

**BOARD OF FINANCE
TOWN OF EAST WINDSOR
11 RYE STREET
BROAD BROOK, CONNECTICUT 06016**

**MINUTES OF BUDGET WORKSHOP MEETING
Tuesday, April 8, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.**

DRAFT DOCUMENT – These minutes are not official until approved at a subsequent meeting

Members Present: Joseph Pellegrini (Chairman), Jerilyn Corso, Cindy Herms, Robert Little, Robert Maynard, and Sharon Tripp.
Members Absent: All members were present.
Alternate Present: Gilbert Hayes
Alternate Absent: Paulette Broder
Others: **Town Treasurer:** Kim Lord; **First Selectman:** Denise Menard; **Selectmen:** Steve Dearborn, and Jim Richards; **Town Staff:** Len Norton, Town Engineer.
Guests: Members of the East Windsor Condominium Association
Press: No one from the Press was present.

I. Call to Order:

Chairman Pellegrini called the Meeting to Order at 7:03 p.m.

II. Time and Place of Meeting:

Room D-2/Administrative Conference Room, East Windsor High School, 76 South Main Street/Route 5, East Windsor, CT.

III. Public Participation:

No one requested to speak.

IV. Board of Finance Workshop Discussion:

The Board reviewed a portion of the Board of Selectmen's proposed budget.

2155 – Warehouse Point Fire District:

MOTION: To change the allocation for the Warehouse Point Fire District to 1%, or \$241,739.

Little moved/Maynard seconded (for discussion)

DISCUSSION: Ms. Corso indicated she understood Mr. Little's position, but she felt if the budget fails and we go to 2% that's what the District will get; Ms. Corso felt the Board must protect the people. Mr. Maynard noted he seconded the motion for discussion but personally, he didn't feel it's that big a deal – to worry about \$2,000.

VOTE: In Favor: Little
 Opposed: Herms, Corso, Trip
 Abstained: Maynard
 (Mr. Hayes was not a voting member as all Regular Members were present)

2160 – Fire Protection - Condo Reimbursement: Water:

MOTION: That the \$10,000 (for condo reimbursement of fire protection) be removed and make it zero.

Little moved/Corso seconded (for the purposes of discussion)

DISCUSSION: Ms. Corso indicated she was on the fence with this request; she noted good points were outlined in the condo association's presentation document but people who oppose this request have made good points as well. Ms. Corso suggested the biggest thing she took away from the Public Hearing was someone asked if the condo owners had read the condominium documents, and the person addressed said "no, that was his lawyer's job." Ms. Herms suggested the Board wouldn't have been privy to various condo documents; Mr. Hayes noted minutes of past discussions at other meetings would reflect comments made. Discussion continued regarding general access to various condo documents; Mr. Maynard suggested he did read his documents and he found no reference to paying for fire hydrants or street lights. Mr. Pellegrini and First Selectmen Menard suggested the condo documents say an owner will pay for "common fees" or fees for "common areas". Discussion continued regarding the private nature of the condo complexes vs. the community in general. First Selectman Menard suggested the issue of fire hydrants may be different than the street lights as the number of street lights is not a set number while fire hydrants are mandated by the water company and reviewed by the fire marshal. Discussion followed regarding the history for the proposed funding; First Selectman Menard summarized previous discussions with the condominium owners. The condominium association has requested reimbursement of approximately \$77,000 for fire hydrants and street lights; there has been no agreement as to the final funding. She noted the \$10,000 requested is funding for a portion of reimbursement of the cost of fire hydrants going forward; it also creates a line item to allow continued discussion. Mr. Little noted this request asks for people who have no access to public water themselves, and may never have that access as there are no pipes in the street, to pay for the cost of water for the condo owners. Discussion continued regarding the status of the potential creation of an agreement between the condo owners and the Town regarding distribution of whatever funding is reflected in this line item.

VOTE: In Favor: Little

Opposed: Corso/Tripp/Maynard
Abstained: Herms
(Mr. Hayes was not a voting member as all Regular Members were present)

3185 – Street Lighting – Condo Reimbursement: Street Lights

Ms. Corso opened discussion by noting that the fire hydrants somewhat help other residents and are a safety issue, while street lights – there are many people that don't have street lights. – she isn't sure on this one. Ms. Herms questioned if street lights are mandated or arbitrary? Town Engineer Norton reported the Town has been putting in fewer street lights, maybe just at intersections. He noted there are some people who don't want street lights. As a Town we are generally thinking about reducing the number of street lights to save money. First Selectman Menard clarified that for subdivisions the decision is made by the Planning and Zoning Commission. Ms. Herms questioned if this is different than the fire hydrants? Town Engineer Norton noted the fire marshal generally tells us where to put the fire hydrants. Ms. Corso felt that the information of the Town reducing street lights as a cost savings is new information. Mr. Little suggested that this request to reimburse for street lights and fire hydrants by the condo association is the first step; next they will be asking the Town to handle the roads. Chairman Pellegrini noted someone from Pond Street has already asked that the Town take over that road.

MOTION: To remove the \$10,000 (for condo reimbursement of street lights) from that line item and make it zero.

Little moved/Corso seconded (for purposes of discussion)

DISCUSSION: Mr. Maynard indicated he would like to see at least \$10,000 in there because it would be a place holder and allows for discussion and he felt they are trying to figure out how the fire hydrants can be reimbursed and maybe considering the street lights so he is against deleting it totally. Ms. Corso suggested she sees the street lights so totally different but she could agree to leaving the \$10,000 in the line item for now.

VOTE: In Favor: Little/Corso
Opposed: Herms/Maynard/Tripp
Abstained: No one
(Mr. Hayes was not a voting member as all Regular Members were present)

MOTION: To change the condo reimbursement of street lights from \$10,000 to \$10.

Tripp moved/Little seconded (for purposes of discussion)

DISCUSSION: None.

VOTE: In Favor: Unanimous
(Mr. Hayes was not a voting member as all Regular Members were present)

LET THE RECORD SHOW Mr. Maynard left the Budget Workshop at 8:41 p.m.

MOTION: To appoint Gil Hayes as a voting member for the duration of the meeting.

Tripp moved/Corse seconded/

DISCUSSION: None.

VOTE: In Favor: Unanimous

Discussion will continue tomorrow evening (4/9) with the Capital Improvement requests, and review of the Board of Education Budget.

VI. Adjournment:

MOTION: To Adjourn this Meeting at 8:50 p.m.

Little moved/Tripp seconded/VOTE: In Favor: Unanimous

Respectfully submitted: _____
Peg Hoffman, Recording Secretary, East Windsor Board of Finance