

Town of East Windsor
Special Town Meeting
April 3, 2012

A Special Town Meeting of the Town of East Windsor was held at the Town Hall, 11 Rye Street, Broad Brook, CT on April 3, 2012. The meeting was called to order by First Selectmen, Denise Menard at 7:32P.M. Motion was made by Alan Baker and seconded by Catherine Simonelli to nominate John Burnham to preside as Moderator. Motion was made by Scott Riach and seconded by Gilbert Hayes to nominate George Butenkoff for Moderator. Dale Nelson made a motion to have nominations cease, seconded by Paul Anderson. The Moderator called for a hand vote. The results of the vote are as follows: John Burnham 26 votes and George Butenkoff 3 votes. John Burnham will preside as Moderator. Town Clerk, Joanne M. Slater read the call to the meeting. Moderator, John Burnham read the statement of eligibility to vote.

The following resolution was introduced and read by Paul Anderson.

Item #1: Item 1. To consider and discuss (but not to vote on) an appropriation of \$2,300,000 for (1) the cost of the North Road Sewer Project, Phase III including, but not limited to, the construction of sewer piping from the Phase 2 termination point near the intersection of Wells Road east along portions of North Road and Melrose Road and south along portions of Wells Road and Rolocut Road,, and all alterations, repairs and improvements in connection therewith, as well as engineering, architectural and temporary and permanent financing costs, and to meet said appropriation, and in lieu of a tax therefore, the issuance and sale of bonds and notes of the Town pursuant to Chapter 109 of the Connecticut General Statutes, as amended, the Town Charter or any other provision of law thereto enabling, in an amount not to exceed \$2,300,000 or so much as may be necessary after deducting grants or other sources of funds therefore and the First Selectman and the Town Treasurer be authorized to issue and sell bonds or temporary notes of the Town not to exceed \$2,300,000 in anticipation of the receipt of the proceeds from the sale of such bonds and to determine the amount, date, date of maturity, interest rate, form and other details of such notes and bonds and (2) that the First Selectman be authorized to acquire for the Town by purchase or eminent domain any easements or interests in real property necessary or appropriate to construct or complete the Project. The full text of the resolutions adopted by the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Finance concerning the North Road Sewer Project, Phase III are available for review at the Town Clerk's office.

All those persons qualified to vote in Town meetings of the Town are hereby further notified that pursuant to Section 7-7 of the Connecticut General Statutes and the Town Charter, the Board of Selectmen have removed the above item on the call of this Special Town Meeting for submission to the voters of the Town who are qualified to vote at Town meetings for "yes" or "no" vote by voting machine on the following question:

Shall the Town of East Windsor appropriate \$2,300,000 for the North Road Sewer Project, Phase III to finance the construction of sewer piping from the Phase 2 termination point near the intersection of Wells Road east along portions of North Road and Melrose Road and south along portions of Wells Road and Rolocut Road, and all alterations, repairs and improvements in connection therewith, as well as engineering, architectural and temporary and permanent financing costs and authorize the issuance of bonds and notes in the amount of \$2,300,000 to finance such appropriation

and authorize the First Selectman to acquire by purchase or eminent domain easements or other interests in real property necessary or appropriate to complete the North Road Sewer Project, Phase III.

The vote will be conducted at the Town Hall, 11 Rye Street, Broad Brook, Connecticut and the Town Hall Annex, 25 School Street, East Windsor, Connecticut, as the case may be for voters authorized to vote at such polling places, during the hours between twelve o'clock p.m. (in the absence of a contrary determination at the Town Meeting) and eight o'clock p.m. on April 11, 2012.

Paul Anderson moved that the foregoing resolution be adopted, seconded by Gilbert Hayes.

Denise Menard, 1st Selectman: We have staff here to answer any questions that you may have. There are handouts in the hallway and a map of the extension on the board.

Russ Koehler: Why are they stopping at Melrose Road and not doing Yosky Road?

Jay Ussery of J.R. Russo & Associates: We stopped at the intersection of Yosky & Melrose Roads because this is a gravity sewer. A gravity sewer requires certain cover over the top of the sewer pipe.

Russ Koehler: They already surveyed in front of my house right to the town line and they said there was no problem with it. It will work.

Jay Ussery of J.R. Russo & Associates: At this point we're at minimum cover at the intersection of Melrose and Yosky roads and we have determined from this location that we can't go any further with the gravity sewer.

Russ Koehler: They've already surveyed it and said it will work.

Mark Wheldon: What is the duration of the project?

Arthur Enderle III, WPCA Superintendent: The duration of the project depends on the time table of when the funding gets approved by the USDA. That will dictate where we go from there.

Jay Ussery of J.R. Russo & Associates: If funding is approved this spring, this could go to bid in early summer. Construction could possibly commence mid to late summer. It probably could be completed by the end of 2012.

Ronald Savaria: What do you expect frontage and connection charges to be?

Arthur Enderle III, WPCA Superintendent: There won't be any frontage charges. There will be no benefit assessment, per se. There will be connection charges of \$4,994.00 per connection. Also there is the charge of the homeowner contracting a sewer contractor to actually do the work. Then there is the sewer annual fee of \$240.00. No one will be forced to connect.

Ronald Savaria: What is the reason for going through this so quickly?

Laurie Whitten, Town Planner: The 2000 census shows East Windsor of having a population of just under 10,000. As of April 29th the USDA will be using the 2010 census, at which point East Windsor will have a population of over 11,000. We will no longer be eligible for the USDA funding. We had to get the application in before the April 29th date.

Steve Heumann: What is the depth of the sewer in front of his house? Are you going to do a clay stop for him?

Jay Ussery of J.R. Russo & Associates: Approximately 8 feet. There will be clay stops along the line.

Michael Kiernan: Wants to hear the explanation of the connection charges again.

Arthur Enderle III, WPCA Superintendent: There will be no frontage charges due to the fact that there is a grant associated with this project. There will be facility connection charges of \$4,994.00 which have been that amount since 1995. This is the charge that each homeowner will pay to connect to the public sewer. The other cost to the homeowner is to hire a licensed

contractor to excavate and put the sewer line in from your house to the main line. Once you are connected to the sewer then you will annually pay a sewer user charge of \$240.00 per unit.

Ronald Savaria: What is the approximate cost to repair a septic system?

Richard P. Pippin, Jr.: \$4,000.00 to \$40,000.

Michael Caronna, Health Department Director of the Environmental Services: It could be \$4,000.00 or as much as \$40,000.00. If you on Rolocut Rd. and you're near the wetlands, it would probably be the higher cost because you're talking about fill and State Health Code requires separation distance from the ground water.

Tony Daniel: In so far as spacing from the sewer line to a shallow well, are there any restrictions? His shallow well is probably within 20 ft. of the road. How close is the sewer line going to be and is that going to be any problem?

Jay Ussery of J.R. Russo & Associates: He doesn't know what house is his and the exact location of the well. We will want to talk to you more about this.

Edward Bowsza: If the town doesn't put the sewer line through, is the town, in any way legally liable for any expenses associated with an existing septic system failing?

Paul Anderson, WPCA board member: If nothing happens with the sewer project and those houses become inhabitable and the septic systems are declared failed, we could be directed by DEEP to put sewers in them. Then it becomes an order regardless of the cost or where the money comes from. If a group of homes had issues the DEEP could say this is a health & safety issue so the town needs to find some money and fix it.

Michael Caronna, Health Dept. Dir. Of the Environmental Services: This has happened in East Windsor. It was back before the sewage treatment plant was upgraded. The town was under a moratorium and no one could build unless they could get septic system approval. Down where the movie theatre is, there were some restrictions if you were building. In 1985 the Town of Suffield also had problems.

Tony Daniel: How do you determine that a septic system fails?

Michael Caronna, Health Dept. Dir. Of the Environmental Services: Usually it happens because the sewerage is either backing up into the house or leaking out to the ground surface and technically if it is polluting the ground water. It is typically homeowner generated. It is also being generated by the sales of houses where it doesn't meet the code.

Paul Anderson, WPCA board member: We are also aware that there are additional questionable septic systems and septic issues farther down on Wells Rd. If the town is ever going to solve those issues, we need to have these sewers to connect to that area.

Denise Menard, 1st Selectman: There is no benefit assessment allowed by having this sewer project happen with a grant and a loan from USDA. However, that funding opportunity is gone after this month. If we decide later that we need to extend sewers, to keep going, there is likely that there will be a benefit assessment because it wouldn't fall under the parameters of the USDA grant. If this is approved, 25% is free to us. We are only paying 75% at a 3% loan. It is a much more affordable alternative than paying the whole amount. In the town of East Windsor we need to take little bites at a time. This is a little piece that we found an affordable way to do rather than taking a big leap and going down Wells Rd. and it costing millions of dollars. We can't get to the next step if we don't do this step 1st. Denise Menard directed a question to Mike Corona: How many septic are either marginal or failing in that area?

Michael Caronna, Health Dept. Dir. Of the Environmental Services: We reviewed 45 homes and 30% of them are close to wetland or surface water. Those will be more expensive to repair in the future. Right now, he doesn't know personally how many are having problems. A lot of these homes are older and would imagine if they don't have a problem now they will down the road.

Denise Menard, 1st Selectman: There is an informational session on Wednesday and anyone can call WPCA for any questions that they have.

Kirk Monstream: At what capacity will the plant be at if this all goes through?

Arthur Enderle III, WPCA Superintendent: The plant is currently severely under loaded. The plant is designed to treat 2 ½ million gallons of sewage a day. We currently are still only at about 40% of capacity. Last summer we were down to 20% – 25% capacity. This will have a very small impact on the capacity of the plant. This won't even get us to 50%. We started on the North Rd. sewer project and people asked why we were stopping at Mullen Rd. Since that time very shortly we partially finished with phase I and Phase II came about. We had some extra money so we used it to get a little bit further. Now we are just starting phase II and we are looking at a phase III. People asked why we are ending here. We have to end somewhere. We are fully aware that other areas need this service, but in order to get to these other areas we have to do this first. We can only do this in small bites. We fully intend, if the need is there, to do everything in our power to get there because there really isn't any other alternative.

Mark Whelden: On the \$4,994.00 sewer connection cost, is that something that the homeowner would have to pay in a lump sum, or do they have the option to pay overtime?

Paul Anderson, WPCA board member: It is a cost that can be spread over time. Normally people pay half of that up front and they spread the balance over 7 years at 2% interest.

Edward Bowsza: The tie in cost is not related in anyway to phase I, II or III. That's the tie in cost to tie into the East Windsor sewer system. Anyone who ties into the sewer anywhere, same as the user fee, regardless of where you are in town, if you're tied in, you are paying the same thing.

Paul Anderson, WPCA board member: That is correct.

Catherine Simonelli: On the handout currently it looks like the cost for the average taxpayer for phase I & phase II is \$20.00 and this would be an additional \$12.00 per year which would be \$1.00 per month for the average homeowner.

Carol Madore, Assessor: That is correct. For An automobile assessed at #3,500, the cost for phase I & II is .35 cents a year. Phase III added to that would be .56 cents a year.

Ronald Savaria: I understand that one of the reasons that they proceeded with what they are getting ready to do now is because we had money leftover for phase II because of the economics it came in under budget. So maybe it's a good time to get bids on contracts.

Edward Alibozek, WPCA Chief Operator: It's a good time because the grants portions are available to us. This is going to be our last opportunity for this type of grant. On this project it looks like 25%. Last time it was a 42% grant. J. R. Russo Associates is telling us that they are still seeing very competitive construction bids. On the entire phase our contractors did really good work paying attention to detail and there was some savings on not putting in shoring. We saved hundreds of thousands of dollars. USDA said they didn't want us to turn the money back. They want to see East Windsor utilize all of the funds. Our Board of Selectmen has had the foresight to do some extra engineering. They had the next section engineered already, so when the extra money was available, it was easy to do the preliminary environmental and engineering report and to get all the applications in for us to spend this extra money on the 1,000 – 1,500 ft. that started yesterday.

Paul Anderson, WPCA board member: The exact distance we are going to get from Mullen Rd. out towards Wells Rd. is an unknown. If we are able to get to the intersection and can continue on that original grant money, we are going down Wells Rd. and not continuing on North Rd. North Rd. is a state highway and the cost per ft. is much higher. We want to get the maximum out of this and USDA wants us to spend every penny. The only money in question is grant money, not loan money. We have already used the loan money.

Edward Alibozek, WPCA Chief Operator: We need to realize all the loan money first until we are eligible for the grant money. Any money left over is grant money.

Laurie Whitten, Town Planner: Explained the Phase III area on the map located on the board.

Kimberly Heumann: While we have North Rd. torn up, why don't they consider water or gas?

Laurie Whitten: It was considered by the water company said that unless someone was willing to pay for it they were unwilling to put it down the road.

Denise Menard, 1st Selectman: We did meet with the water & gas company numerous times and they just didn't budge. We wanted to do it.

Richard P. Pippin, Jr., Selectman: Mr. Ed Alibozek should correct one statement he said, for the record. Passerine definitely used shoring. They did not use sheeting. They used trench boxes. They certainly followed safety.

Edward Alibozek, WPCA Chief Operator: That is correct.

Scott Morgan: This is a very good project, good for the town. I am in favor of it.

The Moderator called for a hand vote. The results of the hand vote are as follows: Yes 39, No 0, 3 abstentions. The motion passed.

The following resolution was introduced and read by Dale Nelson.

Item #2: To consider and vote on the recommendation of the Board of Selectmen that the polls shall be open at six o'clock a.m. to conduct the referendum on April 11, 2012:

Dale Nelson moved that the foregoing resolution be adopted, seconded by Catherine Simonelli.

Denise Menard, 1st Selectman: She wanted to know what the benefit is of having it go from 6 a.m. in the morning. Suggested that we make it from noon to 8pm because that is what the State Statues say.

James Richards, Selectman: Disagrees with that because his wife who likes to vote goes to work at 12noon and works until 9 p.m.

Richard P. Pippin, Jr., Selectman: The Town Clerk can give any voter an absentee ballot with that problem.

Gilbert Hayes: Has there been a track record of how many voters come before noon?

Linda Sinsigallo, Registrar of Voters: One time we started at noon and some people came to vote on their way to work. They were not able to vote and they were mad because they were not going to be out of work until after 8pm.

Edward Bowsza: What is the additional cost of this?

Denise Menard, 1st Selectman: The Registrars were asked to cut the costs for less hours and they did not. They paid their workers the same whether they worked from 6 a.m. or noon.

Edward Bowsza: And that is for the same going forth on the 11th?

Denise Menard, 1st Selectman: We could ask them if they would consider it again.

Linda Sinsigallo, Registrar of Voters: You have to remember that they are giving up a lot of their time to work. I can cut their pay by \$25.00 if you want.

Ronald Savaria: Do you have to be a special certified volunteer? I would volunteer to work at the polls.

Linda Sinsigallo, Registrar of Voters: You have to be trained. There are specific things you have to do and paperwork to fill out.

Scott Morgan: He is in favor of the polls being open from 6 a.m.-8 p.m.

Marie Wheldon: What is the process of getting an absentee ballot and how long will it take?

Joanne Slater, Town Clerk: You can call and request an absentee ballot application to be sent in the mail or you can come into the office and fill out an application and get your ballot right then.

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Marie Wheldon: I generally leave the house at 6:30 – 7:00 a.m. and I often work till 8 p.m. I am not home before 8 p.m. so I would have to do it by mail.

Joanne M. Slater, Town Clerk: As soon as absentee ballots are available, you should call and have an application sent to you. Then you should get the application sent back to us as soon as possible so that we can get the ballot out to you.

Cecil Donahue: What is the cost of having the polls open from 6a.m.-8p.m.?

Linda Sinsigallo, Registrar of Voters: Do you want the memory cards and ballots included in the cost?

Cecil Donahue: What would you save if they were open 12noon-8p.m.?

Linda Sinsigallo, Registrar of Voters: \$600.00

Ronald Savaria: The town hall is open late on Thursday night so voters can get their absentee ballots then.

Joanne Slater, Town Clerk: Anyone interested in getting an absentee ballot tonight, can come down to my office after this meeting.

John Burnham, Moderator: If you vote yes on this motion the polls will be open from 6a.m.-8p.m. If you vote no, they will be open from 12noon-8p.m.

The Moderator called for a hand vote. The results of the hand vote are as follows: yes 39, no 1, 6 abstentions. The motion passed.

George Butenkoff made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Dale Nelson. The meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Joanne M. Slater, CCTC

Attest: _____
Town Clerk