

TOWN OF EAST WINDSOR BOARD OF SELECTMEN

REGULAR MEETING

Thursday, February 21, 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: Town Staff: Recreation and Community Services: Melissa Maltese, Director; Treasurer: Amy O'Toole.

Members of Boards, Committees, Commissions, or Town Entities: Board of Education: Cathy Simonelli, Chairman;
East Windsor Public Schools: Christine DeBarge, Superintendent.

Public: Paul Anderson, Marie DeSousa, Bob Lyke, Dick Pippin, Kathy Pippin, Tom Talamini.

Press: No one from the Press was present.

TIME AND PLACE OF REGULAR MEETING:

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First Selectman Maynard called the Meeting to Order at 7:02 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.

ATTENDANCE: See page 1.

AGENDA APPROVAL:

MOTION: To APPROVE the Agenda as amended: **MOVE NEW BUSINESS: Item 11C. Discussion of Development of a Five-Year Plan to follow CONTINUANCE OF BUDGET WORKSHOPS.**

Maynard moved/Szymanski seconded/DISCUSSION: None.

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

CONTINUANCE OF BUDGET WORKSHOPS/B. Parks and Recreation, Human Services and Senior Services:

(See Budget Workshop preceding this meeting for beginning of presentation for budget funding request for Human Services):

Melissa Maltese, Director of Recreation and Community Services, joined the Board to continue her Budget presentations.

SENIOR SERVICES (Senior Center) – 710100

The total Budget request for Senior Services (Senior Center) for FY 2019 – 2020 is \$253,413, for an increase of 8.39%.

Mrs. Maltese reported she is requesting the addition of one part-time driver to enable her to offer late day programming at the Senior Center. The Senior Center currently closes at 3:00 p.m. There are many activities that occur later in the day; the addition of this part-time driver would enable them to provide transportation to seniors for these programs. Selectman Hoffman questioned how many people attend activities at the Senior Center currently? Mrs. Maltese suggested approximately 30 attend art classes, 14 people attend a focus group, another 14 to 20 attend Coffee with Bob, 30 to 35 people come in for lunch daily. She noted the focus group is new; many are newly retired seniors who gather to consider options for additional or new programs. As an example, seniors like to go out to eat; this focus group reviews restaurants to offer input on new dining experiences. Selectman Hoffman questioned if they offer trips? Mrs. Maltese cited they like to go to the Flower Show, the Essex Steam Train, restaurants – especially

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Bernie's Dining Depot, they haven't been going to the casinos as much but the seniors are asking for the trips to resume. Mrs. Maltese noted they also provide the Dial-A-Ride program for transportation but space is limited to 15 or 20 people because of the size of the van. The van is often used for medical appointments, bank trips, and grocery shopping. For the benefit of the audience and people watching the video Selectman Bowsza wanted to highlight the following: in the last year you have served 7,344 meals, delivered 5,540 meals through volunteer drivers, provided 8,918 round trip rides traveling 29,000 miles. He felt that was an impressive list of accomplishments. Selectman Hoffman questioned that all that was accomplished with Town vehicles; Mrs. Maltese concurred. She also noted that they denied 338 trips to take seniors to doctor's appointments, bank trips, or grocery shopping because they had called too late and the van was filled, or they were short on drivers due to vacation.

Selectman Hoffman requested a breakdown of the ***Part-Time Salary line***, which has increased from \$33,100 to \$51,000. Mrs. Maltese reported the \$17,500 is the increase for the additional part-time driver. Treasurer O'Toole suggested the \$466 is the 2% raise tied to the \$33,000 request.

Selectman Szymanski questioned the number of vans currently in the fleet? Mrs. Maltese replied 4; they have the potential to remove one from the road as they currently have 2 full-time and 1 part-time drivers. Full-time drivers work 35 hours per week, while the part-time drivers work 19 hours per week.

Selectman Hoffman questioned what comprises ***Supplies and Equipment***? Mrs. Maltese noted when she took over the department she noticed a lack of first aide and cleaning supplies; staff needs medical supplies when responding to incidents before emergency personnel arrive. Selectman Bowsza questioned if there's a comparable decrease in another line? Mrs. Maltese reported she took out \$600 from ***Professional Services*** as she doesn't need as many certifications as the previous person.

Mrs. Maltese noted the ***Social Entertainment line*** under ***Programs*** has increased as the cost of the entertainer has increased this year. Once a month they have a collective birthday party at the Senior Center. This is an afternoon event attended by 50 to 80 people. They hire entertainment for this event. More people attend in the warmer weather.

Selectman Szymanski questioned the spend last year? Treasurer O'Toole suggested they've spent \$4,474 , and so far through December they've spent \$2,525. Treasurer O'Toole noted the Programming total has been higher in the past - \$6,500 and \$7,900 - but apparently it's been cut. She clarified that the ***Programming and Entertainment*** has combined in one line with a request for an increase from \$4,500 to \$6,000; Treasurer O'Toole referenced the 3 year history. Selectman Bowsza felt the total had been as high as \$10,000 in the past. Mrs. Maltese noted they spent \$2,500 last year. She noted there's been a history for reducing the programing line; she's trying to do more in-house programming but it requires more funding.

PARKS AND RECREATION – 710200:

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The total Budget request for Parks and Recreation for FY 2019 – 2020 is \$282,724, for an increase of 0.56%.

Selectman Szymanski questioned the installation of the security system. Mrs. Maltese reported the cameras were purchased as a one time CIP expense purchased four years ago which have now been installed. She noted they've seen a decrease in vandalism since the cameras have been installed. Staff reviews the camera storage regularly. Mrs. Maltese reviewed some past vandalism, noting the gatehouse was driven into when they offered the Men's Softball League use of the park. Significantly more events are offered now; they feel the cameras reduce the vandalism.

Selectman Szymanski questioned if Mrs. Maltese had the annual attendance available for the past three years. Mrs. Maltese will e-mail that information to Selectman Szymanski. She noted gate prices are \$2/person/day for East Windsor residents, \$5/person/day for non-residents; 10 sessions of swim lessons cost \$50.

Selectman Bowsza questioned what's driving the difference in the *seasonal employees*? Mrs. Maltese noted two maintainers went to the Public Works Department; they now have one person in the snack bar; they have two water safety instructors who teach the swimming lessons.

Selectman Hoffman questioned if they anticipate building the splash pad soon? Mrs. Maltese indicated they've had problems with the location; Selectman Bowsza cited it's intended to be ADA accessible. Selectman Hoffman questioned if the splash pad will require additional staff to supervise the usage? Mrs. Maltese suggested it's no different than the basketball court. The operation of the splash pad would be on a timer. Selectman Szymanski questioned if signage – use at your own risk – is being considered? Mrs. Maltese suggested she plans to install a "rules" sign. Selectman Szymanski suggested reviewing the signage with the Town Attorney.

Selectman Hoffman questioned the *number of camp counselors*. Mrs. Maltese reported the counselors run the camp program and are paid by the fees paid by the parents for the camp sessions. The camp is a 9 week 5 day per week program with daily sessions running from 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Mrs. Maltese described the camp program.

Mrs. Maltese referenced the Lake Management Contract under *Professional Services*. She noted the reservoir has had a heavy algae problem in the past; they've hired this company to manage the algae growth. Residents can swim within 24 hours of an algae application.

Mrs. Maltese noted mowing and maintenance of the park, which comprises 12+ acres including the ballfields, is done by the Public Works Department.

Selectman Szymanski questioned if they were purchasing fertilizer in town now? Mrs. Maltese indicated they are not, as she asked for quotes on three occasions and was not provided with that information. She was told the person who could provide the quotes was on vacation and no one else could provide the quotes.

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Selectman Szymanski questioned where the propane was used? Mrs. Maltese reported it's used at the snack bar, which operates 12 hours a day for several weeks at a time.

Selectman Szymanski questioned where Mrs. Maltese thought she could cut expenses if necessary? Selectman Szymanski noted the anticipated cuts in State aid; he's just looking for places to save money if possible. Deputy First Selectman Dearborn noted the total department increase for Park and Rec is 0.56%; Mrs. Maltese suggested the anticipated increase for the Senior Center is a half a percent as well. Discussion continued regarding the request for additional staff.

The Board thanked Mrs. Maltese for her presentation; Selectman Hoffman cited Mrs. Maltese does a good job with the various departments. Mrs. Maltese left the meeting.

NEW BUSINESS: Item 11C. Discussion of Development of a Five-Year Plan:

Selectman Szymanski indicated he asked for this item be included on the Agenda. He feels the Town has been lax in not considering a 5 year plan beyond the budget, which would encompass a number of things. Selectman Szymanski felt we should start with the Board of Selectmen, and hold a think-tank meeting to decide what that comprises, what's the best avenue to go in, and the Board of Selectmen should play a major role in terms of where we're going to go. Other departments that are experts in different areas, such as Public Works, would be brought in to the discussions after the initial meetings. Selectman Szymanski felt this is a 6 month project.

Treasurer O'Toole noted the Board has a template in front of them that tells them what they need to do because basically, it takes the Town side and breaks it down between salaries, benefits, purchased services, utilities, maintenance and repairs, and total budget; a CIP budget is tied to that. The Board of Education has the same accounts. The Board of Finance, what their accounts are, where we think our revenue will come from and it goes down to whether we're using our Fund Balance, our Grand List, what the assumed Grand List growth is – or flat, what your mill rate is, and it comes up with an annual increase or decrease for an average – Treasurer O'Toole cited the various accounts listed under the budget document. Treasurer O'Toole noted this is what the S and P asked the Town to go through for bonding of the Middle School roof; the Town needs a long range capital plan, which should be 5 years, and a long range operating plan. And we need to come up with our assumptions on our growth rate; what do you think our salaries are going to grow, what do you think our benefits are going to grow

This budget has two years of actuals; she'll have 15 years going forward. Selectman Szymanski concurred with Treasurer O'Toole's financial plan, but he felt the Town needs to understand where we want to invest in the next 5 years, and then this financial will come into play with the 5 year plan. Selectman Bowsza felt much of that information was included as the goals in the POCD (Plan of Conservation and Development); that's the Town's 10 year plan. Discussion followed regarding Grand List growth.

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Selectman Hoffman suggested Selectman Szymanski was looking for us to look at this plan and consider how to tailor it to fit East Windsor. Selectman Szymanski indicated we need to decide where to increase our revenue; we need to talk about the focus and goals of each administration; we need to put more dedication into a 5 year plan. Selectman Hoffman cited the benefit to taxes when the casino comes in; also the food processing plant. Selectman Bowsza reiterated much of that's in the POCD; it includes the types of development the town is seeking. Selectman Bowsza reviewed the process for creating the POCD, which is required to be submitted every 10 years to OPM. Selectman Hoffman cited the POCD doesn't include the food processing plant or the casino; Selectman Bowsza cited the POCD includes those types of developments in the areas where they've occurred. Treasurer O'Toole concurred; she noted that future developments would not be included in the long range plan. She recalled Town Planner Flores-Marzan cited the need to implement the goals of the plan; Selectman Szymanski cited his point is the Board needs to look at the different pieces of this. First Selectman Maynard suggested we also need to include the results of the Warehouse Point Study; Selectman Szymanski cited the need to include the Route 5 Corridor Study information as well. Discussion continued regarding when to expect impacts from the pending projects. Selectman Szymanski suggested the Board needs to begin holding Special Meetings to begin these discussions.

Treasurer O'Toole left the meeting at 8:02 p.m. at the conclusion of discussion of the 5 year plan.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES/Special Meeting Minutes of Monday, February 4, 2019:

MOTION: To APPROVE the Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board of Selectmen dated February 4, 2019, as presented.

Maynard moved/Dearborn seconded/DISCUSSION: None

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

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES/Regular Meeting Minutes of February 7, 2019:

MOTION: To APPROVE the Regular Meeting Minutes of the Board of Selectmen Meeting dated February 7, 2019 as amended:

Page 8: 250th ANNIVERSARY, MOTION: To APPROVE the dispensation. **DISPOSITION** of the 250th Anniversary Fund as recommended by the Committee.

Maynard moved/Hoffman seconded/DISCUSSION: None

VOTE: In Favor: Maynard/Dearborn/Bowsza/Hoffman/Szymanski

Selectman Bowsza questioned if the Minutes for the December Meetings had been approved. First Selectman Maynard felt that the Board was up to date on approval of all past Minutes. It

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was noted that Budget Workshop Minutes for February 5th have also been posted but remain to be approved.

COMMUNICATIONS: None.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

Paul Anderson, 89 Main Street, Broad Brook: Mr. Anderson noted that Bonnie Yosky is stepping down from the Charter Revision Commission. Mr. Anderson didn't know the background regarding her decision but speculated it may possibly be the lack of funding and it's an uncomfortable situation, and if that is the basis for her stepping down the Town should be ashamed of itself. The whole situation with the lack of funding for a recording secretary was ridiculous from top to bottom. Mr. Anderson knows the Board of Selectmen did the best they could to fix that, but, Mr. Anderson was very disappointed in the Board of Finance. He felt it was a mistake, you can't have 24 meetings at \$125 for \$1,500; it can't be done. It's silly. It's simple math, and there's no excuse. Mr. Anderson didn't care politically whether anyone thinks that these people are wonderful or horrible; that has nothing to do with it. This is an obligation of the Town to have this commission to do their task and if you don't like the members that's too bad because the members were selected here and that's the way it works and that's the legal way to do it, and it doesn't make any difference. You must fund what your obligations are. Mr. Anderson didn't know if that was the case for Mrs. Yosky's decision but he knows there are some unhappy people – in town and on that committee. The whole thing is a travesty when it comes to that; it's total nonsense. Mr. Anderson appreciated what the Board did to try to fix it but that should never been necessary.

Bob Lyke, Rye Street: Mr. Lyke suggested he's wearing his Economic Development Commissioner's hat tonight. He agrees 110% with what Mr. Anderson said.

Mr. Lyke suggested brevity isn't his strong point but we have an opportunity this year, beginning with tonight, to settle what's wrong with our form of government. And it should have started 3 or 5 years ago with the 5 year business plan – it includes financials, operationals, development, and it includes what we already have that's not being reviewed – the POCD. You know we have some real good government volunteers – we've got the Charter Revision Commission, regardless of its compensation or how it was appointed, we can't even fund the recording secretary because we have a hang up with the Board of Finance. We have the Board of Finance who is doing a good job in many areas a lot of the time, all volunteers – not paid. We've one person who submitted budgets tonight that has 3 jobs but is being paid one salary. We've got the Board of Selectmen, with the exception of the First Selectman that's already indicated he's not going to run for office again, all serve for zero compensation. We've got great ideas, whether they're campaign promises or whether they came out of serving for a year and a half – like let's have a 5 year plan. But who's going to take charge of that plan, who's going to implement it? The same with the Planning and Zoning and the Economic Development Commission, they're volunteers as well. Mr. Lyke recalled he's said in the past there's only 2 ways to balance a budget, either

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increase revenue or reduce costs. And it will be more of a challenge with the State reductions to the towns this year.

What's the answer? Mr. Lyke suggested people should put it in writing to the Charter Revision Commission to make the Charter simple and to have continuity by bringing in a Chief Administrative Officer with a precise job description that includes specifics, like a Masters in Municipal Management. And you have a balance of power by keeping the Board of Selectmen, they're really the Board of Directors of the Town with a First Selectman being the chairman of the Board; they fire and hire that person who makes sure the annual performance evaluations are done, not only for that job but in all the other departments. That person can also assist the departments to make their budget presentations. And last but not least the one thing we would not want to do is take away the balance in the form of government by going to a Town Council and doing away with the Town Meeting. Keep the Town Meeting, hire a Chief Administrator Officer to bring continuity, let them have a term other than just 2 or 4 years and get the town going in the right direction.

Mr. Lyke noted the Economic Development Commission is meeting next Monday; First Selectman Maynard and Selectman Hoffman attend those meetings as well. One of the things on their agenda is they are committed to have funding for a full-time Economic Development Director; that's how you increase revenues.

Mr. Lyke noted there are vacancies on the Economic Development Commission and the Veterans Commission.

Marie DeSousa, 10 Rice Road: Mrs. DeSousa said not to disrespect some of the previous people who spoke for the funding of the secretary, but the Board of Finance has an obligation to stay within the budget that was passed by the Town. That commission was warned that they needed to stay within the budget. We want every department to have the budget they're required to have, and we need to start with the Board of Education, too. We criticize the Board of Education because they've overspend on things they have no control over. We haven't funded money requested by the Broad Brook Library, and then a group was forewarned to be careful with what they were spending and they have gone...., the Board of Finance has done their due diligence as they have with everybody else, regardless of who sits on any committee or any preconceived notion that it's political or it's not political. The Board of Finance is doing their role very well. Mrs. DeSousa is concerned with the last motion made by this Board where we circumvented the Charter Revision Commission, and she questioned if that was proper. Mrs. DeSousa noted that tonight we asked the Park & Recreation where she could cut her budget, and in the same breath the same person turned around and said we should have an attorney look at whether new signage was necessary. Mrs. DeSousa felt we should be talking to the insurance company, not talking to an attorney, paying \$300 an hour, when the insurance company cost is zero. Those are the things the Board of Finance has to look at in totality and do their due diligence. Mrs. DeSousa felt those people that criticize the Board of Finance for doing their job are wrong.

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Cathy Simonelli, 171 Depot Street: Mrs. Simonelli recalled she came and spoke at the last Board of Selectmen's Meeting because she felt she had been misrepresented, and she felt she has been misrepresented again in the Minutes of the last meeting. I asked that the Meeting Minutes from February 4th *be adjusted to more accurately describe what I said at the meeting during Public Participation and apparently my request was ignored. So I just want to make it clear I was misquoted in the Minutes; Ms. Hoffman misrepresented her comments. Mrs. Simonelli felt like I was completely misquoted but the fact that I brought it to First Selectman Maynard's attention and it wasn't rectified. I'm very disappointed.

First Selectman Maynard concurred, Mrs. Simonelli gave it to me and I appreciated that; I gave it to Selectman Hoffman and he could have made a motion. But, fortunately, we have the recording and we'll get a verbatim transcription of what that video says. You're pointing out that you spoke and it wasn't recorded correctly. I'll examine it and we'll change it. Mrs. Simonelli said thank you; she appreciated that.

**NOTE: Meeting Minutes referenced in this discussion by Mrs. Simonelli was February 4th; discussion actually occurred at Board of Selectmen Regular Meeting of February 7th, 2019.*

Mrs. Simonelli indicated she had another request. Our Superintendent began her day at 4 a.m. today; if there's anything you can do to move us up I would appreciate that. First Selectman Maynard took the following action.

MOTION: To TAKE NEW BUSINESS/A. Discussion of Board of Education Budget Deficit after Public Participation.

Maynard moved/Hoffman seconded/DISCUSSION: None.

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

Dick Pippin, 37 Woolam Road: Mr. Pippin noted we have a video, he thought we ought to take what Mr. Lyke said and you should play it for everybody to hear. The priority of this whole Charter Revision and the part that you guys get to review it should be job number one. The Town Administrator will keep the Board of Selectmen form of government and the Town Meeting, and you guys should settle for nothing less, and should not put anything else to the voters. Your Economic Development Coordinator could come second. But the first priority in this town is continuity in management, which, unfortunately, you don't have through no fault of your own. We really need to look at that seriously when you get this Charter revision to review. Mr. Pippin said he wouldn't accept anything less if you really want to move the town ahead. Thank you.

Tom Talamini, 23 Rice Road: Mr. Talamini reported that at the last Board of Selectmen's Meeting Town Planner Flores-Marzan was really pushing Economic Development. Mr. Talamini felt we should look at making sure he can continue on that path. Mr. Talamini thought Town Planner Flores-Marzan is going to be a go getter and we should do whatever the Town can do to help him go down that path. Thank you.

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Selectman Hoffman asked if Mr. Talamini was saying Town Planner Flores-Marzan should be the Economic Development professional? Mr. Talamini felt Town Planner Flores-Marzan was heading in that direction. Selectman Hoffman agreed.

Mr. Talamini said if nothing else he can keep abreast of what comes into the town as permits. Mr. Talamini thought that was very important. Mr. Talamini cited there is something now pending for Route 5 and he thought they've tried to have 3 different meetings and every meeting the Wetlands (Commission) has been cancelled because, I don't know what it was. Mr. Talamini thought it was a good thing that he (Town Planner Flores-Marzan) wanted to implement that, that the department knows at least where all these permits are and where they stand with who has reviewed them and who hasn't reviewed them. Mr. Talamini indicated that's important because people come to town, they want to build, they get jerked around for 6 months they are going somewhere else. Selectman Hoffman agreed. Mr. Talamini - I mean, look at the building in South Windsor (Coca Cola); they're starting to put walls up today. That's 3 months to construction. We can't get a building started in 3 months in this town. That's pitiful. Deputy First Selectman Dearborn felt that's why Lowe's left the Lata farm on Bridge Street; it took too long. Mr. Talamini agreed. He suggested someone has to track these things and know where everything is.

First Selectman Maynard clarified that the Wetlands Meeting is going to take place March 4th and he thought the person is comfortable with that.

Selectman Hoffman said it sounds like Town Planner Flores-Marzan has a bent for economic development and that's good. His concern, and (he admitted) he's no expert, after talking to the people in South Windsor, Windsor, and Enfield, is that Town Planner Flores-Marzan may not understand the details of how we do it here in Connecticut. If what I hear is right the people in South Windsor and Windsor, they claim that they spend 40 additional days smoozing the right people in either evenings or daytime activities to make sure their towns were well known for being open for business, and I'm not even sure we knew that Coca Cola facility, for example, was even going to happen. Now, I bet the people in Windsor knew; I'm not sure they took a shot at it but I bet they knew about it. That's what bothers me.

Selectman Hoffman suggested if Town Planner Flores-Marzan has a bent for that, good, but he's the Town Planner, what happens to that job? Mr. Talamini suggested that's why he's looking for an assistant. Selectman Hoffman agreed, he has talked about that. Mr. Talamini suggested let's not put blinders on when it comes to that; let's listen to everything you just said. That it takes an additional 40 days for some of those towns to attract people. Don't put blinders on when we're doing the budget and say, geez, economic development - they don't need that. Maybe we could get someone part time. Let's just not put blinders on; that's all I'm asking. Selectman Hoffman agreed.

Bob Lyke, 80 Rye Street: With regard to economic development, Mr. Lyke indicated that he's said for years, after owning his own business, and serving on the Board of the Chamber of Commerce, he's become somewhat of an expert in East Windsor economic development. I'm

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telling you what I've said time and time again, Mr. Flores-Marzen's predecessor had 2 jobs – planner and economic development. Mr. Lyke suggested he can think of hypothetical instances where it would almost be a conflict of interest having those two jobs for the one person. He truly believes you get what you 're paying for. That's another situation where the job description has to be carefully written where you have the different entities in town giving input; maybe you need a team hiring after you get the job description and the funding approved for that position because it has to be a professional and it wouldn't hurt for him to have a little skin in the game from town.

Selectman Szymanski felt Mr. Lyke's comments were good about things being in a bottleneck. Selectman Szymanski recalled when he first got on the Board he handed out a progress report; what's the next event that will occur – he recalled he had given a copy to everyone. If the Board would like he can sit down with Town Planner Flores-Marzan and go through that with him because Selectman Szymanski thought it's important for this Board to understand the projects that are in there, what their status is and if they are being delayed – and we don't know that they are – then First Selectman Maynard should get involved. We don't get a report about anything.

Deputy First Selectman Dearborn noted the Planning and Zoning Commission meets twice a month and Wetlands meets once, he suggested Wetlands should meet twice a month. Deputy First Selectman Dearborn suggested that's where the process starts. If something goes sour now it holds things up for another month. First Selectman Maynard noted the Wetlands Commission will have a Special Meeting if there's something pressing. Deputy First Selectman Dearborn agreed; that would work.

Selectman Szymanski suggested the Board doesn't know the status of any projects. First Selectman Maynard suggested meeting with Town Planner Flores-Marzan to lay out all the projects.

Selectman Hoffman felt it might work with Town Planner Flores-Marzan if we have a proactive Economic Development Commission; the commission is currently struggling to live. He and Selectman Szymanski both know of people who may be interested in joining the Economic Development Commission. Selectman Hoffman suggested if Town Planner Flores-Marzan has enough capability to do both jobs and if he were to work with the Economic Development Commission with people you have the time and the energy and ability it might work as a start. But he agrees with Mr. Lyke; you have to have a professional doing that job, that's sniffing out people, or we'll have what Mr. Talamini says and that's nothing.

NEW BUSINESS/A. Discussion of Board of Education Budget Deficit:

Dr. Christine DeBarge and Cathy Simonelli, Chairman of the Board of Education, joined the Board.

Dr. DeBarge reported that over the past several months a number of things have occurred regarding the alternative education costs related to a small number of students which have caused

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a current deficit in the Board of Education budget in the amount of \$364,191. In January of 2018 there was a change in the Connecticut General Statutes which required how they were to provide alternative education for students who were expelled, or not medically able to attend school. The school system must provide alternative means of educating those students. Examples of these alternatives could be tutoring in the student's home, or education at sites other than the East Windsor school facilities. Dr. DeBarge suggested that if the student is a special needs student the alternative education plan can be costly. Lengthy discussion followed regarding various education plans developed and what entity sets the standards for those alternative plans, the process by which students enter the East Windsor school system from other districts, the cost of educating transferring students, and the reversal of the process if they transfer out, or withdraw, from the East Windsor school district.

Dr. DeBarge reported that multiple students moved into the school system after the 2018 FY budget had been approved. Dr. DeBarge gave the Board a breakdown of the cost of various education services. The cost of educating those additional students, plus the cost of educating students who left the East Windsor school system for Magnet Schools, has caused a deficit in the Board of Education budget of \$364,191. The school system has used money normally allocated for supplies to cover some of that cost. Dr. DeBarge noted the contingency for special education costs was removed from the FY 18 budget.

Lengthy discussion continued regarding the process of students moving into and out of the East Windsor district, how the cost of educating those students coming into or leaving the East Windsor school district impacts the Board of Education budget, and considerations for cost savings.

Selectman Szymanski questioned if the purchase of replacement laptop computers previously approved had occurred? Dr. DeBarge and Mrs. Simonelli replied that the purchase had been made. Selectman Szymanski suggested purchasing less costly Chromebooks vs. other models; Dr. DeBarge reported use of the Chromebook would require a change in the school systems. Mrs. Simonelli suggested the replacement program now provides equipment with warranty coverage, which would reduce repair costs.

Dr. DeBarge noted a Curriculum Director has left the system; her position has not been replaced but is now covered by Dr. DeBarge.

Deputy First Selectman Dearborn noted the Board of Education budget received an additional \$1 million dollars last year; he questioned how that was spent? Mrs. Simonelli cited the increase in health insurance costs for teachers and other employees; Dr. DeBarge noted requirements for increased staff training, such as CPR classes.

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Discussion continued regarding the status of teacher's contract negotiations, insurance plan comparisons, and the impact of the anticipated deficit on other areas of funding, such as supplies and equipment.

Dr. DeBarge and Mrs. Simonelli advised the Board that the Board of Finance is aware of the Board of Education deficit.

BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS RESIGNATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS/A.

Resignations: Bonnie Yosky (D), Charter Revision Commission

First Selectman Maynard read Mrs. Yosky's resignation letter; she cited the comments from other elected officials about the make-up of the Charter Revision Commission and the comments about the age of the members. Selectman Hoffman reported he's been sitting in on Charter Revision Commission Meetings since the first of the year and they're working hard and doing a good job. He suggested Mrs. Yosky is a contributor to those meetings; she has good comments, she works well with the other people. It would be a sad loss for her to resign from that Commission. Selectman Hoffman would like to set her resignation aside and not act on it tonight and have someone go back and discuss it with her. She's an important member of that Commission. Selectman Szymanski noted for the time that he's been working with that group what's been valuable is that people who have been around for a while that have the history of the charters and have worked on them before, you're taking out a lot of unnecessary time by having that experience level, pumping that information into those meetings, to come out with something that will be more valuable to the Town as we move forward with that. She's one of those people. Selectman Hoffman suggested it would be a major loss to have her leave that commission. First Selectman Maynard agreed; the Board could postpone action on her resignation.

BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS RESIGNATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS/B

Reappointments: None.

BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS RESIGNATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS/C. New

Appointments: None.

*** UNFINISHED BUSINESS/A. Broad Brook Mill Discussion:**

Any starred (*) items will not be discussed but will remain on the agenda pending receipt of additional information.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS/B. Discussion of Charter Revision:

First Selectman Maynard reported he attended the (Board of Finance) Meeting last night; they voted down the funding for the recording secretary for the Charter Revision Commission for the rest of the fiscal year. We'll have to try to do something else. Selectman Szymanski felt there were other options that could be considered. First Selectman Maynard noted someone did make a good suggestion, maybe we can change the schedule of things around in here so they can meet

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in here on Mondays. First Selectman Maynard suggested they were quite insistent that they only did this for financial reasons and he felt there are a lot political reasons as was stated in the Journal Inquirer. Selectman Szymanski noted he was present when one of the Board of Finance members did say the people are too old, and that's sad. First Selectman Maynard suggested also if you look at what happened when we asked for the \$3,000 to fund 24 meetings and the first thing they did was to vote no to that, then they proposed \$2,400 and voted no again, and then they voted for \$1500 by 3 to 2 and that meant 2 people didn't want to give us any money.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS/C. Casino:

First Selectman Maynard reported he found out today a meeting of the Public Safety and Security Committee is scheduled for February 26th at 10 o'clock at the Legislative Office Building. They will be discussing Senate Bill 11 which would remove the criteria for publication in the Federal Register.

There is also a meeting scheduled for that same day at 11:30 with the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development Commission and DEEP about the Broad Brook Mill.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS/D. Discussion of BOS Budget Workshops:

The Board scheduled additional Budget Workshops for Wednesday, February 27th and Thursday, February 28th, at 6:00 p.m. in the Town Hall Meeting room.

NEW BUSINESS/A. Discussion of Board of Education Budget Deficit:

See discussion, pages 11 – 13.

NEW BUSINESS/B. Approval of Sale of 132 Wells Road and Move to Town Meeting:

First Selectman Maynard reported Chris Davis has signed an agreement with the potential buyer, James White, for 132 Wells Road.

MOTION: To APPROVE the sale of Town property located at 132 Wells Road to James White, Map 095, Block 24, Lot 54, for \$2,000, and move to Town Meeting.

Maynard moved/Hoffman seconded/DISCUSSION: None.

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

NEW BUSINESS/C. Discussion of Development of a Five-Year Plan::

See previous discussion.

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NEW BUSINESS/D. Discussion of Beautification Committee::

Selectman Szymanski recalled the Board had recently decided to create a town Beautification Committee. He has already been contacted by a resident who would like to be a member. Selectman Szymanski felt the first part is to focus on enhancing the beauty of public access areas. He noted that Vernon has the Rails to Trails where people can walk along the tracks. He noted we have tracks in town which are not being utilized; he felt we could develop a walking trail along the tracks. Selectman Szymanski felt the Board should start asking for members and get this started in the first quarter of this year.

Deputy First Selectman Dearborn questioned where the money was coming from? He agreed we should have nice signs at all the parks and landscaped areas as well. Selectman Szymanski cited the need to develop a plan and then talk to the Board of Finance. He cited the American Heritage River Commission has their projects and they clean up a lot of debris; that should be tied into this. Selectman Szymanski felt the Town needs curb appeal; people need to be proud of the Town; that becomes contagious.

Deputy First Selectman Dearborn questioned what happened to the blight program; people aren't taking pride in their yards. Selectman Hoffman noted he gave Town Planner Flores-Marzan a list of 5 places in town that he thought he should look at; the town isn't as neat and clean as it was and it should be. Deputy First Selectman Dearborn felt if people living in the properties are elderly or sick and can't do it themselves maybe the Town could help.

First Selectman Maynard noted a posting on Facebook for an East Windsor Community Clean Up Day. He reported he attended their first meeting, which was held at the East Windsor Chamber of Commerce Office at the Opera House; it appears that a lot of the clean-up activities may coincide with Earth Day, April 22nd. First Selectman Maynard read the Facebook posting. He suggested perhaps this group has the same spirit. Selectman Szymanski recalled something similar had been done in the past; the group did a good job cleaning up, and DPW went through and picked up the trash the next day. He was glad to hear the event is returning. Tom Talamini reported the American Heritage River Commission participates in Source to Sea Day annually; for three years in a row they filled 30 yard dumpsters with trash. They work mostly along the Connecticut River, along North Water Street, and also along the Scantic. A lot of people dump trash behind Pigeon's (currently At the Dam Restaurant). Mr. Talamini suggested it would be nice to have a sign put up prohibiting dumping before the area becomes a problem.

Mr. Talamini also reported that at all of their trails they have kiosks that give information on the bulletin boards. They have kiosks at Cemetery Road, and at Melrose, which says that's a State Park.

NEW BUSINESS/Tax Refunds:

First Selectman Maynard reported there is no request for Tax Refunds for this meeting.

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SELECTMEN COMMENTS AND REPORTS/A. Andy Hoffmann:

Selectman Hoffman reported he understands a Meeting of the Economic Development Commission has been scheduled for Monday, February 25th, at 6:00 p.m.

SELECTMEN COMMENTS AND REPORTS/B. Jason E. Bowsza

- February 9th Abby's Helping Hand Winter Gala was held; 170 people attended.
- February 11th Meeting of the first meeting Youth Services Bureau at the Town Hall Annex; 11 people attended. They're framing a mission statement, and are looking at Windsor Locks, Enfield, Vernon and other towns for benchmarks. This organization would be trying to serve different aspects that youth and families might be trying to address, such as behavioral issues, addiction, and poverty.

SELECTMEN COMMENTS AND REPORTS/C. Charlie J. Szymanski:

Selectman Szymanski reported he attended meetings with the two Fire Departments . Discussions continue regarding creating one fire department vs. expanding the district town wide. Chief Arcari of the Broad Brook Fire Department said it will take some time but it's moving forward.

Selectman Szymanski reported he sat in on a meeting with Public Works and the contractor and the company that provided the materials for the Middle School roof replacement. The roof has been leaking since it was installed and they are following up on it and meeting with the architect. They couldn't access the roof the day of the meeting because of the recent storm.

Selectman Hoffman requested to return discussion to the meetings of the fire departments. He noted the recent meeting with the Warehouse Point Fire District regarding their request for equal funding in this budget, and recalled previous meetings with both of the fire departments. Selectman Hoffman noted he had provided them with a chart to track their progress; he questioned the status of their discussions. Selectman Szymanski reiterated Chief Arcari's comments that the talks were moving forward, but there were multiple discussion points to consider.

SELECTMEN COMMENTS AND REPORTS/D. Steve Dearborn:

Deputy First Selectman Dearborn suggested after meeting with the Warehouse Point Fire District for their budget request he agrees the Town should tax everybody; we're going to have to do it because the guys aren't showing up for the fires. Deputy First Selectman Dearborn reiterated he isn't in favor of a town wide district. We need to figure out another way to tax. They had said it was cheaper for Broad Brook because they don't pay for their buildings while Warehouse Point pays 100% they own the buildings; he agrees that's 100% correct. Deputy First Selectman Dearborn suggested maybe a 1% tax would give both departments enough money to operate.

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The only issue will be the Warehouse Point Fire District will have to turn their buildings and trucks over to the Town to maintain them as they do Broad Brook. That's why he was asking his questions about the 1% tonight. . Deputy First Selectman Dearborn felt there'll be money left over to put in a lockbox for expenses down the road, like a fire truck when they need it and equipment. They'll both be hiring fire fighters because the volunteers aren't showing up now But it needs to be talked about to both departments. They'll get what they wanted – to tax the whole town but not as a district.

SELECTMEN COMMENTS AND REPORTS/E. Robert Maynard:

First Selectman Maynard had nothing further to report tonight.

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:**

No Executive Session for the February 21st Meeting.

ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION: To ADJOURN this Meeting at 9:50 p.m.

Maynard moved/Bowsza seconded/DISCUSSION: None

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

Respectfully submitted

Peg Hoffman, Recording Secretary, East Windsor Board of Selectmen