

TOWN OF EAST WINDSOR BOARD OF SELECTMEN

REGULAR MEETING

Thursday, February 7, 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

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 this evening.

SPEAKERS/GUESTS: Guests: David Capiello and Jonathan, representing MMCT Venture.

Town Staff: Town Planner: Ruben Flores-Marzan; Registrar of Voters: Karen Gaudreau; Treasurer: Amy O'Toole.

Members of Boards, Committees, Commissions, or Town Entities: 250th Anniversary Committee: Rebecca Talamini, Chairman; Paul Anderson, Vice Chairman; Bill Thim, Lynn Thim, Ceil Donahue, Deb Talamini, Tom Talamini, Capital Improvement Committee: Cathy Simonelli, Chairman; Connecticut Electric Railway, Assn./Connecticut Trolley Museum: Michael Speciale, Chairman of the Development Committee; Dulcie Giadone, Grants Administrator; Robert Rosenberg, Project Administrator for the Restoration of the Isle of Safety.

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Public: Paul Anderson, Marie DeSousa, Bob Leach, John Matthews, Sarah Muska, Dick Pippin, Jr., Kathy Pippin, Peter Pippin, Tom Talamini, Bill Towers, Jr., Keith Yagaloff.

Press: No one from the Press was present.

TIME AND PLACE OF REGULAR MEETING:

First Selectman Maynard called the Meeting to Order at 7:01 p.m. in the Town Hall Meeting Room, 11 Rye Street, Broad Brook, CT.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Everyone present stood to recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENDA APPROVAL:

MOTION: To APPROVE the Agenda as presented.

Maynard moved/Hoffman seconded/DISCUSSION: None

VOTE: In Favor: Unanimous (Maynard/Dearborn/Bowsza/Hoffman/Szymanski)

ATTENDANCE: See page 1.

CONTINUATION OF BUDGET WORKSHOPS/A. Planning and Development:

TOWN PLANNER – 411100 (See Budget Workshop preceding this meeting for budget funding request):

Town Planner Flores-Marzan rejoined the Board to continue his budget presentation for the Planning and Development Department.

Mr. Flores-Marzan reviewed previous discussion during the Budget Workshop prior to this meeting. At the close of that meeting, he had noted the proposal for a Strategic Planner; he and the Board had then begun discussing the space allocation of the office not being suitable for conducting business. Mr. Flores-Marzan reiterated he had weighed the limited resources available against why the new body would add to the value for the Town vs. making aesthetic improvements to the office we decided that when we have meetings with potential investors we'd rather have them here, in the Town Hall Meeting Room.

Selectman Hoffman cited his previous involvement as a member of the Economic Development Commission. He noted at that time he spoke with Economic Development Directors from Enfield, South Windsor, and Windsor, and found that the facilities in which they met with potential developers and business people impressed them with the professionalism of the

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Town were dramatically different than the current Planning Office. He cited that last year \$20,000 was budgeted for office renovations; he noted that DPW had thought they could purchase used furniture and add a coat of paint; some reorganization would do a lot. Selectman Hoffman cited that amount of money isn't big bucks; he reiterated that first impressions are lasting impressions; impressions mean a lot. First Selectman Maynard indicated they do realize what Selectman Hoffman has said. There's also a budgeting problem because the renovations don't fall under Capital Improvements. Selectman Hoffman noted the addition of the **Renovations line**. First Selectman Maynard agreed; he noted there have also been discussions occurring to consider switching the locations of the Planning Office and the Tax Office. Selectman Hoffman reiterated that first impressions are lasting; facilities do make a difference.

Mr. Flores-Marzan has included a proposal for a new full time position in the Planning Department for a Strategic Planner at an annual salary \$56,802. Full time employees would increase to 4; the Administrative Clerk remains as a part-time position.

Selectman Szymanski cited Mr. Flores-Marzan is the Town Planner, and there is an Assistant Planner; he questioned what the difference in duties would be for the new person, and what would be the credentials for the position, and the anticipated salary? Mr. Flores-Marzan indicated the credentials and salary would be the same as the Assistant Town Planner. It starts with a Masters Degree in Public Administration, maybe some experience in engineering, more than 5 years experience in Planning and Development/land use, and computer proficiency, and proficiency in land use regulations within a governmental setting. In terms of actual skills and tasks for the new position, Mr. Flores-Marzan cited the Assistant Town Planner is the Zoning Enforcement Official and development review tasks, which are short term planning functions. The new position would be dealing with intergovernmental coordination, and doing economic development research. Mr. Flores-Marzan noted the Planning Department has View Permit software but we have no one to track the progress of the individual projects so that person would be instrumental in tracking the project as they come through the door. The project would be entered into the software package so all departments can make comments; the new position would make sure that projects goes from A to Z in a satisfactory manner – for the town by making sure we are looking at the different regulations that are applicable but also on the developers side so they are moving through their benchmarks. At the end of the process the person would get their permit. We have the software but we need the body to review how the different departments are coordinating and processing the application so nothing is missing. Mr. Flores-Marzan indicated that would be one of the functions of the new position.

Selectman Szymanski questioned the number of projects pending in a month's time? Mr. Flores-Marzan suggested it depends on the outflow but he cited the recent approval of a large scale produce and dairy manufacturing facility which is a \$22 to \$25 million dollar project; he cited the Town needs to make sure everyone understands the importance of the project and understand the regulations and the development process to accomplish this project. Selectman Hoffman indicated it appears there is overlap of this position and the Building Official. Mr. Flores-Marzan suggested the Building Official will be taking care of the structural regulations of the project in terms of heights and density; Selectman Hoffman questioned what of the applications?

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Mr. Flores-Marzan suggested the applications are the coordination of all the departments – Public Works, Planning, Building – so that everyone at the table understands what the project is about and adds to the comments so at the end of the process, when the applications goes before the Planning and Zoning Commission, all the t's are crossed and the i's are dotted.

Selectman Hoffman questioned if that wouldn't that be something the Assistant Planner could do? Mr. Flores-Marzan indicated both he and the Assistant Town Planner do that now. He noted there are still goals outlined in the 2004 Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD) that haven't been accomplished, and a 2014 update of the POCD has been published; the office needs to work on that. There is also the daily interface with the public, processing applications and staying aware of the trends in the different industries and how the Town can position itself to take maximum opportunities of the emerging trends – like what's happening with the hemp nationwide. Mr. Flores-Marzan suggested that's a great opportunity for East Windsor to create a niche for ourselves. He cited the casino is a perfect example. You guys were instrumental in doing the RFP, and going through the motions/process, and then externalities got in the way but that was an opportunity someone saw and everyone was able to come together to accomplish that. Selectman Hoffman recalled when he was on the EDC we had a part-time EDC person; it was that person who made a difference with his knowledge of economic development and the value of East Windsor's proximity to I-91 and Bradley Airport. That person put together a good proposal because of his expertise; Selectman Hoffman recalled that Mr. Flores-Marzan had said he could do some of that. Mr. Flores-Marzan indicated he was experienced in that job. Selectman Hoffman cited the Economic Development Directors he spoke with cited they spend 40 or more days attending events after work, or weekends, or during the day where people who can influence a project are present. They made it clear that made a big difference between being a real player or sitting on the sidelines. Selectman Hoffman suggested that if this new person is going to free you up to do that then he's all for the position; you've spoken about a lot of coordination, what we really need is a doer. Mr. Flores-Marzan recalled the event 2 weeks ago at the State House where he and several of the Selectmen met with the movers and shakers; that's an example of being able to talk the talk and walk the walk. Another body always helps. One of the first things he did when he started this job was to take an inventory of our assets in the office. He cited his 20 years experience in Planning; the Assistant Town Planner has 2 years. This additional person would free up time to look at the bigger picture. The Town would be in a much better position with this additional set of trained eyes. Selectman Hoffman questioned if it's Mr. Flores-Marzan's plan to be the Planner and the Economic Development Director? Mr. Flores-Marzan noted he already mixes the Town Planner and the Planning Director duties.

Selectman Szymanski indicated it wasn't clear if this new position will be dedicated to economic development or other things; he cited the need to have a dedicated person to work on economic development because of the time involved. Mr. Flores-Marzan suggested the planning and economic development functions would be under him. This new person would be assisting in the planning and development functions of the day to day stuff in the office - from plan review and implementation of strategies of the POCD and coordinating the use of View Permit to ensure that all the departments are up to date on each of the development projects. The bigger picture, the planning what needs to get done and the economic development components and how that all

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comes together is Mr. Flores-Marzan's responsibility. Mr. Flores-Marzan noted the Assistant Town Planner is also the Zoning Enforcement Official; this person will fill in on the stuff that the Zoning Enforcement Official is able to do. Mr. Flores-Marzan reported there is a lot of volume in terms of zoning enforcement – making inspections, looking at properties; all of that takes a lot of time. Selectman Szymanski requested clarification that the new person wouldn't be dedicated to economic development? Mr. Flores-Marzan concurred, noting that would be his job, but to do economic development you need to do research and compile data and analyze trends; this new person would also help with that.

Selectman Szymanski cited the View Permit software; he questioned if the Planning Department uses that? Mr. Flores-Marzan reported the View Permit software is a platform for development projects; users can look at the information and track the project and ask for information from other departments, like Public Works. It's a way of collaborating electronically so everyone understands what needs to be done from your department perspective. Selectman Szymanski noted that some departments, like Public Works, said they use it every day; others say the software isn't good. Selectman Szymanski suggested there's been no request for something different; should there have been? Mr. Flores-Marzan suggested that based on his experience elsewhere it requires a particular person to be assigned to track the applications and send reminders using the software and to be on top of that. A second consideration is it might not be the most suitable software package for the organization, but that's a decision for others who are familiar with the other software packages to make to the decision makers. Selectman Szymanski asked if there are other programs. Mr. Flores-Marzan cited that from the beginning View Permit has monopolized the field. It's about providing a resource to keep track of the workflow. In his experience it's been about assigning a particular person with the primary responsibility to ensure that the department uses the software to track the projects.

Selectman Hoffman suggested a task for the new person would be to develop an inventory of properties in East Windsor which have the potential for development. He cited many parcels along Route 140 and Route 5, East Windsor's business corridors, that might be something a developer might be looking for. Many of the parcels are owned by multiple owners; this new economic development person could inventory the parcels, and bring together the owners for discussion. Mr. Flores-Marzan felt an inventory already exists. First Selectman Maynard cited this closely aligns with the LADA project for Warehouse Point.

First Selectman Maynard noted \$20,000 has been deleted from the *Professional Services line*, as some of those services would become part of the new position.

Selectman Hoffman questioned the status of the Economic Development website. Mr. Flores-Marzan indicated they've been in discussion with the website provider; they've promised a beta/testing site would be available within the next 2 weeks. Selectman Hoffman cited they made that promise over a year ago; they promised a beta site in July and the website would be functional in August or September; they've never produced the timeline requested. Mr. Flores-Marzan indicated he's meeting with the vendor again next week; he'll have more information shortly.

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Selectman Hoffman questioned if Mr. Flores-Marzan could make a quarterly report to the Board of Selectmen on the status of economic development? Mr. Flores-Marzan agreed. Selectman Szymanski indicated he'd like to see what initiatives have been made to different businesses, what types of businesses were reached out to, and what was the follow-up. Mr. Flores-Marzan indicated 2 websites that track land transactions; they'll be able to see what land is available on Route 5 and Route 140, compare it to the Town inventory, and decide how to promote it.

(See additional discussion regarding Town Planner – 411100 below)

Treasurer O'Toole referenced other budgets applicable to the Planning Department regarding expenses for other boards and commissions. She suggested the only one which is significantly different is the Economic Development Commission; you're looking for \$5,000 in *Professional Services*.

Economic Development Commission – 811850:

Mr. Flores-Marzan reported the budget request for the Economic Development Commission is a \$5,000 increase in the *Professional Services line*, which is for an Economic Development Smartphone app. He reviewed the increased in new technology as a research tool.

Town Planner – 411100 (continued):

Treasurer O'Toole noted that there is \$50,000 in the Town Properties budget for renovations.

Selectman Szymanski requested a review of the *Supplies and Equipment line*. Treasurer O'Toole clarified that line is \$500. Mr. Flores-Marzan's detail had requested \$6,500 for *Professional Services*. She subsequently split that line into \$2,000 for Professional Services, and \$4,500 for *Advertising* (for public hearing notices and legal advertisements).

The Board thanked Mr. Flores-Marzan for his presentation.

Mr. Flores-Marzan and Treasurer O'Toole left the Meeting.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES/Special Meeting Minutes of January 15, 2019:

MOTION: To APPROVE the Special Meeting Minutes of the Board of Selectmen Meeting dated January 15, 2019 as presented.

Maynard moved/Hoffman seconded/DISCUSSION: None

VOTE: In Favor: Unanimous (Maynard/Dearborn/Bowsza/Hoffman/Szymanski)

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES/Regular Meeting Minutes of January 17, 2019:

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MOTION: To APPROVE the Regular Meeting Minutes of the Board of Selectmen Meeting dated January 17, 2019 as presented.

Maynard moved/Hoffman seconded/

DISCUSSION: Selectman Bowsza cited an incorrect statement contributed to him on page 7; he requested the following amendment: “Selectman Bowsza suggested it depends on the Board’s goal; are we trying to preserve farmland and the rural character or the farming business?”

**AMENDED MOTION: To APPROVE the Regular Meeting Minutes of the Board of Selectmen Meeting dated January 17, 2019, as amended:
Page 7: “Selectman Bowsza suggested it depends on the Board’s goal; are we trying to preserve farmland and the rural character or the farming business?”**

Maynard moved/Hoffman seconded/DISCUSSION: Nothing further.

VOTE: In Favor: Unanimous (Maynard/Dearborn/Bowsza/Hoffman/Szymanski)

**MOTION: To GO OUT OF ORDER and take Item 11D. under NEW BUSINESS:
Anniversary Committee Discussion next.**

Bowsza moved/Hoffman seconded/DISCUSSION: None.

VOTE: In Favor: Unanimous (Maynard/Dearborn/Bowsza/Hoffman/Szymanski)

NEW BUSINESS/D. 250th Anniversary Committee Discussion:

Rebecca Talamini, Chairman of the 250th Anniversary Committee, joined the Board. Ms. Talamini reported the Committee is looking to close out the books for the Anniversary activities and make their donations. She was told there had recently been discussion that the money (\$10,000 seed money) was expected to be turned back to the General Fund; Ms. Talamini indicated that had not been her understanding. Selectman Hoffman questioned the original funding for the 250th Anniversary Committee by the previous Board. He noted that early on in the Committee’s meetings they spoke of dispensing profit from the celebration to charities; he understood that was to happen. First Selectman Maynard indicated the previous Board had authorized \$10,000 in seed money to the 250th Anniversary Committee. Selectman Hoffman questioned if that authorization included any caveat that the monies not spent should be returned to the General Fund; First Selectman Maynard replied no. Ms. Talamini indicated the Committee had understood the seed money to be a contribution, and that they had the ability to distribute money raised during the celebration to other organizations. Selectman Bowsza referenced the original motion providing the seed money, noting the motion passed unanimously.

First Selectman Maynard indicated during recent discussions Treasurer O’Toole had felt the money should be returned to the General Fund. Treasurer O’Toole concurred with First Selectman Maynard; if First Selectman Maynard authorized giving money to whomever it would be giving away taxpayer money. Selectman Bowsza noted a significant amount of the money

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was donations; how do you pro-rate the donors share back to them? Ms. Talamini reported the Committee spent the \$10,000 seed money in the first 6 months on merchandise and deposits for

the events. The Committee raised \$45,000 beyond the \$10,000 seed money. Selectman Bowsza cited the motion was precise because he made it.

Paul Anderson, Vice Chairman of the 250th Anniversary Committee, agreed that the taxpayers put in the original \$10,000, and over the next 9 months they went to many events, and got their money's worth. Deputy First Selectman Dearborn cited previous discussion that any money left over should be held for the 350th Anniversary; Ms. Talamini indicated the Committee had discussed that but felt donations to organizations was preferable. Selectman Szymanski felt the money should be given to charities. Discussion continued.

MOTION: To APPROVE the dispensation of the 250th Anniversary Fund as recommended by the Committee.

Bowsza moved/Szymanski seconded/DISCUSSION: Nothing further

VOTE: In Favor: Dearborn/Bowsza/Hoffman/Szymanski
Opposed: No one
Abstained: Maynard

COMMUNICATIONS: None.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

Cathy Simonelli: Mrs. Simonelli cited reference in previous Board of Selectmen's minutes regarding Selectman Hoffman's request to her as to how to get answers to his questions regarding CIP projects. She agreed that she had told him she didn't have the time or resources at that time, and the CIP Committee was still meeting. Mrs. Simonelli noted she had been working overtime and had volunteer commitments. By the time she was able to research his questions Selectman Hoffman had reached out to people directly. Selectman Hoffman agreed; he did reach out to people, after Mrs. Simonelli indicated she didn't have the time or the resources. Discussion continued.

First Selectman Maynard noted the Board will be looking at the CIP budget shortly; they will be asking some departments for specific information. Discussion continued. First Selectman Maynard felt this was a miscommunication; Mrs. Simonelli said ok.

John Matthews, Melrose Road: Mr. Matthews introduced himself as the Co-Chairman of the Charter Revision Commission. Mr. Matthews noted you have discussion of the Charter Revision Commission on the Agenda under New Business tonight. He hasn't been privy to that discussion so he would like to bring up a point. As you know we've been meeting for 6 months and are half way through their activities, and learned they had completely depleted their funds for a recording secretary, and the funds needed to be replenished. You people were kind enough to send a

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request to the Board of Finance to do that but that was turned down. So, recognizing we are only half way through, we do need a recording secretary, it's very important to type the minutes we put out, they range from 8 to 10 to 11 pages and maybe 4,000 words. The intent is to provide communication to anyone who is interested in what they're doing. Mr. Matthews indicated he is looking for help. There is in the Charter Section 7-1, paragraph "G", that says that board members are not to be compensated but they can be reimbursed for expenses incurred by the board. So, what he needs is approval by the Board of Selectmen to consider that a recording secretary is a legitimate expense of the Charter Revision Commission. Now, where the funds come from, Mr. Matthews didn't think the Board of Selectmen need to consider that. He isn't talking a lot of money here. We have a \$40 million budget and we're talking..... 1% of \$40 million would be \$400,000, 1% of that would be \$4,000, they are looking for \$1200 - \$1300. So, what he needs from the Board of Selectmen is to approve the reimbursement of the expenses that they will incur as members of the Charter Revision Commission. He hopes you can do that when that item comes up on the Agenda.

Keith Yagaloff, 125 Depot Street: Two things, first the 250th Anniversary money, he's on the side of sending money to charity but he felt the Town made a mistake tonight. The Town can't give Town money to charities. The Town can authorize to give money through grants, or to organizations that you determine will benefit the people of the town. But sending money out to a charity directly from the Town isn't the way to do it. You should give the money back to the organization and let them disburse it. You're getting in the habit of just saying send money to who – send money to churches, or money to organizations that has to do with animals.... And the Town can't give the Town money to charities. Maybe we should but that's not something the Town is authorized to do. So check with the Town Treasurer and go through this process and I think you'll find the correct way to do that is to have them/the organization write out the checks. Or pass a resolution that says send the money back but authorize the Treasurer to cut those checks because the Town can't send money off to charities.

Mr. Yagaloff also reported he is on the Charter Revision Commission, one of the things they have been talking about is a Town Administrator. They'll be coming before the Board about that, it's something another town has done and there's a lot of interest about that sort of thing and we want to communicate what's going on. Mr. Yagaloff indicated his feeling is when you have a board or commission or organization that you want to do work you should give them the adequate resources to do the work. And not to fund something... it's like not funding the fire department. That's an issue that's going to come up and I don't want to throw that in there but a decision was made not to fund the Warehouse Point Fire District in the past and that's an organization that supports the town. You can't make financial decisions that are policy decisions. You first have to make the policy and then you make the financial decision. This is a board that was established by the Board of Selectmen to do work, not that everyone has to agree with the work being done or with the product but at least at a minimum you should support the process so everyone can go through this process. And I was disappointed to see that the Board of Finance didn't want to support it. It's just for a recording secretary so that they can do their job. It has nothing to do with the product, it shouldn't have anything to do with the product, it's a Town organization. He feels Mr. Matthews is right, there's a mechanism to do that just to get

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it funded, and if you don't fund it it's ok. We just won't have these minutes, they won't be posted online and when people complain that they don't know what's going on and they don't understand what's happening it's not going to be the fault of the commission, it's going to be the fault of the fact that the Town doesn't want to support the generation of minutes. And they should. And just because someone doesn't like something doesn't mean that they shouldn't support the process.

Marie DeSousa, 10 Rice Road: Two things. Marie thanked the people who voted to do what was originally voted on so the 250th Anniversary Committee, after they spent the \$10,000 and went out as volunteers and got an additional \$45,000 to do what they told people, if they had anything left that it would be donated to charities. If you looked at the list they are all mostly local charities in town. If there's a concern about the motions you guys are passing are not accurate then maybe we need to do something because what it does is you have volunteers and the people that volunteered for that 250th, the last couple of weeks she heard that they felt embarrassed and insulted and that's not fair to volunteers. Same thing with the lack of communication, you have someone sitting here in front of me that's been volunteering in town for years and then her credibility was questioned tonight. We've got to do better than that.

And the other thing, as far as the minutes for the Charter revision, I was at a meeting when they asked for an additional appropriation because they wanted to send out a mailing and at that time we brought up are you going to have enough money to go forward and I know there was some discussion on that. I sat on a Board of Finance when we ran short on money and I actually had to take meeting minutes for Linda Roberts as a volunteer. I didn't get compensated for it. I sat on other boards and commissions in town, especially the Board of Finance when we had our budget workshops and wanted to keep track of it, all of those meetings were done by members of that board for zero. It's unfortunate that you didn't stay within your budget and I don't know the reason for that, it's not really our concern at this point, but we give everyone a budget for a reason and I believe the Board of Finance did their due diligence and didn't authorize it. You can put it out there and ask someone if they would be willing to volunteer and the only thing you have to do by law is, to say you're not going to provide minutes as a group, I think that's against the law and that's going to be a lawsuit, if you don't publish minutes. The only thing you have to do is motions and if you don't want to put your discussion out to the public, well, that's on that commission. You can't put that back on the Board of Finance for doing their due diligence.

Paul Anderson, 89 Main Street: The Charter Revision Commission, they're doing a great job in his opinion. He has been there, attended meetings. It's his understanding that originally they requested sufficient funding but it got cut, he doesn't know if that a fact, he doesn't have that history, that's his understanding. They asked for approximately \$3,000 to be able to have a recording secretary for the number of meetings they had to hold and they only got \$1500. Now he doesn't know if that's true but there was a big discussion on Facebook, he had to opt out of that discussion because it was like talking to a brick. Everyone had their stand and they refused to listen so.... I think it should be funded, I think the Town has an obligation to pay for things that it wants done. Where the money comes from? That's your problem. As a taxpayer I think

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this should be funded to do the job correctly so if more money is needed they need the more money. That's his personal opinion.

On the 250th Anniversary, he felt exactly what was done tonight was the correct thing to do. That's not General Fund taxpayer money at this point in time, and hasn't been since that first check was issued. That was a separate account and the Treasurer, because we were a Town committee, handling the checks to pay the bills, we don't have checks so if you gave us the money we couldn't use it. We don't want to touch the money. That's been a rule since day one. We don't touch the money, all we do is to bring it in and it sits in an account that was established for that committee and that's where the checks will come from. It doesn't require any effort on anyone's part to write checks, that's all it is. And because they are Town of East Windsor checks they have to go through this Board to sign off on the check register and you get to review it again. He fails to see any problem. He thinks exactly what was done tonight was the right thing to do.

BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS RESIGNATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS/A.

Resignations: None.

BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS RESIGNATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS/B

Reappointments:

1. Michael Scalzo, Sr., (D), Ethics Commission, regular member for a term expiring January 24, 2023.

MOTION: To REAPPOINT Michael Scalzo, Sr., (D), Ethics Commission, as a regular member for a term expiring January 24, 2023.

Bowsza moved/Hoffman seconded/DISCUSSION: None.

**VOTE: In Favor: Unanimous (Maynard/Dearborn/Bowsza/
Hoffman/Szymanski
(No one opposed/No abstentions)**

2. Gilbert Hayes, (D), Greater Hartford Transit District, regular member for a term expiring February 1, 2023:

MOTION: To REAPPOINT Gilbert Hayes, (D), Greater Hartford Transit District, as a regular member for a term expiring February 1, 2023

Bowsza moved/Maynard seconded/DISCUSSION: None.

**VOTE: In Favor: Unanimous (Maynard/Dearborn/Bowsza/
Hoffman/Szymanski
(No one opposed/No abstentions)**

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3. Victor DeCapua (D), Veterans Commission, regular member for a term expiring February 1, 2023:
4. Robert Dynak (U), Veterans Commission, regular member for a term expiring February 1, 2023:

MOTION: To REAPPOINT Victor DeCapua (D), Veterans Commission, as a regular member for a term expiring February 1, 2023, AND, REAPPOINT Robert Dynak (U), Veterans Commission, as a regular member for a term expiring February 1, 2023.

Bowsza moved/Szymanski seconded/**DISCUSSION:** None.

VOTE: In Favor: Unanimous (Maynard/Dearborn/Bowsza/
Hoffman/Szymanski
(No one opposed/No abstentions)

BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS RESIGNATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS/C. New Appointments: None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS/A. Broad Brook Mill Discussion:

No discussion this evening.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS/B. Discussion of Charter Revision:

First Selectman Maynard noted he also looked into the compensation for the Charter Revision Commission and he feels it should be funded as well. In addition to just letting people know what's going with the Charter Revision Commission, the Charter is the rules for how the Town is governed and the Charter is often used in legal proceedings and what is actually said in the Charter is often argued in court. It's critical, and important, that the reasoning that the people who made the revisions to the Charter, what they meant by those changes. That's another important reason for having that recorded.

First Selectman Maynard cited Section 7.1 of the Charter – "General Powers and Procedures, Records Requirements for Appointed Boards and Commissions", sub-section "G" "compensation prohibited" – it says "no member of any appointed board shall receive compensation for services as such member except for reimbursement of necessary expenses authorized by the Board of Selectmen or as provided by law."

First Selectman Maynard would like to give the Board of Finance another opportunity to fund the Charter Revision Commission.

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MOTION: To **AUTHORIZE** the reimbursement of the necessary expenses of the Charter Revision Commission for a recording secretary for the two meetings a month for the remainder of the Fiscal Year.

Maynard moved/Szymanski seconded/DISCUSSION: Selectman Szymanski suggested including the specific section of the Charter in the motion.

AMENDED MOTION: To **AUTHORIZE** the reimbursement of the necessary expenses of the Charter Revision Commission for a recording secretary for the two meetings a month for the remainder of the Fiscal Year as per Section 7-1.G of the existing Town Charter.

Maynard moved/Szymanski seconded/DISCUSSION: Selectman Bowsza questioned can an individual member be reimbursed for an expense that's been appropriated to a board? The intention of that is clearly to say that we don't have enough copies of an agenda at a meeting at the high school so I'm going to run down to Kinkos and run copies of the agenda and you're going to pay me back for that; that's clearly what the intention of that was. First Selectman Maynard suggested it's interesting that you're bringing up the intention of a paragraph in the Town Charter. You're saying it's not the words but the intention. Selectman Bowsza replied - yes. First Selectman Maynard suggested so that's all the more reason why we should fund the discussion so when people disagree on the intention of a paragraph then we can go back to the people who changed the Charter and see what they intended. Selectman Bowsza cited the Freedom of Information Act is very clear on what is required and what is not required in meeting minutes that are posted that are pertaining to public organizations. First Selectman Maynard agreed. Selectman Bowsza suggested it's very clear to record who is in attendance, the time of convening and adjourning, the votes taken and the vote tallies on those votes; that's what's required. First Selectman Maynard questioned if Selectman Bowsza thought that would stand up in court - "well, we did our job; we really don't say why we made those decisions but we told you the decisions we made and the people who voted for that." Selectman Bowsza replied - absolutely, you told them what the decision was and what the vote was. First Selectman Maynard agreed that meets Freedom of Information but sometimes, even here, we put a little more in the minutes than just what the motions say. We do it for public disclosure. Selectman Bowsza cited there's a distinction in the things that should be included in like land use matters, which are actually used in court deliberations, vs. the Agricultural Commission. The scale and degree are not the same. This, to me, is another attempt to undermine the checks and balances that are put in place on an item that was voted on by the voters. The voters decided when they affirmatively passed the budget in May of last year how much they wanted to fund that. First Selectman Maynard disagreed, noting when the budget was put forth in May we hadn't yet put together the Charter Revision Commission so there was no Commission to fund when we passed the budget last year. In the budget there was zero for the Charter Revision Commission because they didn't ask for it; the Charter Revision Commission didn't exist. Selectman Bowsza referenced a budget document that was provided by the Selectmen's Office, noting \$1500 had been adopted for FY 19 for the Charter Revision Commission. Selectman Szymanski suggested the request was for \$3,000 at the Board of Finance meeting he attended. Discussion continued

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regarding funding for the Charter Revision Study Committee vs. the Charter Revision Commission, the timing of each, and the funding reflected in the budget document.

First Selectman repeated the motion on the floor.

AMENDED MOTION: **To AUTHORIZE the reimbursement of the necessary expenses of the Charter Revision Commission for a recording secretary for the two meetings a month for the remainder of the Fiscal Year as per Section 7-1.G of the existing Town Charter.**

Maynard moved/Szymanski seconded/DISCUSSION: First Selectman Maynard suggested to Selectman Bowsza – your argument for voting against this motion is you think you have evidence that \$1500 was given to them at the budget. The better argument for voting for it is that this is necessary funding that the committee needs and I'm giving the Board of Finance the opportunity to give them the necessary money that they need. Selectman Bowsza questioned how many members are on this Commission? First Selectman Maynard indicated 10. Discussion continued regarding the purpose of appointing 10 members. Selectman Bowsza - so of the 10 members nobody can take minutes? First Selectman Maynard questioned that another argument for not voting for this is you're saying someone there could take the minutes? Selectman Bowsza indicated he's saying that's been the past practice on many boards over many years. Deputy First Selectman Dearborn questioned that by law we're supposed to look at the Charter, right? Selectman Bowsza replied every 5 years. Deputy First Selectman Dearborn questioned we either make changes or we don't, right? Selectman Bowsza replied - correct. Deputy First Selectman Dearborn suggested so this is something that we have to do. Then as far as he's concerned we're obligated to supply them with a recording secretary. They just need a little more money to finish the job, just like any other department that comes in here and they need extra money because they ran out of money. This is the same thing. Selectman Bowsza suggested, that thinking ahead, the next time there's a particular project what's to stop a particular body from not submitting a budget request at all and saying now you need to reimburse us for something you never budgeted for? Somebody is going to point to this and say you did it in this case, why is it different for me?

A member of the audience raised his hand to speak.

Keith Yagloff: May I suggest something? I don't know if anyone watches Peg, I've been watching her for the last 25 minutes that we've been having this discussion and she's been writing shorthand nonstop for 2 hours tonight. Writing everything that's people's positions and she's going to take that back and she's going to convert that shorthand into the debate that you're having tonight so that when someone opens up your minutes they can clearly see. You asked for a correction tonight, Jason. You said I didn't say farm business, I said business. And she's writing down for 2 hours and she's getting paid a fee and everyone of these people that does this same work is getting paid the same fee. And she told us it takes her 2 to 3 hours for every hour she's here. So, she's going to put in 4 to 6 hours after this meeting, and 2 hours tonight and if

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you watch her you'll see nonstop writing the entire meeting so that she can have accurate minutes for the public to know what's happened tonight in terms of the pros and cons, the yes and nos, the public debate, the public comments, everything that people say so that people who want to come and understand what's happening with your meeting can read it and know exactly what happened. She does that at our meetings. Mr. Yagaloff noted he's taken notes and committee meetings, he'll sit on a computer and write maybe a page as the debate goes on and he'll take all the motions and he volunteer for those committees. That's not what she does for the benefit when she's there. This is nonstop intensive work. She probably gets paid \$12 an hour at the end of her day for her work. And it's not just Peg, it's also the other people that serve these committees. This Commission needs that kind of work because First Selectman Maynard is right, this is a legal process that they have discussed, there are deadlines, another Town just violated their deadlines which killed their referendum which killed their Charter vote because they failed to do this appropriately. The minutes capture all of that. I just want you to know the reason for what we're asking for. What Peg is doing now for this group. It's the hard work that she puts in and it's compensation for someone like her. I just want you to appreciate what we're asking for. We're not trying to do anything other than she's doing for your minutes. Yes, it's a fair debate, do you need it or not. Selectman Bowsza questioned under the law, what's the answer to that – beyond motions and votes? Mr. Yagaloff cited that FOI says you need to have motions, votes, start and stop time, if you have a quorum, but that's not what responsible boards and commissions do. He believed that's what the Board of Finance does, that's their decision not to have debate; the Board of Selectmen want debate, the Charter Revision Commission feels it's essential to have the debate captured so the public knows what the issues are and what they're doing. Mr. Yagaloff concurred with Selectman Bowsza, that's the absolute minimum. Discussion continued regarding the work involved in taking and presenting minutes.

Dick Pippin: Mr. Pippin felt you're barking up the wrong tree the way you're doing it. Do we need it? Yeah; we need it. Know what to do? Call a Town Meeting, ask for an added appropriation for the x number of dollars you need and let the voters vote for it; then it's legit. The way you guys are doing it is back door. Selectman Bowsza concurred. Mr. Pippin suggested to use the Charter the way it's designed and written. If you go back to the voters for an added appropriation at a Town Meeting duly called then it's over. Mr. Yagaloff suggested the Board of Selectmen can't do that; the Board of Selectmen don't have the authority to ask for a special appropriation at Town Meeting. It must go from the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Finance; the Board of Finance is the only board in this town that can ask for an added appropriation. Debate ensued.

Marie DeSousa: Mr. Anderson commented about someone going on Facebook and one of the ideas that came up when people were talking about the fact that there wasn't an added appropriation for them was to bring the meetings to Town Hall and have them videotaped and this way conversations and everything would be on tape. And the motions, hard copy, could be at Town Hall and that would save a lot of time and effort and energy on the minutes. And if anything came up in a court of law you would have the tape to play on what transpired. And I don't think the debate had anything to do with the individual that 's taking the minutes. I think it's been the practice in town that you stay within your budget and the Charter Revision

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Commission has already come in for one added appropriation for the mailing. If that's what happened then this would be the second appropriation and being a second appropriation she believed it would have to come to a Town Meeting.

John Matthews: Two points. We did a survey; in that survey we had 300 responses and the response that rose to the top was the lack of communication. The Charter needs to emphasize that that needs to be done. Minutes that just show the motions and the votes are not communicating to the public. And if you go through one of our boards you can see a dozen motions, discussion – none, and then a vote. I can understand if people say they have issues with communication.

Second, let me go through the math. When you created this commission you stated in your motion that we were to have 2 meetings a month and we were to be a commission for 18 months. If you take 2 meetings a month that's 24 meetings a year. We pay our secretary \$125; that's \$3,000, You can't do 2 meetings a month, pay \$125, and expect that you're going to be able to do that with \$1500.

First Selectman Maynard asked if any of the Selectmen had any additional comments.

Selectman Bowsza suggested because we're policy makers I have a non-financial objection to this as a concept in that the fiduciary agents for the Town have already opined. But also, there is a board appointed by this board who is trying to circumvent the decision of an elected body. That's a problem; that's not ok. No one else raised any questions or had any comments.

First Selectman Maynard repeated the motion prior to calling for a vote.

AMENDED MOTION: **To AUTHORIZE the reimbursement of the necessary expenses of the Charter Revision Commission for a recording secretary for the two meetings a month for the remainder of the Fiscal Year as per Section 7-1.G of the existing Town Charter.**

Maynard moved/Szymanski seconded

Vote:	In Favor:	Dearborn/Maynard/Szymanski
	Opposed:	Bowsza
	Abstained:	Hoffman

UNFINISHED BUSINESS/C. Casino:

First Selectman Maynard reported 4 members of the Board of Selectmen attended the public hearing of the Public Safety Committee; the 2 Tribal Chairmen spoke and were well received. First Selectman Maynard cited the casino has now been named Tribal Winds; the project will provide over 2,000 construction jobs. First Selectman Maynard introduced David Cappiello, representative of MMCT Venture.

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Mr. Cappiello indicated that choosing a name for the casino was given a lot of thought. In choosing Tribal Winds it recognizes the heritage of the tribes and the acknowledges the East Windsor location. Mr. Cappiello indicated they are ready to go.

Mr. Cappiello gave a recap of the process to enable the casino to move forward. He noted Senate Bill 11 is a bipartisan bill seeking to remove the requirement of publication by the Bureau of Indian Affairs. Mr. Cappiello reported our 2 Representatives are working hard to support the casino. Mr. Cappiello suggested if MGM had not gotten involved Tribal Winds would be almost built by now. He would urge people to testify when given the opportunity.

Mr. Cappiello introduced Jonathan Ferrigno, who has joined the MMCT Venture team.

Selectman Szymanski noted it was impressive to see the Chairmen speak at the Hearing. They answered questions informatively. Selectman Szymanski feels confident in the casino moving forward.

Selectman Bowsza noted that one of the questions raised was about sports betting; would they do that? Mr. Cappiello suggested it depends on the way the bill is drafted. Discussion continued.

MOTION: To take the presentation of the Connecticut Trolley museum Isle of Safety Campaign next.

Maynard moved/Szymanski seconded/DISCUSSION: None.

VOTE: In Favor: Unanimous (Maynard/Dearborn/Bowsza/Hoffman/Szymanski)

NEW BUSINESS/B. Presentation of Connecticut Trolley Museum Isle of Safety Campaign:

The following members of the Connecticut Electric Railway, Assn./Connecticut Trolley Museum, joined the Board: Michael Speciale, Chairman of the Development Committee; Dulcie Giadone, Grants Administrator; and Robert Rosenberg, Project Administrator for the Restoration of the Isle of Safety.

Mr. Speciale introduced himself as a volunteer at the Connecticut Trolley Museum; he is also the retired Executive Director of the New England Air Museum. Mr. Speciale introduced Dulcie Giadone, the Grants Administrator for the Trolley Museum. He noted she's successfully acquired grants to enable the Museum to undertake 2 capital projects: 1) the completion of the restoration of an historic trolley car, which was a \$130,000 project. The second capital project is the restoration of the Isle of Safety, which sits at the front of the Trolley Museum. Mr. Speciale also introduced Mr. Rosenberg; he noted that Mr. Rosenberg was a volunteer under Mr. Speciale at the Air Museum. Mr. Rosenberg is the retired Director of Facilities and Capital Construction at Pratt & Whitney. Mr. Speciale noted Mr. Rosenberg is the coordinator of the Isle of Safety project. They are attempting to raise \$175,000 to restore the Isle of Safety, landscape it, and put in some walkways. They are also commemorating it with an outdoor pictorial display in the

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courtyard of the Old State House, 30 feet from it's original location. They will also outline it's location on the brick walkway in State House Square. Mr. Speciale indicated they've raised approximately \$39,000 of their \$175,000 goal. Mr. Speciale introduced Mr. Rosenberg.

Mr. Rosenberg reported that the Isle of Safety was originally constructed in 1913 for a total of \$2,163. Mr. Rosenberg referenced the original drawing submitted in 1913; they have enough documentation so when the restoration is completed it will get done to a configuration that's identical to the way it was in 1913. Mr. Rosenberg referenced 2 pictures of the Isle Of Safety, taken in 1913 and 1924 respectively. It stayed in Hartford until 1975 when they reconstructed the State House area. It was then moved to the corner of Ann and Trumbull Streets, where it stood until 1985. City Place II was built on the same corner so it was moved again to the Trolley Museum. It was reconstructed at the Trolley Museum in 1988 but has deteriorated to a point tht it needs major work. They've already chosen an architect. Mr. Rosenberg noted the roof tiles were made by an outfit which is now in Ohio called Ludowici; they've been in business for 400 years and are still in business. The roof tiles the Trolley Museum will use are Ludowici tilesso they will be identical to the ones on the Isle Of Safety in 1913.

Mr. Rosenberg suggested they have enough information to go forward to have a structure which will truly represent the Isle Of Safety as it was in 1913. About 50% of the structure can be salvaged; approximately 50% is beyond repair. The contractor they've chosen will take some of the existing structure and reproduce it. To the best of their knowledge it will be as close as we can get to 1913. Selectman Hoffman questioned if there was a time schedule that's forced by the structure's integrity; is it going to fall down? Mr. Rosenberg suggested it isn't going to fall down but we do need to get it done pretty quick; as soon as we have the money we're going to start it. We're hoping to have some of the money in the late Spring so we can start it and get it done sometime this year.

Selectman Szymanski noted he heard something about Hartford wanted to recreate the Isle Of Safety? Mr. Rosenberg indicated there was a move sometime ago to move the Isle Of Safety from East Windsor back to Hartford, and they wanted to move it back to the area of State House Square but there's really no real estate there. Everybody that's involved has said it's going to stay where it is and it will make a connection between East Windsor and Hartford. Mr. Rosenberg suggested it's a piece of history; it's a piece of Americana. Selectman Hoffman questioned if the City of Hartford, by agreement when they gave the Isle of Safety to the Trolley Museum, could they reclaim it? Or is it yours? Mr. Speciale reported it belongs to the Trolley Museum. It's kind of nice that in 1913 it was used as a shelter for trolley car passengers. So, as we raise the money we probably have the best public relations firm, Sullivan & LeShane; and Dennis House, of Channel 3, is our Honorary Campaign Chairman. And after the Isle Of Safety we'll pave the whole parking lot over and we'll be the best trolley museum in the world. We're already the oldest incorporated trolley museum in the United States. Mr. Speciale noted the volunteers work very hard, and we have Dulcie's help, and we have a Business Manager there, Gina Marie Alimberty, who's doing a terrific job.

(See Attachment A- Isle of Safety Restoration)

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UNFINISHED BUSINESS/D. Discussion of Sale of Grace Episcopal Church:

First Selectman Maynard reported the Town's offer for the Grace Episcopal Church was not accepted.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS/E. Discussion of Ordinance Establishing a Tax Exemption for Farm Buildings:

First Selectman Maynard reported this Ordinance has been reviewed by the Assessor and the Town Attorney. Selectman Szymanski noted the ordinance mirrors the Connecticut General Statutes.

MOTION: To ACCEPT the Ordinance Establishing a Tax Exemption for Farm Buildings and send to Town Meeting.

Szymanski moved/Hoffman seconded/*DISCUSSION:* None.

VOTE: In Favor: Unanimous (Maynard/Dearborn/Bowsza/Hoffman/Szymanski)

(See Attachment B – Farm Buildings Exemption Ordinance)

UNFINISHED BUSINESS/F. Discussion of BOS Budget Workshops:

The Board set the following 2 additional Budget Workshop Meetings:

- Wednesday, February 27th, at 6:00 p.m. at Town Hall
- Thursday, February 28th, at 6:00 p.m. at Town Hall.

NEW BUSINESS/A. Approval of Pension Plan Change:

First Selectman Maynard reported the Town's present Pension Plan contains language that is problematic. First Selectman Maynard read the applicable excerpt from the plan. First Selectman Maynard noted that currently if an employee retires, and then returns to the Town for employment, the plan suspends the employee's retirement benefits during the period of re-employment. He cited the current case of Karen Gaudreau, who was the former Town Clerk; she has now become the Registrar of Voters. This clause in the Pension Plan prohibits Mrs. Gaudreau from receiving her pension while employed as the Registrar of Voters. First Selectman Maynard read the revised language for the audience.

MOTION: To CHANGE the Town of East Windsor Pension Plan, Section 5.12 Suspension of Benefits, EFFECTIVE 2/5/2019, as amended to read: "Notwithstanding any provision in the Plan to the contrary, and subject to any required minimum distributions pursuant to Section 5.10, if a Participant continues employment with the Town after reaching his or her

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Normal Retirement Date or a retired or a former Eligible Employee is reemployed by the Town, any benefits payable to such Participant or retired or former Eligible Employee under the Plan shall be suspended during the period of such employment or reemployment, as applicable, provided, however, that such Participants, including elected officials, who work less than 1,000 hours annually, may continue to receive their benefit payments.”

Maynard moved/Hoffman seconded/DISCUSSION: Selectman Szymanski questioned the language “reaching his or her Normal Retirement Date”; Selectman Bowsza indicated the date is defined in the Pension Plan. Selectman Bowsza questioned Mrs. Gaudreau if she was pausing her pension? Mrs. Gaudreau her pension would be suspended when she works as the Registrar of Voters without this amendment. Selectman Hoffman suggested this language is pretty standard..

**VOTE: In Favor: Unanimous (Maynard/Dearborn/Bowsza/Hoffman/Szymanski)
(No one opposed/No abstentions)**

NEW BUSINESS/B. Presentation of Connecticut Trolley Museum Isle of Safety Campaign:

See discussion on page 17and 18.

NEW BUSINESS/C. Discussion of Name Change Request for Human Services to Community Services:

First Selectman Maynard reported Melissa Maltese, Director of Parks and Human Services, would like to change the name of the Human Services Department to Community Services. The State calls Human Services Social Services. Mrs. Maltese felt the name change would reduce confusion between Human Services and Human Resources. The name change would only affect

the Human Services Department; Mrs. Maltese wants to continue Park and Recreation and the Senior Center as separate entities.

Selectman Szymanski felt Social Services is more in line with the work the department does; he felt Social Services would be more easily identifiable to people needing assistance. Discussion continued. The Board postponed action pending further discussion with Mrs. Maltese.

NEW BUSINESS/D. 250th Anniversary Committee Discussion:

See Discussion – Pages 7 and 8, and during Public Participation.

NEW BUSINESS/E. Tax Refunds:

MOTION: To APPROVE Tax Refunds in the amount of \$10,363.47 as identified under Tax Refund Report dated February 5, 2019.

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Szymanski moved/Hoffman seconded/DISCUSSION: None

**VOTE: In Favor: Maynard/Dearborn/Bowsza/Hoffman/Szymanski
(No one opposed/No abstentions)**

SELECTMEN COMMENTS AND REPORTS/A. Selectman Bowsza:

- This weekend is Abby's Helping Hand at Maneeley's Restaurant.
- The first meeting of the Youth Services Bureau is coming up; Melissa has put together her squad.

SELECTMEN COMMENTS AND REPORTS/B. Charles J. Szymanski

Selectman Szymanski reported he attended the Hearing at the Capitol; the two Tribal Chairman did a phenomenal job of responding to questions and providing information

SELECTMEN COMMENTS AND REPORTS/C. Deputy First Selectman Dearborn:

Deputy First Selectman Dearborn reported he also attended the Hearing at the Capitol.

SELECTMEN COMMENTS AND REPORTS/D. Selectman Hoffman Hoffman:

Selectman Hoffman cited the Economic Development Commission didn't meet again this month. He suggested something needs to be done to strengthen the Commission; they haven't met in 3 months. First Selectman Maynard reported we have the new EDC website coming.

SELECTMEN COMMENTS AND REPORTS/E. Robert Maynard:

First Selectman Maynard indicated he had nothing to report this evening.

SIGNATURES FOR APPROVAL OF CHECK REGISTERS:

The Selectmen reviewed the registers presented and took appropriate action.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION/Pursuant to C.G.S. Sec. 1-200 (6-a), Sec. 1-210 (b-1) (b-4
Employment, Litigation and Negotiations – Action is possible:**

MOTION: To GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION at 9:25 p.m. Attending the Executive Session were: First Selectman Maynard, Deputy First Selectman Dearborn, Selectman Bowsza, Selectman Hoffman, and Selectman Szymanski. No other parties attended the Executive Session.

Szymanski moved/Dearborn seconded/DISCUSSION: None.

**VOTE: In Favor: Unanimous (Maynard/Dearborn/Bowsza/Hoffman/Szymanski)
(No one opposed/No abstentions)**

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LET THE RECORD SHOW the Recording Secretary left the Meeting.

The Board came out of Executive Session at 9:45 p.m.; no actions taken.

ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION: To ADJOURN this Meeting at 9:45 p.m.

Maynard moved/Hoffman seconded/DISCUSSION: None

VOTE: In Favor: Unanimous (Maynard/Dearborn/Bowsza/Hoffman/Szymanski)

Respectfully submitted



Peg Hoffman, Recording Secretary, East Windsor Board of Selectmen

Attachments: A – Connecticut Trolley Museum – Isle of Safety Restoration
B - Far, Building Exemption Ordinance

ISLE OF SAFETY BULLETIN

The Connecticut Trolley Museum • East Windsor, Connecticut • December 2018

Help Us Save and Restore Hartford's Isle of Safety!



The Isle of Safety today at the entrance of the Connecticut Trolley Museum.

One of Hartford's great and notable icons is in danger of being lost forever and we at the Connecticut Trolley Museum intend to save it with the help of many individuals, businesses and foundations that treasure our past.

We are referring specifically to the Isle of Safety which had been located at State House Square in the center of downtown Hartford from 1913 to 1976.

This historic structure which is now 105 years old was nearly lost in 1976 when State House Square was paved over. It was rescued by the Knox Foundation which moved it to a temporary location and then later it was re-erected at the Connecticut Trolley Museum in East Windsor.

It is situated at the entrance to the Museum where visitors board the trolley cars for their ride along the track and right of way originally used by the Rockville line of the Hartford & Springfield Street Railway Company. This is a fitting location for the Isle of Safety in that it formerly served tens of thousands of trolley car passengers from 1913 up until the time that they were replaced by buses. Time has un-

fortunately taken its toll. What is more concerning than its shabby appearance is its structural integrity. There is considerable rot in the wood that supports the tile roof and virtually all of the tiles are chipped and faded, and many have fallen off.

At their July 2018 Board meeting the directors of the Connecticut

Electric Railway Association d/b/a The Connecticut Trolley Museum voted unanimously to move ahead with the total restoration of the Isle of Safety to its original 1913 condition and authorized the Museum's Development Committee to organize and manage a campaign to carry out the necessary work. ■

Isle of Safety Restoration Q&A

Why are we sending this publication to you?

You are among a select group of targeted individuals, businesses and foundations that share an interest in Greater Hartford – its past, present and future. We think that you are as passionate as we are about preserving significant landmarks such as the Isle of Safety.

What is the Connecticut Trolley Museum?

The Connecticut Electric Railway Association d/b/a The Connecticut Trolley Museum is the oldest (1940) incorporated Trolley Museum in America. It is organized as a private nonprofit organization with an IRS 501(c)3 designation and is overseen by a volunteer Board of Directors. It is dedicated to preserving artifacts from the Trolley era and serves the public with a variety of programs for visitors of all ages. A large number of its trolleys are in operating condition.

Who is managing the campaign to restore the Isle of Safety?

The Development Committee of the Connecticut Trolley Museum is chaired by Michael P. Speciale. Mike is the retired Executive Director of the New

Continued next page

Isle of Safety Q&A

Continued from page 1

England Air Museum where he served for 29 years. Prior to that he helped to organize and served as the first director of the United Way of Connecticut's Statewide Info Line System now known as 211. He is joined by Dulcie Giadone and Bob Rosenberg. Dulcie has been a long-term active leader in Hartford, providing executive and development support for area community and cultural organizations. Her leadership has contributed to significant progress in community development, enhanced human services and cultural enrichment. Bob is the Project Coordinator. He retired from Pratt & Whitney after 37 years as Director of Facilities & Services. He served as a volunteer for many years at the New England Air Museum where he managed most of the Museum's numerous capital construction and improvement projects. In addition he has been active working with NINA on the restoration of Victorian houses in Hartford's Asylum Hill area. Staff support will be provided by Gina Maria Alimberti, the Trolley Museum's Business Manager. She has considerable experience in the nonprofit sector in marketing, program development and customer services. She is currently President of the Bradley Regional Chamber of Commerce.

Who will manage the campaign's publicity and public relations efforts?

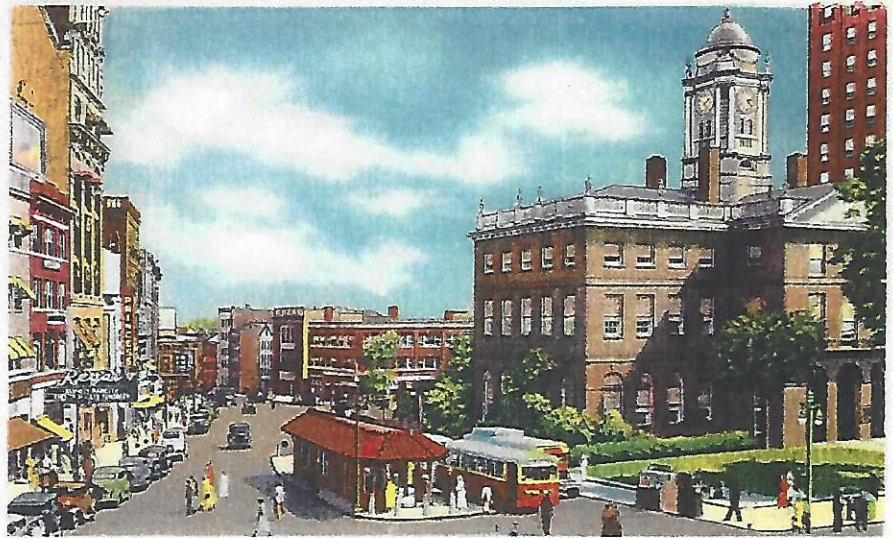
Eugene A. (Gene) Sheehan III, President and Managing Partner of Sullivan & LeShane Public Relations has graciously offered the assistance that is needed to run a successful campaign. Both Gene and Sullivan & LeShane are well known for their excellence in the public relations arena.

Will the campaign have an Honorary Chair?

Yes, Dennis House, WFSB 3's evening news anchor and *Face the State* moderator will serve as Honorary Chairman.



STATE STREET AND OLD STATE HOUSE, FROM MAIN STREET, HARTFORD, CONN.



The above pictures show a vintage 1924 photo and a later postcard showing the Isle of Safety - both in the trolley era and the bus era - in its original location next to the Old State House in downtown Hartford.

In addition to his being highly respected and having been an important part of the Hartford community for a long time, Dennis is well-versed in its history. We are very pleased that Dennis has joined us as a key player in this effort.

How long is the campaign expected to last?

The campaign is now under way and we

hope to have the fundraising wrapped up by Spring 2019. We expect the restoration will be completed by Fall 2019.

When will the restoration of the Isle of Safety begin?

Preliminary agreements with all of the subcontractors are now being prepared. No work will be authorized until 100% of the needed funds have been raised.

How much will this project cost?

The total cost estimate is \$175,000. This includes:

- Wooden structure repairs
- Complete tile replacement with historically correct tiles
- Brick pavers
- Period-style lighting
- Architectural and engineering support
- Marketing and campaign materials
- Outdoor pictorial exhibit at the Old State House, detailing the Isle's history
- A new walkway to the Isle of Safety from the Museum's Visitor Center

Have any funds been raised to date?

Yes - \$30,000 is already on hand in a restricted account. These funds were donated several years ago by a local historical preservation association.

And thank you to Knox Foundation for first saving the Isle of Safety from destruction and then later for providing the \$5,000 to transport it to the Connecticut Trolley Museum in 1988.

How will donations to the project be recognized?

All donations to the Connecticut Trolley Museum for the restoration of the Isle of Safety will be placed in a restricted fund. All donors will be acknowledged immediately. Their names will be placed on a permanent plaque adjacent to the Isle of Safety following its restoration.

How will I know how the campaign is progressing?

We will publish additional issues of the *Isle of Safety Bulletin* to keep you up to date on the fund-raising progress and later on to track the progress of the restoration work.

Has there been any preliminary feedback on the project?

Yes – we have spoken to numerous key people who are familiar with the Isle of Safety's place in Hartford's history and all have been overwhelmingly enthusiastic to say the least. The Isle of Safety engenders many fond memories of downtown Hartford back in the day!

Testimonial letters of support.

A brief letter of support from you would be helpful in mounting enthusiasm for the project. We are pleased to print the first one on page 4.

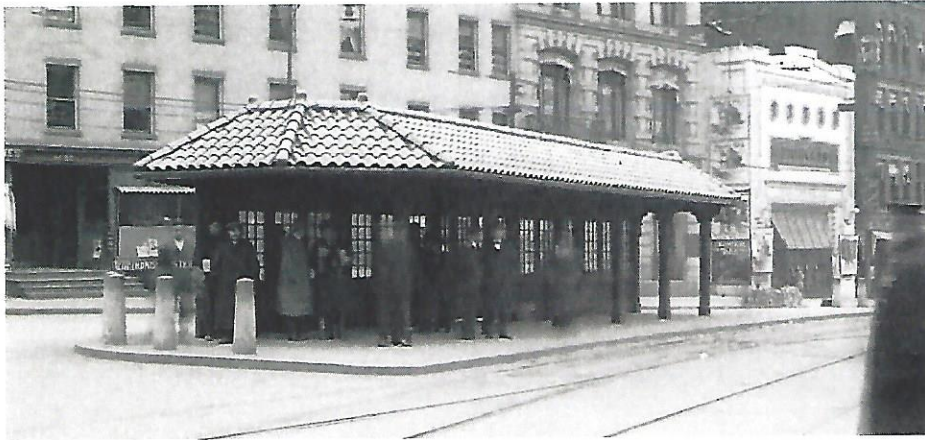
When can I make my gift?

The campaign has begun and gifts may be made online at: www.ct-trolley.org, or by check, mailed to: Connecticut Trolley Museum, 58 North Road, East Windsor, CT 06088.

Michael P. Speciale
Development Chairman
Connecticut Trolley Museum
Contact:
mpspeciale1946@gmail.com



The architectural rendering above previews the appearance of the restored Isle of Safety.



Riders wait for the next trolley in this vintage photo of the Isle of Safety.

Bits and Pieces

- The roof tile manufacturer, Ludowici, of New Lexington, Ohio, which made the original terra cotta tiles for the Isle of Safety in 1913 is still in business and manufacturing the same tiles in the original color.
- Ron Pitz, Executive Director of Knox, has committed to landscaping the area around the Isle of Safety, following its restoration.
- Thanks to Pirie Associates, Architects for their in-kind contribution to create the rendering of the restored Isle of Safety. ■

Isle of Safety Restoration Contractors/Vendors

Architect.....	Pirie Associates, New Haven, CT
General Contractor.....	A&R Building and Remodeling, Northford, CT
Tile Manufacturer.....	Ludowici, New Lexington, Ohio
Tile Installer.....	Lifetime Tilers, Westfield, Massachusetts
Landscaping.....	Knox, Inc., Hartford, CT
Marketing Materials.....	Tom Bittel

Connecticut Trolley Museum

Timothy Lesniak.....	Chairman
Robert Brogle.....	President
Gina Maria Alimberti.....	Business Manager
Sara Garthwait.....	Secretary
Stephen Taylor.....	Treasurer

CONNECTICUT TROLLEY MUSEUM

58 North Road, East Windsor, Connecticut 06088
860-627-6540 • www.ct-trolley.org

MISSION

To provide a historically accurate educational experience of the trolley era, through the interpretation, preservation, restoration, and operation of an electric railway.

Testimonial

"Sometimes I step away from my desk and walk through the Old State House. Despite its beauty, I am always drawn to the windows, and while every view vibrates with the rhythm of city life, there are two that draw me into the past.

When I look south, I see myself standing across Central Row. Sometimes I'm a 3rd grader, new to Connecticut and waiting for the bus to Newington with my mom. Other times, I see my high school self, waiting for that same bus after a hard day's work at G. Fox. No matter what the age, that younger me is always looking back up at the Old State House with the respect and admiration my mother instilled in me.

When I look north and into the past, I see my mom with me and my siblings in tow, touching base on the Isle of Safety and marching onward to downtown's shopping wonders: W. T. Grant, Sage-Allen, J. J. Newberry (and its wooden escalator), G. Fox, Mary Jane's, and Bakers. The Isle of Safety was the gateway to those wonders. At the same time, it was a pause in the city rush. The name alone made me feel safe. It made me feel like the city cared about me. As a result, I care about the city.

The Isle of Safety and the Old State House stood side by side for decades, an architectural odd couple of grandeur and whimsy. Both have been challenged. Both have been saved. I am so grateful that the Connecticut Trolley Museum is offering us a chance to ensure the Isle's own safety for years to come. I hope you will join the cause and invite others to do the same."

Sally Whipple

Executive Director

Connecticut's Old State House

ISLE OF SAFETY RESTORATION PROJECT

A Campaign To Save An Icon From Hartford's Past

Honorary Campaign Chairman

Dennis House

Eyewitness News Anchor, WFSB 3 Connecticut

Communications Coordinator

Sullivan & LeShane Public Relations

In-Kind Sponsor

Dear Mike,

January, 2019

I'm originally from Boston, but at WFSB-Channel 3 they call me "Hartford's unofficial historian and archivist." I'm passionate about saving and celebrating our historical treasures. That's why I'm particularly pleased to be the Honorary Chair of the effort to restore Hartford's Isle of Safety. It will be fully restored for its original use at the Connecticut Trolley Museum as well as being commemorated with a permanent display outside the Old State House and at State House Square where it stood for a period spanning seven decades.

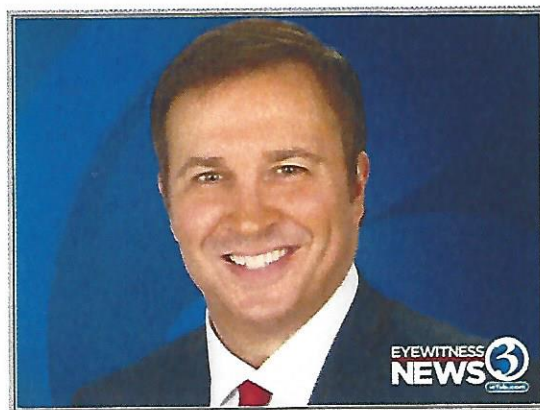
Beginning in 1913, the Isle of Safety - now 106 years old - sat at the heart of our city offering shelter and comfort for the throngs of visitors and travelers experiencing Hartford - to this day it inspires fond family memories. It embodies an era when Hartford bustled with commercial, social and residential activity. WFSB entered the scene in 1957 and as I review our archival footage, the Isle of Safety was front and center serving crowds of visitors denser than our current suburban malls and was frequently used as a backdrop for our television interviews of issues affecting the region. It is a vital part of our living history.

I believe we all have a role to play in protecting those landmarks that define and perpetuate our legacy. I think it's extremely important that this landmark is going to be restored for future generations to enjoy and be educated about Hartford's rich history.

I encourage you to learn more about this important campaign. Find out more on the Connecticut Trolley Museum's website- www.ct-trolley.org I will continue to provide updates and new information on the effort as the year proceeds.

Stay tuned and "Go Hartford!"

Dennis House



The Connecticut Electric Railway Association, Inc.
58 North Road, P.O. Box 360
East Windsor, Connecticut 06088-0360
Office: 860-627-6540 Fax: 860-627-6510



cas. 2/07/2019. Attachment B

11A

TOWN OF EAST WINDSOR

The following ordinance was adopted at a Special Town Meeting duly warned and held on _____.

"Ordinance Establishing a Tax Exemption for Farm Buildings"

Pursuant to the authority granted by Connecticut General Statutes, Section 12-91(c) that gives the Town the option to provide an additional exemption for farm buildings, the Town hereby provides that the Assessor shall grant a reduction in the property tax assessment for any building used actually and exclusively in farming, as defined in Section 1-1, or for any building used to provide housing for seasonal employees of such farmer in an amount not to exceed one hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$150,000.00) of assessed value of each eligible building. The exemption shall not apply to any residence except for a building used exclusively as a residence for seasonal employees. On or before the first day of November or the extended filing date granted by the Assessor pursuant to Section 12-42 of the Connecticut General Statutes, the owner shall make written application on forms as adopted by the Assessor identifying each building for which this exemption is claimed. The application shall include a notarized affidavit certifying that the owner, derived at least fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000.00) in gross sales or incurred at least fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000.00) in expenses related to such farming operation, with respect to the most recently completed taxable year of such farmer prior to the commencement of the assessment year (October 1) for which such application is made. In the event the farm is owned by one person or entity and leased to another who actually farms, then the lessee shall also file the financial affidavit and it is the lessee's income or expenses that must meet the minimum amount. Any rental expense shall be a lessee expense except rent paid to an immediate family member or entity owned by an immediate family member. The owner shall file an affidavit attesting to the identity of the lessee. Failure to file the application on or before the first day of November shall be considered a waiver of the right to such exemption for the assessment year. Any person aggrieved by any action of the Assessor shall have the same rights and remedies for appeal and relief as are provided in the General Statutes for taxpayers claiming to be aggrieved by the doings of the Assessor.

Said ordinance shall become effective fifteen (15) days from publication thereof.