

# TOWN OF EAST WINDSOR BOARD OF SELECTMEN

## REGULAR MEETING

Thursday, February 4, 2021

7:00 p.m.

East Windsor, Connecticut

Meeting held via ZOOM Teleconference

Meeting ID: 332 683 3563

Town Hall closed to the Public by

Executive Order of First Selectman Jason E. Bowsza

Due to Coronavirus pandemic

### Meeting Minutes

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

#### Board of Selectmen:

Jason E. Bowsza, First Selectman

Marie DeSousa, Deputy First Selectman

Alan Baker, Selectman

Sarah Muska, Selectman

Charlie Nordell, Selectman

**ATTENDANCE:** Board of Selectmen: Jason E. Bowsza, First Selectman; Marie DeSousa, Deputy First Selectman; Alan Baker, Selectman; Sarah Muska, Selectman; Charlie Nordell, Selectman

**ABSENT:** All Selectmen were present this evening.

**GUESTS/SPEAKERS:** Economic Development Commission Members: Gil Hayes, Bob Lyke; Board of Finance: Tom Lansner; Housing Authority: Laverne Calsetta, Tenant Representative; Social Services: Melissa Maltese, Director of Recreation and Community Services.

**GUESTS and members of the public (as identified in the Meeting participation list) signing in to teleconference:** Department of Public Works: Joseph Sauerhoefer, Operations Manager; blavoie; Jennifer; Kathy

**Press:** No one from the Press was present this evening.

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**1. TIME AND PLACE OF REGULAR MEETING:**

First Selectman Bowsza called the February 4, 2021 Regular Meeting of the East Windsor Board of Selectmen to order at 7:00 p.m. The Meeting is being held via teleconference due to closure of the Town Hall to the Public as the result of the coronavirus epidemic.

**2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

First Selectman Bowsza requested Selectman Muska lead the Board in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

**3. ATTENDANCE:**

First Selectman Bowsza noted the Board has established a quorum with five members present via video conference.

**4. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES/\* A. January 21, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes:**

First Selectman Bowsza reported the Minutes of the Board of Selectman's Regular Meeting dated January 21, 2021 will be postponed to a future meeting.

(No motion made)

**5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:**

First Selectman Bowsza advised the public this is an opportunity for public comments or questions. No one requested to speak.

**6. COMMUNICATIONS – Declaration of Public Safety Emergency and Civil Preparedness Emergency Updates:**

First Selectman Bowsza referenced the document titled "Declaration of Public Safety Emergency and Civil Preparedness Emergency" (See Attachment A), which extends Governor Lamont's Executive Order through April 20, 2021. First Selectman Bowsza indicated this is a pro forma extension document which lines up with the Governor's Executive Order.

**7. BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS RESIGNATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS**

**A. Resignations:**



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1. Amanda Venti (U), Beautification Committee, regular member:

First Selectman Bowsza felt the Beautification Committee lost some momentum because of COVID; he hopes they spring back in the future.

**MOTION: With regret, to ACCEPT the resignation of Amanda Venti from the Beautification Committee.**

**Nordell moved/Muska seconded/DISCUSSION:** None.

**VOTE by rollcall: In Favor: Nordell/Muska/Baker/DeSousa  
(No one opposed/No Abstentions)**

**B. Reappointments:**

1. Lavern Calsetta (D), Housing Authority, regular member (Tenant Representative) for a term expiring February 1, 2026.

First Selectman Bowsza noted Ms. Calsetta is seeking reappointment for her second term; there's been no opposition to her serving. Ms. Calsetta was present virtually; she confirmed her request for reappointment.

**MOTION: MOVE to REAPPOINT Lavern Calsetta (D), Housing Authority, regular member (Tenant Representative) for a term expiring February 1, 2026.**

**DeSousa moved/Muska seconded/DISCUSSION:** Deputy First Selectman DeSousa indicated she's worked with Lavern Calsetta on the Housing Authority; no one has opposed her representation on the Board. First Selectman Bowsza indicated his wife has also served with Ms. Calsetta; she supports her reappointment as well.

**VOTE by rollcall: In Favor: Nordell/Muska/Baker/DeSousa  
(No one opposed/No Abstentions)**

**B. New Appointments:**

1. Keith Yagaloff (U), Historic Preservation Commission, regular member for a term expiring November 15, 2023.

**MOTION: To APPOINT Keith Yagaloff (U), Historic Preservation Commission, regular member for a term expiring November 15, 2023.**

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Muska moved/Nordell seconded/**DISCUSSION:** None.

**VOTE by rollcall:**   **In Favor:**     Nordell/Muska  
                              **Opposed:**     Baker/DeSousa  
                              **Abstentions:** No one

**First Selectman Bowsza voted no to break the tie.**

**8.     UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

- \*A.    Broad Brook Mill Update**
- \*B.    South Road Ownership Option Update**
- \*C.    ACI Auto Group LLC – Tax Incentive Program**
- \*D.    Polling Location Change**

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

**9.     NEW BUSINESS:**

**A.     Youth Services Bureau and Obligations to include Melissa Maltese:**

First Selectman Bowsza indicated Community Services Director Maltese is joining the Board tonight to give us an update on the status of the Youth Services Bureau.

Community Services Director Maltese reported the Youth Services Bureau was founded a little over two years ago to assist youth and their families in East Windsor with prevention programs, outreach and planning for the youth development, and providing connectivity to resources should their families need it. She reported the Youth Services Bureau has been successful and has engaged youth in a number of ways, both in the schools, and the community. COVID has put a pause on some of those programs due to not being able to meet in person but they've found virtual ways to engage the youth to continue to make them a part of the community as much as they can.

Community Services Director Maltese reported she'd like to expand the case management and referrals to local services. She noted it's difficult to refer individuals to local services when everything is tele-health. She cited First Selectman Bowsza's suggestion under his budget presentation regarding a proposal for a community social worker in the Police Department. Community Services Director Maltese felt the Youth Services Bureau could work well in tandem with the social worker, who would be funded through the Police



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Department; the Youth Services Bureau could fund the clinicians which would give them the ability to do case management in town as well as some parent and family therapy groups. Community Services Director Maltese noted currently that assistance is referred out of town. She feels there will be a greater need for services post-COVID.

Community Services Director Maltese suggested if the proposal within the Police Department didn't go through then another option would be to fund the Youth Services Bureau case worker as a full-time position.

First Selectman Bowsza noted that Community Services Director Maltese has been aggressively seeking to fill the part-time Youth Services Bureau position, but people pass on it because it's a part-time position, and also because of the pay associated with that. He noted Community Services Director Maltese has taken on the Youth Services Bureau work in addition to her other positions but it's very time consuming. As an example, she must report her work in 5-minute increments to comply with the grant requirements. Community Services Director Maltese also reported that as of July 1<sup>st</sup> the State moved truancy under the Youth Services Bureau rather than dealing with that issue through the Juvenile Justice System as was done in the past. First Selectman Bowsza suggested that using the Youth Services Bureau funding and responsibilities in concert with a mental health unit within the Police Department and in partnership with the school resource officer really begins to tie that social work safety net together.

Selectman Nordell questioned which agency handled truancy prior to this change? Community Services Director Maltese indicated referrals had been made to the Juvenile Justice System as a court referral.

Selectman Baker questioned the duration of the grant. Community Services Director Maltese indicated she's on the second cycle of a two-year grant; she'll reapply this year.

Deputy First Selectman DeSousa and Selectman Muska had no questions.

**B. Economic Development Commission Membership to include Robert Lyke and Gil Hayes**

First Selectman Bowsza indicated this item has been put on the agenda at the request of Mr. Hayes and Mr. Lyke.

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Mr. Hayes thanked the Board for having them appear tonight; he indicated he and Mr. Lyke have requested time to discuss the difficulty filling vacancies on the Economic Development Commission.

Mr. Lyke concurred. He noted his interest in economic development goes back several years; when he ran for Selectman his slogan was “I mean business.” He noted he’s worked in corporate positions, and has run two private businesses. He indicated the Town needs to make East Windsor a progressive rural community, and we need to do something about economic development and taking care of our own businesses. He cited the Economic Development Commission has been a bipartisan commission comprised of five regular and two alternate members; currently there are two Republicans, one Democrat, and two Unaffiliated members filling four regular and one alternate position. Mr. Lyke indicated he and Mr. Hayes are seeking assistance recruiting volunteers to fill the vacancies.

Mr. Hayes referenced the Charter, noting “the Economic Development Commission shall assist the Board of Selectmen to bring business and industries into town, approve the existing businesses and industries, and other responsibilities as may be set forth by the ordinance.” Mr. Hayes noted the EDC hasn’t been working with the Board of Selectmen due to the inability to establish a quorum, or other reasons requiring a cancellation; COVID has impacted the EDC as well as meetings are now held via ZOOM, which First Selectman Bowsza has hosted in the past. Mr. Hayes felt communication has lapsed.

Mr. Lyke noted that even with the ZOOM meetings the EDC has been graced by the attendance of Deputy First Selectman DeSousa, the Commission’s liaison, and also Selectman Muska. He cited the need to acquire voting members to continue the EDC’s work, and if they could get a secretary who’s accomplished in hosting a ZOOM meeting that would be extremely helpful.

Mr. Hayes noted a candidate had recently come forward to volunteer; he requested to read the candidate’s resume for the record. Mr. Hayes noted both he and Mr. Lyke had proposed that candidate for membership in the EDC. Selectman Baker moved the appointment, no one seconded the motion. Mr. Hayes questioned the reason; he suggested this is the type of person the EDC needs. Mr. Lyke also noted that candidate is presently hosting and recording ZOOM meetings.

Mr. Lyke indicated he isn’t giving up on the EDC; business is in his heart. His intent is to bring new businesses into town, and work with existing businesses. He also wants to be involved in discussions of tax abatements. Mr. Lyke suggested this was an opportunity to bring someone on board who will be



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productive and assist in getting things done in a proactive way. Mr. Lyke questioned the lack of a second and discussion.

Mr. Lyke and Mr. Hayes indicated they're asking for the Board of Selectmen's help.

First Selectman Bowsza called for comments from the Board.

Deputy First Selectman DeSousa suggested regarding the lack of a second, speaking for herself, there were two reasons. One was that the Board had other people who showed an interest and we're waiting on the applications from those individuals. Deputy First Selectman DeSousa acknowledged the Board received Mr. Hayes e-mail regarding the candidate's background. Deputy First Selectman DeSousa indicated she isn't disputing her background, but she feels there's a conflict with that individual due to the position that her husband holds in town.

Deputy First Selectman DeSousa cited the current membership as being Mr. Hayes, Mr. Lyke, Mr. Richards, and Mr. Maynard, with Ms. Rumore as an alternate. Deputy First Selectman DeSousa cited conflicts for Mr. Maynard regarding the meeting night; Ms. Rumore seems to be willing to attend the current meetings to fill in. Deputy First Selectman DeSousa suggested the meeting was cancelled and rescheduled at Mr. Maynard's request; she felt that wasn't fair to the other members who were willing to meet as scheduled. Deputy First Selectman DeSousa felt Mr. Maynard needs to decide if he wants to be a member of the EDC or his other commitment. Deputy First Selectman DeSousa doesn't want to put people on the EDC the way it's currently being governed.

Mr. Lyke cited Deputy First Selectman DeSousa's attendance at the previous meeting, noting the meeting was disruptive and unproductive and the Commission wasn't able to accomplish items held over from the annual review of bylaws, election of officers, and set meeting schedules. Mr. Lyke requested the Board assist with volunteer appointments, and set politics aside.

Deputy First Selectman DeSousa disputed she was involving politics; she wants good representation for that commission. She felt the four people currently attending have something to offer that commission; she felt the commission was being held back by someone who couldn't make it to a meeting while the meetings are being held. Deputy First Selectman DeSousa didn't feel it's fair to the rest of the board. Deputy First Selectman DeSousa suggested her opinion has nothing to do with politics.

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Mr. Lyke advised First Selectman Bowsza that he's been nothing but complimentary in what Deputy First Selectman DeSousa has done for the EDC Committee. Mr. Lyke requested every one of you on the Board of Selectmen, who has the final authority to appoint these two vacancies, to look at the last ZOOM Meeting of our EDC and draw your own conclusions about how well that meeting went. Whether it was lack of control on the Chairman's part, or the Vice Chairman, whatever went on. You draw your own conclusions and then let's have a little one on one about this thing. First Selectman Bowsza questioned if the meeting was recorded? Mr. Lyke indicated he had no idea; he didn't host the meeting. First Selectman Bowsza questioned who hosted the meeting; Mr. Lyke indicated he had no idea. Mr. Lyke suggested there were some disruptions there that the Board should be aware of.

Mr. Hayes noted mention was made that Commissioner Rumore had said we had problems at that meeting, and she used the word "dysfunctional", while Commissioner Hayes felt she should have said "disruptive". Mr. Hayes cited Selectman Muska and Deputy First Selectman DeSousa have both attended the EDC Meetings; we go by Robert's Rules, we do the best we can. Mr. Hayes felt the meeting wasn't dysfunctional, but there were a lot of interruptions. Mr. Hayes felt the meeting had not been recorded. He noted the EDC has a meeting on February 16<sup>th</sup>; let's see what happens. Mr. Hayes requested that the Board of Selectmen assist the Commission fill their vacancies, and perhaps even reconsider the candidate that was sent to you. Mr. Hayes cited that he and Mr. Lyke have 60 years of public service – combined – in East Windsor; he requested the Board take that into consideration when they suggest a candidate.

First Selectman Bowsza called for comments from Selectmen Baker, Muska, and Nordell. Selectman Muska and Selectman Nordell had no comments; Selectman Baker was having technical difficulties accessing the meeting and was unavailable for comment.

**C. Discussion of Farm Leases**

First Selectman Bowsza requested tabling Agenda item 9C until later in the meeting.

**MOTION: To TABLE discussion of item 9C under NEW BUSINESS – Discussion of Farm Leases – until later in the meeting.**

**Muska moved/Nordell seconded/DISCUSSION: None.**

**VOTE by rollcall: In Favor: Nordell/Muska/DeSousa  
(No one opposed/No Abstentions)**



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(Selectman Baker offline due to difficulty with computer)

**D. Tax Refunds:**

**MOTION:** To APPROVE Tax Refunds in the amount of \$237.60 as identified under Tax Refund Report dated February 2, 2021

Nordell moved/Muska seconded/**DISCUSSION:** None

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

(Selectman Baker offline due to difficulty with computer)

**10. SELECTMEN COMMENTS AND REPORTS:**

**A. Jason Bowsza:**

*(See Attachment B)*

**B. Marie DeSousa:**

Deputy First Selectman DeSousa attended the Broad Brook Fire Department meeting on the 25<sup>th</sup>; she suggested she wouldn't be redundant about what First Selectman Bowsza said about them working on their budget. They also noted, fiscal year 2020, they did 768 calls. The rest was budget information.

On the 25<sup>th</sup> Deputy First Selectman DeSousa indicated she tried to get information on the Diversity Council because they had a meeting, but she wasn't able to find an agenda anywhere. She didn't know if she couldn't find it or it wasn't up, or....She requested First Selectman Bowsza look into that for them. First Selectman Bowsza indicated they had circulated an agenda amongst their members, but they didn't actually post it, so there was no legal meeting. First Selectman Bowsza indicated they held a Special Meeting on this past Monday to cover the ground.

Deputy First Selectman DeSousa indicated she attended the Planning and Zoning Meeting that was held on the 26<sup>th</sup> and listened to the comments and concerns of the neighbors around the proposed zone change off of Depot Street.

On the 27<sup>th</sup> Deputy First Selectman DeSousa attended the East Windsor Housing Authority meeting where they are also working on their budget. They received another \$2,000 in grant money that will be divvied up to the residents in \$24 increments, and they'll be receiving gift cards again for Dollar General because that's the primary store that they go to. They were pleased to receive that.

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The Economic Development Commission was cancelled and rescheduled for February 16<sup>th</sup>. Right now, there is no chairperson, so we'll see where that goes. I have a Budget Workshop Meeting on the 16<sup>th</sup> so I'll sign in to the EDC meeting for at least the first 45 minutes and see where that goes.

**C. Charlie Nordell:**

Selectman Nordell indicated he had nothing different to report other than what the other Board members have reported on. Regarding the debacle with the Diversity Council Selectman Nordell indicated he hadn't been notified of their meeting as well.

**D. Sarah Muska:**

(See Attachment C).

**E. Alan Baker:**

Selectman Baker apologized for missing some of the discussion regarding the EDC but noted his internet dropped out.

Selectman Baker noted Planning and Zoning discussed more about the multi-family district zone request that is in current Public Hearing. The applicant has now changed their request and is not looking for MFDD designation there so, more to come on that. They allowed an extension for more input from the public, so we'll see where that goes.

Selectman Baker indicated Wetlands did not have a meeting last night; they had a light schedule anyway.

Selectman Baker reported that on Facebook it became apparent about the dog pound not having any heat. He felt that was a little concerning, so he went there today and the heat is working fine. The dog pound does need a lot of work; he hoped we can find funding for that in this budget one way or another. At this point in time there are no dogs in the kennel. He had a conversation with Deputy Chief Hart who indicated the dogs are all taken care of, and how often they're dealt with. Basically, they're dealt with at least twice a day, by ACOs or officers, more often by ACOs. And when they do have dogs there in the Winter they don't have the sliding doors open; cold air isn't blowing in there, so he's not sure where this came from but none of it was true.

**11. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:**

**Bob Lyke, 80 Rye Street, Broad Brook, member of the Economic Development Commission and proud member and Veterans' Services Officer appointed by the**



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**Town of East Windsor and the Board of Selectmen:** Mr. Lyke indicated the question he had was the lack of ability to appoint somebody for the two vacancies on the Economic Development Commission. Is there something the Commission can do to help? If you have names of people you think are more qualified for the position than the candidate that we presented to the Commission, and could the Commission be involved?

Mr. Lyke noted in the past the boards could go to the individual Town Committees and ask for candidates. Mr. Lyke would like to know if that's been done, and if the Town Committees have come up with any candidates? And if that hasn't happened is there anything the Commission can do to approach Unaffiliated voters; it can be filled by any party. Mr. Lyke suggested this appointment shouldn't be a political situation or a personality situation. It troubles him if the ZOOM meeting wasn't recorded, and there were some disruptions and distractions. Mr. Lyke felt the Chief Executive Officer and the Board of Selectman should want to know what's going on at their Boards and Commissions. And at least the votes that didn't go anywhere were recorded in regard to the election a Chairman, a Vice Chair, and a Secretary will be in the Minutes of the meeting. Mr. Lyke requested the Board get this going in a pro-active manner; he'll do what he can to help.

**Gil Hayes, 143 Rye Street, Broad Brook, CT. – proud to be here.** Mr. Hayes noted that February 1<sup>st</sup> started Black History Month for anyone who didn't know that, he suggested he's just reminding everyone. Mr. Hayes indicated he spoke with Carol Sauerhoefer at the High School today about the curriculum as far as Black History goes. He advised her that a good read would be Harriet Tubman, he suggested Ms. Tubman because they're getting ready to put her face on the \$20 bill and take Andrew Jackson off. Mr. Hayes also noted Ms. Tubman was a little bit in our neighborhood. She ran the Underground Railroad, which were houses and houses and houses that helped the Abolitionists. Mr. Hayes noted that Windsor has the Freedom Trail, which they celebrate from time to time. It's all about the migration of slaves out of the south up to the north. So, that's some history that's close to us. Mr. Hayes indicated he didn't know what the curriculum in the schools was. Mr. Hayes noted when he was in school they learned about the peanut guy – Booker T. Washington or George Washington Carver, and that was about it. Mr. Hayes noted the peanut guy was a botanist, and he did a lot of work about what we could do with peanuts; it's something that should be in the curriculum in our High School. Mr. Hayes indicated he calls him the peanut guy because he was all about processing the peanuts. Mr. Hayes suggested someone Google him. Selectman Baker, reading Google's response, indicated he promoted alternate crops to cotton to prevent soil depletion; he was an agricultural scientist. Mr. Hayes thanked Selectman Baker for his assistance.

Mr. Hayes also thanked the Board for listening tonight.



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**Tom Lansner, 27 Laurel Circle:** Mr. Lansner wanted to thank Selectman Baker for actually going over to the animal control facility and taking the temperature, and trying to correct some of the misinformation that's out there on Facebook. Mr. Lansner appreciated how quickly Selectman Baker addressed that situation.

First Selectman Bowsza indicated if you read the next paragraph in the minutes that are cited in that Facebook post it dispels all of the claims made in the Facebook post, so it's a case of selective editing, which is disheartening.

First Selectman Bowsza indicated he wanted to follow up on a comment made by Mr. Lyke. He indicated there have been no less than three staff-level discussions that have happened here pertaining to that Economic Development Commission meeting that happened last month. First Selectman Bowsza indicated that he and staff are concerned about what happened, and we are looking into how to address, or rectify that.

**12. EXECUTIVE SESSION/Pursuant to C.G.S. Sec. 1-200 (6)(e) discussion of any matter which would result in the disclosure of public records or the information contained therein described in subsection (b) of section 1/210 – Action is possible:**

**MOTION:** To GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION Pursuant to C.G.S. Sec. 1-200 (6)(e) discussion of any matter which would result in the disclosure of public records or the information contained therein described in subsection (b) of section 1/210 AT 7:57 p.m. Attending the Executive Session were First Selectman Bowsza, Deputy First Selectman DeSousa, Selectman Baker, Selectman Muska, and Selectman Nordell.

**DeSousa moved/Nordell seconded/DISCUSSION:** None.

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

LET THE RECORD SHOW the Recording Secretary signed out of the meeting at 7:57 p.m.

First Selectman Bowsza reported the Board came out of Executive Session at 8:52 p.m. He asked if there was any additional business to come before the Board, and called on Deputy First Selectman DeSousa for a motion to take up Agenda item 9C.

**MOTION:** To TAKE UP Agenda item 9C.

**Baker moved/Muska seconded/DISCUSSION:** None.

**VOTE by rollcall:** In Favor: Nordell/Muska/DeSousa/Baker  
(No one opposed/No Abstentions)



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**MOTION:** To ACCEPT the changes to the Land Lease Agreement involving the Town of East Windsor and Reichle Farms, LLC as presented.

**DeSousa moved/Nordell seconded/DISCUSSION:** None.

**VOTE by rollcall: In Favor: Nordell/Muska/DeSousa/Baker  
(No one opposed/No Abstentions)**

First Selectman Bowsza called for additional business.

**13. ADJOURNMENT:**

**MOTION:** To ADJOURN this Meeting at 8:53 p.m.

**Nordell moved/Muska seconded/DISCUSSION:** None

**VOTE: In Favor: Unanimous**

First Selectman Bowsza adjourned the meeting at 8:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

---

Peg Hoffman, Recording Secretary, East Windsor Board of Selectmen

**ATTACHMENTS:**

A - "Declaration of Public Safety Emergency and Civil Preparedness Emergency"

B - Selectman's Report – First Selectman Bowsza

C - Selectman's Report - Selectman Muska

(Deputy First Selectman DeSousa, Selectman Nordell, and Selectman Baker's Selectmen's Reports are included in the Meeting transcription)

*BN 2/4/2021 Attachment A*

**TOWN OF EAST WINDSOR**

FIRST SELECTMAN JASON E. BOWSZA

January 26, 2021

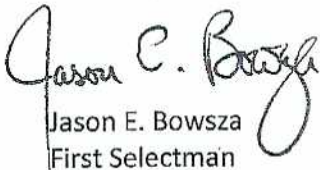
Amy Lam, Town Clerk  
Town of East Windsor, CT  
11 Rye Street  
Broad Brook, CT 06016

RE: Declaration of Public Safety Emergency and Civil Preparedness Emergency

Dear Ms. Lam,

In response to the global pandemic of COVID-19 disease associated with the novel coronavirus currently affecting multiple countries and states, resulting in the spread of infections in Connecticut and surrounding states, Governor Lamont has extended Connecticut's Public Health and Civil Preparedness emergency through April 20, 2021. Accordingly, I hereby declare a public health and civil preparedness emergency throughout the Town of East Windsor, pursuant to Section 4-6A of the East Windsor Town Charter and Connecticut General Statutes Section 28-9. This public health and civil preparedness emergency shall remain in effect through April 20, 2021, unless rescinded prior to that date.

Sincerely,

  
Jason E. Bowsza  
First Selectman

CC: East Windsor Board of Selectmen  
East Windsor Board of Finance  
Police Chief and Emergency Management Director Edward J. DeMarco, Jr.  
Fire Chief Tom Arcari  
Fire Chief James P. Barton  
Deputy Police Chief Roger Hart  
Public Works Director Leonard Norton  
EMS Chief Thomas Clynch, III



*BOW 2/4/2021 Attachment B*

First Selectmen's Report – December 4, 2020

Over the last few weeks I've had several conversations concerning economic development opportunities here in town that are in their early stages of discussion, but I'm not optimistic that they will come to fruition. We've also had discussions with the Department of Housing regarding next steps in resolving the South Road ownership issue, and the Department of Transportation about bridge replacement plans for the Stiles Bridge on Scantic Road. As we know, the Stiles Bridge is now weight-limited, which prevents certain emergency vehicles from using the bridge, which adds considerable time to emergency responses. Senator Anwar, Representative Foster, and I have a meeting scheduled next week with Commissioner Giulietti at the Department of Transportation to press the case for an accelerated replacement schedule.

I spent a considerable amount of time over the past few weeks putting my budget submission together. Some of the initial highlights of that show an initial recommendation of a 3.89 funding increase, but once funding for the Broad Brook Fire Department is removed, as we all committed to do, that increase will be an overall increase of .57 percent over last year's spending. Priorities that I'm recommending to the Board of Selectmen include funding a mental health social worker police officer position, additional funding for economic development and grant implementation consultation, additional building inspection support, and more funding for our libraries and cemetery association. In addition to that, this year's Grand List is expected to increase by more than 3.4 percent, and puts our total Grand List valuation at over a billion dollars.

On January 25<sup>th</sup>, the Broad Brook Fire Commission continued work on their budget submission. This is the inaugural year of this new process and they are working diligently to get a good foundation in place for the future of the department. Under the establishing Ordinance, the Commission will need to submit their budget to the Board of Selectmen, and the Board of Finance, each of whom may make revisions to it before it goes to referendum in May.

During the snowstorm this past Monday a family in our community lost their home due to a chimney fire. In the middle of the storm five departments responded to quickly put the fire out without anyone being seriously hurt. A very special thanks to the Warehouse Point Fire Department, the Broad Brook Fire Department, the Windsor Locks Fire Department, and one of Enfield's Fire Departments for their great work, and to the Ellington Fire Department for covering the town while all those other fire departments responded to the fire.

Today, East Windsor co-sponsored our first COVID-19 vaccine clinic with the North Central Health District Health Department. More than 100 Seniors received their vaccine, most of whom were town residents. As the supply of vaccine increases we will work to host these clinics more regularly in the community.

Respectfully submitted,

Jason E. Bowsza  
First Selectman

*BOE - 2/4/2021 - Attachment C*

Selectmen's Report - February 4th, 2021

The Board of Education met via Zoom on January 27th, 2021. Outstanding Students for the Second Quarter: Aric Duncan (EWHS), Jainil Bhatt (EWMS) and Emily Kolodziej (BBS) were recognized by staff, peers and members of the Board. David Mosher of Horace Mann Insurance and principals from each school honored Wendy Gage (EWHS), Melanie Willard (EWMS) and Tammy Lucey (EWMS) as the Second Quarter's Crystal Apple Award recipients.

Broad Brook Elementary School students participated in the Great Kindness Challenge, the Girl's and Boy's Basketball season is underway at the Middle School and Student Council elections have taken place.

Superintendent Dr. Christine DeBarge reported that Food Service Director Gregory Powers informed her that there is an increase in participation in the School Lunch Program and each school is at a rate of about 75% of students partaking for lunch. Efforts continue to focus on increasing participation for breakfast and water bottle filling stations, which were funded from a COVID-19 grant that the School District received, are currently being installed in the buildings.

At the time of this BOE meeting, the School District is back to having students in the classroom four days a week. There is also some frustration that the time frame for COVID-19 vaccinations for our teachers and staff has been pushed back by four to six weeks, bringing us to late February or early March. Teachers were originally to be a part of Phase 1B with an anticipated time of the end of January, but it has been moved back due to the need to vaccinate Connecticut residents that are 75 years of age and older.

The Warehouse Point Fire Commissioners did not meet on Monday, February 1st, 2021 due to the snowstorm. Their meeting has been postponed to Monday, February 8th, 2021 at 7:00PM.

East Windsor Parks and Recreation is offering free Valentine's Day Kits for children. Each kit includes a small stuffed animal, stickers, tattoos, candy and a craft. To reserve your kit, visit [www.EastWindsorRec.com](http://www.EastWindsorRec.com). Kits will be available for pick up beginning February 8th, 2021 at the Parks and Recreation Office, 25 School St., East Windsor.

Submitted With Sincerity,

Sarah A. Muska, Selectman