

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

MINUTES OF PUBLIC HEARING

Wednesday, March 27, 2019

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

Regular Members Present: Jerilyn Corso (Chairman), Kathy Pippin, Sarah Muska, Bill Syme, Karen Christensen, Barbara Petano

Regular Members Absent: None

Alternate Members Present: Alan Baker

Alternate Members Absent: Danielle Godeck

1. CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Chairman Corso called the Public Hearing to Order at 7:00 p.m. Everyone stood and said the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. TIME AND PLACE OF MEETING:

Wednesday, March 27, 2019, 7:00 p.m. at the East Windsor Town Hall Meeting Room (11 Rye Street, Broad Brook, Connecticut, 06016)

3. ATTENDANCE/APPOINTMENT OF ALTERNATES:

The whole Board was present so no alternates needed to be appointed.

4. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

Sarah Andrews, 144 Main St - stated that the communication between the Boards as a whole seem to be going in a positive direction. She also stated that being a parent of a student in the high school she strongly believes in the BOE budget. She states there are band-aids on everything in the district and they are going to fall off. She asked for the Board's strong consideration to support the BOE budget that they are presenting.

Al Floyd, 40 Winton Rd – stated that the BOS has recommended a 0% increase for the library and he thinks that is very unfortunate. He stated that the State of Connecticut spends about \$31.61 per capita on libraries and with that \$31.61 Connecticut ranks 30 out of 50 states.

Theresa Schwartz, 52 Norton Rd – had heard the discussion about potentially delaying the purchase of the Public Works trucks and stated that if there is a delay then repair costs will go up and maintenance costs will go up. Also, if they don't have the truck and have to rent a truck then that would be more cost to the Town. She feels that this situation could be a penny wise and a pound foolish

Richard Pippin Jr, 37 Woolham Rd – He stated that if money was going to be handed out then there should be a budget and it should be followed. They should be sent to the Treasurer and disbursements made on the budget. He doesn't think that the money should be just given to them so it vanishes. He also states that after listening to the BOE presentation that there are 2 buses going to Ag schools. He feels that one little savings the Town can make is not going to Suffield for the Ag program. He stated years ago there was a deal with Rockville/Vernon and he thinks that is a good program and a lot of kids have graduated for the program and are doing well.

Louis Flynn, 17 Spring St – Stated that he was speaking on behalf of the Warehouse Point Fire District. He said they are trying to get a stipend to correct an inequity. He stated that the tax payer in the Warehouse Point part of town are paying 2 fire taxes. He feels that Warehouse Point Fire Department should get at least the amount they requested in the budget. He stated that he had just signed a memorandum of understanding with the First Selectman stating that the money collected would be used in lieu of taxes. He feels that Warehouse Point Fire Department is being looked at as less than equal.

Elyse Spielberg, 244 Rye St – Stated that she is also disappointed that there is a 0% increase in the libraries budget. She stated that libraries are not just for books anymore, they are used for many things. She stated that the libraries use most of their money just to maintain them. She is disappointed especially in a day where things cost more to maintain. She asked the Board to think about the importance of libraries. She stated that she also supports the BOE budget as it is presented.

Keith Yagaloff, Depot St – He stated that he is in support of the funding for the schools, libraries and fire departments. He stated that he could not find the budget on the Board of Finance website. He feels that the taxpayers need to have the revenue information to understand the budget. He feels it should be on the Town's website where people could go look at it. He stated that he would like to see on the revenue side the excess costs of Special Education and grant money that the school gets for reimbursement of students that come in half way through the year at 75%. He feels that the taxpayers should see that. He also saw that there was a transfer of \$450,000 from the fund balance to get the mill rate change to 2.77 and he is concerned with the 2.77 mill rate change.

Charles Nordell, 7 Grandview Terr – He stated he is in support of most of the budget and he says that the BOF should consider the departments, these are not asks they are needs and that he thinks the public should decide whether they need them or if they are asks.

Frances Neill, 153 Melrose Rd – Stated that she supports the BOE budget because she wants her children to have a quality education. She feels if things are taken away now then her children won't have access to what they need. She also stated that she is in favor of keeping the rural character of the town and open space. She asked the Board to try and not infringe on this while looking for cuts to the budget.

Michaela Mullarkey, 43 Graham Rd – Wanted to thank the Board for their volunteer efforts and everyone that serves on a Board or Commission. She asked for account 560 be labeled correctly, it states Rockville Vo-Ag. She wants to see next year it be Suffield and Rockville Vo-Ag. She also stated that Connecticut State Statute states that the can't discontinue tuition to Rockville or Suffield. She would encourage everyone to support the Agra-science programs.

Marie DeSousa, 10 Rice Rd – Stated that she would like some clarification about the \$264,000 in the proposed budget for the Warehouse Point Fire Department. She wanted to know if this was going to be an additional \$264,000 or if it would be given to them to break even. Her other concern is if the budget does not get passed and goes back to 2% on last years budget do they get nothing? She is concerned because in a whole year nothing was done to rectify this issue. She wants to know what happens in the future if it does get passed and so will the get additional money the next year or will it stay the same. She feels that needs to be looked into.

Jim Barton, 158 South Water St – Stated that 3 years ago there was a plan and shared goal with the Town and the District to care for buildings and equipment that the Town wouldn't fund. The plan was to levy a fire tax. He feels this well intended plan went a rye the Warehouse Point residents and businesses have paid 100% of the cost of fire service in Warehouse Point and also paying their share of the cost of fire service in Broad Brook through Town taxes. He feels that Warehouse Point Fire District should be put back into the budget like it was prior to FY 16-17. He also stated that any money that came into the District would be considered revenue and then the need for taxes would be determined.

5. ADJOURNMENT:

Chairman Corso adjourned the Public Hearing at 7:28 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rebecca D'Amicol, Recording Secretary