

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
TOWN OF EAST WINDSOR
11 RYE STREET
EAST WINDSOR, CONNECTICUT**

BUDGET WORKSHOP MEETING

Saturday, March 22, 2014 at 9:00 a.m.

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

Members Present: Denise Menard, Jason E. Bowsza, Steve Dearborn, Dale Nelson
and James C. Richards

Members Absent: None

Others: Kimberly Lord

Press: None

I. Call to Order

First Selectman, Denise Menard called the Budget Workshop Meeting to Order at 8:58 a.m. in the East Windsor Town Hall.

II. Attendance

Denise Menard, First Selectman
Jason E. Bowsza, Deputy First Selectman
James C. Richards, Selectman

III. Budget Presentation

Condo Association

Sal Saitta, 17 Old Barn Road, was present to discuss the East Windsor Condo Association Proposal requesting annual reimbursement of \$78,000.00 by the Town of East Windsor for the maintenance of fire hydrants and street lighting. He said the group has been together for three years and they feel condo owners are not treated equitably or fairly. Mr. Saitta distributed copies of the proposal and read their mission statement.

There was discussion of surrounding towns reimbursing condo owners for street lighting, Vernon and South Windsor are the only towns who follow this practice. Mrs. Menard said South Windsor pays by linear feet. Mr. Richards asked what the condo association is doing to reduce costs? He said they have lighting every 50-60 feet in the Coleman Farms complex. He stated not all taxpayers have fire hydrants but they are paying mill rates. Mr. Saitta said the condo association is open to a fair and equitable agreement for the East Windsor Condo Association and the Town.

Mr. Richards said there are No Trespassing signs at the entrances of some of the condo complexes and they are private property. He said the town should not be using public money for private property.

Sandy Schick, Scantic Glen, said Scantic Glen is not private property.

Mrs. Menard asked if there is concern for other reimbursement down the road? Mr. Saitta said there would not be additional reimbursements. Mr. Bowsza thanked Mr. Saitta for coming to the workshop and asked if the requested amount included all 13 condo associations and was told it does.

There was discussion of CL&P rates. Dan Lauria, 24 Hillside Farms Drive, said the town is given a municipality rate. He will look into CL&P rates but has worked in the business for 25 years and is sure the lower rate is only available to municipalities. Mr. Lauria said the philosophy of denying services because people live on private property would be to deny elderly residents transportation, police and ambulance service if they live in a condo. Why say these services would not be denied but arbitrarily deny street lights and hydrants?

Charles Gallagher, Coleman Farms, said ever since the first condo was built in this town the taxpayers have had a bonus because the condo owners pay those bills themselves.

Mrs. Menard said the condo owners were aware of the documents they signed when purchasing their condos. Mr. Lauria said that is true, but going forward that is no longer equitable.

A motion was made to add \$10,000.00 to line item 3185 Street Lighting and \$10,000.00 to line item 2160 Fire Protection for purposes of continuing discussion of condo reimbursement. It was MOVED (Bowsza) and SECONDED (Nelson).

This motion allows discussion going forward and allows Mrs. Menard to have discussion with the condo association for a proposed agreement, not an ordinance. Mr. Richards does not feel this should be put in the budget. He feels public money should not be used on private land.

Motion PASSED. In favor – J. Bowsza, S. Dearborn and D. Nelson; Opposed – J. Richards.

Mrs. Menard called for a two minute recess. The meeting was called back to order at 9:57 a.m.

Registrars (1050)

Kimberly Lord met with Linda Sinsigallo to discuss the Registrars budget. She said they were able to make adjustments so each line is accurate.

A motion was made to recommend to the Board of Finance line item 1050 Registrars in the amount of \$61,449.00. It was MOVED (Richards) and SECONDED (Nelson).

There was discussion of the salary increase.

A motion was made to amend the motion to \$60,613.00 and the elimination of the 3% salary increase on salary full time line. It was MOVED (Richards) and SECONDED (Nelson). Motion PASSED. In favor – J. Bowsza, S. Dearborn, D. Nelson and J. Richards; Opposed – None.

EDC (1115)

There was discussion of funding for an Economic Development Commission Consultant and whether or not it could be a shared service with another town.

A motion was made to recommend to the Board of Finance line item 1115 EDC in the amount of \$5,337.00. It was MOVED (Richards) and SECONDED (Bowsza). Motion PASSED. In favor – J. Bowsza, S. Dearborn, D. Nelson and J. Richards; Opposed – None.

A motion was made to amend the recommendation to the Board of Finance line item **1124 Planning** to include and EDC Consultant in the amount of \$10,000.00 and a total line budget of \$210,908.00. It was MOVED (Bowsza) and SECONDED (Richards). Motion PASSED. In favor – J. Bowsza, S. Dearborn, D. Nelson and J. Richards; Opposed – None.

Building Department (1125)

There was discussion of a proposed change in staffing to a full time employee and an increase in professional services, a Building Official to cover inspections for office vacations. The Viewpoint Software coming on board should bring some efficiencies to the office.

A motion was made to recommend to the Board of Finance line item 1125 Building Department in the amount of \$148,374.00. It was MOVED (Richards) and SECONDED (Nelson). Motion PASSED. In favor – J. Bowsza, S. Dearborn, D. Nelson and J. Richards; Opposed – None.

Senior Center (1130)

A motion was made to recommend to the Board of Finance line item 1130 Senior Center in the amount of \$241,167.00. It was MOVED (Richards) and SECONDED (Nelson). Motion PASSED. In favor – J. Bowsza, S. Dearborn, D. Nelson and J. Richards; Opposed – None.

Town Government/Employee Benefits (1195)

A motion was made to recommend to the Board of Finance line item 1195 Town Departments/Employee Benefits in the amount of \$936,212.00 with the caveat that those numbers could change with updated information. It was MOVED (Bowsza) and SECONDED (Richards). Motion PASSED. In favor – J. Bowsza, S. Dearborn, D. Nelson and J. Richards; Opposed – None.

Communication System (2147)

This line item is for a maintenance contract for Police Department radios and for radio repair.

A motion was made to recommend to the Board of Finance line item 2147 Communication System in the amount of \$67,500.00. It was MOVED (Richards) and SECONDED (Nelson). Motion PASSED. In favor – J. Bowsza, S. Dearborn, D. Nelson and J. Richards; Opposed – None.

E.W. Fire Departments (2150)

A motion was made to reduce the E.W. Fire Department part time to half a year at \$43,000.00. It was MOVED (Nelson) and SECONDED (Richards). Motion PASSED. In favor – J. Bowsza, S. Dearborn, D. Nelson and J. Richards; Opposed – None.

There was discussion of the proposal to add part time fire fighters. This is for both fire departments, Broad Brook Fire Department and Warehouse Point Fire District. Mrs. Nelson suggested the fire departments be put on a Board of Selectmen agenda after the budgets are complete to present their plan.

A motion was made to recommend to the Board of Finance line item 2150 East Windsor Fire Departments a budget of \$243,646.00. It was MOVED (Bowsza) and SECONDED (Richards) In favor - J. Bowsza, S. Dearborn, D. Nelson and J. Richards; Opposed – None.

Warehouse Point Fire District (2155)

There was discussion of the budget and a 2% increase over last year's budget was suggested.

A motion was made to recommend to the Board of Finance line item 2155 Warehouse Point Fire District in the amount of \$244,132.00. It was MOVED (Bowsza) and SECONDED (Richards). Motion PASSED. In favor – J. Bowsza, S. Dearborn, D. Nelson and J. Richards; Opposed – None.

Fire Protection (2160)

A motion was made to recommend to the Board of Finance line item 2160 Fire Protection in the amount of \$323,047.00. It was MOVED (Bowsza) and SECONDED (Nelson).

Mr. Richards said the East Windsor Condo Association is not registered with the State, they are not a corporation and he does not understand how the Town of East Windsor can negotiate with them. Mr. Bowsza said they can become incorporated and this is really just dialogue, an opportunity to find common ground going forward. Mr. Richards said not all condo owners are in favor of what these people are doing. Mrs. Menard said each condo association has to be in agreement. Mr. Richards said the No Trespassing signs would have to be removed and the 55 and older discrimination removed.

Motion PASSED. In favor – J. Bowsza, S. Dearborn and D. Nelson; Opposed – J. Richards.

Fire Departments Benefits (2158)

A motion was made to present to the Board of Finance line item 2158 Fire Departments Benefits in the amount of \$242,000.00. It was MOVED (Nelson) and SECONDED (Bowsza). Motion PASSED. In favor – J. Bowsza, S. Dearborn, D. Nelson and J. Richards; Opposed – None.

Public Safety/Employee Benefits (2195)

Public Works/Employee Benefits (3195)

Conservation of Health/Employee Benefits (5295)

Park & Rec/Employee Benefits (6395)

A motion was made to recommend to the Board of Finance any budget line ending in 95 dealing with Employee Benefits the recommendation as listed with the caveat that it can be amended with further information. It was MOVED (Bowsza) and SECONDED (Richards). Motion PASSED. In favor J. Bowsza, S. Dearborn, D. Nelson and J. Richards; Opposed – None.

Public Works Department (3180)

A motion was made to recommend to the Board of Finance line item 3180 Public Works Department in the amount \$787,774.00. It was MOVED (Richards) and SECONDED (Nelson).

Mrs. Menard said the 3.73% increase includes folded in it a new employee that was under the Town Property line, so this is a very reasonable budget.

Motion PASSED. In favor – J. Bowsza, S. Dearborn, D. Nelson and J. Richards; Opposed – None.

Human Services (5235)

A motion was made to recommend to the Board of Finance line item 5235 Human Services in the amount of \$159,963.00. It was MOVED (Bowsza) and SECONDED (Richards). Motion PASSED. In favor – J. Bowsza, S. Dearborn, D. Nelson and J. Richards; Opposed – None.

Libraries (6305)

There was discussion to increase this budget by 2% over last year's budget.

A motion was made to recommend to the Board of Finance line item 6305 Libraries a budget representing a 2% increase for both the Broad Brook Library and Warehouse Point Library. It was MOVED (Bowsza) and SECONDED (Richards).

It brings the budget line to \$240,152.00. Motion PASSED. In favor – J. Bowsza, S. Dearborn, D. Nelson and J. Richards; Opposed – None.

Insurance & Benefits (7345)

This includes Liability, Auto, Property and Insurance on all property in Town..

A motion was made to recommend to the Board of Finance 7345 Insurance & Benefits in the amount of \$583,788.00. It was MOVED (Bowsza) and SECONDED (Nelson).

Employee is tuition/contracts. LAP is Liability, Auto and Property.

Motion PASSED. In favor – J. Bowsza, S. Dearborn, D. Nelson and J. Richards; Opposed – None.

Information Technology (8245)

A motion was made to recommend to the Board of Finance line item 8245 Information Technology in the amount of \$166,974.00. It was **MOVED** (Bowsza) and **SECONDED** (Nelson). Motion **PASSED**. In favor – J. Bowsza, S. Dearborn, D. Nelson and J. Richards; Opposed – None.

There was discussion to have another workshop on Monday March 24, 2014 at 5:45 p.m. Revenue and Debt Service will be discussed.

IV. Public Participation

None

V. Other Business

VI. Adjournment

Motion was made to adjourn at 12:00 p.m. It was **MOVED** (Bowsza) and **SECONDED** (Richards).

Respectfully Submitted,

Heidi Vane
Recording Secretary