

**TOWN OF EAST WINDSOR
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
11 RYE STREET
BROAD BROOK, CT 06016
First Selectman's Office - (860) 623-8122**

Regular Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, May 5, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.

BOARD MEMBERS

Denise Menard – First Selectman

Dale A. Nelson – Selectman

Jason E. Bowsza – Deputy First Selectman

James C. Richards – Selectman

Steve Dearborn – Selectman

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

1. CALL TO ORDER

Deputy First Selectman Jason Bowsza called the Regular Meeting to Order at 7:00 p.m. at Town Hall.

2. ATTENDANCE

Present:

Jason E. Bowsza, Deputy First Selectman

Dale A. Nelson, Selectman

James C. Richards, Selectman

Absent: Denise Menard, First Selectman

Steve Dearborn, Selectman

3. ADDED AGENDA ITEMS

None.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regular Meeting Minutes of March 17, 2015

MOTION was made (Nelson) and **SECONDED** (Richards) to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of April 21, 2015.

In Favor: Nelson and Richards. Opposed: None.

5. SELECTMEN'S REPORTS

A. Denise Menard

Not present.

B. Jason Bowsza

Selectman Bowsza read his report hereto attached as Attachment A.

C. Steve Dearborn

Not present.

D. Dale A. Nelson

Selectman Nelson reported on the following:

- On 4/18 the East Windsor Rotary Club fixed the Depot Street gazebo. They fixed the benches inside and they fix the top of the railings.
- Park Hill is trying to raise \$3,000 with Mr. Burnham's help to put a new roof on their gazebo. Mr. Burnham mentioned something about a possible grant.
- People are still talking about the Wounded Warrior Project event on 4/11 and would like Rotary Club to hold the event again.
- The Talamini Family was awarded Citizen of the Year by the Rotary Club. The celebration was a great time. She felt they really deserved it and they are a kind family.
- On 4/25 was Abby's Helping Hand Walk. We have raised \$44,000 and still counting. She thanked everyone who contributed and came out to walk and volunteer. They are meeting Wednesday night to discuss scholarships.
- On 4/28 the Board of Selectmen in an executive session.
- On 4/29 the Board of Selectmen held a Town Meeting and discussed 5 items that passed with no problem
- Today, 5/5 was the Senior Center open house celebrating 35 years and it was a ton of fun.

E. James C. Richards

Selectman Richards reported on the following:

- Glad to see the repairs on the gazebo on Depot Street and thanked Rotary Club
- The East Windsor Education Foundation is starting a program. At Windsor Federal Savings Bank if you open a bank account, you get \$100.00 and \$50.00 goes towards the Education Foundation.
- The Board of Education meeting was interesting. He stated that even though he was **against** the modular classrooms before, he wants to make it clear that he is **for** voting them in now.
- The past 9 months he had been helping his mother with health issues. He stated that she is almost back to work and he will be hopefully back to doing more town things.

6. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Cathy Pippin, 6 Woolam Road, asked if she could see the video of Jason Bowsza dancing with Lt. Gov. Nancy Wyman at the Senior Center open house.

7. BOARD AND COMMISSIONS APPOINTMENTS

A. Resignations:

1. **MOTION** made (Nelson) and **SECONDED** (Richards) to accept the East Windsor Housing Authority resignation from Pauline Legasse as a regular member.
In Favor: Nelson and Richards. Opposed – None.
2. **MOTION** made (Richards) and **SECONDED** (Nelson) to accept the resignation of Cheryl Balch from the Parks and Recreation Commission.
In Favor: Nelson and Richards. Opposed – None.

B. Re-Appointments:

MOTION made and **SECONDED** (Richards) to appoint Peter Larese to the Permanent Building Commission as a regular member for a term expiring 6/1/2018.

Comments: Selectmen Nelson and Richards mentioned that he has great references. Selectman Bowsza thanked Mr. Larese for his willingness to serve.

In Favor: Nelson and Richards. Opposed – None.

C. New Appointments:

None.

8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Discussion of Senior Property Tax Relief

Selectman Bowsza said that he has a meeting set up with the Finance Department and with Director of Human Services Kristen Bouchard on Thursday evening, 5/7 at 5:30 p.m. to discuss how they can revamp this program and make it function so we can provide some sort of relief for elderly and disabled residents in town. Anyone is welcome to attend the Thursday night meeting at Town Hall.

Ultimately, the Board of Selectman was supportive and the Board of Finance was a little less supportive. It did pass and there was a small amount of money set aside for the credit program in the budget. Selectman Bowsza said we used a little of the State program as thresholds and that this was put together in a lot of different ways. He stated that the intention was good and the pieces just need to be synced together in a “cleaner” way. Ultimately, it will come back to the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Finance for approval.

Selectman Richards asked why people were not utilizing this program when it was in effect. Selectman Bowsza replied that there was not adequate funding for it. He

also said that the program was designed as a revolving program but since no one really signed up for it, it was not revolving and eventually it was defunded.

Selectman Bowsza said when he brought this forward as Board of Finance member the intention was to make it easier for residents that are trying to pay their heat bill, pay their prescription costs, and pay their property taxes. He feels that if they can make this possible, this is something to look into.

B. Discussion on forming a Facilities Planning Study Committee

Not discussed at this meeting but remains on the agenda pending receipt of additional information.

C. Discussion of Teen Center

Not discussed at this meeting but remains on the agenda pending receipt of additional information.

D. Discussion of revised economic development tax incentive

Not discussed at this meeting but remains on the agenda pending receipt of additional information.

9. NEW BUSINESS

A. Alternative Funding for Capital Improvement Products – Human Services and Tax Department

Tax Collector Patti Kratochvil and Director of Social Services Kristen Bouchard were present. Patti Kratochvil stated that she was here to ask for a special appropriation for the Tax Collector's Office. She came in for \$10,000 in her budget and they asked her to reduce hers and ask for capital \$9,500 for a special appropriation here and keep \$500 in her budget next year. But they wanted her to take \$9,500 out of this year's as a special appropriation to take care of the security issues in the Tax Collector's Office.

Kristen Bouchard asked for a special appropriation for Human Services in the amount of \$8,920. The funding that they're looking for is to add a security system to the Town Hall Annex.

Selectmen Nelson and Richards said that this is something that has to be done and that workforce security is priority.

MOTION made (Nelson) and **SECONDED** (Richards) to recommend to the Board of Finance an additional appropriation from the undesignated fund balance for security purposes in both offices, Tax Collector's Office and Human Services. In Favor: Nelson and Richards. Opposed – None.

B. Approval of Tax Refunds

MOTION made (Nelson) and **SECONDED** (Richards) to approve the tax refunds in the amount of \$147.21 dated 4/30/15.

In Favor: Nelson and Richards. Opposed: None.

10. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION to adjourn made (Nelson) and **SECONDED** (Richards). Unanimous.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Amanda Schroll
Recording Secretary

Selectmen's Report - May 5, 2015

On April 21, the Pension Board met for our regularly scheduled quarterly payment. We will be having another meeting in the near future to consider a hybrid pension system for public works employees, similar to the one recently established for the police department employees and that has become a model for other communities as we continue to transition away from defined benefit plans.

The AG Commission meeting was cancelled last month. Instead, I attended the Rotary Club's Citizen of the Year event, honoring the Talamini family. I'm sure Dale will have more on that. Great job to the Rotary Club for again recognizing a great family.

On Sunday evening, BOE Vice Chair Cathy Simonelli and I worked with volunteers to advocate for the school construction project at BBES. We will be meeting a few more times between now and the vote to do the same. If anyone is interested in advocating for the project, please let me know and I'll provide details.

Yesterday, at Denise's request I attended the Metro Hartford Alliance breakfast meeting regarding gaming implications on municipalities. It was a very interesting and engaging conversation hosted by MHA and the tribal nations talking about the potential outcomes of the pending legislation. I am happy to talk more about that if anyone is interested.

Today, Dale and I attended the Senior Center's 35th birthday party. About 60 seniors were there to join in the celebration, as well as Lt. Gov. Nancy Wyman. Thank you to Kristen Bouchard and her staff for organizing such a wonderful event, as well as the other town staff who were able to join in the fun. Great event.

This coming Thursday night I will be meeting with town staff to revisit the Senior Property Tax Relief Program. If anyone is interested in joining that discussion, please let me know. More on this a bit later.

Thursday night is also the National Day of Prayer Event at the intersection of Bridge Street and Main Street in Warehouse Point. The ceremony begins at 5:30pm.

On May 16, Melissa Maltese and the Parks and Rec Department will be hosting the first Family Safety Day at Broad Brook Elementary School. Make sure you stop by and enjoy the fun.

Lastly, don't forget that next Tuesday, May 12, we have a referendum on the proposed budget and on the proposed classroom construction project at BBES. Polls are open from 6am until 8pm. I would encourage everyone to vote on both of these important questions.

Respectfully submitted,

Jason E. Bowsza
Deputy First Selectman

Sent from my iPad