

TOWN OF EAST WINDSOR BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Special Meeting
Tuesday, February 19, 2019
6:00 p.m.
Town Hall Meeting Room
11 Rye Street, Broad Brook, CT. 06016

BUDGET PRESENTATIONS - WORKSHOP

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

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

ABSENT: All Selectmen were present at this Budget Workshop.

PRESENTERS: **Warehouse Point Fire District/Warehouse Point Fire Department:** D. James Barton, Treasurer, WHPF District; Rich Austin, Assistant Chief, WHPF Department/WHPF District Fire Marshal; Mr. Flynnis Flynn, WHPF District Interim Chairman; and James P. Barton, Chief, WHPF Department; **Police Commission:** Bob Leach, Chairman; Ed Filipone, Vice Chairman; Gil Hayes, Secretary; **Police Department:** Edward J. DeMarco, Jr., Chief; Roger T. Hart, Deputy Chief; **Emergency Services:** Edward J. DeMarco, Jr., Director; Roger T. Hart, Deputy Director; **Treasurer:** Amy O'Toole.

GUESTS: **Warehouse Point Fire Department:** James Buden.

Press: No one from the Press was present.

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TIME AND PLACE OF BUDGET WORKSHOP MEETING:

First Selectman Maynard called the Meeting to Order at 6:02 p.m. in the Town Hall Meeting Room, 11 Rye Street, Broad Brook, CT.

ATTENDANCE: See Page 1.

PRESENTATIONS/a. 6:00 P.M. –Warehouse Point Fire District – (New budget request, currently no line item, or line item number):

The total Budget request for the Warehouse Point Fire District for FY 2019 – 2020 is “an amount equal to funding for the Broad Brook Fire Department” (\$464,000), which results in a 100% increase.

D. James Barton, Treasurer, WHPF District; Mr. Louis Flynn, WHPF District Interim Chairman; and James P. Barton, Chief, WHPF Department joined the Board. Warehouse Point Fire District Fire Marshal Rick Austin was available in the audience.

First Selectman Maynard welcomed the members of the Warehouse Point Fire District. First Selectman Maynard indicated he felt funding for the Warehouse Point Fire District should be returned to the Budget.

D. James Barton indicated he was glad to hear First Selectman Maynard’s opinion; he thanked everyone for trying to solve the existing situation. Mr. Barton wanted to clarify a couple of points. He would like to dispel the notion that the Warehouse Point Fire District (WHPF District) left, or wanted to quit, the Town, or wanted to go out on their own. It’s out on Facebook and people talk about that. The District’s focus has been primarily to take care of the District’s real estate - firehouses and parking lots – after the Town stopped any effort in that area during the past 10 years of the 40 years that the Town funded the District. Mr. Barton indicated the manner in which the District came to be removed from the Town budget was as follows: In late 2015 the Fire Commission was encouraged by the Town Treasurer at the time to act as the entity that it was and levy a tax to cover the deficiencies. Having had experience with another Fire District in another Town the Treasurer at the time, along with the Tax Collector and the Assessor at the time, devised a system by which the funding of the fire protection responsibilities on each side of town would be separated. This was not an adversarial arrangement and not entered into haphazardly. These 3 Town Officials were very helpful and even attended an Open House at the fire house to explain the tax bill structure. The District entered into an agreement with the First Selectman at the time in good faith, and, as a result the District’s line was removed from the Town Budget. The agreement was then stopped by the Board of Selectmen as the First Selectman didn’t have the authority to make it but the District funding was not returned to the (Town) budget. Essentially the music stopped and the District was left without a chair. Subsequently the Town Attorney opined that the separate taxing mechanism ;asn’t legal. The

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Town Attorney suggested 3 options for resolution; the first was to return the Fire District funding to the Town Budget in an amount allocated to the Broad Brook Fire Department (BBFD) so the district taxpayers would only have to fund the costs necessary to care for the District property. The District immediately agreed to this proposal but something happened in the following 10 days; the Town Attorney decided that this solution required more study. No studying has been done in the 3 years since. Mr. Barton wanted to make it clear that no Fire District Commissioner or Fire Department member ever tried to pick a fight with the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Finance. People have said it's the District's fault; they left the Town and the budget. You would have thought the WHPF District had seceded from the town. This is not true, and it's not the intention. The District and the Fire Department are an important part of the town; they wouldn't have pulled out of the Town budget if not for the funding agreement that they thought they had with the Town. The objective has always been to raise money to care for the buildings. So now the District taxpayers pay 100% of the WHP fire services, and also pay for the BB fire services through the overall Town tax. Appropriating an equal dollar amount to the Fire District as is appropriated to BB would be a partial and temporary solution to the problem – a long term burden to the Warehouse Point taxpayers because the amount stated for BB is not the total cost for BB fire services, but it would provide some relief. The true cost of BB fire operations would likely come very close to WHP if all costs which reside elsewhere in the Town budget were considered. Examples: there is no building expense listed in the BB budget. They have a firehouse; also building maintenance, repairs, cleaning, electricity, water, and sewer fees. Treasurer O'Toole noted those are under the Town Properties Budget, as are all other Town properties. Mr. Barton suggested that was his point; those costs are not reflected under the \$400,000 being considered for the Broad Brook Fire Department under this Budget cycle. Other costs not reflected in the Broad Brook Fire Department Budget request would include Workers Compensation insurance, Fire Marshal's salary; Dispatcher's fees alone are \$20,000. Mr. Barton indicated the Board of Selectmen are in charge of the Town and are to provide all Town services to all town residents and taxpayers; he felt this is an important issue to resolve. Mr. Barton hoped the Board of Selectmen will wholeheartedly resolve this issue.

Mr. Flynn indicated he is the Interim Chairman of the Board of Fire Commissioners for Warehouse Point. Mr. Flynn suggested he appeals to the Board of Selectmen in a spirit of fairness and he speaks for the taxpayers on the west side of town that fall within their jurisdiction. They are assessed, using the Town Grand List, a certain amount of money which appears on their tax bill – a Town tax and a Fire Tax. On this side of town it's just the Town tax because the Town picks everything up for Broad Brook elsewhere in the Town budget. That would be fine if WHP got some relief

Mr. Flynn suggested there isn't relief, because the taxpayers in Warehouse Point are paying an extra stipend to the WHPF District and also paying for Broad Brook fire services. Mr. Flynn reported the WHPF District had a budget of \$680,000 last year. Mr. Flynn suggested what's difficult is that so many things associated with the BBFD are covered under the Town budget. Mr. Flynn reiterated the items mentioned by Mr. Barton. Mr. Flynn noted they have great cooperation between the departments regarding fire services. Basically we answer each other's

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calls so that we get a staff on hand to deal with the fire or the car crash. There were nearly 300 joint responses last year. WHP responds to medical calls at no cost, as does BB. The way to make it somewhat fair is we would ask that you give us the same as the Broad Brook Fire Department as a stipend.

Mr. Flynn also noted the other thing that's happening and it has to be recognized, is the time of the horn blowing or getting off a tractor is gone. That was 1940; it's not now. So you have to supplement with part-time fire fighters that are qualified to provide services to the town. Both departments are looking to put more part-time people on.

Mr. Flynn is asking the Board to consider, and understand they are not spendthrifts. The way it's set up now is unfair to the taxpayers in the District because they're getting hit for the same thing twice, and that's not what it was designed to do. Mr. Flynn admitted they have a right to tax; that's fine. They should, at least, have some contribution – a stipend - that's close to what the Broad Brook Fire Department gets.

First Selectman Maynard offered his perspective of the funding for fire services. First Selectman Maynard suggested that a major problem developed in the budget process in January, 2016 for the adopted budget of June 2016 -- FY 2017-18. In June 2016 the adopted budget for the Town only had funding for the Broad Brook Fire Department; there was no funding for the WHPF Department. On July 1st there was no money available for the fire protection in WHP. To continue providing fire protection in Warehouse Point the Town created a tax inequality for the taxpayers of East Windsor which still exists 3 years later. To provide adequate funding the residents in Warehouse Point have to pay for all the Warehouse Point Fire District taxes and then, because of the normal taxing process, those residents have to pay for Town taxes as well. First Selectman Maynard noted that in 1975 the Fire District was also taxing the people and the Town gave them a stipend to offset that balance. This is the same thing; give them a stipend equal to the amount in the budget for the BBFD, which he believed to be \$464,000. First Selectman Maynard suggested it doesn't cover all the expenses of the WHPF District but it's a beginning of making the taxing inequality a little more equal. First Selectman Maynard felt we should do that and put it in the budget.

Selectman Szymanski suggested what happened or didn't happen doesn't really matter; what matters is we are where we are and this Board represents all the residents of East Windsor. We should do something about people paying the same thing the best that we can; we should do something about funding the WHPF District this year. Selectman Szymanski felt the amount should be delegated to non-discretionary items to be paid from the Treasurer's Office – like payroll – that's non-discretionary because you need those people there because you don't have the volunteers today. Other non-discretionary items would be electricity, fuel, there are a lot of things that are non-discretionary. He questioned how Treasurer O'Toole felt about that suggestion. Treasurer O'Toole indicated her concern is the 2%; if the budget fails three times 2% of nothing is nothing; they would get nothing. The third week in June, is it too late for them to tax themselves to get the money not in our budget?

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Selectman Hoffman indicated he has the same concerns as Treasurer O'Toole. After the discussions between the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Finance and the budget fails what happens? What we have currently isn't right; the people on the west side of town shouldn't be paying more for fire protection than those on the east side of town. However, we have something that's working. He questions changing that until we've decided how to do it right – a Town Fire Department or a District? Selectman Hoffman prefers a District because those people responsible for that activity in town have the say as to what the funding requirements will be. Having said that Selectman Hoffman indicated he would not sign up for that unless it was done by referendum and not a town meeting because town meetings can be stacked. During a referendum every person in town can go and vote. Selectman Hoffman's feeling is to leave it alone. The complexity of what Mr. Barton and Mr. Flynn are asking for may leave you with popcorn at the end of the session. If we start doing other things we're working away from fixing the problem, and the people in both fire departments are working on fixing the problem now. Mr. Flynn questioned how that helps the District, and the taxpayers, now? Selectman Hoffman indicated he understands your position; he agrees it's a bad inequity, and it should be fixed.

Discussion continued regarding the obstacles facing the district due to lack of funding, the progress of the discussions between the departments and its effect on the current funding situation, and the desire to develop an equitable funding mechanism.

Deputy First Selectman Dearborn questioned that First Selectman Maynard had said they didn't have any money because they didn't get into the budget so they had to start taxing - they were in the budget, getting \$400,000 a year, and when they decided to tax that \$400,000 went into ours, we took it away and put it into ours. They were getting money. First Selectman Maynard clarified that they were but they didn't get any money in 2016. Deputy First Selectman Dearborn suggested when they decided to tax we took that money away. The problems all started under the prior leadership, before you. Deputy First Selectman Dearborn isn't for giving them anything, he is for giving what you need as they do the Broad Brook Fire Department but get rid of the Fire Tax because there's no stopping raising the amount of the tax. Deputy First Selectman Dearborn knows the tax isn't much but look at Enfield; he reviewed problems currently occurring within the Enfield Fire Districts. Even if we give you the money you can still tax the Fire Tax. That's why I'm against; there's no limit to what you can charge.

Mr. Barton suggested they go through the same budget process you do. You insinuate that it's just up to a bunch of commissioners that get together under cover of darkness and raise taxes; that's not true. We go by the Statutes. Discussion back and forth continued regarding lack of public participation in the District budget approval process, and the lack of public participation in general – both at District meetings and Board of Selectmen meetings.

Mr. Flynn asked Deputy First Selectman Dearborn what you have to say about this side of town getting \$600,000? Deputy First Selectman Dearborn suggested getting rid of the fire tax and the Board would consider giving WHPF District the same amount. He suggested if we have to raise taxes in town a little to make it fair; he would rather do that than having a tax on the people.

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Deputy First Selectman Dearborn felt the people on the east side of town won't vote for a district. Mr. Barton suggested that's the bigger problem; it's the problem being worked on by the 2 fire departments and some other people in terms of consolidating the fire departments; that has to happen. Deputy First Selectman Dearborn favored that option – the East Windsor Fire Department financed by the Town.

Mr. Barton reiterated the commissions are working on consolidating the departments, the only question is the governing body – the Town or the District? Selectman Szymanski noted he's been involved in discussions for the past year and the commission has been talking with both departments for a year and they've gotten to the stage of one on one discussions; he feels it will happen in the future; this is not an option. Deputy First Selectman Dearborn suggested you want the same thing, one fire department taking care of business.

Selectman Hoffman feels the District is a good thing because the East Windsor Fire District Commission should have the right, because they have the credentials, to set the budget. His only proviso is he doesn't want it to be voted on by 15 or 20 people at a town meeting voting something in; he wants to have every single voter in town have the opportunity to stand in front of one of those voting machines, in private, and say what they want to say. He wants a separate referendum for the fire district for the fire budget. And the question is whether we help the WHPF District this year. Selectman Hoffman noted as Mr. Flynn said, this can't go on forever while they're working the problem. His feeling is, as bad as it is, we have something that's working; leave it alone. Because we're going to do something, in all of our wisdom, that we're going to have a whole bunch of problems with later.

First Selectman Maynard asked if Selectman Bowsza had any questions. Selectman Bowsza indicated he's good.

First Selectman Maynard felt rather than having the Board of Selectmen or the Board of Finance decide if WHP should be put back in the budget it should be up to the voters. So, this year, put the same amount - \$464,000 - in the budget and let it go to the first referendum and let the voters vote, and if it's voted down then the voters have spoken. He noted that if the vote failed then the money for the WHPF District would be removed from the Town budget and the Fire District would need to print their tax bills and complete their taxation process. Treasurer O'Toole suggested you can add informative questions to the referendum vote, such as "was the Town budget too high?" "Was the Board of Education budget too low or too high?" First Selectman Maynard suggested we can work on that.

Mr. Barton reiterated the District is asking the Board of Selectmen and Board of Finance to get behind them and support them, not just say if the voters vote it down on the first try WHP gets out. This has been going on for 3 years. Three years ago this made a \$400,000 hole in the District budget when they removed the District from the Town budget. Mr. Barton noted he pays his East Windsor taxes, he pays \$150 for fire taxes and he also pays another \$130 for the Broad

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Brook Fire Department. Mr. Barton suggested the simplest way to bring this to fairness is to appropriate a similar amount to Broad Brook and Warehouse Point. Let's get some relief now.

Deputy First Selectman Dearborn questioned how Mr. Barton saw the two departments coming together; he felt it would mean getting rid of the fire district. Mr. Flynn contradicted Deputy First Selectman Dearborn's opinion; Mr. Barton agreed removal of the district could be one way but it could also be a Town fire department or a Town fire service under a district board of governors. Deputy First Selectman Dearborn agreed with First Selectman Maynard that the vote should go to the voters; it's their money. Discussion followed regarding the presentation of the budget proposal, the lack of line item voting, and the revision of the budget after failure of the first referendum. Mr. Barton felt if these votes fail and there's a willingness of the part of Board of Selectmen/Board of Finance to keep that money in for WHP then you'll find it somewhere else.

The Board thanked the members of the Fire District for their presentation.

PRESENTATIONS/b. 6:30 P.M. –Police Department - 510200:

The total Budget request for the Police Commission for FY 2019 – 2020 is \$3,475,760, which results in a 3.78% increase.

Mr. Leach, Chairman of the Police Commission; Ed Filipone, Vice Chairman; and Gil Hayes, Secretary, joined the Board. Available in the audience were Edward DeMarco, Chief, and Roger Hart, Deputy Chief, of the East Windsor Police Department.

Selectman Hoffman began discussions by referencing comments made as support documentation under *Goals and Priorities* regarding the town-wide radio system; it appears to be antiquated and he noted there is no budget request for this item under the FY 2019 – 2020 budget. Mr. Leach suggested this is a conversation the Boards need to have; this is a town-wide system which serves the Fire Departments, Police, Public Works, Emergency Management, the Ambulance provider, and the School system. Selectman Hoffman questioned if the Town should be going to a regional communications system? Mr. Leach suggested they're exploring a regional radio system using the State system, which is provided by another company. He noted the Police Department has gone to a new system, while the old system is run by another company and there may be an opportunity to get into the old State Police system. Selectman Szymanski questioned why the old system would be beneficial? Mr. Leach suggested there's a cost factor to replace the Town system; the State system would be less expensive and if they could get other towns, like Windsor Locks and Suffield, to go in on it they could regionalize. Selectman Szymanski asked did the State Police abandon that system to go to something else? Mr. Filipone suggested this is an on-going research project. Selectman Hoffman questioned the timeline citing concern for the reliability of the current system; he reiterated there is no funding request in this budget. Mr. Leach concurred regarding the lack of a funding request in the current budget. Selectman

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Szymanski suggested he was trying to make himself clear when questioned why the State Police would get rid of that system and go to a new system. Mr. Filipone felt it had not yet been abandoned but expects that it will be changed in the future. Selectman Hoffman questioned why the system would be good enough for us but not the State Police; what are the parameters they're measuring by? Chief DeMarco clarified that it is one State-wide radio system that all local law enforcement entities have a chance to get on. It's not old; it's not antiquated. It's a radio system statewide that is now allowing local Police Departments on to it. It's just a potential option that's being researched. Mr. Leach cited the radio requirements for the fire departments are different levels than Police are but it would be better than what they are looking at. Treasurer O'Toole questioned if that was presented as part of CIP; she didn't remember hearing it? Mr. Leach replied no. Selectman Hoffman questioned if the current system has any problems or is it functioning ok? Mr. Leach indicated it's functioning; they have had issues but they've been able to repair them. Selectman Hoffman questioned that it's not a matter of not being able to respond to emergencies, the radio system is not limiting your capabilities? Mr. Leach replied – currently no.

Mr. Leach suggested they're looking into bringing the canine program back.

Selectman Hoffman noted the *Officer Salary – Overtime line* has increased 26%. Treasurer O'Toole suggested it's almost the same number but every year it gets cut; it's not really that big of an increase from last year. Mr. Leach reported they requested \$341,000 last year but it was cut to \$275,000; if you look at the 3 year history for the ask. Selectman Szymanski questioned the amount year to date? Mr. Leach suggested if you look at the look-back history, the actual numbers were FY 15 – 16 Officer Overtime it's \$341,978, FY 16 – 17 it's \$331,387, FY 17 – 18 it's \$334,245, and we are requesting \$348,022 for FY 19 – 20. Selectman Szymanski questioned where they were to pace? Treasurer O'Toole reported that as of February 2nd they've spent \$248,000; they have \$26,000 to get them through the rest of the year. Selectman Szymanski questioned they are ahead of pace? Treasurer O'Toole indicated they are at 91-92% spent. Mr. Leach clarified that the department is down 4 officers; they recently filled 2 vacancies but those officers won't come on line for about 10 months, 1 is deployed in the military, one is out with a serious illness.

Selectman Hoffman note on *Education & Dues*, that went up not a significant amount of money but a 28% increase. Treasurer O'Toole suggested it's \$54,200, it's currently at \$45,000 and they are asking for \$57,000, which is going up 12%; she felt this is another case of what they asked for last year was the same number. Selectman Bowsza suggested a number of those requests are contractual requirements. Mr. Filipone suggested it's also the training, if you look back we haven't had any lawsuits. Mr. Leach suggested the \$12,000 line for dispatchers got zeroed out last year by accident. Treasurer O'Toole questioned that the \$57,000 is the same ask? Mr. Leach replied – yes. Selectman Hoffman questioned if the Education & Dues is used much? Mr. Leach replied yes; Mr. Filipone cited 40 to 50% of the officers have degrees or are pursuing them. Selectman Szymanski questioned the spend on that line? Treasurer O'Toole noted you spent \$27,000 out of \$45,000 and are at 60%, so you're ahead on spending.

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Discussion continued regarding the per class cost of continuing education. Deputy First Selectman Dearborn questioned if the officers were on the clock while attending classes; Mr. Leach replied no. First Selectman Maynard noted that reviewing the historical information it appears approximately \$40,000 is spent annually while the ask is \$57,000? Treasurer O'Toole concurred, noting she didn't know the reason it's not being utilized. She cited they have to have money available for patrol officers, and dispatchers by contract. Selectman Bowsza cited if the money isn't spent it's returned. Discussion continued regarding the process for applying for tuition reimbursement; Selectman Hoffman questioned if there was a requirement for maintaining a specific grade level for the officer to be paid to attend classes? Mr. Leach felt there was but reiterated education is contractual.

Selectman Szymanski questioned what was being purchased under the *Equipment Purchases line*? Mr. Leach reported it's equipment used within the town for traffic studies; Mr. Filipone explained this equipment tells you what your speed is as you pass them; they also report your speed back to the officer. He noted they've been borrowing similar equipment from other towns. Selectman Szymanski questioned if there were any grants for this equipment; he understood Ellington had purchased their equipment via grants. Mr. Leach felt if there were grants the Town would have applied for them. Treasurer O'Toole noted the funding request is in this line because it's not large enough to be capital.

Selectman Hoffman noted the *Dispatcher Salary – full time* is being increased by \$15,000. Mr. Leach suggested they are aiming to make a dispatcher a supervisor within the dispatchers union. Discussion continued regarding the process for creating the supervisory staff within the same bargaining unit. Selectman Bowsza questioned if the work chart was flat or pyramid? Chief DeMarco reported it's a flat position reporting to a liaison who has a multitude of other duties; it's still a working position. Selectman Szymanski questioned if the numbers for the salary requests includes the changes for the union contracts coming up? Treasurer O'Toole noted no salaries in here other than the bump in the additional position. Selectman Bowsza questioned in any case in our budgeting process where there is an expired contract do we include a presumption on what the contractual increase would be or do we leave it flat until the contract is negotiated? Treasurer O'Toole indicated the only thing that's in there is the step increases; she's created a new line – Non Negotiated Wages – for expired contracts.

Selectman Bowsza cited that some municipalities regionalize their animal control functions. He noted we've tried that in the past without success; he questioned if that's being considered down the road? Is there any interest from surrounding communities? Mr. Leach indicated they've reached out to Somers and Windsor Locks in the past but no one showed any interest. He noted there's an educational component to the position, which is part-time. Discussion continued regarding past experiences regarding consolidation of ACO services. Selectman Szymanski suggested reconsidering regionalism of that function; he recalled discussion at the previous budget meeting of the need for repairs at the our kennel facility. He cited a facility in South

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Windsor – the Tyler Center – which maintains the animals for South Windsor, East Hartford, and Manchester– Treasurer O'Toole noted there's a \$61,000 budget request and CIP funded \$20,000 to start some of that work. Discussion continued regarding options.

Selectman Hoffman referenced the Department's intention to reinstate a canine unit after the retirement of the previous canine in 2014. He noted the anticipated price is \$75,000. Selectman Bowsza cited that includes the \$38,000 JAG grant; discussion followed regarding the specifics of the JAG grant and potential uses. Selectman Hoffman agreed but questioned the recurring cost is \$15,000? Mr. Leach concurred, noting the money is already in the budget. Deputy Chief Hart clarified that the grant was requested for the vehicle to be used for the canine unit. Mr. Leach noted they've used canines from other towns in the past but often the situation has been disbursed by the time the canine arrives. The Department has a need for the canine. Discussion continued regarding the cost of the canine, training, and scheduling to accommodate the training. Deputy First Selectman Dearborn questioned if the canine vehicle could be used for regular patrol when the canine wasn't on duty? Mr. Leach replied – yes, but it has a lot of specialty equipment, including the cage for the dog which would make it difficult when arresting individuals. Selectman Szymanski questioned if the vehicle goes home with the canine officer? Mr. Filipone felt the car would go with the officer and the canine.

Referencing the budget request Selectman Szymanski questioned where the Department could save any money? Mr. Leach indicated they ask for what they need; he acknowledged that they are asking for the canine program; Selectman Bowsza suggested that would be foolish to cut as we're getting half of that for free. Selectman Szymanski questioned if that program is fully loaded in year one – in year one you have to fill the officer's slot while he's participating in training. Selectman Bowsza suggested they're not hiring an additional officer; it's one of the sworn officers, like the SRO would be. Treasurer O'Toole suggested there isn't the overtime to cover shifts but it depends on how much overtime you need for training; it's no different than any other training they have to go to. Selectman Szymanski questioned what's the training for this compared to other training; that's what I don't know. Deputy Chief Hart suggested it takes a large amount of time to train a detective, and an SRO; this is just a function of what we do and we make it work. Selectman Bowsza questioned if this is more complicated because the dog needs to be trained as well? Deputy Chief Hart reported he understands the dog is purchased from a company which has trained the animal, and then the person is worked into the process. Discussion continued regarding the bonding process between the officer and the canine and the certification process. Selectman Szymanski requested the fully loaded cost. Selectman Szymanski questioned if they take the car home is that officer on the clock until they get home? Chief DeMarco cited the Garcia decision requires the department to provide x amount of money per week for specific items; it's portal to portal; you're not on duty at 3:15 when you're driving home in that car.

Selectman Hoffman questioned if the crime rates are up or down this year? Mr. Leach suggested it's continuing to decline. Selectman Szymanski questioned if they had any data to share? Mr. Leach suggested the best time to have that discussion would be at a Police Commission Meeting.

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Selectman Szymanski requested information on the crime statistics; Selectman Hoffman requested the information include the type of crimes.

PRESENTATIONS/c. 7:00 P.M. –Emergency Management - #510300:

The total Budget request for Emergency Management for FY 2019 – 2020 is \$18,206, which results in a 1.87 % increase.

Edward J. DeMarco, Jr., Director, and Roger T. Hart, Deputy Director, joined the Board.

Director DeMarco indicated we're submitting a budget request of \$18,206, which is a 1.87% increase. Of that \$5,700 comes from the grant we do for the State of Connecticut so the Town would have to pay roughly \$12,506. In the coming year they plan to spend much of their time upgrading their policy and procedures as the system has changed significantly statewide.

Director DeMarco cited the *Stipend* covers all 3 people involved, including himself as Director, Deputy Director Hart, and their clerk.

Selectman Szymanski recalled past discussion about getting together so the Board could understand the emergency plan for the town. While he understands the confidentiality related to the plan he felt the Board should be familiar with the process. Treasurer O'Toole suggested attending the annual drill; Director DeMarco agreed, citing the different scenarios involved and the Board can view all the departments working together in what they call a unified command.

Discussion followed regarding various methods of notification to the public of the availability of services, such as warming centers. Selectman Szymanski suggested addition of this information to the Town website; Director DeMarco suggested there are connections to the Emergency Management sites.

PRESENTATIONS/Communications - #510400:

The total Budget request for Communications for FY 2019 – 2020 is \$54,366, which results in a 2.09 % increase.

Deputy Chief Hart reported they assist but the First Selectmen's Office manages this budget item. Chief DeMarco suggested they've assisted because it's a townwide system and no one was controlling it and it was often depleted. Treasurer O'Toole cited a large chunk of the budget is for Tolland County Mutual Aid services. Deputy Chief Hart noted they do have a small service agreement with Marcus Communications. Treasurer O'Toole suggested Marcus is \$15,900 and other expenses, such as CRCOG Mobile Communications user fee is \$11,000, and other expenses such as battery replacement have been paid in the past.

The Board thanked Chief DeMarco and Deputy Chief Hart for their presentation.

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PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: None.

ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION: To ADJOURN this Meeting at 8:45 p.m.

Bowsza moved/Hoffman seconded/VOTE: **In Favor:** **Unanimous**

Respectfully submitted

Peg Hoffman, Recording Secretary, East Windsor Board of Selectmen