

**BOARD OF FINANCE
TOWN OF EAST WINDSOR
11 RYE STREET
EAST WINDSOR, CONNECTICUT 06088**

MINUTES OF PUBLIC HEARING

Wednesday, March 27, 2013 at 7:00 p.m.

These minutes are not official until approved at a subsequent meeting.

Members Present: Jason Bowsza, Joseph Pellegrini, Danelle E. Godeck, Jerilyn Corso, Kathleen Pippin, and Sharon Tripp

Members Absent: None

Alternates Present: Gilbert Hayes

Alternate Absent: Paulette Broder

Others: Catherine Cabral, Denise Menard, Alan Baker, Richard Pippin, James Richards, Chris Mickey, Teresa Kane, Cathy Simonelli, William Schultz, William Raber, Nichole DeSousa, Kathy Bilodeau, Mark Simons, Carol Madore, Chief Edward DeMarco, Joseph Sauerhoufer, Trevor Bray, Robert Cleveland, Jack Mannette, D. Jim Barton, Jim Barton, and many others

Press: Ted Glasner (Patch.com)

I. Call to Order

Chairman Jason Bowsza called the Public Hearing to Order at 7:31 p.m., in the East Windsor High School Cafeteria.

Chairman Jason Bowsza thanked everyone for attending the Public Hearing and reminded anyone who would like to address the Board, a sign-up sheet was on the conference table and it was asked to write their name and address and limit their comments to three minutes. The purpose of the meeting is to get general feedback of the public pursuant to the Charter.

II. Public Comments

Jack Mannette, 15 Old Ellington Road, addressed the Board. Mr. Mannette commented that the lack of information regarding the budget scares him. Taxpayers need to know the amount of increased spending. As he reads it, the proposed budget has an increase in spending by 5.33% and the tax increase of approximately 25%. He does not know what the Boards who developed the budgets were thinking when they came up with their proposed budgets. The economic times are still very difficult. The State of Connecticut is not helping the

taxpayers of East Windsor due to their own budget shortfalls. The taxpayers of East Windsor do not want an increase in their taxes and do not want spending to exceed 2%. He indicated that the State is most likely not funding grants or pilots for casinos and has eliminated discretionary spending; however, it will be funding the ECS grant. He reminded everyone that the State requires a minimum budget requirement as regards to the funding of schools. He again recommended to the Board that they should have a budget which has a 2% spending increase and the Board should recognize this for the first referendum and save money in the costs of referendums.

Mr. Robert Cleveland of 39 Broad Brook Road addressed the Board. He indicated that it is getting harder and harder for everyone in towns and cities across the country, not just East Windsor. He believes that everyone, especially in education, should be forced to take a cut in pay especially those making over \$100,000 per year. Their salaries should be cut in half to \$50,000. If it is done over a two to three year period, a lot of money will be saved. The people making over \$100,000 are living beyond their means. He is not asking those to be laid off, but a cut in pay in order to help the tax burden on the taxpayers. He also had a suggestion for the boiler and air conditioning at the high school and the possibility of having it converted to turbine and makes its own electricity to heat and cool the schools. The electricity could also be used for security purposes in the schools for locking the doors. The money saved can be used to but bullet proof glass in the schools to protect the children.

Mr. Trevor Bray of 4 Norton Road addressed the Board. He commented that he is on a fix income. He lives on his fixed income and savings. He lives within his means. He would like to see the Town live within its means. He would like to know a summary of the means of the Town. Chairman Bowsza indicated to Mr. Bray this is not a question/answer type of meeting and the Board is not able to respond to any questions, this is just a feedback from the public. Mr. Bray then went on to ask if he could see a list of expenditures and a list of income for the Town.

Ms. Bea Corrado of 1 Lindsay Lane addressed the Board. She thanked the Board of Education and the Board of Selectmen for all of their hard work and long hours in preparing the proposed budgets. She is asking the Board to support the proposed budgets as presented. She understands the difficult economic times presently and the Board of Education and Board of Selectmen have not been living beyond their means. In behalf of her family and families across the Town of East Windsor, she hopes the Board will support the budget as presented.

Ms. Jen Ragaglia of 64 Miller Road addressed the Board. She echoes the thoughts of Ms. Corrado and supports the budget. The schools, police department, fire departments need the funds to exist. The Board of Education budget that is being presented represents four teachers that will be cut to lower spending. She asked the Board to look carefully at the budget and put it to a Town vote.

Chairman Bowsza commented that no one else is listed on the sign-up sheet and asked if anyone else would like to speak.

Mr. William Schultz of 9 Lindsay Lane addressed the Board. He indicated he supports the budget. He understands the costs have increased and the issues of funding from the State and Federal Governments. East Windsor needs to do the right thing for the residents. Of course, if the Board finds spending which is unnecessary, those costs should be cut, but he does support the budget that has been presented.

Mr. Thomas Clynych of 91 North Road addressed the Board. He thanked the Board of Selectmen for funding the ambulance in this budget and he supports the budget as presented.

Ms. Marie DeSousa of 10 Rice Road addressed the Board. She agrees with everyone and her concern is for the Town of East Windsor. She hopes that the public is not misinformed with figures and spending increases during this budget cycle. If the budgets are not increased, the quality of the Town of East Windsor will be damaged. Funding for services such as fire departments, police department, park and recreation and education has been cut year after year which is detrimental to those services. She understands the hard economic times and some people cannot pay their taxes, but the current tax collector has been collecting a lot of back taxes. She supports the budget as presented. If the budget is only increased by 2% per the Charter, the Town will fall further behind. Essential services may have to be cut for seniors and human services. She believes that that the proposal for part-time firemen to man the firehouses during the day is necessary due to the lack of volunteers.

Ms. Karen Stavolone of 2 Juniper Court addressed the Board. She is speaking in behalf of her family, she has two children in the school system and she supports the budget as presented.

Ms. Kristina Thurz of 81 Wells Road addressed the Board. She has three children in the school system and she supports the budget as presented.

Ms. Christine Posniak of 4 Hayfield Lane addressed the Board. She also has two children in the school system and she supports the budget as presented.

Ms. Mary Hewner of 2 Napoleon Drive addressed the Board. She has two children in the school system and she indicates that the schools need money. She supports the school system.

Mr. Ken Goldstein of 33 Perri Lane addressed the Board. He is concerned about the lack of support for the Board of Education. He is a parent and he has just learned that the school system will be cutting four teachers in the next fiscal year.

If this budget does not pass, additional teachers may be cut. He supports the schools and the children and he will vote yes if this budget is put to a vote.

Mr. Steve Warner of 74 Thrall Road addressed the Board. He too has two children in the school system and he supports the budget.

Ms. Kelly Meyer of 46 Highland Road addressed the Board. She has three children in the school system and she supports the budget. She would like to see East Windsor grow as a community and the school system is part of that community.

Ms. Mary Kay Kittredge of 84 Windsorville Road addressed the Board. She has three children in the school system and one of those children has special needs. She is very concerned about the budget and cuts which may happen which may affect her child. She supports the budget.

Mr. Vijay Kulkari of 2 Windsor Court addressed the Board. He does not want cuts to the school budget. He has a daughter in the school system that is doing very well. The Town needs to support the budget and support learning.

Ms. Rachel Russo of 5 Prospect Hill Drive addressed the Board. She has one child in the school system and she supports the budget.

Mr. Joe Pellegrini of 114 Rye Street addressed the Board as a resident not a Board Member. He grew up in Ellington and moved to the Town of East Windsor fourteen years ago. East Windsor is what Ellington used to be when he was growing up and it concerns him about the budget and the direction the Town of East Windsor is going. He has three children in the school system. He is concerned about his investment of his house due to the fact that schools make a big difference in the overall value of property, along with roads and other infrastructure of the Town. If the Town doesn't fund the schools and the infrastructure, it begins to take a toll on the infrastructure. He has a choice to stay in East Windsor and try to make a difference by becoming involved in the community and government. He is not a huge fan of spending money, but believes investing in the Town is a good thing.

Mr. David Swayne of 35 Omelia Road addressed the Board. He agrees with Mr. Pellegrini but he would like to see the breakdown of the budget and it to be explained to him as well as the public so everybody understands the process. He has children in the school system and he would like to support education.

Ms. Denise Menard of 73 Miller Road addressed the Board. She expects that Mr. Pellegrini will get a return on his investment with the Town. The budget is not something where town departments are fighting among each other over the budget. She explained the infrastructure problems such as the Town Hall boiler which is over 60 years old and she was just told by an insurance adjuster that it is

very dangerous and could blow up. The Board of Selectmen have had some difficult decisions to make during this budget cycle, such as adding staff to the fire departments for a half of year due to the lack of volunteers during the daytime hours. Capital Improvement Committee recommended more money to be spent on the infrastructure. She urges everyone to vote on the budget.

Mr. Bowsza thanked everyone for coming to the hearing this evening and invited anyone to attend the budget workshops scheduled in the upcoming weeks.

III. Adjournment

The public hearing was closed at 7:41 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Denise M. Piotrowicz
Recording Secretary