

**TOWN OF EAST WINDSOR
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
And
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Public Hearing

Monday, February 4, 2019

7:00 p.m.

Town Hall Meeting Room
11 Rye Street, Broad Brook, CT. 06016

Meeting Minutes

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

Board of Selectmen:

Robert Maynard, First Selectman
Steve Dearborn., Deputy First Selectman
Jason Bowsza, Selectman
Andy Hoffman, Selectman
Charles J. Szymanski, Selectman

Board of Education:

Cathy Simonelli, Chairman
Randi Reichle, Vice Chairman
Kate Carey-Trull, Secretary
Scott Morgan
Kathy Bilodeau
William Raber
David Swaim
Nichole DeSousa

Superintendent of Schools:

Dr. Christine DeBarge

ATTENDANCE: **Board of Selectmen:** Robert Maynard, First Selectman; Jason Bowsza, Selectman; Andy Hoffman, Selectman; Charles J. Szymanski, Selectman.

ABSENT: Steve Dearborn, Deputy First Selectman.

GUESTS: **Board of Education:** Cathy Simonelli, Chairman; Randi Reichle, Vice Chairman; Kate Carey-Trull, Secretary; Frances Neill; **Superintendent of Schools:** Dr. Christine DeBarge.

Members of Boards, Commissions, Committees, and Town Entities:

Board of Finance: Karen Christensen; **Broad Brook Library:** Paul Anderson, President/Treasurer; **Building Department:** Rand Stanley, Building Official; **Treasurer:** Amy O'Toole, Treasurer.

**TOWN OF EAST WINDSOR
BOARD OF SELECTMEN and
BOARD OF EDUCATION
Public Hearing – February 4, 2019
HEARING MINUTES -**

Press: No one from the Press was in attendance.

TIME AND PLACE OF REGULAR MEETING:

First Selectman Maynard called the Hearing to Order at 7:00 p.m. in the Town Hall Meeting Room, 11 Rye Street, Broad Brook, CT.

First Selectman Maynard read the Hearing Notice for the public:

- Town of East Windsor, East Windsor Residents, January 26, 2019. In accordance with the East Windsor Town Charter, Section 8-4D (1) (a), the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Education shall hold a Budget Public Hearing on Monday, February 4, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Hall, 11 Rye Street, Broad Brook, CT. 06016. The Boards encourage comments from the public on the Board of Education and Town (General) Government 2019-2020 Budgets. Robert Maynard, First Selectman. The notice appeared in the Journal Inquirer on January 26, 2019.

First Selectman Maynard reported he has a PowerPoint presentation to summarize the potential 2019 – 2020 Budget; he will then take public comments. First Selectman Maynard indicated copies of the Budget Workshops and Referendum schedule is available on the table (See Attachment A). After receipt of the Board of Education Budget the Board of Selectmen will present the Fiscal Year Board of Selectmen/Board of Education Budget to the Board of Finance on March 20th. The first Budget Referendum will occur on May 14th.

First Selectman Maynard advised the audience that the Town departments, commissions, committees, and other agencies have submitted their FY 2019 – 2020 budget requests. He offered a PowerPoint presentation of the summary (See Attachment B), noting the following highlights:

- FY 2019 – 2020 – Total Town/BOE Budget - \$42,549,817; a 2% increase of that budget would create an increase in spending of \$850,996.
Current Board of Education \$24,622,500 (approximately 58% of the budget)
Current Town \$17,927,317 (approximately 42% of the budget)
- Required/recommended increases in health insurance at 18% due to high claim experience creates an additional cost of \$115,275.
- The proposed budget would also include a recommended contingency of \$100,000.
- The proposed budget includes the following additional employees: Treasurer's Office, part-time employee; Economic Development Strategic Planner; Building Department – part-time Clerk; Human Services, part-time clerk; Senior Center, part-time driver; Public Works; Broad Brook Fire Department, part-time. Total salary cost, excluding benefits, for the additional employees is \$158,765.
- The proposed budget includes the addition of \$464,000 for the Warehouse Point Fire Department – not funded in the FY 2018 – 2019 Budget.

**TOWN OF EAST WINDSOR
BOARD OF SELECTMEN and
BOARD OF EDUCATION
Public Hearing – February 4, 2019
HEARING MINUTES -**

- FY 2019 – 2020 total Town budget would be \$17,927,317 for an increase of 12.4% implementing all funding requests.
- FY 2019 – 2020 total Town budget would be \$16,738,132 for an increase of 5% with some reduction of funding requests.
- FY2019 – 2020 total Town budget would be \$16,274,132 for an increase of 2.1% with necessary funding requests.

Cathy Simonelli, Chairman of the Board of Education, reported that the BOE doesn't present their budget until after this Hearing. The first Board of Education Budget Workshop has been moved to Wednesday night, at the High School.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

Paul Anderson, 89 Main Street: Regarding the Board of Education Budget, wouldn't it be lovely if they could get the money they need, and do a good job. And, on the Town side, wouldn't it be interesting for the townspeople to see a budget that everyone wanted, and they got to vote on that – which is very impractical, the public seldom gets to see what everyone wanted at the first draft. Mr. Anderson suggested this is just food for thought.

First Selectman Maynard reported they can put that information on the website shortly. Mr. Anderson felt people could get a sense of what is requested before the reductions are made. First Selectman Maynard indicated Treasurer Amy O'Toole has also prepared a spreadsheet of a three year history which will be available tomorrow.

Cathy Simonelli, Chairman of the Board of Education, indicated they've tried to balance that as well. We try to come up with an initial request which isn't outside the realm of reality but they want the public to know what the need is. First Selectman Maynard indicated that information will be published as well. BOE Chairman Simonelli noted they are also dealing with an 18% increase in health insurance costs.

Rand Stanley: This presentation will be available on the Town website; it's being taped. First Selectman Maynard indicated the PowerPoint presentation will be put up as well.

Fran Neill, 153 Melrose Road, Broad Brook: Mrs. Neill reported she's a parent of 3 kids going through various stages of education in the East Windsor school system. There are a lot of things the school system needs to do which are unfunded by the State and they need to be funded out of pocket. Mrs. Neill wants her children to get a good education helped along by her tax dollars. She suggested they have so many great pieces.

Selectman Szymanski, 57 Rockville Road: Selectman Szymanski noted he recently heard a proposal at the Capitol for legislation about regionalization of schools throughout Connecticut by 2022. He questioned how that will work into our budgets?

**TOWN OF EAST WINDSOR
BOARD OF SELECTMEN and
BOARD OF EDUCATION
Public Hearing – February 4, 2019
HEARING MINUTES -**

Dr. Christine DeBarge: It wouldn't be now, and the State organizations – the Connecticut Association of Superintendents and the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education - are lobbying against that bill; she understands that the language is changing to focus on regionalism of services rather than school districts. Selectman Hoffman questioned if regionalization would not be a good idea? Dr. DeBarge suggested nothing is always good or bad. When she hears a finite decision that you must do x, y, and z she becomes concerned because it's not always a good decision. If you're geographically close to a district that doesn't have the physical space to absorb students from the other district that's one piece that suggests the financial savings would be minimal because you still have to maintain the buildings that house the children. Dr. DeBarge felt every situation should be looked at individually; she felt you can't make sweeping decisions about something that has so many layers.

Selectman Bowsza felt it also important to consider the non-budgetary impact on things. Dr. DeBarge suggested like the culture of the town and the desire of the citizens there to be regionalized. Selectman Bowsza suggested his thoughts were more in line with the amount of time students spend on a school bus. Dr. DeBarge suggested that would be based on whether a building in another geographical location can absorb the students, but if they can you could have students on a bus over an hour.

Selectman Szymanski questioned if some states have already passed such legislation? Dr. DeBarge didn't know. BOE Chairman Simonelli didn't know of any state where it's not allowed or they've said you must. Selectman Bowsza cited that many states have town government for their local form of government; he likes the local control. With more and more State mandates - he likes the local control; you still have that piece where the citizenry has direct representation. That's a good thing; that's a very New England tradition. BOE Chairman Simonelli gave as an example if East Windsor joined with Windsor Locks neither school building could absorb all the kids. She questioned how the course offerings would be handled, and how students would be situated. She felt by the time you get done with the logistics and costs you haven't saved much. Mrs. Neill noted that with regionalism usually the smaller towns must go along with the larger town. BOE Chairman Simonelli cited the larger towns have more voters and they would set the budget and we would have to go with their budget. Selectman Bowsza cited the discrepancy in the per student cost, citing the lower cost town would have to come up. BOE Chairman Simonelli noted they have these discussions periodically, and many of these issues are roadblocks.

Selectman Bowsza cited the sharing of services. BOE Chairman Simonelli suggested they do that now. Selectman Bowsza recalled the shared services agreement between the Town and the Board of Education which has been in place for several years. BOE Chairman Simonelli suggested she was thinking more that East Windsor takes kids in from a "sending district" for special education, which supports the staff that they put in place and makes it cheaper for the sending district as well as East Windsor. She felt that was more advantageous than sharing copiers and supplies. Dr. DeBarge suggested if the shared services got into sharing employees there would have to be more discussion regarding responsibilities and workload and all of that.

**TOWN OF EAST WINDSOR
BOARD OF SELECTMEN and
BOARD OF EDUCATION
Public Hearing – February 4, 2019
HEARING MINUTES -**


Selectman Hoffman questioned what the Board of Education sees as the 3 most important pros and 3 most important cons regarding regionalization? Dr. DeBarge suggested it depends on districts. If a district can close schools there's a financial benefit, but if you can't she sees little financial benefit. The town needs to vote to regionalize; if the people of both towns don't agree it's off the table. BOE Chairman Simonelli suggested there's a significant investment of time and finances spent in discussion to investigate regionalization before it gets to the voter. Ms. Carey-Trull suggested the legislation was just proposing a committee at this point. Dr. DeBarge felt the political organizations that are connected to education are definite advocates against mandated regionalization of education and more supportive of regionalized services. Dr. DeBarge doesn't see this as an issue for several years. Mr. Anderson cited a map circulating that indicates that East Windsor, South Windsor, and Windsor would be a region. Ms. Carey-Trull and Selectman Bowsza suggested that's the existing Probate Map being used as an example and being applied to school districts. Mr. Anderson suggested that when someone puts that information out it sets a tone. Selectman Bowsza suggested that was a tone that was intentional. BOE Chairman Simonelli suggested she we shouldn't hold our breath on saving a lot of money.

First Selectman Maynard noted the Board of Selectman Budget Workshop has been scheduled to begin at 7:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT:

First Selectman Maynard **CLOSED** the Public Hearing at 7:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted


Peg Hoffman, Recording Secretary, East Windsor Board of Selectmen

ATTACHMENTS: A Budget Hearing, Workshop, and Referendum Schedule
B PowerPoint Presentation – Town of East Windsor Budget
Summary

PLEASE NOTE: The “FY 2019 – 2020 Budget Detail – Historical” is available on the Town's website in the following locations:

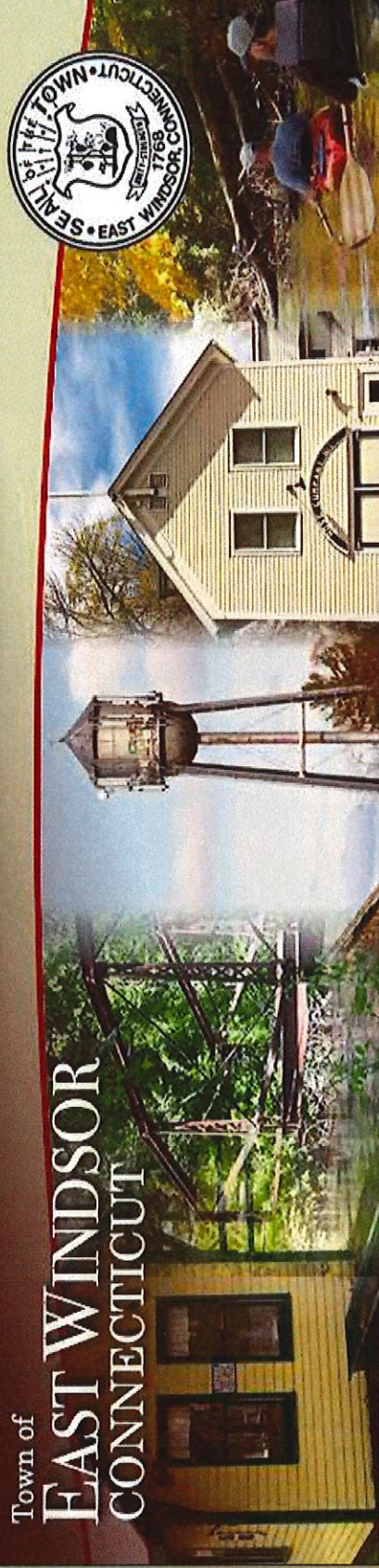
- under the TAB – Town Financials,
- under the TAB – Departments, Treasurer's Office Home Page, under the sub-heading Town Financial Information,
- under the TAB – Departments, First Selectman's Home Page under “News”

FY 2019-2020 Calendar

Charter date	Actual date		Times	Notes
9/15	9/14	CIP Budget requests due		
11/1	1/7-2/1/2018	Submit CIP recommendations to BOS		
12/1	11/16	Distribution of Budget Request Spreadsheets to Departments		
	12/14	Budget Requests to First Selectman- Final Deadline		
Discretion of BOS & Treasurer	12/17-1/18	Bob to meet with Department Heads- Finalize budget requests		
	2/1	Budget Packets ready for Board Members		
	2/1	Board of Education Budget presented to BOF		
	2/5	BOS/BOE Public Hearing	6:00 p.m.	Budget available online and in Town Clerk's Office
	2/4, 2/5, 2/7, 2/12, 2/19, 2/21	First Selectman submits budget to BOS/Budget Workshops sched.	7:00 p.m.	
	3/20	BOS and BOE presents budget to BOF	7:00 p.m.	
	3/27, 3/28, 4/2, 4/4, 4/15	BOF to hold Budget Workshops	7:00 p.m.	Town Hall & Park Hill Community Hall
	4/17	BOF approve final budget for Referendum	7:00 p.m.	
	4/23	Budget to Town Clerk for processing ballots		
2nd Tues. by Charter, sec. 8.5 a.	5/14	1st Budget Referendum	6:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m.	Town Hall & Annex
Per Charter, sec. 8.5 b.1.	5/15	Public Hearing, if needed, or BOF to set mill rate	Time and location to be posted	
	5/16	Budget to Town Clerk for processing ballots		
4th Tues. by Charter, sec. 8.5 b.3.	5/28	2nd Budget Referendum (if needed)	6:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m.	Town Hall & Annex
Per charter, sec. 8.5 b.2.	5/29	Public Hearing, if needed, or BOF to set mill rate	Time and location to be posted	
	5/30	Budget to Town Clerk for processing ballots		
Per charter, sec. 8.5 b.3.	6/11	3rd Budget Referendum (if needed)	6:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m.	Town Hall & Annex
Per charter, sec. 8.5 b.4. budget & mill rate has to be adopted no later than 6/15.	6/12	BOF to set mill rate	After Budget Referendum results	

BOV/BOE 2/4/2019 Attachment A

Town of
EAST WINDSOR
CONNECTICUT



Budget Proposal to Board of Selectmen

FY 19/20

BN/BN 2/4/2019 Attachment B

FY 19-20 Budget- \$42,549,817

- Two percent (2%) of \$42,549,817 is **\$850,996**
- Current BOE budget is \$24,622,500 (about 58% of budget)
- Current Town budget is \$17,927,317 (about 42% of budget)

**An increase of 2% to the Town budget would equal
\$358,546 in additional spending**

**An increase of 1% to the Town budget would equal
\$179,273 in additional spending**

Needed Increases

- Health and Life insurance increase of 18% due to high claims -
- Contingency -
- 27th Payroll -

Needed Increases	Amount
Health Insurance	\$115,275
Contingency	\$100,000
27 th Payroll	\$24,937
Total	\$239,212

Possible New Employees

Department	Excluded	Considerations
Treasurer Part-time	\$8,265	
Assistant Town Planner	\$56,802	
Building Clerk	\$13,800	
Human Services Clerk Part-time	\$17,000	
Broad Brook Fire Part-time	\$20,000	
Public Works	\$25,432	
Senior Center Driver Part-time	\$17,466	
	\$158,765	

Increases Which Could be Reduced

Department	Reduce	Considerations
Added Employees	\$158,765	
Cemetery	\$20,000	
Road Maintenance	\$225,000	
Warehouse Point Library	\$25,460	
Broad Brook Library	\$20,000	
Building Renovations	\$50,000	
Police Education & Dues	\$12,555	
Police Overtime	\$62,000	
CIP	\$624,405	
	\$1,198,185	
Warehouse Point Fire	\$464,000	

Budget Submitted to Board of Selectmen:

All expenditures considered
in budget:

\$17,927,317

19 - 20

12.4% increase

Reduced budget with necessary
increases and WHP Fire Protection:

\$16,738,132

19 - 20

5.0% increase

Reduced budget with
necessary increases:

\$16,274,132

19 - 20

2.1% increase