

**BOARD OF FINANCE
TOWN OF EAST WINDSOR
11 RYE STREET
EAST WINDSOR, CONNECTICUT 06088**

MINUTES OF BUDGET WORKSHOP

Wednesday, May 23, 2012 at 8:00 p.m.

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

Members Present: Jason Bowsza, Joseph Pellegrini, Danelle E. Godeck, Jerilyn Corso, Marie DeSousa, and Kathleen Pippin
Members Absent: None
Alternates Present: Paulette Broder and Sharon Tripp
Alternate Absent: None
Others: Catherine Cabral, Denise Menard, Alan Baker, Dale Nelson, Richard Pippin, James Richards, Chris Mickey, Teresa Kane, Cathy Simonelli, Carol Madore, Jack Mannette, Bob Lyke, William Dove, Lois Noble, Kathy Bilodeau, Bill Schultz, James Barton, Linda Guilliano, Nichole DeSousa, Tom Muska, Sharon Muska, and others
Press: Larry Smith (Patch.com) and Cory Gauffman (Journal Inquirer)

I. Call to Order

Chairman Jason Bowsza called the Special Meeting to Order at 8:01 p.m., in the East Windsor High School Cafeteria.

II. Budget Discussions

Ms. Catherine Cabral, Treasurer, gave to the Board Members a chart explaining the different increased amounts, percentage of increase, and mill rate. Ms. Cabral indicated this was the same chart which was used at previous budget workshop meetings. Mr. Bowsza commented that the public has spoken overwhelmingly that the budget needs to be cut. He indicated the good news is that more people turned out for the second referendum than the first. He reminded everyone that there will be one more referendum and if that does not pass, the budget will default to the 2% increase pursuant to the Charter. He questioned the Board Members what they would prefer either hit the 2% or go just below the 2%.

Board Member Joseph Pellegrini commented that the Board should come in a little below the 2% because the referendum failed twice by a 2 to 1 margin. Board Members Danelle Godeck, Kathleen Pippin, Paulette Broder and Jerilyn

Corso agreed. Board Member Marie DeSousa disagreed but indicated in order to get the budget passed, the Board must go below or at the 2%.

Mr. Pellegrini indicated that \$234,601 would have to be cut from the budget to get the budget just below the 2% increase or 1.97%. His figures were agreed upon by the Board Members after referring to the charts that they were given to use. Mr. Bowsza inquired if there were any suggestions where the monies would be cut. Mr. Pellegrini suggested the Board of Education budget. Ms. Broder commented she did not feel all of the cuts should be taken by education. Ms. Godeck remarked that the Board of Education does have the highest budget and it concerns her that East Windsor is considered to be one of the 30 bottom school districts in the State. However, the Town Government is barebones and the generator requested has already been taken away, the next step would be services. Ms. DeSousa agreed indicating the Town Government came in below 2% and they did their job when proposing their budget. She gave examples of services and other expenses which the Town has decreased in costs.

A discussion was held regarding the Board of Education budget. It was discussed if an additional \$234,000 was cut from that budget, what exactly be the increase percentage wise. The total budget would be \$20,173,350 or an increase of 4.39%. It was asked if the MBR was included in those figures and it was noted that the numbers discussed did include the MBR. The discussion continued about what cuts the Town Government has taken including the generator and the paying off of the fire truck. A total of \$455,000 has been cut on the Town Government side and if the \$234,000 was cut from the Board of Education, the deductions would total approximately \$604,000. Chairman of the Board of Education, Chris Mickey and the Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Kane indicated the district would be able to handle the deduction.

It was **MOVED** (DeSousa) and **SECONDED** (Pellegrini) and **PASSED** (U) that the Board of Finance reduces the Board of Education budget by \$234,601.

After the vote took place, Mr. Bowsza thanked the Board of Education for coming forward during the discussions indicating that the Board of Education could handle the deduction which was being discussed.

It was **MOVED** (DeSousa) and **SECONDED** (Pellegrini) and **PASSED** (U) that the Board of Finance to put forth the 2012-2013 Proposed Budget \$33,903,924 or an increase of \$656,446 or 1.97% spending increase and a mill rate increase of approximately .35 mills or 24.7263 mill rate.

III. Consider and Vote Upon Resolution Regarding the Appropriation and Bond Authorization of \$3,770,000 for the Replacement of the Broad Brook Elementary School Portable Classrooms

Mr. Bowsza indicated the Resolution has been cleared by Bond Counsel and the Board of Selectmen held a Special Meeting last night to discuss same. Ms. Cabral gave to all Board Members a copy of the Resolution for their review. She indicated that if the Board had any questions, Dr. Kane and Mr. Labrie were present. Mr. Pellegrini indicated the Board of Education will be absorbing the cost of the portable classrooms and to replace the current structure with a more permanent structure will only cost \$1,275.

A brief discussion was held.

It was **MOVED** (Pellegrini) and **SECONDED** (Godeck) and **PASSED** (U) that the Board of Finance adopts the Resolution as presented and forwards to a Town Meeting. Said Resolution is attached hereto and marked as Exhibit A.

IV. Adjournment

It was **MOVED** (Corso) and **SECONDED** (Pippin) and **PASSED** (U) that the Board of Finance adjourns the Special Meeting of May 23, 2012 at 8:28 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Denise M. Piotrowicz
Recording Secretary

EXHIBIT A

**TOWN OF EAST WINDSOR
BOARD OF FINANCE
RESOLUTION**

RE: Appropriation and Bond Authorization of \$3,770,000 for the Broad Brook Elementary School Portable Classrooms Project.

At a meeting of the Board of Finance held on May __, 2012, on a motion by Board Member _____, and seconded by Board Member _____ the following resolution was adopted:

RESOLVED, that the Board of Finance of the Town of East Windsor (the “Town”) approves and recommends to the electors and all others entitled to vote at town meetings of the Town that:

(i) the sum of \$3,770,000 be appropriated for the cost of the Broad Brook Elementary School Portable Classrooms Project including, but not limited to, the replacement of eight (8) portable classrooms with fourteen (14) permanent modular classrooms, including the removal of the existing portable units, the design and construction of new classrooms, site work, the purchase and installation of furniture, equipment and instructional technology and all alterations, repairs and improvements in connection therewith, as well as engineering, architectural and temporary and permanent financing costs (the “Project”), and to meet said appropriation and in lieu of a tax therefor, bonds of the Town be issued pursuant to Chapter 109 of the Connecticut General Statutes, as amended, the Town Charter or any other provision of law thereto enabling, in the amount of \$3,770,000 or so much thereof as may be necessary after deducting grants or other sources of funds available therefor; and

(ii) that the First Selectman and the Town Treasurer be authorized to issue and sell temporary notes of the Town not to exceed \$3,770,000 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 or bonds, pursuant to Chapter 109 of the Connecticut General Statutes, as amended, the Town Charter or any other provision of law thereto enabling, provided that the proceeds from the sale of such notes shall be used for said purpose; and

(iii) that the First Selectman and the Town Treasurer shall sign the bonds or notes by either manual or facsimile signatures and that the law firm of Pullman & Comley, LLC is designated as bond counsel to approve the legality of the bonds or notes; and

EXHIBIT A CONTINUED

(iv) that the First Selectman is authorized to designate a bank or trust company to be the certifying bank, registrar, transfer agent and paying agent of the bonds or notes; to sell the bonds or notes at public or private sale; to deliver the bonds or notes; and to perform all other acts which are necessary or appropriate to issue the bonds or notes. If the bonds or notes authorized by this resolution are issued on a tax-exempt basis, the First Selectman and the Town Treasurer are authorized to bind the Town pursuant to such representations and covenants as they deem necessary or advisable in order to maintain the continued exemption from federal income taxation of interest on the bonds or notes, including covenants to pay rebates of investment earnings to the United States in future years. If the bonds are issued on a taxable basis, it is hereby determined that the Project is in the public interest.