

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

**MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING  
Wednesday, May 21, 2014, 8:00 p.m.**

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

**Members Present:** Jerilyn Corso (Acting Chairman), Cindy Herms, Robert Little, Robert Maynard, and Sharon Tripp.  
**Members Absent:** All members were present.  
**Alternate Present:** Paulette Broder and Gilbert Hayes  
**Alternate Absent:** All Alternates were present  
**Others:** **Town Treasurer:** Kim Lord; **First Selectman:** Denise Menard;  
**Selectmen:** Jason Bowsza, Deputy First Selectman; Dale Nelson.

**Press:** No one from the press was present

**I. Call to Order:**

Acting Chairman Corso called the Meeting to Order at 8:02 p.m.

**II. Time and Place of Meeting:**

Town Hall Meeting Room, 11 Rye Street, Broad Brook, CT.

**III. Appointment of Alternates:**

Acting Chairman Corso opened discussion regarding direction of the Charter and Connecticut General Statute 7-343 on the appointment of a member to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Mr. Pellegrini. The Board discussed the composition of the voting membership; the consensus was that the sitting Board was comfortable with the appointment of an alternate to engage in the selection process to fill the vacancy.

**MOTION:** To APPOINT Alternate Member Paulette Broder as a voting member for the May 21, 2014 Special Meeting of the Board of Finance.

Tripp moved/Herms seconded/

**DISCUSSION:** None.

**VOTE:** In Favor: Unanimous

**IV. New Business/a. Appoint New Member to Board of Finance to fill vacancy left by Joseph Pellegrini:**

Acting Chairman Corso opened discussion by noting that the Board has before them two candidates to fill the vacancy created by Mr. Pellegrini's resignation – Kathy Pippin and William Dove. Mr. Little indicated he would like to go into Executive Session to interview the candidates in the order by which their applications were submitted. Discussion continued regarding the purposes of an Executive Session, the specific parameters under which an Executive Session can be held, attendance during an Executive Session, and the open session process of filling of the vacancy which was performed in the past. It was also noted this is a Special Meeting under which an Executive Session has not been posted. Discussion continued regarding preference for Executive Session vs. open interview process. Later discussion noted historically an Alternate moves up to the full position, and resigns from the Alternate position. Ms. Broder stated she didn't want to move up to a full position.

**MOTION:** To go into Executive Session for the purposes of interviewing applicants to fill the current vacancy.

Little moved/no one seconded the motion – **the motion failed.**

**MOTION:** To postpone this meeting.

Maynard moved/Little seconded

**DISCUSSION:** Mr. Little wanted to amend the motion to add an Executive Session.

**AMENDED MOTION:** To postpone this meeting, and add an Executive Session.

**VOTE:** In Favor: Little/Maynard  
Opposed: Broder/Herms/Tripp  
Abstentions: None

**MOTION:** To adjourn this Special Meeting of the Board of Finance dated May 21, 2014.

Little moved/Maynard seconded/

**DISCUSSION:** None

**VOTE:** In Favor: Little/Maynard  
Opposed: Broder/Herms/Tripp  
Abstentions: None

Acting Chairman Corso thanked the candidates for applying. Mr. Maynard reported he would like to ask each of the candidates the questions at the same time; both candidates approached the Board. The interview process followed:

Ms. Broder reported she had no questions; she was comfortable with the applications as submitted.

Mr. Maynard – if your house was assessed for \$100,000 and the mill rate was 30.07 what would the tax on your house be? Mrs. Pippin, when given time to respond, replied approximately \$4,000.00. Mr. Dove responded \$3,007.

Mr. Maynard – do you (candidates) want to take an extra credit question? Mr. Dove responded he would like to take it. Mr. Maynard suggested, for extra credit, if the amount to be collected by taxes is \$28,062,083 and the Grand List is approximately 1 billion dollars what would the change in the mill rate be? The Board noted that if, during a meeting, discussion of budget figures occurred, those numbers would be provided by the Treasurer rather than a Board member. Mr. Dove responded the change would be .28 mill; Mrs. Pippin declined the extra credit.

Mr. Little questioned what Mrs. Pippin felt she would bring to the Board? Mrs. Pippin reported she brings 40 years of experience in the business world developing their own business, and her six years of previous experience on the Board as a regular member – which was a wonderful experience. Mrs. Pippin noted she is also a member of the CIP (Capital Improvement Advisory Committee), and she attends almost every other meeting the Town hosts. Mrs. Pippin further noted she didn't miss a Board of Finance Meeting, and the decisions she made were the best decisions she could make for the people of East Windsor. Mr. Little noted Mr. Pellegrini's letter of resignation was submitted May 13<sup>th</sup> and subsequently submitted to the Board; he questioned Mrs. Pippin how she could submit an application on the same date? Mrs. Pippin reported she attended a meeting at which Mr. Pellegrini's resignation was confirmed to her and she submitted her application on the spot. It was clarified that Mr. Pellegrini's resignation was submitted on the morning of the referendum; word of his resignation circulated during the referendum. When asked what he would bring to the Board Mr. Dove reported he would be an advocate for the taxpayers and would do his best to keep more of the travesties from taking place – such as some of which were responses to special interest groups. Mr. Dove objected to the changes in the Police pension plan; he suggested the pensions are eating the taxpayers alive – he then gave examples of his calculations regarding pension costs. Mr. Dove also felt that every year taxes go up 2 or 3% and nothing is done to repair roads; he felt the increases go to employee salaries and benefits; he felt the Town can't afford it.

Acting Chairman Corso asked Mrs. Pippin what's kept her coming back and keeping in touch with the Board? Mrs. Pippin reported she loves the Town of East Windsor and she sees people giving their time without getting anything for wanting to make the town right. She reported she loves watching that process and wants to bring that attitude to the Board. Acting Chairman Corso noted the defined benefit plan for the Police department was discussed at many of the Board of Finance and Board of Selectmen's meetings; she questioned how many of those meetings Mr. Dove had attended? Mr. Dove responded "not too many."

Ms. Tripp asked Mrs. Pippin why she wanted to join the Board? Mrs. Pippin reiterated she loved her time on the Board, especially before November; everyone was warm and welcoming and she wants to share in what the Board is doing. Mr. Dove reported “this” is the most important board in town and 60% of the budget goes to the Board of Education, so when you walk in here your hands are tied and you get to deal with the remaining 40% as best you can. Mr. Dove continued discussion of previous funding decisions which he felt were unwise or inappropriate. Ms. Tripp asked Mr. Dove why he wanted to be on the Board? Mr. Dove reported “it’s in his blood; you need to want to do it and to be dumb enough to do it.”

Ms. Herms asked Mr. Dove if this is so important to you now what’s kept you away from the meetings to see what’s been going on? How can you know if you haven’t been to any of the meetings? Mr. Dove responded that he follows what’s happening in the newspapers, and he keeps in touch with people in town. Mr. Dove didn’t feel it was necessary to go to all the meetings.

Ms. Herms referenced Mr. Dove’s comments included with his resume' citing his “4 years experience on the East Windsor Board of Finance actively and intelligently doing what a good republican should be doing”; she questioned what a good republican does? Mr. Dove reported a good republican wants minimal government; he then offered a quote from Thomas Jefferson. Mr. Dove suggested some people can do “that”; some people are r.i.n.os – republicans in name only. Ms. Herms questioned that then Mr. Dove would vote the republican way? Mr. Dove reported the RTC (Republican Town Committee) doesn’t tell him how to vote; he makes his own mind up.; he thinks about it and weighs the needs of the Town vs. the needs of the taxpayer.

Mr. Hayes suggested to Mrs. Pippin that he hoped she knows he loves her, and he knows she has a passion for this Board and she was heartbroken when the party didn’t recommend her. Mr. Hayes suggested the Board has two good candidates before them.

Mr. Maynard referenced Mrs. Pippin’s comment about being happy with the way the Board was operating before November; he asked Mrs. Pippin what happened to change that? Mrs. Pippin felt her opinion was a private matter.

Mr. Maynard referenced some of Mr. Dove’s discussion regarding the problems with three referendums and the reversion to 2% which puts the Town in a rut; he questioned what are Mr. Dove’s ideas to change that? Mr. Dove reported employee negotiations take place behind closed doors –(it was noted union negotiations must occur privately) – Mr. Dove continued that he felt the Town is dealing with the attorney; the Town needs to send a strong individual to those negotiations. Mr. Maynard suggested Mr. Dove was saying the Town should push back before the negotiations take place? Mr. Little reported he participated on a negotiation team and he felt it was the attorney rather than the Town employees or the Town Board members leading the negotiations. It was noted Mr. Little participated in the Board of Education negotiations; Mr. Little felt it was like that all around.

General discussion continued for a short time; the interview process ended at 8:57 p.m.

Mr. Hayes requested members vote via paper ballot. Mr. Maynard objected based on his discussion with Mr. Hennick of the FOI. Discussion continued.

**MOTION:** That the Board take an individual verbal vote for the candidate each member wants to choose.

Tripp moved/Broder seconded/

**DISCUSSION:** A roll call vote was requested; Mr. Maynard indicated he would like to hear members reasons for their selection.

Mr. Maynard reported he gets the impression he knows how everyone is going to vote and he is disappointed because he really respects Bill Dove's knowledge and understanding and would love to have him on the Board and he (Mr. Maynard) agrees with him (Mr. Dove); he supports Bill (Dove).

Mr. Little felt it was a difficult decision but in looking at the background and educational experience he (Mr. Dove) has experience that no one else here has; he also has negotiating skills and some very good ideas and would be an asset negotiating contracts; he supports Bill Dove.

Acting Chairman Corso indicated she wouldn't be voting tonight because she is the temporary chairman but she noted both are wonderful candidates with different skills. She cited concern for getting information from newspapers rather than attending actual meetings. Acting Chairman Corso cited Mrs. Pippin's past experience on the Board; if she were voting she would be voting for Kathy Pippin.

Mrs. Tripp noted she has worked with Mrs. Pippin for more than two years and found her a good member of the Board; while she doesn't always agree with her (Mrs. Pippin's) decisions she found her good to work with. Mrs. Tripp reported she was the person who found out Mr. Pellegrini was resigning and it was she that told Mrs. Pippin the position was open when she saw Mrs. Pippin. Nothing was done secretly; the word was already out.

Ms. Herms indicated she agreed with Mrs. Tripp, Kathy Pippin has been there at meetings and all the budget workshops and the Board of Selectmen meetings and she is impressed with her (Kathy) attending all those meetings. Ms. Herms felt it was important Kathy already knows what's going on by attending those meetings; she supports Kathy Pippin.

Mr. Hayes suggested he loved Kathy Pippin, but if it were possible for Bill Dove to take his (Mr. Hayes) seat.....

Ms. Broder agreed that Kathy has been here at meetings 100% of the time, and she hopes Kathy gets back on the Board.

**Roll-call VOTE:** Broder – in favor of Kathy Pippin  
Maynard – in favor of Bill Dove  
Little - in favor of Bill Dove  
Tripp - in favor of Kathy Pippin  
Herms - in favor of Kathy Pippin

**VI. New Business/b. Election of Officers:**

Acting Chairman Corso noted the Board is voting for a Chairman and a Secretary. Mr. Maynard questioned if Mrs. Pippin should participate in the elections? It was noted Mrs. Pippin must be sworn in before she can participate in the Board's activities.

**MOTION:** To nominate Jerilyn Corso as Chairman.

Tripp moved/Herms seconded/

**DISCUSSION:** None

**VOTE:** In Favor: Unanimous

**MOTION:** To nominate Robert Maynard as Vice Chairman.

Little moved/no one seconded the motion – **the motion failed.**

**MOTION:** To nominate Sharon Tripp as Secretary.

Herms moved/Broder seconded/

**DISCUSSION:** None.

**VOTE:** In Favor: Unanimous

The elections resulted in approval of Jerilyn Corso as Chairman, and Sharon Tripp as Secretary.

**V. Adjournment:**

**MOTION:** To **ADJOURN** this Meeting at 9:10 p.m.

Herms moved/Broder seconded/**VOTE:** In Favor: Unanimous

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