

**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, July 7, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.

BOARD MEMBERS

Denise Menard – First Selectman Dale A. Nelson – Selectman
Jason E. Bowsza – Deputy First Selectman Steve Dearborn – Selectman
James C. Richards – Selectman

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

1. CALL TO ORDER

First Selectman Denise Menard called the Regular Meeting to Order at 7:00 p.m. at Town Hall.

2. ATTENDANCE

Present:

Denise Menard, First Selectman
Jason E. Bowsza, Deputy First Selectman
Steve Dearborn, Selectman
Dale A. Nelson, Selectman
James C. Richards, Selectman

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

4. ADDED AGENDA ITEMS

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regular Meeting Minutes of June 16, 2015

MOTION was made (Richards) and **SECONDED** (Nelson) to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of June 16, 2015.

In Favor: Bowsza, Dearborn, Nelson and Richards. Opposed: None.

6. COMMUNICATIONS

None.

7. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None.

8. BOARD AND COMMISSIONS APPOINTMENTS

A. Resignations: None.

B. Re-Appointments:

1. **MOTION** made (Bowsza) and **SECONDED** (Richards) to reappoint Peter Larese (U) as a regular member for a term expiring 3/15/2018 to serve on the Agricultural Commission.
In Favor: Bowsza, Dearborn, Nelson and Richards. Opposed: None.
2. **MOTION** made (Nelson) and **SECONDED** (Bowsza) to reappoint Chris Arre (U) as a regular member for a term expiring 12/16/2016 to serve on the BMX/Skateboard Park Committee.
In Favor: Bowsza, Dearborn, Nelson and Richards. Opposed: None.
3. **MOTION** made (Nelson) and **SECONDED** (Bowsza) to reappoint Eve Arre (U) as a regular member for a term expiring 12/16/2016 to serve on the BMX/Skateboard Park Committee.
In Favor: Bowsza, Dearborn, Nelson and Richards. Opposed: None.
4. **MOTION** made (Nelson) and **SECONDED** (Bowsza) to reappoint Brenda Crockett (U) as a regular member for a term expiring 12/16/2016 to serve on the BMX/Skateboard Park Committee.
In Favor: Bowsza, Dearborn, Nelson and Richards. Opposed: None.
5. **MOTION** made (Nelson) and **SECONDED** (Bowsza) to reappoint Lori Gabriel (R) as a regular member for a term expiring 12/16/2016 to serve on the BMX/Skateboard Park Committee.
In Favor: Bowsza, Dearborn, Nelson and Richards. Opposed: None.
6. **MOTION** made (Nelson) and **SECONDED** (Bowsza) to reappoint Laura Harney (D) as a regular member for a term expiring 12/16/2016 to serve on the BMX/Skateboard Park Committee.
In Favor: Bowsza, Dearborn, Nelson and Richards. Opposed: None.

Discussion: Selectman Bowsza said that this is a great commission and to keep on “plugging” away.

C. New Appointments: **MOTION** made (Bowsza) and **SECONDED** (Richards) to appoint Luis Valdez Jimenez (R) as an alternate member for a term expiring 1/15/2019 on the Economic Development Commission.
In Favor: Bowsza, Dearborn, Nelson and Richards. Opposed: None.

Discussion: Selectman Richards said that Mr. Jimenez will be a great addition, he had training in economic development and he would be a great benefit to the Economic Development Commission.

9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Senior Property Tax Relief Update

Selectman Bowsza gave a brief overview of the intent of this proposed ordinance. He also said with the help of the Town's employees this proposed ordinance has been made more manageable and useable by residents. Selectman Bowsza went through the proposed ordinance and described each section attached hereto as Attachment A. The effective date of this program would be October 1, 2015. Selectman Dearborn agrees with this proposed ordinance and said that anything we can do to help the seniors in town, we should do. Selectman Nelson thanked Selectman Bowsza and the Town Staff for their time.

MOTION was made (Bowsza) and **SECONDED** (Richards) to forward this proposed ordinance to the Town Attorney.

In Favor: Bowsza, Dearborn, Nelson and Richards. Opposed: None.

MOTION made (Nelson) and **SECONDED** (Richards) Section 9C out of order. In Favor: Bowsza, Dearborn, Nelson and Richards. Opposed: None.

C. Presentation of Petition related to Proposed State Police Firearms Training Facility

Patti Nelson sent an email to First Selectman Menard requesting that presentation of the petition be added to this Board of Selectmen meeting agenda. Mr. Scalzo is a member and Chief Spokesman for Not East Windsor (NEW). Mr. Scalzo read the petition to the Board of Selectmen hereto attached as Attachment B.

Mr. Josh Kapelner, 7 Brookwood Court – He had the following concerns: First, when this issue first came to light, he wrote a letter to the First Selectman's Office and he asked what the process was because he never heard anything back. He also sent his letter to the Journal Inquirer and the State Offices during the comment period.

Second, he mentioned that in further looking at the Town website on the presentation provided by the State of CT, he noticed that there was a lot of criteria.

Third, he stated there was a letter on the Town website from the Department of Emergency Services Public Protection Officer dated June 5, 2015 to the First Selectman. Mr. Kapelner questioned why it was just posted yesterday and why there was no date stamp. First Selectman Menard informed Mr. Kapelner that it was emailed to her and there is a date on the email that is why it did not have a date stamp. She clarified that the letter came to her this Friday because on the original letter at the bottom of each page the last two sentences were cut off. She then asked the State to send her a new

copy with the completed document before she posted something on the website that looked as though it was flawed. Mr. Kapelner emphasized that he would like the Board to get behind the people of the Town and try to see what the Town can do as far as going through all the criteria listed and knocking some of the criteria off of their list.

MOTION made (Richards) and **SECONDED** (Bowsza) to recess the meeting at 7:26 p.m. and reconvene after the Town Meeting.

In Favor: Bowsza, Dearborn, Nelson and Richards. Opposed: None.

Patti Nelson, 4 Pine Drive – Ms. Nelson Read an unsigned letter from an a resident in Town for the record.

Gary Mazzone, 5 Petticoat Lane – One, he could not agree with First Selectman Menard's comment about the citizens of the Town not being engaged before the last Board of Selectmen meeting. He mentioned there were approximately 100-150 residents at the Public Scoping Meeting in May. Second, he sent correspondence to all Board of Selectmen and only received one response from one selectperson. Third, Before we [residents] leave tonight, we would like your position on this as a Board. This is a very serious matter in our Town.

Sean Hevner, 2 Napoleon Drive - Many of his questions have already been voiced in this meeting. He is opposed to the gun range. His house is approximately 2,500 feet from the proposed gun range. He is very concerned about the effect that it will have on his property value which has already taken a 15% hit, and he said that he would be underwater if it gets another hit. He informed the Board that he used to work in an office in Farmington, approximately two miles from the current firing range, and he could still hear it from half a Town away.

Robin Yoreo, 1 Napoleon Drive – She is opposed to this gun range. She commended Jason Bowsza for his work this past weekend. He was working the streets and he stopped by and she had a lengthy conversation with him. She asked Selectman Bowsza to explain to the best of her knowledge what the grant for the proposed site does?

Selectman Bowsza stated that the State may be getting a Federal Grant to pay for the project which is why it has a "more than a State-wide scope." He does not know this to be true. He stated that he has done his homework on this and will address it later in the meeting. Ms. Yoreo asked "assuming that there is some sort of federal grant, if you could keep us all apprised of where this money is coming from, as you get more information I think we would all appreciate that." Selectman Bowsza said that he will address that.

First Selectman Menard explained that we have created a table on the Town Website that has all of the information we have received pertaining to this proposed Connecticut State Police Firearms Training Facility.

Angelo Sevarino, 26 Barber Hill Road – He has lived in town for 14 years and his daughter has been on Rockville Road for 5 years. He thinks the solicitors of this petition should be given a round of applause. More importantly, the people who signed the petition for showing an interest in their community. From his perspective, he is not sure that he or the Board knows enough facts about anything. He said that there will be EIE studies, noise studies, and that there are complaints about the number of vehicles crossing our streets. He also mentioned all the trucks coming down his road at 60 mph. The Board has to listen to what 400 people have said. He thinks that to ask the Board of Selectmen to take a position tonight based on the knowledge that they have is probably not in the best interest of anyone. He asked the Board to better communicate what they do know to the citizens so that they can make an informed decision on where we are going to go as a community. He does not know the time table of this nor when we can expect the results. He asked, “As we stand here today do we really know where the gun range will be on this 230 acre property? Once we get the facts, then the Board can communicate it to the citizens and then the citizens can turn around and say whether they agree or disagree.”

Marie DeSousa, 10 Rice Road – She sympathizes with the 400 people in the area but she agrees with Mr. Sevarino that we have not received enough information yet. She worked for the Department of Corrections at Enfield Correctional Facility. There was a firing range behind Enfield Correctional, new technology has come forward. She said they could be out there all day and you could not hear them unless they were doing something extra. She received a one sided opinion from the person doing the petition. Ms. DeSousa said that we need to do a feasibility study with what other residents feel. She reported that she has followed the blogs on Facebook and there are many people for this project. She feels that people come out to a Town Meeting when they are dead set against something. She would hope that the Board do right by all East Windsor residents and wait until we have all the information about what is going to happen before the Board makes a stand. Ms. DeSousa stated that she personally would like to see something come to East Windsor. She mentioned that she saw a person comment on Facebook, “East Windsor is a dead town”. She would not want to have gun firing in her backyard that is why there are sound buffers. She looks forward to having the extra police presence coming through the Town.

Mark Whelden, 32 Rolocut Road – If Willington and East Windsor turns down this project, can the State use eminent domain to establish where the State will put this?

Selectman Bowsza said that eminent domain is a power that the State has but it probably would not be used because this is not a local process, it is a State process. Despite what we do or say, there is a private land owner who is willing to sell his property so it is not likely.

Mr. Whelden suggested that the Board should contact the representatives of the Simsbury Board since the range was there for years and years to see what their experience was with the State Police Range was over there. Mr. Whelden is in favor of it. He checked City Data which is a national city information site that real estate agents use and East Windsor ranks 13th in the highest number of crimes per population. He feels that the State Police and all police have a different set of eyes that anyone else has and it would not hurt to have extra police driving around town even if they are not practicing.

Jean Mocadlo, 15 Omelia Road – She strongly disagrees with the three previous speakers. She feels that as far as new technology to buffer the sounds of the shooting, there are now high caliber weapons, and high caliber rifles. She believes new technology exacerbates the problem and that the State Police should go back to the drawing board because there is a lot of open land and she does not know why it has to come down to 2 parcels. She strongly feels that this will affect quality of life. They will be using our roads, our sewers, and our water, and will not be paying any tax dollars for it. She feels that we should really look at it and based on the criteria they gave, it is not appropriate for this area at all. She said that there is a sense of urgency in this matter and if we wait then we will get stuck with this.

Maria Whelden, 32 Rolocut Road – She stated that listening to all that has gone on here, she does not think people are in a state of mind to hear things rationally. She appreciates that people are engaged and agrees the town should get more organized because there are more than 400 people in this town that have some thoughts on this process. She has not seen this town so divided since when the Showcase Cinemas were put in and they thought crimes were going to be committed and it would be dangerous for their teenagers. That is what is going on with this current site right now. She said she cannot see any bad thing happening with a lot of State Police driving around considering all the crime taking place in this Town. She stated the technology is in the noise reduction. The lead contamination is all controlled. We deserve to give the State Police the right to give them a place to train. She asked, “Who would like to stand up to a police officer and say ‘thanks for putting your life on the line, but not in my backyard?’”. She shared with the Board that her father was survivor of Pearl Harbor and she cannot believe the tone of voices she is hearing from the people in this town. She said we all have to deal with inconvenience. This is the real world, there are real situations and we owe this to our police officers.

Joanne Pinheiro, 25 Miller Road – She is opposed to this for many reasons. She stated that our town has many other issues. She said “we do not ever vote an increase for our police department. So if you want to talk about the drugs in this Town and everything else, vote yes for a budget increase.” She also said that if the Town residents want to attract new families, vote yes to the budget and make our schools better. We are losing music in the high school and the middle school. She said that her family works hard and they want to enjoy their property without sitting home on a Saturday listening to guns going off a half mile from her home.

Mr. Pinheiro, 25 Miller Road – Referenced one of the residents that previously spoke indicating that his biggest asset in life is his property (which is it for most). Property value will decrease 30% or more. He believes that a gun range will rob this asset from people. He also mentioned that he would not pay the taxes that the Town will continue to charge him if his property value decreased so much that he could not sell his property.

Mary Hevner, 2 Napoleon Drive – She is curious to hear if there are benefits. If the State takes over this property, will this affect the tax base in town and our individual taxes?

First Selectman Menard said that the property right now is taxed at \$50,000. When they were first presented with the project, First Selectman Menard asked if there would be payment in lieu of taxes (PILOT) and the State said that there would be. However, it is the State saying that they will pay us but it could be 10% or 20% of what the current value is. There is no guarantee.

Ms. Hevner asked if there is money coming in is there a plan to give it to those residents that are losing value on their property. She also asked if anything else could be done with the property. Ms. Hevner stated that she did subscribe to the website and she did get an email when documents were added to the website. She would like to hear communication of the pros and the cons since the public already knows the cons.

Elise Gilbert, 244 Rye Street – This is a big issue of quality of life in addition to economics. She moved here over 30 years ago from New York City. She moved here because it’s small, quiet, and rural. The idea of her roads being crowded was not what she wanted when she moved to East Windsor. She bicycles along Apothecaries Hall Road and she would not like to hear guns. She stated that if the gun range was here 30 years ago, she would not have chosen to move to a town with a gun range in it.

Earl Waterman, 19 Deerfield Drive – He stated that he has heard the gun range in Simsbury and it is extremely loud and that is what they are using today, not the large facility they are planning on putting here. As far as the

police coming through town, there is no guarantee that these police officers would be driving through town patrolling. Mr. Waterman informed the Board that he looked on the Willington Site and there was an article from June 29, 2015 and there was another town that approached the State with a property for the gun range and he asked the Board if they could look into it to see if East Windsor could push them towards that town.

First Selectman Menard informed the public that she has a meeting with Senator Larson and the Commissioner of Public Safety on Tuesday, July 21st and that she has a list of questions already and anything she has been asked tonight will also be brought up by herself and Senator Larson at her meeting with the Commissioner.

Chris Lemars, Hayfield Lane – She is against this project. She lived in Simsbury and could hear the gun range and she knew people who lived in Avon and were able to hear it. She does not want the range in her backyard. She does not believe that East Windsor is a good fit for it. She does not think police driving through town in their cars will stop any crime. She stated that she is here to work against this and she will do anything she can to prevent this from happening here.

Mike, 257 Rye Street – He asked the Board if this does not go through, is this land developable? What could be done with the land?

First Selectman Menard said that she spoke to Mr. Charbonneau and the utility poles are on these little islands of dirt just enough to support them, and he did not seem to have other ideas.

Bob Turner, Cobblestone Drive – He was looking today and said that the land is zoned for single family residence and agriculture.

First Selectman Menard said she spoke with the State and it is only for industrial use and they do not have to follow the zoning regulations. Mr. Turner suggested that the Board tell the State that we are objecting to the Connecticut State Police Firearms Training Facility and then let the State come in anyway. He told the Board to take a position and take it now.

Bob Leach, Church Street – He asked everyone to write down the dates August 18th, 19th, and 20th to attend the Simsbury State Police Firearms Training Facility. He specifically recommended that the Board of Selectmen attend this event. He stated that this is a 3-day annual event that has about 400-500 officers present along with several helicopters landing in and out of there.

Ken Wilson, 8 Pine Drive – Fully supports people of service. Some people indicated that we need the EIE. He said that common sense dictates that

there will be noise. He believes that it serves no purpose. It will cause traffic, it is close to a church and a school, it is a residential neighborhood and it does not belong there. He stated that once the State gets the property, they can do with it as they please. He questioned what they will do with the rest of the property since the facility they are proposing is 30 acres.

Scott Novak, 184 Rye Street – He stated what we do know about the plan is that there are 120 parking places, Simsbury only uses one range at a time, at this proposed site they will be able to use 4 ranges simultaneously, and there is no apparent use for the property. He believes that the Town should look at putting a solar field on the property or at least look at other options. He urged the Board to request to see a plan. He mentioned that on the Rockville Town Line he saw a 4x8 sheet of plywood that says “Support Willington, no in Willington, Unwillington”. Willington has already voted against it and his fear is that we get stuck.

Richard Pippin, 37 Woolam Road – He hears what these people are saying and he strongly objects to wasting the property. He said that there is nothing wrong with that land that a couple D8s and scrapers could not cure. He believes that houses actually could be built there one on top of the other.

A resident requested that First Selectman Menard report on her meeting with Senator Larson and Commissioner Dora Schriro. First Selectman Menard said she would absolutely report on it.

Resident – He is a veteran and he served southeast Asia in the 1960s. He said he knows what gun fire is. He said what they are talking about here is 50 caliber ammunition which is similar to a canon going off in your backyard. He wanted to remind the Board that he is waiting for them to answer some questions that he brought forward. He said that in a couple more weeks there will be 1000 signatures in front of the Board of Selectman.

Gary Mazzone, 5 Petticoat Lane –Most people in this room are in agreement that the Connecticut State Police need a place to train. However, it does not need to be located in a residential or rural community. There are massive ranges in Niantic currently that are more ideal. He believes that the State Police should look elsewhere. He has a son that is a career army officer who bought a home next to a gun range frequented by police officers and military people. He said that he cannot enjoy the outside of his house because of the loud noise from the guns. He now would like to sell his house and he cannot because of the gun range. Mr. Mazzone said that he read the special use permits issued by the Town about the reclamation efforts that the company is supposed to take on the property, all the slopes

are supposed to be graded, the walls are not supposed to be high, the top soil was supposed to be brought back. The zoning permits say that it is supposed to be put back the best it could be for agricultural purposes. He believes that is a fault of the officials of the town who granted those permits and never followed up on it.

First Selectman Menard replied that it is inspected all the time.

Alan Andrews, 51 Apothecaries Hall Road – He asked what type of firearms are going to be fired there? He suggested that the Town put a radius around the area where the proposed range would be and he stated that if a round were to leave the range it could go out approximately 2 miles. The bullets could go farther, depending on the type of gun being used. He believes that if the Town presented something like this on the website, more people would be concerned.

First Selectman Menard said that she is a mile and a half from the proposed area.

Sean Hevner, 2 Napoleon Drive – He was wondering if the noise ordinances that are in effect over the East Windsor Sportsman's Club would also apply to this proposed firing range. First Selectman Menard said that she would ask.

First Selectman Menard said "in speaking with the State Senator and State Representatives, they have stated over and over that they do not want to go the route of saying 'they are taking it anyway.'" She also said, "We are advocating for the Town, and we are going to speak to the Commissioner with a lot of this information and try to get some answers and to see what the next step is to end the entire thing, if that is what we can do." She said that they have to be armed with information which is what all of the residents are giving tonight.

A resident asked First Selectman Menard if she was against this project. First Selectman Menard responded that she was not going to be bullied into saying 'yes' or 'no'. First Selectman Menard informed the residents that people have accused her of secretly trying to get this project in and have purposely showed up at her house when she was not around to ask her husband about this project.

She believes that trying to get the information they need and taking the avenues they are currently taking is what the Board is supposed to be doing. She now has statements and signatures from residents to take to the Commissioner on Tuesday which is what she needed in addition to her own questions.

First Selectman Menard stated, "We are trying to do our job."

MOTION made (Richards) and **SECONDED** (Dearborn) that the Board of Selectmen take immediate action to deny the Connecticut State Police relocation efforts in building a new firearms training facility within the town of East Windsor, to devote our efforts to study and produce a plan of action to successfully remove the East Windsor site from the Connecticut State Police site selection process before the EIE is completed and continue these efforts if the site is deemed acceptable and to secure the signature of Governor Malloy in a letter declaring that East Windsor will no longer be considered for the facility.

Discussion: Maria Whelden asked if there a public discussion, there are public besides those in this room who are not in agreement with that?

First Selectman Menard suggested forwarding the petition to Town Meeting.

Selectman Bowsza stated that he has read and reviewed the petition and he believes that there is a more appropriate way of honoring the signatures of the 400 people that would satisfy their intent without binding the Board to things that they cannot do. For example, in the petition it says, "to take immediate action to deny the CT State Police Relocation Efforts". Bowsza stated, that is not feasible under law, we cannot commit ourselves to something we cannot accomplish and do not have the legal mechanism to do that. The intention of the petition is clear but the wording of it does not put the Board in a position where they can actually satisfy it. The Board of Selectmen cannot be compelled to secure the signature of the governor or any other individual on a letter in support of or opposed to. The Board can only try to do it.

Selectman Bowsza reported that he has done some homework. He said that over the weekend he went to Simsbury to take a look at the facility and the already existing gun range that is next to the property. He asked a person getting out of their car some questions about his experience with the private range as compared to the State facility a quarter mile north from there. The man happened to be a former resident State Trooper assigned to the Town of East Windsor. He drove Selectman Bowsza around Simsbury so that he could see the neighborhood that abuts the property.

Next, Selectman Bowsza went door to door and asked people what their reactions were to the existing gun range and the Connecticut State Police Training Facility. Selectmen Bowsza reported that the training in August that Mr. Leach brought up was one of the first things a Simsbury resident brought up.

On Sunday, Selectman Bowsza spent 3 hours going to door to door in East Windsor (intentionally on a day that the existing gun range was in practice). He spoke to residents to find out what their thoughts were. The first people he spoke with were on Kings Court. They were two retired military personnel and one of their comments was, "if this goes in, the first thing we are doing is selling our home". Selectman Bowsza said he spoke with a former trooper who lives on Eastwood Drive in Broad Brook. Bowsza asked, "As someone who is in the military, who has been a State Trooper, and as someone who has an interest in the Town, do you think the Town is a good fit for this? The former trooper answered the question with "no".

Selectman Bowsza reached out to Jeff Bolton at the Division of Construction Services (DCS) and the Department of Administrative Services (DAS). He shed some light on some things that are going to be coming. The EIE does not have any money. The Bond Commission has yet to authorize any funding going forward to do the study, to purchase the property, and to build the facility. He was clear that they have not gotten on the agenda as of yet. Jeff Bolton said that the EIE is very likely 12 months away from being completed. Mr. Bolton also has been difficult to get ahold of. Selectman Bowsza thinks it would be in the interests of East Windsor to reach out to Division of Construction Services Deputy Commissioner Bud Salemi who is from East Hartford and has strong ties to East Windsor to see if he may have some suggestions about a better location for this facility and to reach out to his boss, Commissioner Currey. The DCS gentleman also said that they are looking into increasing communications to residents. Selectman Bowsza has concerns after his conversation with Mr. Bolton that East Windsor is not getting "a fair shake" about what exactly the implementations are going to be. Selectman Bowsza would suggest that we forward the petition to Town Meeting for approval and send that petition with a cover letter from the Board of Selectmen to Commissioners Salemi, Currey, and Schriro along with our State Delegation. He said that Representative Chris Davis is in a position where he can make some noise for the Town.

Selectman Richards is concerned that we get this to the State saying that this is not something we need here. First Selectman Menard said forwarding this petition to Town Meeting is a very effective way to do this.

Selectman Richards amended his motion to:

MOTION made (Richards) and **SECONDED** (Dearborn) that the Board of Selectmen try to take immediate action to deny the Connecticut State Police relocation efforts in building a new firearms training facility within the town of East Windsor, to try to devote our efforts to study and produce a plan of action to successfully remove the East Windsor site from the Connecticut State Police site selection process before the Environmental Impact

Evaluation (EIE) is completed and continue these efforts if the site is deemed acceptable and try to secure the signature of Governor Malloy in a letter declaring that East Windsor will no longer be considered for the facility and to send this petition to Town Meeting.

In favor: Dearborn and Richards. Opposed: Bowsza, Nelson, and Menard.

Selectman Dearborn originally was for this project. However, he is now opposed to it because it all comes down to money. Property values will go down, and so will taxes. He said we do not need to lose any more tax dollars and this will affect everyone in Town. Selectman Dearborn stated that all we can do is make a lot of noise and hope that the State listens.

Selectman Nelson stated that she lives at 51 Omelia Drive in Broad Brook so she understands what everyone is talking about. She disagrees with the item, "to take immediate action to deny the Connecticut State Police Relocation". She would like to take that off the table because the Board cannot legally do that. She does like the idea of "devoting the efforts of the Board of Selectmen to study and produce a plan of action along with the members of the Town of East Windsor to do what is the best for the Town of East Windsor. She also said that securing the signature of Governor Malloy is not going to happen. She said that if we could pass a budget with more than 2% in it we could do much more for this Town.

First Selectman Menard said that she likes Selectman Nelson's comment because we are currently developing a plan of action.

MOTION made (Bowsza) and **SECONDED** (Nelson) that we accept the position with 400 signatures, forward it to Town Meeting, and after approval of the petition at Town Meeting submit to relevant agency commissioners and legislative delegation a letter of support on behalf of the Town ratifying the petition.

Discussion: Selectman Richards does not agree with Selectmen Nelson and Bowsza about the last motion and the denial of it. However, he does want to move forward to Town Meeting so he will be voting yes. He feels that the other items that were presented in this petition should have been on the table and as Board of Selectmen we should have backed it. However, he will back this motion because it does continue moving forward and it does continue the action it takes to stop this.

Selectman Dearborn agrees with Selectman Richards. He would like to keep this moving forward so he will also be voting yes.

In favor: Bowsza, Dearborn, Nelson, and Richards. Opposed – None.

A resident asked Representative Chris Davis to say a few words about this matter.

State Representative Chris Davis stated that he had been sitting in and listening to this discussion. He did not know about the facility going in, the first he heard was the public hearing announcement. He was in session so he was not able to attend. He believes that the idea of sending it to a Town Meeting is appropriate at this time so that people can hear in and then send the State a clear level of what direction the Town of East Windsor would like to go in. He has personally been sharing the concerns of the people with the State Police and the police have assured him that they have been listening and hopefully if they do the EIE all of those concerns are taken into account. He does think it is very important that all of the concerns are heard at the State level. He understands the impact that this gun range could have on the community and he looks forward to Town Meeting results and hopefully fighting for all residents at the State Capitol.

A resident asked First Selectman Menard to bring 5 questions with her to the meeting with Senator Larson and Commissioner Dora Schriro and she agreed to.

MOTION made (Bowsza) and **SECONDED** (Nelson) to take a 5 minute recess.

In Favor: Bowsza, Dearborn, Nelson and Richards. Opposed: None.

The meeting reconvened at 9:36 p.m

MOTION made (Bowsza) and **SECONDED** (Nelson) to take up Agenda Item 9B Discussion of Economic Development Tax Incentive Proposal.

In Favor: Bowsza, Dearborn, Nelson and Richards. Opposed: None.

B. Discussion of Economic Development Tax Incentive Proposal

Economic Development Consultant Roger O'Brien was in attendance to answer any of the questions the Board of Selectmen may have on this Tax Incentive proposal. Mr. O'Brien started by giving an overview of the proposal. Some discussion followed.

The following questions were asked:

- What happens if we give the farmers' tax abatements and they leave after one year?
- In the Statute that was numerated, Selectman Bowsza did not see anything that allowed for a recapture provision in the enabling legislation. In 12-65b there is no such provision. His main concern is if we were to move forward with this, in one instance we would be able to

capture abated taxes in the event of some sort of a violation of the agreement that he could find.

Answer: 12-65b does not specifically address it, however in our research of what other municipalities were doing, It was included in there. Ultimately, we would need the Town Attorney to weigh-in if a situation came about under 12-65b.

- How would you recapture if someone closed and went out of business?

Answer: You could put a lien on the property.

- Why do some years use 2 years, 5 years, or 7 years?

In drafting this, the agricultural one it only allows you to do 2 years. In doing the manufacturing one, because it is something new we were trying to keep it limited so we specifically did not want to go all 7 years to give the Town some experience with it.

MOTION made (Nelson) and **SECONDED** (Richards) to send the Proposed Town of East Windsor Tax Incentive Program Guidelines for Substantial new Investments for approval of an ordinance.

Discussion: Selectman Richards suggested we start thinking about a form for this. First Selectman Menard said that in the meantime she will talk with the Planning Office and see what they think and they can work with Mr. O'Brien.

In Favor: Bowsza, Dearborn, Nelson and Richards. Opposed: None.

10. NEW BUSINESS

A. North Central Health District Board of Directors (NCHD) – Maria Whelden and Len Norton

Maria Whelden and Len Norton were present with the NCHD Board of Directors. Employee Brian Bialewicz came up to the table as well. Ms. Whelden explained that there are 10 central services of a health department. Many of those essential services are done at the State level. Their district is mostly concerned with soil and septic, approvals and inspections when there is a complaint of septic not working, licensing restaurants and inspecting all the food services, and inspecting public pools. All of these are fee for service.

Selectman Nelson asked if they work with the Fire Marshals. Mr. Bialewicz answered that they work independently, however, if a Fire Marshal inspects a restaurant and believes that it is very unclean and unhealthy they will sometimes call the NCHD and they will come in to investigate.

Selectman Bowsza asked if they were funded by membership fees. Ms. Whelden responded, “partially, we have a per capita from the State that is set every year and a per capita that we set for the Towns every year, and fees that are charged for these permits and inspections”. She informed the Board that they cover Windham, Vernon, East Windsor, Ellington, Enfield, Stafford, Windsor Locks, and Suffield.

Ms. Whelden said there was very poor management at one time, she has made many improvements such as finances, phone systems, file back-up and they decided to freeze hiring to build up their funds again. They are now currently interviewing for a director position. They want to be sure that they get a director that can manage the finances.

Selectman Bowsza asked if the NCHD handles nuisance code enforcement or inspection. Ms. Whelden and Mr. Bialewicz said that they do handle property complaints, housing, restaurant complaints, hoarding complaints, lead contamination, etc. Ms. Whelden also said that this is the largest per capital district in the State; they now have enough money to afford a full-time coordinator.

Selectman Richards asked since they are handling Bradley field, can they impose a tax? Mr. Bialewicz said that they do share responsibilities with the Town of Windsor and Granby, however, they cover most of the airport. Selectman Richards suggested creating a tax, such as a dollar per ticket which would help to fund them. Ms. Whelden said that she would look into doing that. Mr. Bialewicz stated that the Board of Directors issued iPads and portable printers to all inspectors and they have a database on their iPad and can access it out in the field and it is a very useful tool. He also added that the NCHD posts the restaurant inspection scores on their website so anyone who is curious can visit their website and look up the scores. Selectman Bowsza thanked Ms. Whelden, Mr. Norton, and Mr. Bialewicz for coming out.

B. Added Appropriations for Communications to Town Residents

Selectman Bowsza suggested adding this to the agenda because the Board of Finance cut postage in this year’s budget and we are now being asked by the residents to better communicate events rather than only using the website and the newspaper. Selectman Bowsza stated that if the perception is that we need to do more, than we need to do more and sending out mailings directly to residents is something we can do.

A brief discussion was held about the number of mailings the Town should budget for and whether or not this would be an effective way of notifying residents. It was decided that the Town will do 2 mailings a year for now, until they see if the residents like it, and then they can always add more if it seems to be working well.

MOTION was made (Bowsza) and **SECONDED** to recommend to the Board of Finance the amount of 10,000 to be included in the Selectman's postage line for constituent outreach efforts.

In Favor: Bowsza, Dearborn, Nelson and Richards. Opposed: None.

C. Review of Board of Selectmen's Priority and Liaison Lists

MOTION made (Bowsza) and **SECONDED** (Richards) to postpone this agenda item to the July 21, 2015 Board of Selectmen meeting.

In Favor: Bowsza, Dearborn, Nelson and Richards. Opposed: None.

D. Approval of Tax Refunds

MOTION made (Nelson) and **SECONDED** (Richards) to approve the tax refunds in the amount of \$1,332.17 dated 7/2/15.

In Favor: Bowsza, Dearborn, Nelson and Richards. Opposed: None.

11. SELECTMEN'S REPORTS

A. Denise Menard

First Selectman Menard read her report hereto attached Attachment C.

B. Jason Bowsza

Selectman Bowsza read his report hereto attached as Attachment D.

C. Steve Dearborn

Selectman Dearborn has nothing to report.

D. Dale Nelson

- Attended the Volunteer Incentive Meeting – they got \$1,290 from the Volunteer going into their annuity.
- WPCA met at 7 p.m., Mercury Fuel needs to resubmit their design to Len on the North Road project, they had received a check for an old balance and had a discussion with Pat and they will continue to use the present collection method and will use the assistance of the tax collector. A delinquent sewer policy was adopted. They were just awarded a grant, \$32,000 with a match of \$10,000 for a total of \$42,000.
- On 7/2 she attended the Broad Brook Fire Department Meeting
- On 7/6 she attended the Warehouse Point Fire Department. Tony D. resigned from the Board of Commissioners. He had been with them for 13 years. His replacement is Louis Flynn. They are looking to possibly start charging for the Fire Marshal's inspections. They had 258 calls last month. On June 10th one of the vehicles had a small accident. The boundary lines have been drawn by the Assessor's office. There will be a district meeting that requires 15 voters that will be affected by this line change. They would like to try to use the incentive money to some degree to pay for the call-backs.

E. Jim Richards

- The Board of Education cut everything except administration.
- Economic Development Commission - Himself, Roger O'Brien, and Andy Hoffman appeared before Planning and Zoning and told them to create a study to look at Warehouse Point and develop it as a village district/destination and encouraged them not to allow special permitting especially La Renaissance, the Big Y, Walmart or the Theater Property. A church is trying to move into La Renaissance and they do not pay taxes.
- East Windsor Hunger Action Team kicked off. There was no one there the first day and then a couple of days later there were 19 children.
- He attended the Pension Board and there was no public participation on the agenda but they did allow it after Executive Session.

12. EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION made (Nelson) and **SECONDED** (Richards) to go into Executive Session at 10:40 p.m.

The Board came out of Executive Session at 11:30 p.m.

13. ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting was adjourned at 11:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Amanda Schroll
Recording Secretary

PROPOSED CHANGES TO “ORDINANCE CONCERNING LOCAL PROPERTY TAX RELIEF FOR CERTAIN OLDER ADULTS OR PERMANENTLY AND TOTALLY DISABLED” THAT WAS ADOPTED AT A SPECIAL TOWN MEETING HELD ON JUNE 1, 2010.

TOWN OF EAST WINDSOR

The following ordinance was adopted at a Special Town Meeting duly warned and held on June 1, 2010.

“ORDINANCE concerning Local Property Tax Relief for certain Older Adults or Permanently and Totally Disabled”

WHEREAS, Connecticut General Statutes 12-129n authorizes municipalities to provide property tax relief to residents of East Windsor based on specific criteria;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED by the legislative body of the Town of East Windsor in a meeting duly assembled that, pursuant to the Charter of the Town of East Windsor and Section 12-120n of the Connecticut General Statutes, the following Ordinance is adopted:

SECTION 1. PURPOSE:

The purpose of this Ordinance is to assist elderly or totally disabled homeowners with their real property taxes. Pursuant to Section 12-129n of the Connecticut General Statutes the Town grants a tax deferment for eligible residents of the Town on the terms and conditions hereinafter provided.

SECTION 2. EFFECTIVE DATE OF TAX DEFERMENT.

The tax deferment shall commence with the taxes due on the Grand List of October 1, 2015 and thereafter until the Ordinance shall be repealed by action of the Town’s Legislative Body.

SECTION 3. ELIGIBILITY.

The following criteria shall be met to be eligible for the tax deferment:

- (a) Applicants are (1) sixty-five (65) years of age or over at the close of the preceding calendar year, or whose spouses living with them are (65) years of age or over at the close of the preceding calendar year, or fifty (50) years of age or over and the surviving spouse of a taxpayer qualified under this Ordinance at the time of his or her death, with respect to real property on which such applicants or their spouses are liable for taxes under Section 12-48 of the Connecticut General Statutes, or (2) under age sixty five (65) and eligible in accordance with applicable federal regulations to receive permanent total disability benefits under Social Security, or have been engaged in employment covered by Social Security and accordingly have not qualified for benefits hereunder, but have become qualified for permanent total disability benefits under any federal, state or local government retirement or disability plan,

including the Railroad Retirement Act and any government-related teacher's retirement plan, in which requirements with respect to qualification for such permanent total disability benefits are comparable to such requirements under Social Security.

(b) Applicants have been real property taxpayers of the Town for one (1) year immediately preceding their application for tax deferments under this Ordinance;

(c) The levels of qualifying income for the tax deferments under this Ordinance shall be those set out in Sec. 12-81~~l~~ and Sec. 12-170aa of the Connecticut General Statutes adjusted annually as provided for in said General Statutes and the extended income limits as determined by a four (4) person panel to consist of the Assessor, Tax Collector, Treasurer and Director of Social Services. Once the criteria have been determined, a report will be submitted to the Board of Selectmen annually on or before January 1st of each year.

(d) Applicants that have been verified as allowable by the Assessor for the State program but are denied State benefit due to income level will be allowed for consideration in this Ordinance based upon the established extended income limits determined by the above four (4) person panel.

(e) Applicants denied and/or aggrieved by the process can appeal to the Board of Selectmen.

(f) Applicants must use the real property as their principal residence, which is defined as having used the residence for not less than 184 days during each calendar year.

(g) All taxes relating to the real property and sewer assessments for which the property tax deferment is applied for must be current and paid in full by the application date.

(i) Homeowners who qualify each year shall remain on the program if their property is transferred and the deed specifies that the prior homeowner retains "life use" and is responsible for the tax liability.

SECTION 4. APPLICATIONS.

(a) Applicants shall provide to the Assessor for the Town such information required to determine eligibility including, but not limited to, most recent federal tax returns or other proof of income, and complete such applications as required by the Assessor.

(b) Initial applications, together with such information required to determine eligibility for tax relief, shall be presented to the Assessor each year between February 1 and May 15. Thereafter, applicants shall file annually for tax deferments under this Ordinance.

SECTION 5. DETERMINATION OF TAX RELIEF AND RELIEF ALLOWED.

(a) The intent of this Ordinance is to provide for an additional local tax deferment for qualified real property. Tax relief will not be allowed for excess acreage.

(b) The determination of the total dollar amount of tax deferment for the program will be determined by the Board of Finance, in an amount not to exceed 1% of current real estate tax levy of the Town.

(c) Applicants who are determined eligible for tax deferments under this Ordinance shall receive a deferment not to exceed 75% of their current tax bill as set forth in Section 5(b) provided that such deferment shall be in conjunction with property tax relief under Sections 12-129b to 12-129d, inclusive and 12-170aa and shall not exceed in the aggregate the total amount of tax laid against the taxpayer.

(d) The Assessor shall review applications and information provided by applicants seeking tax deferments under this Ordinance. The Assessor shall determine eligibility of applicants not later than June 1 of each year and notify the Tax Collector of the amount of tax deferment.

(e) A four (4) person panel to consist of the Assessor, Tax Collector, Treasurer and Director of Social Services will determine the extended income limits not to exceed 10% above the qualifying income for the State Elderly and Totally Disabled Tax Relief Program and all other eligibility criteria by which applicants will be qualified.

(f) If necessary, the panel established in 3(c) will prioritize deferments based upon need, if the cap outlined in section 5(b) is reached.

SECTION 6. TAX DEFERMENT ACCEPTANCE/LIEN.

(a) The qualified applicants accepting entry into the Local Tax Deferment Program as outlined will sign a no (0%) interest Tax Deferral Lien which will be placed against the subject property for the first 10 years of the deferment, a Tax Deferral Lien with 5% annual interest due for the remainder of the deferment and, in accordance with CT General Statutes, this lien will remain in effect for fifteen (15) years.

(b) The Tax Deferral Lien will become due and payable when subject property is sold or conveyed, whether or not for value, or title is transferred. Such Lien will have a priority in the settlement of the applicant's estate.

SECTION 8. NO CONFLICT WITH STATE STATUTES.

This Ordinance shall not be construed to conflict with any state statute, rule or regulation.

Said ordinance shall become effective fifteen (15) days from publication thereof.

Ord. _____

Attest: _____

Joanne M. Slater, CCTC
Town Clerk of East Windsor

Hartford Courant
_____, 2015

Incorporated in 1768, today's East Windsor strives to preserve its quiet, small town feel. East Windsor relies on its citizens to maintain this character, where they volunteer, join a local club, serve on a Town board, or vote at a Town Meeting.

Address to the Board of Selectman, Town of East Windsor

July 7, 2015

Good evening,

My name is Mike Scalzo. I am a member and chief spokesman of **NEW**, N- E- W., which stands for **NOT EAST WINDSOR**. NEW is a recently formed group opposed to the Connecticut State Police Firing Range Training Center from being located on Apothecaries Hall Road.

We formed this group because of the obvious lack of public support and communications from the Town, at initial meetings held on this matter, and to date.

We feel strongly that our law enforcement men and women are entitled to the best training, equipment and facilities available and we totally support the efforts to accomplish that.

We feel strongly that this proposed site is in an extremely poor choice location.

We feel strongly that all the resident of East Windsor need to be informed of the serious consequences the siting at this location would create and our efforts will be expended in part, to communicate that.

We need the town to ENJOIN, recognize and support our group NOW and in the event the State Environmental Impact Evaluation (EIE) results in attempts to move forward in East Windsor.

We have obtained approximately 400 signatures on petitions which will be turned over at the appropriate time to you. This is **DOUBLE** the number a member of the Board of Selectman suggested to us at a prior meeting. These signatures came from just the immediate area of the proposed site, even though siting this facility at this location will affect ALL of East Windsor, and we gathered them in just one week.

You told us this is what you needed to enable you to act on this matter. The time has now come and we fully expect you to do so!

Our group is now signing up MEMBERS, voters of East Windsor and voters of Connecticut and we will continue to grow in numbers. We hope all of our politicians can now hear us loud and clear!

Based on all this;

We want to know what is the official position of the East Windsor Board of Selectman regarding this matter?

We want your "PUBLIC SUPPORT" to oppose this proposal!

We want you to notify the Department of Administrative Services that East Windsor does not want the Connecticut State Police Firing Range because of, but not limited to, the following:

- 1. The range will create noise pollution that will adversely affect our health and quality of life.***
- 2. The facility will create a serious traffic burden on our existing country roads.***
- 3. With just the threat of this, property values have already been affected and will continue to plummet 20-50%, which in turn will create a higher tax burden for every East Windsor resident, regardless of what section of town they live in.***
- 4. The Firing Range will have a negative impact on wildlife, especially protected species already identified by the State.***
- 5. The site is too close to schools, churches, offices, public entertainment, restaurants and of course many, many residences.***
- 6. The proposed activity will contaminate surrounding land with lead and have serious remediation issues.***

You have heard from us and we NOW we want to hear from you regarding this matter.

NEUTRAL is not an option!

NEUTRAL would be considered a "failure to represent us", the voters of East Windsor.

The failure to pursue effective strategies or bring positive change in this matter is tantamount to NO CONFIDENCE VOTES.

We thank you for this opportunity to speak.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael S. Scalzo, Sr.

Town of East Windsor

Petition to compel the East Windsor Board of Selectmen to act in their official capacity in opposition to the relocation of Connecticut State Police Firearms Training Facility to East Windsor.

Section 1. Title

Official action in opposition of the relocation of the Connecticut State Police Firearms Training Facility within the Town of East Windsor.

Section 2. Purpose

To compel Board of Selectmen (BoS) to;

1. Take immediate action to deny the Connecticut State Police relocation efforts in building a new firearms training facility within the town of East Windsor.
2. Devote the efforts of the BoS to study and produce a plan of action to successfully remove the East Windsor site from the Connecticut State Police site selection process before the Environmental Impact Evaluation (EIE) is completed and continue these efforts if the site is deemed acceptable.
3. Secure the signature of Governor Malloy in a letter declaring that East Windsor will no longer be considered for the facility.

Arguments in support of this petition:

1. Noise pollution, this facility will generate an unprecedented amount of noise with multiple outdoor shooting ranges, over 110 active lanes which are intended to be used simultaneously. The facility will be in use year round, both, during the night and day and all weather conditions. Special teams within the CSP and Federal law enforcement entities (approximately 20% of the stated usage) train with High Caliber firearms, these trainings will also occur at this facility.

2. Environmental pollution from environmental contaminants: the remediation of lead from bullets, Ketch Brook flows through the site, what are the cumulative effects.

3. Part of the site has been determined by the DEEP to be in an **aquifer protection zone**, since the May 18th scoping meeting.

4. Negative impact on the grand list a loss of approximately \$50,000 in currently collected revenues. This amount could be much more if the site were to be developed for other uses.

5. The state of Connecticut's **Construction Services Criterion** suggests the facility should *not* be located in East Windsor. There are **10 elements which should remove this site from consideration**: A park, church and cemetery located across from the proposed site at Windsorville Road, no close proximity to the interstate, not centrally located, aquifer protection area on site, located in Scantic River Regional

Drainage Basin, wetlands and FEMA flood plain on site, rare species along Ketch Brook, prime farmland soils and agricultural land currently in use on site.

6. The Town of East Windsor zoning map shows the site as **Industrial, Agricultural and Residential**. Locating this facility here would negate any future development and potential growth.

7. **Poor proximity /accessibility to interstate**, this site is 3 miles from the highway as the "crow flies". Actual route is closer to 8 miles when driving.

8. **Unknown usage** as the full scope of the training facility is yet to be fully determined and not guaranteed. The range is expected to be open Monday - Friday 8-4 with occasional night shooting and a rare weekend event according to Connecticut State Police (CSP). Once a state of the art modern range is built with 125 parking spaces proposed, and a potential of 125 outdoor shooters, the facility usage may change.

The State of Connecticut is not bound to any local zoning rules or laws, nor must they comply with any town ordinances. This leaves the CSP to build a facility as they see fit regardless of the town's intentions to develop a community that fits our needs.

9. **Special events (IE Swat Challenge)** The annual Swat Challenge event is typically scheduled in early August, this 4 day event is an invitation to all SWAT and ERT teams in New England. The event typically has attendees numbering in the hundreds with all types of apparatus, both military and civilian vehicles (MRAP Bear Cats etc.) and Helicopters practicing landings, insertions and extractions. The firearms competitions typically include the use of semi automatic high caliber rifles. Explosives and concussion grenades are also employed in competitions.

Traffic in the area surrounding the event is typically very high and must be directed.

The event is currently only held annually but with a new, larger and better equipped facility plans for this type of event may be scheduled more often.

10. **Property devaluation** to homes in close proximity to the E.W. Sportsmen's Club and CSP proposed firearms range. The impact on these homes will be detrimental, including the quality of daily life making them less desirable. The result will have a negative effect on real estate values even impacting tax assessment values. It's possible that any PILOT monies the town *may* receive would be negated by lower assessments on surrounding properties won through appeal.

11. **Notification** by CSP that they are following the legal requirements to notify residents in East Windsor. Few residents are aware of this proposed site. Yes, meetings are posted on the website, but if you are unaware of the issue, you are not likely to be looking. A public hearing sign posted at 100 Windsorville Rd. is illegible notifying of a Public Hearing regarding the property. Individual notification to ALL property owners in the form of a letter of intent should be required and implemented.

12. **No positive gain for East Windsor that pertains to crime prevention** as any CSP officer would be in town for training exercises not for implementing traffic stops, investigating crimes etc.

We, the undersigned registered voters of East Windsor petition the town of East Windsor Board of Selectmen to act in their official capacity in opposition to the relocation of Connecticut State Police Firearms Training Facility to East Windsor;

(Dated: 6/21/15)

July 7, 2015

My report to the Board of Selectmen

Last Thursday, representatives from North Central Health and the State Department of Agriculture, the farmers that are working in the field, Jason Bowsza, the Parks and Recreation Director, the Planner and I met regarding the fly and odor issue that has been going on since June 12 in the Rye Street area. The Health District is working with the farmers to improve some of the practices they were using for fertilizing the field and the Department of Agriculture is testing the flies to try to verify the source. Since the meeting, both the smell and flies seem to be subsiding.

The conversion of Town employees' health insurance from Anthem to CIGNA has gone very well. As with any major change like that, there were some issues but I have found CIGNA to be very responsive to any issues we encountered.

If you recall approximately 2 years ago we began contracting for our building maintenance. We recently requested proposals for those cleaning services. The new cleaning company, Charter Oak Building Maintenance, began this week.

The last steps of the HVAC project for this building is stalled so that Eversource can inspect the system to process our application for a rebate due to the efficiency of the system. In the meantime, we are working on plans to repurpose the former boiler room to a file/storage area. The current storage area that includes the Registrar's storage will be used as a resource room for copying, fax, mail, etc and the current resource room will become a small, but much needed, conference room.

I spoke with the owners of the Pasco's building. He said they expect to reopen the restaurant in the fall of this year. I don't know the specifics, whether the name will be the same, a date for reopening, etc. but at least we have the good news that the restaurant will be reopening.

The end of the 2014-2015 fiscal year and the beginning of the 2015-2016 year has been extremely busy for the finance departments and the selectman's office.

Negotiations are continuing with the clerical and dispatchers bargaining units.

Finally, I have included a copy of a great editorial that was written by our Registrars of Voters.

Reminders:

July 13 Capital Improvement Planning Committee

July 19 Rubber Duck and Cardboard Boat Race



Denise Menard

From: Jason Bowsza
Sent: Tuesday, July 07, 2015 10:42 PM
To: kpenn.ji@gmail.com; Amanda Schroll
Subject: Selectmen's report - July 7, 2015

Selectmen's report - July 7, 2015

On June 23, the PZC discussed the creation of a Warehouse Point Village District, but there were concerns about the potential impact that may have on the acreage in the area that has frontage along route 5.

One exciting project on the horizon is the potential development of a Calamar Senior Community, looking to locate a facility in East Windsor. This is a chain of independent senior living facilities with locations all over the Northeast and the Midwest. They had previously been looking to locate a facility in Enfield, but have started looking at East Windsor instead. Units would be one or two bedrooms, and residents would be fully independent. This would essentially be a 55+ age restricted apartment building. Typical tenants would be 72 years of age, about 90% of whom are retired.

Commission members, the developer, and Town Planner Laurie Whitten worked through some issues with town regulations to determine a pathway forward.

I am very impressed with the openness and transparency of the Planning and Zoning Commission and staff in the town planning office. This type of collaborative project where a developer is able to work closely with the town is further evidence that East Windsor is really open for business.

On the 24th, the Conservation Commission met. This commission continues to struggle to reach a quorum. We may need to look at ways to address this issue so that the commission can better satisfy its charge.

That same night I attended the Board of Ed meeting. The board discussed necessary arrangements for relocating students during the addition project at the Broad Brook Elementary School. They did agree to move the 4th grade to the EWMS for most of the year, a decision that did not come as a surprise to staff, who had already gotten their classroom assignments ahead of the meeting. The board also finalized their budget for the coming year. I'm sure Selectman Richards will have more on that, as the budget decisions were quite detailed and certainly important to the school district for the next school year.

On the 25th, the Pension Investment Board met to address changes to the pension structure for public works employees. The board voted 3-1 to initiate a change to a hybrid between a Defined Benefit and a Defined Contribution. This change could help the town in negotiations in the future to move away from a straight Defined Benefit structure towards a model that is more in the long term financial interests of the town. One point that is concern is the pack of any feedback at all from BOF representative Maynard. Participation at these meetings is very important, and Mr Maynard has missed 3 of our last 5 meetings. If he is unable or unwilling to participate, I strongly suggest that the Board of Finance consider naming a new member.

On Saturday the 27th, Dale and I attended the fundraiser for the East Windsor Youth Center before joining Denise at the Broad Brook Firefighters parade and carnival. It was a great day filled with good community events. We were happy to be able to show our support for both groups.

On July1, I attended the Inland Wetlands and Watercourse Agency meeting. Once again, our thanks to Ron Savaria for his years of service and leadership on that board. He will be missed, but it will be nice to have Alan Baker back on the commission.

On July 2, Denise and I met with the Department of Agriculture, the North Central Health District and representatives of Bahler's Farm regarding the nuisance issue with flies in the area. It was a very productive meeting and we found a good pathway forward to reduce future nuisance issues.

Over the 4th of July weekend, I took a ride out to Simsbury to see the existing state police training facility. It was considerably smaller than what they are proposing, and clearly in disrepair. After that, I stopped by the adjacent private gun club and talked with a few of their members, one of whom was a former Resident State Trooper assigned to East Windsor going back to the 60's and 70's. He was kind enough to drive me around the area and show me the lay of the land, including abutting neighbors. Afterwards, I knocked on a few doors in Simsbury to inquire about the impact of each of the ranges on homeowners in the area.

The next day, I spent about three hours going door to door in neighborhoods near the existing private range in East Windsor and the proposed new site. I made it a point to do this while I knew there was activity at the private range. I also spoke with a former state trooper who lives in East Windsor about his experiences with the Simsbury location, frequency of use there, and whether he thought it was a good idea to site a new facility in town.

While out on Sunday, I did notice a considerable number of dirt bike/ATV traffic going in and out of the proposed site. Would it be possible to ask the EWPD to station a cruiser on Napoleon Drive from time to time to confirm that these folks have written permission from the property owner to use the area? Or, could we reach out to Colonel Overturf at DEEP to see about increasing patrols by Environmental Conservation Officers?

Sent from my iPad