

**TOWN OF EAST WINDSOR
BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

***PUBLIC HEARING
TOWN OF EAST WINDSOR
BROAD BROOK FIRE DEPARTMENT
2023 – 2024 BUDGET PROPOSAL
February 16, 2023
6:30 p.m.***

***THIS PUBLIC HEARING
IS BEING HELD IN-PERSON
In the John Daly, Jr. Meeting Room
Town Hall, 11 Rye Street, Broad Brook, CT 06016***

AND

***REMOTELY via ZOOM Teleconference
Meeting ID: 332 683 3563
Passcode: townhall***

MEETING MINUTES
********Minutes are not official until approved at a subsequent meeting********

Board of Selectmen
Jason E. Bowsza, First Selectman
Marie DeSousa, Deputy First Selectman
Alan Baker, Selectman
Sarah Muska, Selectman
Charles Nordell, Selectman

ATTENDANCE: First Selectman Bowsza hosted the in-person meeting. Deputy First Selectman DeSousa, Selectman Baker, Selectman Muska, and Selectman Nordell were present in person.

ABSENT: All Selectmen are present at this Public Hearing.

GUESTS/SPEAKERS in-person: First Selectman Bowsza hosted the in-person meeting. **Broad Brook Fire Department:** Thomas Arcari, Chief; Gerald Bancroft, Assistant Chief; James Bancroft, Deputy Chief; Finance Director Amy O'Toole; Keith Yagaloff; Mr. Munzell.

GUESTS/SPEAKERS signing in to meeting remotely: Heidi Alexander, Peg Hoffman, Recording Secretary.

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1. TIME AND PLACE OF PUBLIC HEARING:

First Selectman Bowsza convened the Public Hearing on the Town of East Windsor Broad Brook Fire Department 2023 – 2024 Budget at 6:30 p.m. in the John Daly, Jr. Meeting Room, Town Hall, 11 Rye Street, Broad Brook, CT 06016.

2. ATTENDANCE:

See Attendance noted at the beginning of the meeting.

3. TOWN OF EAST WINDSOR BROAD BROOK FIRE DEPARTMENT 2023 – 2024 BUDGET:

Chief Arcari referenced the Budget comparison document, noting that this year's budget represents a \$12,739.00 increase over last year. Part-time salaries have increased by approximately \$8,200.00. Within the payroll stipend is the fee for the recording secretary and payroll taxes. There is a decrease in the Fire Marshal's line and a decrease in the 27th Payroll line, and an increase in the Fire Incentives line.

Chief Arcari reported that over the past several months the department has been averaging over 87 calls, requiring more volunteer time. Annuities and LAP Insurance has increased. The phone bill has decreased, as has vehicle maintenance due to the anticipated arrival of the replacement truck.

Chief Arcari reported the cost for Tolland Dispatch has increased by \$4,000.00. Assistant Chief Bancroft reported Tolland Dispatch has changed the way Tolland Dispatch charges for services. It used to be 100% per capita, or based on the population in your town, they've gone to a staggered change which will go to a charge based on the number of calls you do over the year. Assistant Chief Bancroft suggested it's a cost of doing business, the total dispatch fee for the fire departments on both sides of town and the ambulance will be approximately \$53,000.00 but is cheaper than hiring local dispatchers and paying benefits. The other piece of this change is Tolland no longer receives compensation from East Windsor for 911 calls, while other towns, which are regionalized, pay a fee to Tolland Dispatch for that service.

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Chief Arcari returned to the proposed budget, noting LAP insurance has increased by \$1,300.00, gas and fuel increased \$2,000.00, while supplies has been reduced.

Chief Arcari noted the Dues and Fees line has increased due to a change in the recording system; CIP continues at \$200,000.00

Chief Arcari reported the entire budget increase is 1.33%, or \$12,739.00.

First Selectman Bowsza questioned where that falls in terms of the Grand List? Finance Director O'Toole suggested they would have to go to 2.55 mills to impact the Grand List.

5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

First Selectman Bowsza noted this is a Public Hearing, he called for input from members of the in-person audience first.

Keith Yagaloff, 125 Depot Street: Mr. Yagaloff indicated he supports the budget as presented. He wanted to thank the Broad Brook Fire Department for their good work. This year they made a real effort to come in on budget, they're obviously showing that they're a responsible agency. Mr. Yagaloff indicated he wanted to support their budget.

Mr. Munzell, Aspen Drive: Mr. Munzell indicated he had questions on the creation of the Broad Brook Fire Department as a separate department within the overall East Windsor Fire Department structure rather than the budget. He suggested that resulted in a 7 ½% tax increase to us and created an \$800.00 tax bill he didn't have before. Mr. Munzell suggested what Chief Arcari reported seemed reasonable and indicated he's trying to control what's within his purview, but he questioned why we had to break out Broad Brook from the East Windsor structure. Mr. Munzell suggested they were getting double taxed, as they're paying that tax plus this tax. Mr. Munzell felt it was very unfair to the taxpayers. He understood there was a referendum on it, 370 people voted for it, 200 people voted against it. Mr. Munzell suggested the 370 people that voted for it represented less than 20% of the voters in town, Mr. Munzell didn't feel there was a good turnout on that issue in 2021 when the vote occurred. Mr. Munzell reported no one on his street was aware that this issue was coming up.

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First Selectman Bowsza cited this is a Public Hearing on the Broad Brook Fire Department 2023 – 2024 proposed budget; comments should pertain to the proposed budget. As clarification of one of Mr. Munzell's comments First Selectman Bowsza noted the ordinance which created the Broad Brook Fire Department occurred during a Presidential election, not a municipal referendum, the vote likely had thousands of participants rather than the 500 Mr. Munzell referenced. First Selectman Bowsza suggested he and Mr. Munzell could discuss his questions offline, but comments for this Public Hearing should be related to the budget. Mr. Munzell concurred.

First Selectman Bowsza queried the in-person audience for additional comments; no one requested to speak. First Selectman Bowsza then asked if anyone participating remotely would like to comment; no one requested to be acknowledged.

Hearing no further requests to comment First Selectman Bowsza requested a motion to CLOSE THE PUBLIC HEARING pertaining to the Broad Brook Fire Department budget.

MOTION: To CLOSE THE PUBLIC HEARING pertaining to the Broad Brook Fire Department budget.

Muska moved/Baker seconded/DISCUSSION: Nothing further

**VOTE: In Favor: DeSousa/Baker/Muska/Nordell
(No one opposed/No abstentions)**

6. ADJOURNMENT:

First Selectman Bowsza declared the Public Hearing ADJOURNED at 6:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, -----
Peg Hoffman, Recording Secretary, East Windsor Board of Selectmen