

**Board of Finance
Town of East Windsor
11 Rye Street
East Windsor, CT**

**MINUTES OF BUDGET WORKSHOP – SPECIAL MEETING
Friday, March 26, 2010 at 7:00 p.m.**

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

Members Present: Jack Mannette, Danelle E. Godeck, Robert Little, Kathleen Pippin, Jason Bowsza, and Marie DeSousa
Members Absent: None
Alternates Present: Jamie Daniels
Alternate Absent: Thomas Baker
Others: Denise Menard, Richard P. Pippin, Jr., Timothy Howes, Dale Nelson, and other townspeople
Press: None

Chairman Jack Mannette called the Budget Workshop Special Meeting to Order at 7:00 p.m., in the East Windsor High School, Board of Education Meeting Room, 70 Main Street, East Windsor, Connecticut.

Chairman Jack Mannette instructed the Board the meeting notice for this meeting was unfortunately posted late in the Town Clerk's Office. Board Member Marie DeSousa question whether or not the meeting was legal due to the fact the notice of the Budget Workshop Special Meeting was not posted twenty-four hours in advance. Mr. Mannette informed the Board Members he had spoken with Mr. Tom Henick of Freedom of Information. He informed Mr. Mannette that technically he was in violation of the FOI with regard to public notice. He also informed Mr. Mannette the meeting could go on and was legal. It would only be illegal if someone filed a FOI complaint and it was found Mr. Mannette deliberately delayed notice to avoid proper notification to the public. Ms. Desousa insisted the meeting is an illegal meeting and Mary Higgins of the Town Clerk's Office confirmed she did not receive notice of this meeting twenty-four hours in advance.

Board Member Jason Bowsza believed Mr. Mannette did maliciously or deliberately not notice the meeting but did not want to violate FOI at all costs. Ms. DeSousa was concerned of additional legal fees if this meeting continued and did not feel comfortable continuing the meeting. Mr. Bowsza likewise agreed with Ms. DeSousa saying the meeting was in violation of FOI. Mr. Mannette insisted he spoke with Mr. Henick of FOI and he instructed the meeting could take place as long as no one filed a complaint against the Board in violation of the FOI and the Board deliberately held back the notice to the public.

Board Secretary Danelle E. Godeck indicated the notice was given to the public a month ago by way of the Board of Education posted all the Budget Workshop Meetings. Mr. Bowsza indicated a legal notice has to be posted with the Town Clerk's Office and it was not. A Motion was made to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Mannette indicated the notice was sent to the Town Clerk's Office after the office was closed. Mr. Bowsza said if the office is closed, the notice was received until the next day. Ms. DeSousa began discussing an email she received from the Town Clerk indicating the meeting was in violation of the FOI. Mr. Mannette insisted he wasn't in violation. Ms. Godeck wanted more clarification of the notice requirements and was given a pamphlet produced by the State of Connecticut regarding the laws of notice requirements of public meetings. Mr. Bowza commented if they started tonight or Tuesday, March 30, 2010, all that matters is fulfilling their obligation as a Board to put a Town Budget into place. A vote was held regarding the Motion to adjourn the meeting.

It was **MOVED** (DeSousa) and **SECONDED** (Bowsza) and **PASSED** (3-2) that the Board of Finance adjourns the March 26, 2010 Budget Workshop Special Meeting at 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Denise M. Piotrowicz
Recording Secretary