

**TOWN OF EAST WINDSOR
BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

REGULAR MEETING

January 20, 2022

7:00 p.m.

***DUE TO THE INCREASE IN
COVID ACTIVITY THIS MEETING
IS BEING HELD REMOTELY ONLY***
via ZOOM Teleconference

Meeting ID: 332 683 3563

Passcode: townhall

MEETING MINUTES

********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
Charles Nordell, Selectman

ATTENDANCE: First Selectman Bowsza hosted the remote meeting. Deputy First Selectman DeSousa, Selectman Baker, Selectman Muska, and Selectman Nordell were present remotely.

ABSENT: All Selectmen participated in this remote meeting.

GUESTS/SPEAKERS in-person: None; remote access only.

GUESTS signing in to meeting remotely (Please note: Guests have been listed as they have chosen to identify themselves): First Selectman Jason Bowsza, Deputy First Selectman DeSousa, Selectman Baker, Selectman Muska, Selectman Nordell, Senator Anwar, Representative Jaime Foster, Paul Anderson, Amy Bancroft (7:22 p.m.), Jerry's I-pad (Gerald Bancroft) (7:17 p.m.), Jim Bancroft (7:21 p.m.), Brian (no additional identification), CONSTANCE'S I-pad (Constance Bancroft), Linda Delage (7:17 p.m.), Galaxy Tab A (no additional identification, 7:15 p.m.), James Barton (7:17 p.m.). Joe (no additional identification), Vinny Lamay (7:20 p.m.), Tom and Ruth Anne Lansner (7:05 p.m.), Bill Loos (7:05 p.m.), Nick Macsata (7:20 p.m.), Kathleen Macsata (7:20 p.m.), Louis Myers (7:05 p.m.), Noreen (7:15 p.m.), Caren Paradise (7:20 p.m.), R. J. Paradise I-phone (7:20 p.m.), J. Piorek (7:20 p.m.), Meghan Piorek (7:20 p.m.) resident (no

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additional identification, 7:20 p.m.), Chris Rousse (7:20 p.m.), Heather Spencer (7:20 p.m.), Leo Szymanski, Jr. (7:04 p.m.), tarcari (no additional identification, 7:05 p.m.), Tom Talamini (Galaxy Tab S2), (7:05 p.m.), Ray Tapazzio (7:20 p.n.), Fredrick Taylor, Bill Towers (7:05 p.m.), Peg Hoffman, Recording Secretary.

1. TIME AND PLACE OF MEETING:

First Selectman Bowsza called the Regular Meeting of the East Windsor Board of Selectmen dated January 20, 2022 to Order at 7:01 p.m. via remote access.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

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

3. ATTENDANCE:

See Attendance noted at the beginning of the meeting.

First Selectman Bowsza requested the addition of Item 9D, **Historic Documents Preservation Grant Application – FY 2022, Cycle 2**, under **NEW BUSINESS**.

MOTION: To ADD under NEW BUSINESS, item 9D, Historic Documents Preservation Grant Application – FY 2022, Cycle 2.

Baker moved/DeSousa seconded/DISCUSSION: None

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

4. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:

A. December 16, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes:

First Selectman Bowsza called for edits or revisions to the Minutes of Regular Board of Selectmen Meeting dated December 16, 2021. No one requested any changes; First Selectman Bowsza called for a motion of approval.

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MOTION: To APPROVE the Regular Meeting Minutes of the Board of Selectmen dated Decembr 16, 2021 as presented.

Muska moved/Nordell seconded/DISCUSSION: None.

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

B. January 6, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes:

First Selectman Bowsza noted the next Minutes to be considered for approval are the Minutes of the Board of Selectmen’s Regular Meeting of January 6, 2022. He called for edits or revisions; no one requested any changes. First Selectman Bowsza called for a motion for approval.

MOTION: To ACCEPT the Meeting Minutes of January 6, 2022 as presented.

DeSousa moved/Muska seconded/DISCUSSION: None

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

C. January 13, 2022 Special Meeting Minutes:

First Selectman Bowsza noted the last set of Minutes to be considered for approval are the Special Meeting Minutes of the Board of Selectmen dated January 13, 2022. He called for edits or revisions; hearing no request for changes he called for a motion to approve.

MOTION: To APPROVE the Special Meeting Minutes of the Board of Selectmen dated January 13, 2022 as presented.

Muska moved/DeSousa seconded/DISCUSSION: None

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

5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

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First Selectman Bowsza noted the first opportunity for anyone signed in remotely to offer comments or questions. No one requested to speak. He noted a second opportunity would be available later in the meeting.

6. **COMMUNICATIONS:** None.

7. **BOARD AND COMMISSIONS RESIGNATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS:**

A. **Resignation:**

1. Elizabeth LeBorious, Housing Authority

First Selectman Bowsza noted the Mrs. LeBorious has been appointed to the Board of Education; she needs to resign from the Housing Authority.

MOTION: To ACCEPT the resignation of Betsy LeBorious from the Housing Authority, with regret, and to wish her the best of luck with her new endeavor.

DeSousa moved/Nordell seconded/DISCUSSION: Selectman Muska thanked Mrs. LeBorious for her service in this capacity. She questioned the procedure for Board of Education resignations; she noted the Board has received them in the past but she didn't recall Bill Raber coming before the Board of Selectmen with his resignation from the Board of Education. She questioned if that was a formality, or a requirement.

First Selectman Bowsza indicated Board of Education falls under a different protocol than other boards. Members resign to the State Board of Education rather than to the municipality, which is why Mr. Raber's resignation didn't come to the Board of Selectmen. In the past members offered their resignations as a matter of practice, but it's not a requirement. Deputy First Selectman DeSousa recalled that Bill Raber submitted his resignation to the Board of Education.

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

B. **Reappointments:** None

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C. New Appointments: None.

First Selectman Bowsza noted there have been two resignations of long-serving Commission members that he would like to acknowledg when the Boards can meet again in person. Those Commissioners are Joe Ouelette, who served on the Planning and Zoning Commission, and Bill Raber, who served on the Board of Education, He noted both individuals served for multiple decades.

8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

A. South Road Ownership Option Update:

First Selectman Bowsza reported that one of the unresolved items regarding South Road was the sewer line. Before the WPCA (Water Pollution Control Authority) would take over ownersip of the sewer work was to be completed by an independent contractor, Green Mountain. That work was to have been completed the week of November 1st but has not been completed as scheduled. First Selectman Bowsza has assurances from the contractor that the work will occur next week, January 24th and will be completed by the end of that week.

First Selectman Bowsa also noted the Subdivision was reviewed and approved by the Planning and Zoning Commission; that approval is in a Notice of Appeal period, which should expire around February 1st, and the Subdivision, as amended, will be filed with the Town Clerk. Variance Certificates for each resident will be filed and the Board of Selectmen will then need to recommend an 8-24 Referral to the Planning and Zoning Commission because South Road is a transfer of Town property. The recommendation for transfer will then be sent to Town Meeting.

First Selectman Bowsza indicated he wanted to have another meeting with the residents to explain where things stand and what the implications for them will be regarding increased equity, certain encumbrances they'll have, and to answer questions they may have. First Selectman Bowsza suggested this may become more complicated if not all of the residents want to take ownership of the underlying land. He indicated he wanted the homeowners to be aware of what this means to them going forward. He suggested the Town is still several weeks away from conveying these properties to the homeowners.

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***B. Polling location Change:**

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

***C. Broad Brook Fire Memorandum of Understanding:**

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

Noting that the time is approaching for the Town Meeting, First Selectman Bowsza indicated he didn't want to interrupt the discussion with Senator Anwar and Representative Foster. He requested a motion to postpone Item 9B, **Discussion of 2022 Legislative Session to Include Senator Anwar, Representative Jaime Foster, and Representative Carol Hall (invited), under NEW BUSINESS.**

MOTION: To POSTPONE Item 9B, Discussion of 2022 Legislative Session to Include Senator Anwar, Representative Jaime Foster, and Representative Carol Hall (invited), under NEW BUSINESS.

Nordell moved/Baker seconded/DISCUSSION: None

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

9. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Discussion of Stiles Bridge Detour Confirmation Letter:

First Selectman Bowsza reported Stiles Bridge was deemed unsafe in 2010. He noted Senator Anwar and Representative Foster have been working with the Broad Brook Fire Department and the Warehouse Point Fire Department, and himself to encourage DOT to take action on the deterioration of Stiles Bridge. The bridge had been deemed impassible for emergency vehicles for a number of years and deemed unsafe as early as 2010. DOT agreed to install a patch last year which allowed use by emergency vehicles and police; replacement of the bridge will commence in 2023. DOT has proposed closing off access to the bridge at the end of Mahoney Road at the intersection with Scantic Road, and close access to Old Ellington Road at the intersection with Mill Street. Residents on Mahoney Road and Old Ellington Road will still have access to their

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homes. DOT has proposed 11 miles of detours on State roads to complete the work.

Deputy First Selectman DeSousa questioned that the detours will deter truck traffic, which is currently encouraged not to use that bridge. First Selectman Bowsza suggested truck traffic shouldn't be using the bridge currently; they should already be detouring. DOT will be on-site to manage that traffic. He noted the routes outlined by DOT are roads which are appropriate for heavy truck traffic.

Selectman Nordell suggested that where access is being proposed to be closed at Scantic Road and Mill Street could prevent emergency vehicles getting to some scenes quicker. He felt coming down Scantic Road to get to the end of Mahoney Road might be a quicker route based on certain times of the day when personnel are in certain firehouses. If they closed Scantic Road at Sabonis Landing it prevents them from getting to the group home from Scantic. He felt Emergency Services staff should be consulted. First Selectman Bowsza felt the DOT planned to use the Water Company property to stage their equipment and materials, which may be why they're dead-ending the access at that point. He noted Emergency Services Staff had already been consulted. Selectman Baker noted the work that needs to be done is at the location of Mahoney Road. First Selectman Bowsza noted he understands that there is a pump house that will also need to be moved.

Paul Anderson (Chairman, Water Pollution Control Authority Commission), indicated that they want the WPCA to move a sewer line and put in a new pump station. The WPCA had an engineering firm do a proposal which was sent to DOT, the cost came in at over \$6 million; he questioned if that would happen. Mr. Anderson suggested the current pump house is under the bridge and they want that taken away from that area. First Selectman Bowsza indicated Mr. Enderle, of the WPCA, is aware of the issue.

B. Discussion of 2022 Legislative Session to Include Senator Anwar, Representative Jaime Foster, and Representative Carol Hall (invited):

See discussion after close of Town Meeting.

C. Tax Refunds:

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Chairman Bowsza called for a motion to approve the Tax Refunds proposed for this evening.

MOTION: To APPROVE Tax Refunds in the amount of \$424.27

Muska moved/DeSousa seconded/DISCUSSION: None.

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

D. Historic Documents Preservation Grant Application – FY 2022, Cycle 2:

First Selectman Bowsza reported that Town Clerk Lam is applying for a Historic Documents Preservation Grant in the amount of \$5,500 which is the second cycle of the Grant. The Grant would allow her to make Public Records more accessible to the public. First Selectman Bowsza briefly reviewed the terms of the Grant, he noted Town Clerk Lam has indicated this is the second round of the Grant availability. First Selectman Bowsza noted the Town has used this vendor in the past; Town Clerk Lam doesn't feel she'll have a problem completing the Grant requirements. First Selectman Bowsza also noted no matching funds are required of the Town.

Deputy First Selectman DeSousa noted that June, 2022 is the last time the money can be spent, or it must be returned. First Selectman Bowsza indicated Town Clerk Lam has said the money will be spent by that time.

MOTION: To AUTHORIZE the First Selectman to sign the Historic Preservation Grant Application – FY 2022, Cycle 2.

Baker moved/Muska seconded/DISCUSSION: None

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

First Selectman Bowsza noted the Board of Selectmen's Meeting should be Recessed and the Town Meeting Convened; he called for a motion to initiate such action.

MOTION: To RECESS the Board of Selectmen's Meeting at 7:25 p.m.

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DeSousa moved/Nordell seconded/DISCUSSION: None.
VOTE: In Favor: DeSousa/Baker/Muska/Nordell
(No one opposed/No abstentions)

First Selectman CONVENED the Town Meeting at 7:31 p.m.

(See Minutes of Town Meeting posted as separate document.)

The Town Meeting ADJOURNED at 7:49 p.m. First Selectman Bowsza requested a motion to RECONVENE the Board of Selectmen's Meeting.

MOTION: To RECONVENE the Board of Selectmen's Meeting at 7:49 p.m.

DeSousa moved/Nordell seconded/DISCUSSION: None.
VOTE: In Favor: DeSousa/Baker/Muska/Nordell
(No one opposed/No abstentions)

First Selectman Bowsza requested a motion to open discussion on NEW BUSINESS, Item 9 B, **Discussion of 2022 Legislative Session to Include Senator Anwar, Representative Jaime Foster, and Representative Carol Hall (invited) .**

MOTION: To DISCUSS Item 9B, Discussion of 2022 Legislative Session to include Senator Anwar, Representative Jaime Foster, and Representative Carol Hall (invited) under NEW BUSINESS.

DeSousa moved/Nordell seconded/DISCUSSION: None.
VOTE: In Favor: DeSousa/Baker/Muska/Nordell
(No one opposed/No abstentions)

First Selectman Bowsza welcomed Senator Anwar to the Board's Meeting, Representative Foster joined the meeting shortly after Senator Anwar. First Selectman Bowsza noted Representative Hall will be unable to attend this discussion due to a family obligation.

First Selectman Bowsza reported the start of the 2022 Legislative session will be virtual again. He invited Senator Anwar to share a preview of his Legislative priorities.

Senator Anwar thanked everyone for everything they do for East Windsor. He noted

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there will be a short Legislative session beginning February 8th which will run through May. He reported the proposed bills can't be pursued; they must go through a committee-based process, and the bills must have some financial component associated with them. Senator Anwar reported the State is in a good financial status, and should be able to face some of the long-term financial obligations.

Senator Anwar indicated he will be the Chair of the Children's Committee.

Senator Anwar suggested the remote access will give more people the ability to participate in the sessions from their homes. The members of the Legislature will be present in the building for votes.

Regarding the Children's Committee, Senator Anwar offered the Board the following comments:

- Omicron is not as nasty as delta, which was more severe with the risk of death associated with it. He suggested the aftereffects of the pandemic is on everyone's minds – the children, the financial status of the businesses. The children haven't been able to interact as they should, they've experienced the loss of loved ones, and they've seen job losses in their families; all of this is increasing anxiety in children. Senator Anwar noted the Public Hearings held on CTN regarding the effect on children. He will be speaking at Yale tomorrow on the effect on the health of children. He indicated this is an important bill, children are everyone's priority.
- Senator Anwar noted that last week a child died from fentanyl in a Hartford school, he feels we need to stop the supply of the drugs and identify prevention strategies to address this crisis. Senator Anwar reported he is Vice Chair of the Insurance Committee, he felt the insurance industry isn't assisting with outpatient costs for children and adults. Senator Anwar suggested we need to have Narcan available for school staff, and they need to know how to administer it. It should be easily available for school staff, and it should be available for people without questions from the insurance companies.
- Also, school systems should be able to monitor the implementation of their snow days in cases of inclement weather.
- Sexual predators are on the internet/social media and can easily interact with children.
- Children can order vapes themselves online for delivery; we should tighten that law to prevent purchasing them in stores and home delivery.

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Regarding Public Health bills, Senator Anwar offered these comments:

- **Assisted Living facilities and nursing homes** are not regulated well, people are not assisted with basic needs such as eating.
- The **workforce healthcare** is at a critical state, we need to look at the emotional toll and the impact of job losses on these workers. The workers are not being recognized and are not getting enough pay; they are retiring and moving on to better-paying jobs. Training programs are needed for rural healthcare professionals.

Representative Foster joined the discussion. She indicated she's grateful for the opportunity to be here tonight; she noted she's spoken with many residents about their concerns.

Representative Foster indicated the following bills of importance to her are:

- There is a **mental health crisis associated with children** in the 57th District. Our education based mental health assessments are different in the schools in Ellington and East Windsor; East Windsor favors social workers and Ellington favors school psychologists; we need to promote solutions that will work well for both communities.
- **Mental health in the workforce** – what additional help do they need for support? We may be looking at a community healthcare model related to the mental healthcare crises, which is partly fundable by the Federal Government.
- **Crumbling foundations**, which continue to be a pressing issue in the community.
- **Well-water contamination** from EDBs and nitrates and road water run off as it affects public and private wells.
- **Solar incentives** for rooftop solar panels to promote green energy and to prevent the loss of farmland for both East Windsor and Ellington.
- The **Connecticut Food as Medicine State Plan**, which promotes the accessibility of healthy fresh food. It's good for farmers, and people who don't have reliable access to fresh food.
- **Public Safety and Juvenile Justice Bill** – ongoing discussion occurring across the aisles of the Legislature.

First Selectman Bowsza thanked Representative Foster and Senator Anwar for sharing their goals with the Board.

He noted he has several topics of importance to him that he would like to share.

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- **Tax abatements (Bill 697)** – First Selectman Bowsza noted it's not as easy for East Windsor to offer tax abatements as it is for other communities; that limits East Windsor's ability to be competitive regarding economic development. That's a Statutory fix we need assistance with. Representative Foster suggested Representative Hall will be supportive as well. First Selectman Bowsza noted all three of you work well together which is helpful to East Windsor. Senator Anwar noted the Chairs of the Planning and Development Committee already have prepared a letter supporting Bill 697.
- **The casino** – First Selectman Bowsza noted East Windsor didn't do well regarding the sports betting bill. He appreciates what various legislators have done to try to make East Windsor whole in that. He noted he has had discussions with key people from one of the tribes and has been advised they can't get rid of the property for 6 years because of the challenge of litigation from MGM challenging the sports betting law. First Selectman Bowsza noted the Town's original ask was \$3 million because of the loss of revenue; he questioned if that could be revisited at \$1 million per year for 6 years, or until the property is sold; it would help East Windsor get back some lost revenue. Senator Anwar reported he has spoken to the Chair of the Appropriations Committee on this issue.
- **Solnit North** – First Selectman Bowsza noted Solnit North in the Warehouse Point section is ideally located to be a municipal building. When he questions the State's intentions, he's told they're still using it. First Selectman Bowsza cited he recently saw a news article indicating Solnit North has resource difficulties regarding staffing; this might be a good time to revisit the continued use of the facility.

Representative Foster noted she also saw the article. She questioned if the local Police Department spends a significant amount of time responding to calls at the facility? First Selectman Bowsza felt responding to Solnit North was probably in the top 5 of their activities. Senator Anwar suggested with the current crises and the lack of space for children this isn't the time to have that conversation. He suggested we need to have discussions on better locations in the State to provide better care, and if those options exist then we could look at Solnit North again.

First Selectman Bowsza continued his comments.

- **Land swap** – First Selectman Bowsza referenced an irregularly "k"-shaped parcel owned by the developer of the Hartfield property. The parcel is nearly totally wetlands. He noted the rectangular parcel next to the "k-shaped" property is nearly the same size, it's on the Solnit North property and they apparently aren't doing anything with that land. First Selectman Bowsza noted the private developer has expressed an interest in further developing the Hartfield parcel; he

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questioned if the “k”-shaped parcel could be swapped with the parcel containing the wetlands? Representative Foster requested a copy of the map referenced by First Selectman Bowsza.

- **Special Education Funding** – First Selectman Bowsza cited the impact to the school district when students with severe special needs enter, or leave, the school system mid-budget season. He questioned if there was a way to lock in the cost of the special education student?

Senator Anwar suggested the problem works both ways for the students and the towns. The infrastructure for the child is impacted by the taking the money away. Senator Anwar suggested if every town would contribute a small amount of funding to the captive insurance companies then every town would have an opportunity to draw on those changes. Senator Anwar reiterated this is a chronic problem for every town in the State.

Representative Foster suggested the volatility in special education funding is a pressing concern in both East Windsor and Ellington; this issue illustrates the difference in the school systems and the need to develop policies that will work well for both towns. She reported she received a call from a school financial officer in Hartford who has some interesting concepts on stabilizing special education funding. First Selectman Bowsza noted Dr Tudryn, of East Windsor, had provided information to him, which he’ll share with Senator Anwar and Representative Foster.

- **State ARPA Funding** - First Selectman Bowsza suggested when State projects are being awarded for regional economic development they should include a multi-town component, a project would get a higher ranking if it had a multi-town benefit. East Windsor isn’t often awarded those types of projects.

Senator Anwar reported everyone wants to have some way of controlling that funding; he feels they hope to have a part in those discussions but there are specific requirements and expectations based on the Federal Law. He noted East Windsor’s E.R.A.S.E. funding management was a good example of providing well for your local businesses, he suggested it’s a model for the State. First Selectman Bowsza noted he has received calls from numerous towns in the State regarding that funding process; he’s very proud of the results for local businesses.

- **Solar** - First Selectman Bowsza reported East Windsor will be providing 25% of the State’s sited renewable energy generation when Gravel Pit Solar comes online. He reported that Anne Gobin, Chairman of the Planning and Zoning Commission, has proposed initiating a cap on the total amount of farmland

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consumed by solar power, or the megawattage sited that can be used for solar generation in any given municipality. He noted the competing goals of farmland preservation and solar. First Selectman Bowsza suggested the burden of meeting the Statewide goal for solar power shouldn't fall on just a small percentage of towns who have a large percentage of flat land. He noted the effect on East Windsor of previous bills before the Legislature which would have been calamitous for the town. First Selectman Bowsza suggested Chairman Gobin's suggestion was meritorious to include in his comments.

- **Bonding** - First Selectman Bowsza noted several projects in East Winsor could benefit from bonding assistance from the State.
 - He noted the radio system for East Windsor's Emergency Services is in need of replacement at an estimated cost of \$3 - \$4 million; it's already beyond its useful life.
 - The high school roof is in need of replacement and the Town has been funding \$50,000 per year to fix patches and blistering on a roof that will eventually need to be replaced,
 - The Town has no ability to "grow" the current Senior Center, while the demands of the population are growing the Town doesn't have the geographic footprint to expand the current facility in its current location.

Senator Anwar offered the following comments:

- **Solar** – he feels the days of virtual net metering are done regarding the future allocation of funds.
- **Bonding** – will be a fight with every town in the State; we need to set bonding priorities. Senator Anwar suggested those considerations are under the Governor's control and we need to get him to see our needs.

Representative Foster indicated she was curious to know if the Town had pursued public safety grant opportunities? First Selectman Bowsza reported they had looked into the Homeland Security Grant for the radio system but the amount wouldn't have covered the system needs. He indicated the departments are looking into multiple opportunities.

First Selectman Bowsza opened discussion to the other Selectmen.

Selectman Baker thanked both Senator Anwar and Representative Foster for attending the meeting tonight as both parties are so busy; he thanked them for what they do for East Windsor.

Selectman Baker offered his comments:

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- **Solar** – and how it affects East Windsor. Selectman Baker noted some towns are considering solar panels on municipal carports, and other ways of delivering solar power. Selectman Baker felt roof-top units are not the way for everyone to go, he felt ground-mounted arrays are more efficient. Selectman Baker would like to see some incentives offered to residential users.
- **Well water contamination** – Selectman Baker noted East Windsor has one of the highest rates of contamination in the State; it's not just EDBs. The State had previously been providing reverse osmosis systems to affected residents, but it got expensive, so they raised the acceptable limits to qualify, and have since cut out the program.

Representative Foster questioned how to quantify the statement that East Windsor has the highest contamination rate? She suggested Tolland and Ellington also feel they have a long-standing issue and hold the highest ranking of contamination in the State as well. She reported she's promoting a bill to include a permissive language requirement for municipalities to annually remind residents to test their private well water. She feels we need to form a multi-pronged assault to address the problem. She's also found that reverse osmosis system isn't as good a solution as we may think because of the way they work and the back-wash out of the system. If the problem is in the groundwater then the back wash can be contaminating downstream.

Senator Anwar suggested one of the problems with dealing with this issue is there is one person at the State working on well-water contamination. People are leaving/retiring at the State in record numbers; staffing at the State is currently at the 1950 level. Senator Anwar also suggested towns need to have a strategy for public water expansion, and dealing with their water needs.

- **Warehouse Point/Transit Oriented Development** - Selectman Baker noted that the Warehouse Point area is the economic engine of East Windsor. He noted the Transit Oriented Development going on in Windsor Locks, and the recent Route 5 Study provided a lot of data about what's going on in Windsor Locks. He cited money available for streetscapes and pedestrian improvements associated with the Transit Oriented Development. Those projects would be good for both the businesses and the residents. First Selectman Bowsza noted the Route 5 Study provided some valuable shovel-ready projects to consider but they come with large price tags. Selectman Baker concurred, but noted the Route 5 Study also broke projects out into a menu of what might be affordable for the town, while the Warehouse Point Study also considered how to deal with water/drainage in the area to make the land more developable. Selectman Baker suggested projects for

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the streetscapes would connect East Windsor to the Transit Oriented Development in Windsor Locks.

Representative Foster questioned if the Town has considered the ?????????? to School Grant? Neither First Selectman Bowsza nor Selectman Baker were familiar with the grant mentioned. Selectman Baker cited one of the projects proposed under the Route 5 Study is the redesign of the intersection of Route 5 at the high school, the grant mentioned by Representative Foster may apply.

Deputy First Selectman DeSousa offered the following comments:

- **Radio system** – Deputy First Selectman DeSousa noted the useful life of the current radio system was considered finished in 2013; they are currently having problems finding replacement parts if needed. She noted the Town hasn't the money to replace the radio system, which it would have had if the casino had come to fruition, so maybe this is the time to reach out to the Governor to explain our needs and instead of buying into the \$1 million for 6 years they could help with the replacement of the radio system.
- **Redistricting** - Deputy First Selectman DeSousa indicted she had a problem with redistricting. She noted she has no problem being aligned with Ellington but she has problems introducing Enfield into the mix; she felt that will hurt East Windsor long-term. She noted her comments don't represent an unwillingness to work with Representative Hall, she just didn't feel including Enfield in the redistricting was a good idea.

Representative Foster complimented Senator Anwar, and Representative Hall for the way they work together as a delegation, but she felt it will be 10 years before redistricting happens, and the amount of influence the local delegates have on the process isn't tremendous. Representative Foster felt the reduction of the prisons changed the redistricting. Deputy First Selectman DeSousa noted the Enfield Correctional facility has been empty for 2 years. She suggested maybe Solnit North could relocate there and free up the facility in Warehouse Point.

- **Governor's Executive Powers** - Deputy First Selectman DeSousa indicated the Governor wants towns to make their own policies/decisions regarding the pandemic. She would like to see the Governor come out with a policy that doesn't pit one town against another; she'd like to see him make those decisions as the Governor.

Selectman Muska thanked Senator Anwar and Representative Foster and Representative Hall for what they do for East Windsor. Selectman Muska noted many of the issues she

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had on her list have already been discussed, but the following issues are of importance to her:

- **The Juvenile Justice Bill** – Selectman Muska noted she liked the bill being promoted by Representative Foster. An arrest is pointless without consequences.
- **Domestic Violence** – Selectman Muska noted the Legislature promoted a lot of bills regarding domestic violence; she noted “Jennifer’s Law”, and favors anything that can provide resources to victims, and help with restraining orders, and protection of the victim.
- **Governor’s Executive powers** - Selectman Muska would like to see them oppose the extension of the Governor’s Executive powers. She feels it’s time the Legislature has a voice again.
- **Special Education Funding** – Selectman Muska indicated that’s something she’s been in favor of for years. She thanked Senator Anwar for explaining the disadvantages as well.

Representative Foster thanked Selectman Muska for her advocacy regarding domestic violence.

Regarding the policy about juvenile justice, Representative Foster suggested dialogue continues between the Court system and the police departments and law enforcement on this issue. Representative Foster suggested East Windsor is a shining star in the way that we are handling community policing. She felt the social worker model is working and deserves emulation.

Senator Anwar reported he’s also honored to be co-sponsoring the Domestic Violence Bill, which is the best in the country; the rest of the country is looking at our Domestic Violence Bill and emulate something similar. He suggested we need to develop a multi-pronged approach to the juvenile thefts; people are buying the catalytic converters, that should be illegal as well.

First Selectman Bowsza queried Selectman Nordell for comments.

Selectman Nordell suggested both Senator Anwar and Representative Foster have been great advocates for East Windsor. He thanked them for their work on behalf of the community.

- **Crime** – Selectman Nordell indicated he agrees with Selectman Muska. East Windsor has a great approach to mental health but he feels the impact of that work is detrimental to getting new Police Officers to implement the mental health program, with Police Officer going out as a Social Worker. We need to entice

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- people to become Police Officers; he feels people are being turned off today by what's happening in the Judicial System.
- **Solnit North** – Selectman Nordell reported things have greatly improved over the activity in the past. He noted he used to have kids running through his yard and that hasn't happened in a long time. He suggested the State has so many empty properties, they should be looking at better ways to use those facilities and if it could help East Windsor acquire that facility that would be great.
 - **Special Education** – Selectman Nordell noted the funding is difficult for every town. His wife works in Special Education in a school district outside of East Windsor and that town is having problems getting funding as well. Selectman Nordell felt if a school district gets a reputation for having a good Special Education Program you become a magnet for it. He cited comments on social media advocating for towns that have good programs, and if the students go there it puts a real strain on the town's budget. Selectman Nordell felt maybe this issue needs to be looked at by the State.
 - **Solar incentives** – Selectman Nordell indicated he echoes Selectman Baker's comments regarding solar. There are so many restrictions on installing solar panels for residential users, especially owners of older homes, so incentivizing ground arrays may be a better approach.

Representative Foster indicated she's had a similar discussion with Ellington regarding Police recruitment. The State Police Troopers feel there will be surge of retirements; they are having discussions regarding ways to develop incentives for officers to work past retirement. Selectman Nordell concurred that early retirement is an issue, but he felt getting recruits is an important issue, especially in a couple of years when those previous officers have retired and we have no one to replace them.

Hearing no further comments from the Board First Selectman Bowsza noted he's grateful for the work Senator Anwar, Representative Foster, and Representative Hall do in the Legislature on behalf of East Windsor. He noted each of them is only a phone call away; he suggested he will be in touch as the new session opens. Senator Anwar indicated they are all on the same team. Representative Foster noted it's good to see everyone; stay healthy and continue to reach out to the delegation.

10. SELECTMEN COMMENTS AND REPORTS:

A. Jason Bowsza:

(See Attachment)

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B. Marie DeSousa:

Deputy First Selectman DeSousa reported she attended the East Windsor Police Commission meeting via ZOOM on January 12th; Chief DeMarco discussed the affects COVID has had on the agency. Not only have officers and staff fallen ill to COVID but those not affected are being asked to cover shifts. This will have a great impact on the overtime budget going forward.

The radio RFP draft has been completed and forwarded to the appropriate team members for review.

Chief DeMarco has taken over for the retired Police Chief in Suffield that managed the mental health grant for the Towns of Suffield, East Windsor, Windsor Locks, and East Granby. He volunteered to handle the program as he felt it was vital for these towns. They are submitting a \$42,000 grant for traffic enforcement devices; they have quite decided on getting a vehicle or doing some other things, but the money is forthcoming. They received a DUI Grant, along with a \$12,000 private grant to increase enforcement at the Roadway Inn.

The January 14th Meeting for the Housing Authority was cancelled.

C. Charlie Nordell:

(See Attachment)

D. Alan Baker:

Selectman Baker reported the Cannabis Public Hearing is open for one more meeting; they want to make sure anyone who wants to have a say in that has that opportunity.

As you heard, South Road is moving along; that's great.

The Pension Meeting met on Tuesday for the quarterly Pension Meeting. We got a report on how the pension did for 2021. Basically, we made 15%, which was amazing. It was a great year for the Stock Market, and we have a well-managed fund by competent managers. They took us out

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of some of international exposure, which was sure to lose, and that ended up paying off; we're really looking good there.

The other piece we discussed as a group received the actuarial evaluation from the actuaries, which gives us a snapshot of where things are from their viewpoint. If you remember, the last couple of years we decreased our interest rate assumption, which increased our contribution, but, because of the longevity tables it created a smaller funded ratio for the pension. Selectman Baker wanted to report that since last year we've gone from 80% to 85% funded, which is really good. And the contribution that the Town will have to make is slightly smaller this year than it was last year; things are looking really solid, really stable there. Selectman Baker felt going forward we're going to be pretty happy with where we're going to be.

E. Sarah Muska:

(See Attachment)

11. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

First Selectman Bowsza noted this is the second opportunity for anyone signed in remotely to offer comments or raise questions; no one requested to be acknowledged.

- 12. EXECUTIVE SESSION** – Pursuant to C.G.S. 1-200 (6)(b), negotiations, (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 possible:

MOTION: To GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION Pursuant to C.G.S. 1-200 (6)(b), negotiations, (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 9:40 p.m. Attending the Executive Session will be First Selectman Bowsza, Deputy First Selectman DeSousa, Selectman Baker, Selectman Muska, and Selectman Nordell.

Nordell moved/Baker seconded/DISCUSSION: None

VOTE: In Favor: Baker,Muska/Nordell

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(No one opposed/No abstentions)

LET THE RECORD SHOW the Recording Secretary signed out of the Meeting at 9:40 p.m.

First Selectman Bowsza reported the Board had exited the Executive Session at 10:08 p.m. He noted no action was taken.

First Selectman Bowsza called for a motion to adjourn.

13. ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION: To ADJOURN this Meeting at 10:08 p.m.

Muska moved/Baker seconded/VOTE: In Favor: Unanimous

Respectfully submitted, -----
Peg Hoffman, Recording Secretary, East Windsor Planning and Zoning Commission

ATTACHMENTS:

- A. First Selectman Bowsza's Report
- B. Selectman Muska's Report
- C. Selectmen Nordell's Report

Deputy First Selectman DeSousa and Selectman Baker's Reports are transcribed in the Meeting Minutes.

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BOARD OF SELECTMEN – 1/20/2022 – ATTACHMENT A

First Selectman's Report – January 20, 2022

My report tonight will be brief. On January 8th, the Town was able to offer at-home test kits for distribution to town residents. Our supply was about one quarter of what it had been the week prior, but we were still able to get more than 700 kits into the community. We've requested more test kits from the state, but no word yet on whether our request will be filled. While we are waiting to see if we will have more allotted to us, I wanted to share that now anyone can request at-home kits be sent to their homes by visiting <https://www.covidtests.gov/>

Over the last three weeks, we have been able to offer drive-through PCR testing to town residents, especially important after the holidays and in the worst part of the omicron wave. The first week, we tested more than 110 people, the second week a little less than 80 people, and 37 people last week. We have also made tens of thousands of N95 masks (provided by the state) available to residents in East Windsor over the last several weeks. Those will continue to be available at the Town Hall and the Town Hall Annex/Police Station Mondays-Thursdays from 12:30 to 4:30, and on Saturdays from 10-3 at the Warehouse Point Library.

Over the last few weeks, I have spent a lot of time working on my FY22/23 budget proposal. It isn't quite finished yet and will be presented to the Board of Selectmen in early February. At that point, we will have some work to do before transmitting the budget to the Board of Finance in March.

Of note to the public: the Planning and Zoning Commission has continued it's public hearing concerning proposed cannabis regulations. That hearing is likely to close as early as next week, so the public still has an opportunity to weigh in. To view the draft regs, or to submit comment, please visit https://eastwindsorct-my.sharepoint.com/personal/kjohnson_eastwindsorct_com/_layouts/15/onedrive.aspx?id=%2Fpersonals%2Fkjohnson%5Feastwindsorct%5Fcom%2FDocuments%2FOnline%20Materials%2FPCZC%2FJanuary%2025%2C%202022

Eversource has notified the Town that they will shortly commence their tree trimming activities for this year. They will be trimming along more than forty-seven miles of roads in town this year. This ongoing maintenance is intended to mitigate widespread outages during severe weather events. Asplundt will be doing the work for Eversource.

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Finally, the Town is looking for summer help in the Parks and Rec Department. If you (or someone you know) would like to be a camp counselor, lifeguard, or a summer

programming assistant, applications are available in my office and the Community Services Office. Starting pay will be \$14/hour.

Respectfully submitted,

Jason E. Bowsza First Selectman

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BOARD OF SELECTMEN – 1/20/2022 – ATTACHMENT B

Selectmen's Report - January 20, 2022

The Parks and Recreation Commission, Arts and Culture Commission and Veterans Commission canceled their meetings. I did attend the Planning and Zoning and Police Commission meetings which were previously reported on.

The Board of Education met on January 12, 2022. The Board received an update from Broad Brook Elementary School Principal Laura Foxx and Assistant Principal Matthew Ryan on the I-Ready Personalized Learning and Teacher Toolbox, which provides resources for all teachers and they explained how it aligns with the East Windsor Public Schools Strategic Plan and helps students learn perseverance, supplements curriculum and teaches problem solving skills.

The Board unanimously voted to appoint Betsy LeBoriosis as a member to the Board of Education to fill the vacancy left by William Raber.

The School District is working on reorganizing their Business Office and have hired an Interim Business Manager and Superintendent Dr. Patrick Tudryn has been communicating with all stakeholders in this transition. This topic was discussed more at length in last night's Board of Finance meeting, which Selectman Nordell will discuss.

Dr. Tudryn gave the Board a re-entry update. The CDC has updated guidelines to five days for a student needing to quarantine due to COVID-19. Contact tracing is now optional for school districts. East Windsor Schools are continuing to do contact tracing at this time, but that could change based on the nurses availability and ability to perform other systematic duties. The School District did receive COVID-19 Test Kits from the state and is prioritizing on who receives them, mainly staff and some students with the goal of keeping schools open in mind.

The School District has had several sports game cancellations due to positive cases of COVID-19. Due to CIAC (Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Conference) guidelines, spectators are only home fans at this time and they must sit three feet apart, unless from the same household.

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The Board and Superintendent were reviewing the 2022-2023 School Calendar and decided to table it to a future meeting to gather more feedback from other school districts, as to when they will hold their April vacations before finalizing. I think it is important to note that the Board and Superintendent were taking into consideration public participation that was received from parents on this agenda item. It was mentioned that kindergarten students are now required to be in school for 180 days and will no longer be starting later than the other grades.

East Windsor Parks and Recreation is collecting handmade Valentine's Day cards to distribute to residents at Fresh River, Touchpoints at Chestnut and Senior Housing within Town. Cards can be dropped off at the Town Hall Annex, 25 School Street during normal business hours through February 9, 2022.

Submitted With Sincerity,

Sarah A. Musk

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BOARD OF SELECTMEN – 1/20/2022 ATTACHMENT C

Selectman Nordell's Report for 1/20/2022

On January 13th I attended the PTO meeting. Fall fundraisers managed to collect \$6083.48. Upcoming fundraiser ideas and plans were discussed for the spring months to make it easier to work around Covid protocols.

On January 19th I attended the Board of Finance meeting. The Board of Finance approved forwarding the approval of the purchase of a new fire truck for Broad Brook Fire Department to be sent to a town meeting for the amount of \$1,049,658.00.

Taxes are 72% collected at this point, which is up from the last two years.

Town audit is still not 100% complete but is projected to be done on time.

The BOE has reported the current school year's budget is in good shape. Next year's school budget presentation is being worked on.

The BOF also approved the transfer of funds to purchase a Budget Transparency Software Package. It allows you to take the budget and compare it to past years or look deeper into specifics of the budget. It is very detailed and allows taxpayers to examine the budget in detail and how it relates to their tax bill. \$18,600.00 is its price tag for a 2 year contract.