they pass it, then we can get rid of the rent. But if a levy can't pass, he would say taking it away is not a good idea. David Belknap says that over the last year, since Katrina has been employed, we haven't paid nothing rent wise. Fiscal Officer Katrina Washington says that she was not shown how to do it. Mayor Scott Garrett says that it is automatic. Fiscal Officer Katrina Washington says that she can not confirm or deny that because she just does not know. Mayor Scott Garrett says that we need to figure out who the last person was that was doing that then. He just knows that prior to Rob setting it up, raises were not being given. There has not been an increase in revenue. David Belknap says that the last time Council took a levy to the tax payers was in 2013 and 2012. Both times they failed miserably. In 2012 it failed by a seventy-five (75%) to twenty-four percent (24%) margin. In 2013 when you guys put it back on it failed ninety percent (90%) against to nine (9%) for. So, he doesn't see the tax payers. Sherri Pennington asks how did Council educate the voters, what did we provide them, what information did we give them to say why it was needed. Mayor Scott Garrett informs Council that we won't lose anything as long as we put it on. He thinks that if we get literature out there and just tell them if we want to keep good employees, good equipment in the Village to fix our roads, keep our safety forces. We need this.

Sherri Pennington asks when the next time it is able to go on the ballot. Mayor Scott Garrett says that you can do it every November. Sheila Moore asks what the issue would be that is being voted on, what would it say. Mayor Scott Garrett thinks it would say to maintain your police department, your roads, equipment, etcetera. Village Solicitor Tom Reitz advises Council that when you put a levy on the ballot, you have by statute have to list specific things that it has to be for. Further explaining that one of them is for General Fund, which it sounds like that is what Council is talking about. Further explaining that if you want to break it down and represent your constituents, it's for this specific item. Water or sewer. There is that option too. David Belknap mentions that Council eliminated a position, which saves the Village money. Why can't we do away with the rent and see where we end up next year. Mayor Scott Garrett says every year inflation increases and you are losing money. What are you going to do. We are talking about raises again and you are going to take money away and increase the spending. Sherri Pennington says that she feels like we are taking this money, we are putting into this fund. And we are saying that this is the money that we are generating from these accounts from the water and the sewer, but we're really not because we are taking it from the general fund. We are putting it in here and we are spending. David Belknap says that we already have the legislation. If we go red, why can't we just reimplement it in the future. Mayor Scott Garrett says you could, but why get rid of it if it's working. David Belknap says that we are in a place right now where the wastewater department needs twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000) for plumbing. Mayor Scott Garrett says that in those funds we can set rates. We can't for the general fund that you are taking money out of. David Belknap says that we just eliminated a position that was over fifteen thousand (\$15,000). Mayor Scott Garrett asks what the inflation rate was for the last year and we are just about to give more raises. Sherri Pennington says that we are not if we don't have the money then we don't give them. David Belknap agrees saying that we don't have to. Mayor Scott Garrett says that if you have a couple different cycles where you don't give employees raises, they are going to look over at Streetsboro or what the county is paying. Then leave. Fiscal Officer Katrina Washington explains that is part of the reason the Village loses so many Police Officers, they go elsewhere for more money. Mayor Scott Garrett suggests bringing it before Committee and it can be discussed. David Belknap asks if it can be brought for a vote tonight. Village Solicitor Tom Reitz informs David Belknap that it is not on the agenda

Council President Lawrence Cunningham opens the floor to Village Solicitor Tom Reitz.

Village Solicitor Tom Reitz informs Council that during the entire fourteen (14) years of being the Village Solicitor, the Village has never been successfully sued. The Village is respected in the Courts and he is grateful to The Village of Windham for giving him the opportunity to work for The Village for this period of time. It has been a good relationship and he appreciates it. Mayor Scott Garrett says that The Village is going to miss him. Village Solicitor Tom Reitz has done a great job for The Village. Mayor Scott Garrett has been here for that whole fourteen (14) as well and Village Solicitor Tom Reitz has done a phenomenal job for The Village and Council. Wishing Village Solicitor Tom Reitz the best in retirement.

January Calendar

Special/Organizational Council Meeting Tuesday January 2, 2024 at 5pm

With no further business to discuss Terrie Altieri makes a motion to adjourn the Regular Council Meeting. Cheryl Belknap seconded the motion and it carried by a 5-0 Roll Call Vote.

Regular Council Meeting was adjourned at 8:21pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Attest,

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Katrina Washington  
Clerk of Council

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Scott Garrett  
Mayor



**\*NOTE: THESE MINUTES ARE A SUMMARY BY DIRECTION OF COUNCIL\***  
**All Council and Committee Meetings will be held in Windham Council Chambers,**  
**unless otherwise noted**