

**TOWN OF EAST WINDSOR
BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

REGULAR MEETING

Thursday, June 2, 2022

7:00 p.m.

***John Daly, Jr. Meeting Room
11 Rye Street, Broad Brook, CT 06016
In-person***

AND

Meeting also available 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 in-person meeting. Deputy First Selectman DeSousa, Selectman Baker, Selectman Muska, and Selectman Nordell were present in-person.

ABSENT: All Selectmen were present in-person this evening.

GUESTS/SPEAKERS in-person: First Selectman Bowsza, Deputy First Selectman DeSousa, Selectman Baker, Selectman Muska, and Selectman Nordell; Ruth Calabrese, Director of Planning and Development; State Senator Saud Anwar and State Representative Jaime Foster; Paul Anderson; Rich Austin, Fire Marshal; Tom and Ruth Anne Lansner; Rick LeBoriosis, Vice Chairman, Diversity Council.

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GUESTS/SPEAKERS signing in to meeting remotely (participants identified as they sign in): Samantha Charrette, Park and Recreation Department; Joe; Margaret (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 June 2, 2022 to Order at 7:01 p.m. in the John Daly, Jr. Meeting Room, Town Hall, 11 Rye Street, Broad Brook, Connecticut. The meeting is also available remotely.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

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

3. ATTENDANCE:

First Selectman Bowsza, Deputy First Selectman DeSousa, Selectman Baker, Selectman Muska, and Selectman Nordell were present in person.

First Selectman Bowsza announced there were no **ADDED AGENDA** items for this meeting.

First Selectman Bowsza reported he intended to follow the original Agenda posting, except that he may take up some Agenda items to accommodate Staff time, or guests joining the Board at different points in the meeting.

4. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:

A. May 19, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes:

First Selectman Bowsza noted the Minutes for the May 19, 2022 Board of Selectmen Meeting were available for approval.

MOTION: To ACCEPT the Minutes of the May 19, 2022 Regular Meeting.

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DeSousa moved/Muska seconded/DISCUSSION: First Selectman Bowsza asked if anyone on the Board had any corrections, comments, or revisions? No one requested to be acknowledged regarding revisions.

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

5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

First Selectman Bowsza noted the first opportunity for public comments, he asked if anyone in the in-person audience wanted to speak?

Paul Anderson, 89 Main Street, Broad Brook: Mr. Anderson noted the plethora of Connecticut Pride Flags being flown throughout the State. Mr. Anderson advised everyone he has no problem with the Pride Movement, he's totally in favor of it. But he is against public facilities being used to display private entities flags. Mr. Anderson indicated he felt only American Flags, POW Flags, and State Flags should be flown at Town Offices. Nothing else should be on display on Town property.

First Selectman Bowsza questioned if Mr. Anderson had seen any incidents of Pride Flags being displayed on Town property? Mr. Anderson replied he had not seen the Pride Flag displayed in East Windsor, he's speaking of the future.

First Selectman Bowsza queried the in-person audience for comments again; no one else requested to speak.

First Selectman Bowsza then offered the opportunity for public comments to those individuals signed in remotely. No one requested to speak.

6. COMMUNICATIONS: None

7. BOARD AND COMMISSIONS RESIGNATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS:

A. Resignations: None

B. Reappointments: None

C. New Appointments: None

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8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

A. South Road Ownership Option Update:

No update this evening.

***B. Polling location Change:**

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

First Selectman Bowsza suggested the Board consider taking up Agenda item 9A. **(NEW BUSINESS) Discuss Town of East Windsor Blight and Property Maintenance Code to Include Ruth Calabrese.**

MOTION: To TAKE UP Agenda Item 9A.

Baker moved/Nordell seconded/DISCUSSION: None

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

9. NEW BUSINESS:

B. Discuss Town of East Windsor Blight and Property Maintenance Code to Include Ruth Calabrese:

First Selectman Bowsza reported one of the things he's asked Director of Planning and Development Calabrese to do was draft a Blight Ordinance, as the current Property Maintenance Code isn't enforceable. He noted Planning Director Calabrese has incorporated comments made by the various Department Supervisors; that document is before the Board for review this evening.

Planning Director Calabrese reported the Planning Department has 24 open complaints, either Wetlands or Planning, half of those complaints regard blight issues. The draft ordinance before the Board is a proposal to approve a formal Blight Ordinance which a Blight Hearing Official could use to initiate investigation of perceived blight issues.

Planning Director Calabrese began review of the draft.

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Section 1-1 through 1-6: Purpose

Section 2.1 through 2.2: Definitions

Section 2.2: Sets out the procedures which allows the Enforcement Official to investigate/review the complaint regarding health, safety, and/or welfare. Planning Director Calabrese reviewed various conditions which comprise the current complaints, ranging from grass not cut to building foundation issues to graffiti on buildings.

Section 3-1: The process includes a diagram outlining the steps of the process and opportunities for resolution of the situation. If the situation isn't resolved a Citation would be issued; the diagram also notes opportunities to appeal the decision via a Citation Hearing. The Hearing Officer is the person who decides what the fine will be. If the property owner doesn't request a hearing within 10 days the Hearing Officer would decide the fine amount.

First Selectman Bowsza questioned where in this document the requirement for a fine structure is identified? Planning Director Calabrese noted that previous Planning Department Staff had set fines at \$100 per day, escalating to \$250 if no attempt is made to work with the Town.

First Selectman Bowsza noted reference had been made in this draft to C.G.S. 7-148gg which addresses responsibility for the Hearing Board setting the fines, while the previous Statute, 7-148ff refers the adoption of this ordinance to the Legislative Body of the Town. First Selectman Bowsza questioned if that had been referenced in the previous Staff memo? He felt the correct reference would be to C.G.S. 7-148ff(c). Selectman Nordell questioned if there would be an annual review of the fine structure or would the amounts carry over? Planning Director Calabrese referenced the last section of the proposed draft (Section G.I) which calls for an annual review by the Board of Selectmen.

Selectman Muska noted language under Procedures for Complaints citing complaints must be submitted via a public complaint form, will you also allow verbal complaints? Or will the public complaint form be completed by Planning Staff? Regarding an unrelated issue First Selectman Bowsza suggested Chief of Police DeMarco had suggested that the Town

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shouldn't take anonymous complaints. Discussion followed regarding options for assisting concerned citizens.

Deputy First Selectman DeSousa questioned why foundation walls not causing a structural problem would be a violation? It could be an elderly person who doesn't realize they have a crack in the foundation and has no desire to spend the money. She cited she has problems with many of the conditions being subjective. She suggested people have different opinions and what could be a problem for one person may not be an issue for someone else; she cited concern if someone doesn't like another person it could become a problem.

Selectman Baker suggested this draft is a good start but he has some concerns regarding Sections I and J under Section 2-2 Definitions; he noted he understands someone not wanting to mow their lawn but he questioned if it rises to the level of blight? Selectman Baker noted some people follow the "No Mow May Movement", and as a beekeeper he decided to try that. He felt this ordinance gives people the ability to use the higher grass against him. Regarding Section J – "vegetation of any type", someone could be complaining about a tree that annoys them and that could cost a property owner over \$1,500. Selectman Bowsza cited further language referencing "public health, safety, and welfare". Discussion continued regarding public vs. private concerns related to public health, safety, and welfare, and processes for dealing with those issues.

Selectman Muska agreed with Selectman Baker with the ordinance becoming too subjective. Selectman Nordell agreed, noting that there are 2 homes near his property which would fail these standards. He noted one of the homes is over 100 years old, the foundation contains brick and redstone; the home would fail these standards drastically. The garage of the home is over 100 years old as well and would fail for the same reasons. He felt that any one of the standards could affect 75% of the homes in town. Selectman Muska agreed, noting the difficulty cleaning up from a recent storm. She agreed there's a need for an ordinance but a lot of this is open to interpretation and is subjective.

First Selectman Bowsza shared Google Street scenes of various properties in town questioning the Board's perception of blight.

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Selectman Baker questioned the need for Section J if you retain Section I; is the intent to go after trees? He also questioned the specific height for overgrown grass; what if he wants to allow his sheep to graze on his lawn rather than mowing it? What if he wants to do “No Mow May?” Deputy First Selectman DeSousa felt Selectman Baker wanting to let the grass grow as an agricultural option, and his location, was different than someone on Prospect Hill Road just letting the grass become overgrown. Discussion continued regarding including language referencing the vegetation being a health hazard, such as poisonous vegetation.

Deputy First Selectman DeSousa referenced the chart included in the ordinance, noting the language citing imposing a lien on the property. She questioned what if the property owner was unable to make the repairs, could the lien be removed if financial assistance came through? Planning Director Calabrese referenced Section 3H – Special Considerations.

Noting Fire Marshal Austin as a participant in the Meeting Room First Selectman Bowsza questioned Fire Marshal Austin if cracks in a foundation were a problem for him? Fire Marshal Austin replied it becomes a problem if he sees rats coming in and out, then it becomes a health hazard. He felt the Town needs to create a Blight Ordinance as it identifies conditions which can become problems. It opens the door to the person enforcing this, and then the Board can review the enforcement action.

Selectman Baker referenced Section C regarding graffiti on exterior retaining walls, he questioned if that would apply to the retaining walls near the highway which have recently been painted over by someone? First Selectman Bowsza felt that would apply.

First Selectman Bowsza requested Planning Director Calabrese incorporate the Board’s comments prior to sending the Blight Ordinance to the Planning and Zoning Commission for review and comments, after which the draft ordinance will return to the Board of Selectmen for further review prior to sending to Town Meeting.

First Selectman Bowsza noted the arrival of Guests State Senator Saud Anwar and State Representative Jaime Foster; he requested the Board take up **NEW BUSINESS**, Item 9B, **Discuss Successes and**

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Accomplishments to Include Senator Anwar and State Representative Jaime Foster.

MOTION: So moved.

Nordell moved/Baker seconded/DISCUSSION: None

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

9. NEW BUSINESS:

B. Discuss Successes and Accomplishments to Include Senator Anwar and State Representative Jaime Foster.

State Representative Foster and Senator Anwar joined the Board at the in-person meeting.

Representative Foster indicated she was honored to be present with her colleague, Senator Anwar. She indicated she felt a lot of the successes were the result of a really collaborative relationship between the delegates and a good working relationship across party lines, across the board, and across institutions.

Representative Foster suggested the first thing to consider is a little over a year ago we delivered \$1.2 million in bonding to East Windsor, and this year, thanks to Senator Anwar's leadership, they've been able to deliver another \$800,000 to East Windsor for bonding projects. Representative Foster indicated she researched 15 years of bond history for the District and found that they've hit historic amounts of municipal funding during this Legislative session.

Senator Anwar reported that during the pandemic Seniors, especially those in nursing homes, were neglected and abused, which went unreported as the families were unable to visit. Senator Anwar reported they are working to make sure the Seniors are protected and they have their rights in assisted living facilities and nursing homes. He noted the nursing homes are overseen by the Department of Public Health but the assisted living facilities and apartments and memory units aren't watched as closely. Senator Anwar noted they're creating working groups to assess

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that, he suggested if the families aren't involved the people are at a risk of not being taken care of.

Representative Foster reported that the Juvenile Justice Bills were adopted and came out of a bipartisan effort but East Windsor's Police Department was critical advocating for the policy. There were also a couple of Police related bills, one to reduce paperwork for traffic related issues for Police Department reporting, and they've supported a bill related to law enforcement's mental health and changed the requirements in the Police Accountability Bill for training for the Police Department to be posted.

Senator Anwar reported 15 minutes before the end of the session the "Bowsza Bill" was passed. This bill allows economic development in East Windsor and many other towns in the State. First Selectman Bowsza advised the public that East Windsor has a policy which allows for tax abatements as a means of encouraging economic development and the ordinance cites the Board of Selectmen as the "deal making" authority. Until that law was passed the Statute didn't allow for that power to fall to the Board. The process put East Windsor at a timing disadvantage to Towns operating under a Town Council form of government. So the turn around time and the response time that the Town already wanted to grant to this body is now allowable under law. First Selectman Bowsza thanked Senator Anwar for pursuing that bill. Senator Anwar suggested other towns were able to compete but East Windsor was not able to pursue that opportunity. Senator Anwar suggested East Windsor has such an amazing location and access, now you'll be able to have good conversations with developers.

Representative Foster reported on an issue of concern for Selectman Muska, noting they've expanded online protections for kids and victims of domestic violence. We've provided ways for people to opt-out of public registries where their name would be posted online. She suggested there are a lot of grant opportunities to address this issue.

Senator Anwar noted that he serves as the Chair of the Kid's Committee and Chair of the Public Health Committee and the Vice Chair of Insurance and real estate advisor of Housing and other committees, including Planning and Zoning. He suggested that (hopefully) post-pandemic we've all seen challenges children are experiencing – if a child has to wait in an emergency department for a week to get a bed while experiencing an

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acute behavioral issue or depression or anxiety that's a symptom of a broken system. Senator Anwar indicated there was a bipartisan effort to pass three bills, and making sure Bill 721 was working on the school end. The early childcare workers weren't able to work because they lacked health insurance, or didn't have the ability to provide child care for their own children and many workers left the occupation and reduced the workforce. This will need more support going forward but Senator Anwar suggested they've created enough resources to keep the industry alive and also create a pipeline for the next generation of childcare educators.

Senator Anwar referenced House Bill 5001 is a bill that looks at the entire spectrum of child behavioral health. We've been able to look at the gaps in the system. This was a bipartisan effort. Yesterday these bills were signed into law. Representative Foster noted this was the shortest Legislative session in recent history and the amount of work that was accomplished is mind-blowing.

Representative Foster cited receiving many e-mails about the solar farms taking over the farmland. She noted she held a collaborative group discussion with energy and technology leaders, and spoke to local solar stakeholders and farmers and investors and tried to find ways not to tell farmers what to do with their land but to also take pressure off of local farms for solar development. The result of those discussions is they are considering to increase the caps of the solar arrays to be put on residential and commercial solar buildings so every building can maximize the amount of solar panels rather than just install what the building needs. That would meet more of the State's solar needs with rooftop solar and less with the farmland.

Representative Foster also noted they also changed the notice requirement for pesticide applications to avoid well water contamination.

Senator Anwar reported that they also looked at protecting indoor air and lead poisoning from conditions in many of the older homes, and the air quality in the schools as well. He suggested a lot of the benefit of this session is the availability of Federal funding to address these issues, and pay back the debt early which will be less cost to the taxpayers going forward.

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Representative Foster reported that as a member of the General Law Committee she noted they've extended the provision for remote and hybrid meetings which has significantly increased accessibility for the public. They've also adopted one of the most robust consumer privacy laws in the country. She cited the concerns regarding privacy laws, particularly for children and the internet.

Senator Anwar noted Selectman Muska had concerns regarding the mental health of the Police officers, and now we're developing a support strategy for them and resources to take care of them. They are also increasing the penalty if someone knowingly injures a K-9 officer.

Senator Anwar reported that thanks to the Attorney General there will be a significant settlement for opioid addiction. Representative Foster cited the Police Department had also requested getting more Narcan to use on calls.

Senator Anwar noted regarding concerns about catalytic converter theft, there is a market out there for these items, which relates to youth crimes. The Youth Services Bureau needs to provide more help to develop a preventative strategy and funding, and additional bills are being considered for those individuals who commit these crimes more than once. Representative Foster cited the bill limits the sale of catalytic converters to one a day so people won't be able to sell multiple items.

Senator Anwar noted one of the things they've been talking about is the property owned by the Tribes. This is an issue that creates anger and frustration for some people because we were expecting to have a casino by this time. Senator Anwar indicated they have been able to meet with leaders of the Tribes, he cited he was working with Senator Austin to see if \$1 million could be added to East Windsor from the funding that the Tribes give to the State but that was not approved. He cited the East Windsor taxpayers are hurting because the property isn't being used or generating any taxes. Senator Anwar noted this is one of the best properties in the region and we need to make sure it generates taxes. He noted they have spoken to the leaders of the two Tribes regarding sale of the property but they don't need to sell it. This is part of a bigger battle between MGM and the Tribes and East Windsor is stuck in the middle of the issue. Senator Anwar indicated he continues to hope that they'll be able to get everyone to the table.

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First Selectman Bowsza wanted to thank Senator Anwar and Representative Foster and Representative Hall for the accessibility they provide to his office and the people in the community. He indicated they are a great bipartisan team. The dynamic and the leadership that you bring is so energetic and encouraging and enthusiastic; he's grateful you're there fighting for the community. Senator Anwar suggested East Windsor is a phenomenal town which is getting better everyday and the excitement that they have for the potential and opportunities for East Windsor are phenomenal. You have all the right people doing the right jobs with the right mindset, as your representatives they just have to make sure they don't get in your way but instead empower you.

Senator Anwar excused himself for another appointment; Representative Foster offered additional information.

Representative Foster reported there is one really great bill on firefighters cancer relief programs. East Windsor, ahead of schedule, removed PFA foams from fire trucks, which are one of the things firefighters are exposed to besides smoke inhalation. Representative Foster suggested they've expanded that program substantially.

Representative Foster reported they've also excellerated the pension and tax exemption for retirees, and today we rolled out the one-time child tax rebate.

Representative Foster noted the gas tax exemption, and noted people are asking about a diesel tax exemption as well, which is something they're still talking about. She noted the money is coming from the infrastructure fund, which complicates the issue to provide tax relief for the consumer.

Representative Foster also noted the well water bills all passed. We are going to have to recognize what contaminants and pesticides and naturally occurring contaminants do to our community. Currently the bill advocates for PURA to take over a community well system.

Representative Foster took questions from the Board and the audience.

Deputy First Selectman DeSousa questioned if the pensions are a 100% reduction and is there a dollar amount? Representative Foster indicated

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she'd provide that information for Deputy First Selectman DeSousa via e-mail.

Selectman Baker suggested that for a short session you all did a lot. First Selectman Bowsza concurred, noting this was an incredibly productive session.

An unidentified audience member wanted to thank Representative Foster for picking up on the firefighter cancer bill. The audience member also asked Representative Foster to explain more about the Police mental health bill. Representative Foster cited the complicated history of the bill, and the cost associated with it, noting advocacy for the bill continues. The audience member suggested volunteer fire departments don't have the coordinated effort regarding advocacy as union departments.

Paul Anderson, 89 Main Street, Broad Brook: Is the gasoline tax being extended past July 1st? Representative Foster reported it's been extended to December or January.

At the culmination of the discussion with Senator Anwar and State Representative Foster First Selectman Bowsza RECESSED the Regular Board of Selectmen's Meeting at 8:29 p.m., he noted the RECESS will extend to 8:35 p.m.

First Selectman Bowsza RECONVENED the Regular Board of Selectmen's Meeting at 8:36 p.m.

First Selectman Bowsza requested the Board return to **UNFINISHED BUSINESS, Item 8C, Discussion of Windbrook Homes Developers Agreement.**

MOTION: To GO BACK TO AGENDA ITEM (UNFINISHED BUSINESS) 8C, Discussion of Windbrook Homes Developers Agreement.

Baker moved/Muska seconded/DISCUSSION: None

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

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C. Discussion of Windbrook Homes Developers Agreement:

First Selectman Bowsza cited an ongoing issue with Windbrook Homes and Mr. Von Hollander and the Town regarding the Development Agreement. First Selectman Bowsza reported that the Town had invited Mr. Von Hollander to attend this meeting to discuss the Developer's Agreement he has with the Town but Mr. Von Hollander indicated he would not attend the meeting but would be represented by counsel. First Selectman Bowsza reported Mr. Von Hollander's contention is that the Developer's Agreement is "Void ab Initio" because the Town doesn't have the legal standing to require a Developer's Agreement.

First Selectman Bowsza indicated he chose to update the Board on the status of this Agenda item. After conferring with the Town Attorney it was decided discussions should not occur during a Selectmen's Regular Meeting.

First Selectman Bowsza requested the Board take up **(NEW BUSINESS)** Agenda item 9C, **Discuss Update on Community Center Planning.**

**MOTION: To TAKE UP (NEW BUSINESS) Agenda Item 9C,
Discuss Update on Community Center Planning.**

Muska moved/DeSousa seconded/DISCUSSION: None

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

9. NEW BUSINESS:

C. Discuss Update on Community Center Planning:

First Selectman Bowsza reported that as he indicated at the beginning of the budget process the Town has the opportunity to move forward on a new Community Center. Referencing his PowerPoint presentation First Selectman Bowsza offered the following information. **(Following is a brief summary, please see Meeting video for PowerPoint presentation).**

- **Slide 1 – Existing Conditions at current Senior Center:**
Storage space is limited, previous office space has been lost due to concerns regarding COVID, program space now overlaps with

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dining space, the library has been converted to additional cubicle space for employees, resulting in the footprint of the useable space getting smaller. The existing handicapped accessible ramp is difficult for some participants to access the building. First Selectman Bowsza suggested the Senior Center was built for different considerations than allowing Seniors aging in place.

- **Slide 2 – Existing Conditions at Town Hall Annex:** The large meeting room is used for food aggregation and general storage. The two photos in the center depict children participating in Parks and Recreation programming – the boy and girl are shown in the Meeting Room with the food storage while the children in the upper photo are sitting in the hallway. The photo on the right shows the area where people would vote – that space is being used for COVID vaccination programs.
- **Slide 3 – Existing Limitations and Needs:**
 - Lack of sufficient programming space to enable multiple programs at the same time.
 - Lack of accessibility at both locations is problematic for Seniors, handicapped individuals, and mothers with strollers.
 - Lack of aging in place accessibility in one location as Seniors currently need to go to two locations for services.
 - Lack of sufficient programming space for Park and Recreation programs, especially during times of inclement weather during the Summer Camp.
- **Slide 4 – Resolution of Combining Offices And/Spaces:**
 - Consolidates Community Services Departments – Senior Services, Social Services, and Park and Recreation – in one location.
 - Provides spatial access for people of all ages.
 - Provides a central location for community needs, such as cooling centers and distribution centers.
 - Provides programming space for people of all ages.
 - Dovetails with other proposed improvements at the new location/Abbe Road.
- **Slide 5 – Architectural rendering:** The plan would be to construct a 30-foot addition in each direction around the current Scout Hall building which would provide a 6 foot hallway and 24 feet in each direction for office and programming space.

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- **Slide 6 – Concept Plan:** Floor plan showing additional space created around the existing floor plan.
- **Slide 7 – Architectural rendering:** Phase II, showing concept aerial of existing building with additions, and a gymnasium.
- **Slide 8 – Architectural rendering:** Showing 4 views of the expanded building.
- **Slide 8 – Project Comparison – Windsor Locks vs. East Windsor:** Windsor Locks is proposing an approximate 20,000 square foot Senior Center at a cost of \$13,872,644 vs. East Windsor's proposal for a 15,000 square foot Community Center at a cost of \$5,000,000. First Selectman Bowsza indicated the reason for the difference is that East Windsor's building already exists, and the Town already owns the property.
- **Slide 9 – Funding Options:** First Selectman Bowsza indicated he planned to ask the Board of Finance to appropriate \$1.2 million from funds that would be returned to the General Fund at the end of the year and put that into a CNR (Capital Non-recurring) Account for construction or renovation of a municipal building. That would lower the cost from \$5 million to \$3.8 million.
- **Slide 10 – Project timeline:**
 - First Selectman Bowsza indicated in two weeks he plans to ask the Board of Finance for the \$1.2 million.
 - Over the Summer the Scout Hall Building Committee and the Town need to negotiate terms of the current lease.
 - Over the Summer a Town Meeting will be held to vote on bonding the difference in the project cost.
 - First Selectman Bowsza cited Congressional-directed spending is the new nomenclature for projects being considered for bonding. He noted he's submitted 4 projects for bonding and has been told this project remains under consideration.
 - Consideration of project will be a ballot question in November.

First Selectman Bowsza opened discussion to the Board.

Selectman Baker suggested the Town has a history of not taking care of what we already have, and we're discussing adding something to take care of. Selectman Baker questioned how the Town will deal with that. First Selectman Bowsza suggested the Board would discuss this under

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EXECUTIVE SESSION. Selectman Baker indicated his second concern was an estimated value of the operational costs on an annual basis. First Selectman Bowsza suggested the Board would have an estimated operational cost before going to Town Meeting.

Selectman Muska indicated she agrees with the concept, the Town has outgrown the current Senior Center and the Annex as they're no longer functional for the Director of those departments, but she also has concerns regarding the operational costs. Selectman Muska also questioned what the current Senior Center and Annex would be used for going forward? First Selectman Bowsza suggested it would be logical for the Broad Brook Fire Department to make use of the upper floor/Senior Center. He would like to maintain the meeting room at the Annex for that voting district, but the Police Department could also benefit from the additional space.

Selectman Nordell questioned during the Summer and inclement weather would the Town still have the same issues? First Selectman Bowsza suggested he envisioned that the school would be using the school grounds and the Town would still have the same resources but that would have to be discussed with the Scout Hall Building Committee. He noted the questions need to be answered by the Summer to be able to put the question on the November ballot.

Deputy First Selectman DeSousa noted when the Senior Center was built there were certain criteria associated with the construction, would turning the Senior Center over to the Broad Brook Fire Department cause any issues? First Selectman Bowsza noted the grant for constructing the building was a 20-year grant, when the 20 years passed the terms were satisfied. He also noted the Town wouldn't transfer the building to the Broad Brook Fire Department, it would still be a Town building.

First Selectman Bowsza requested to take up **(UNFINISHED BUSINESS), Agenda Item 8D, Discussion of the Establishment of a Redevelopment Authority Concerning 105 Prospect Hill Road – Eminent Domain Concerning the Casino Site.**

MOTION: To TAKE UP (UNFINISHED BUSINESS), Agenda Item 8D, Discussion of the Establishment of a Redevelopment Authority Concerning 105 Prospect

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Hill Road – Eminent Domain Concerning the Casino Site.

DeSousa moved/Muska seconded/DISCUSSION: None

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

8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

D. Discussion of the Establishment of a Redevelopment Authority Concerning 105 Prospect Hill Road – Eminent Domain Concerning the Casino Site.

First Selectman Bowsza noted as Senator Anwar mentioned there have been discussions with the Tribes, both individually and jointly, and there have been conversations with the Administration. Nothing has happened, we're in the second year of a ten-year moratorium on construction of a gaming facility on that parcel due to last year's legislation on sports betting. First Selectman Bowsza noted there was no prohibition on anything else zoning appropriate on that parcel.

To highlight the jeopardy to the Town with nothing happening there First Selectman Bowsza noted when there was a vacant blighted movie theater on the parcel the Town received \$140,000 on that parcel, while we currently receive \$80,000 now that the structure has been torn down. Every year that nothing happens on that parcel the Town is losing \$60,000, no economic development is occurring, and there is no job growth; it's a blighted property. Despite the bipartisan efforts of Senator Anwar, Representative Foster, and Representative Hall the Administration has not shown any interest in helping the Town, nor have the two Tribes. First Selectman Bowsza suggested the only option to force anything to happen is to begin the process of eminent domain.

First Selectman Bowsza suggested the first step in the process is to create a Redevelopment Authority on the parcel at 105 Prospect Hill Road, and to send the question of creating the Redevelopment Authority to the public via Town Meeting. First Selectman Bowsza noted the process has been reviewed with the Town Attorney. He asked for comments from the Board.

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Selectman Baker questioned the expectations for success? First Selectman Bowsza cited the Town Attorney has suggested the Town is on solid ground pursuing this option. First Selectman Bowsza offered potential development options for the parcel.

Selectman Muska indicated she's in favor of taking the next steps, she concurred that the property isn't being maintained and is blighted. To be in year two of the prohibition with no development and no job growth is unacceptable.

Selectman Nordell suggested the parcel in its current state is a hazard, in ten years it will have returned to forest.

Selectman Baker noted that not only is the property not producing anything positive but it's the gateway property to East Windsor's commercial zone and it looks deplorable. As well as not producing anything positive it's probably also impeding other commercial development. Selectman Baker concurred, something needs to be done.

First Selectman Bowsza cited that once the Town Meeting establishes the Redevelopment Authority the Board would populate it, and then the Redevelopment Authority needs to do their work and come back to the Board of Selectmen prior to sending the issue to Town Meeting.

MOTION: Move to recommend to Town Meeting the creation of a Redevelopment Authority concerning 105 Prospect Hill Road and to empower the Board of Selectmen to seat the necessary membership, not to exceed nine people, to take all appropriate action to investigate the use of eminent domain on the subject parcel and recommend appropriate steps to the Board of Selectmen.

DeSousa moved/Muska seconded/DISCUSSION: None

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

First Selectman Bowsza then opened discussion on **NEW BUSINESS**
Agenda Item **9D, Discuss Community Survey Results (Preliminary):**

9, **NEW BUSINESS:**

D, Discuss Community Survey Results (Preliminary):

First Selectman Bowsza announced that the Selectmen's Office had previously sent out a survey to 9,000 residents and property owners regarding their opinion for the use of remaining ARPA funds, 700 responses were received. Of the 700 responses 8 did not identify themselves, for that reason First Selectman Bowsza removed their responses from this review as their validity couldn't be verified.

First Selectman Bowsza offered the following information. *(Following is a summarization of his comments, please see YouTube video of this meeting for PowerPoint presentation.)*

- **Slide 1: Total Response by Age:** First Selectman Bowsza noted that 15 responses were received from respondents under 25 years of age, while 91 were between the ages of 25 and 45, 75 were between 45 and 54, 167 were between 54 and 64, and everyone else was over the age of 65. First Selectman Bowsza noted 16 respondents didn't list an age on their survey.
- **Slide 2: Town Population vs. Percentage of Respondents per Demographic:** First Selectman Bowsza indicated the left graph depicts the population of East Windsor by age, 20.7% of our population is over 65 years old, 21.6% is between the ages of 25 to 34. The graph on the right – "Percentage of Respondents in each Demographic" – is the percentage of the respondents in that age who submitted a survey. First Selectman Bowsza noted 1.8% of the respondents between 18 and 24 responded, 16.5% of respondents were over 65.
- **Slide 3: Percentage of Responses by Age:** First Selectman Bowsza noted this is another way of depicting the responses by age, 47% of the people who responded were over 65, while 24.1% were between the ages of 55 to 64, and 2.3% of the respondents were between the ages of 18 and 24.
- **Slide 4: Survey Results Average Score:** First Selectman Bowsza reported this slide represents the items chosen as important by respondents on a scale of 1 to 5. As an example, sidewalks, and walking trails were items mentioned frequently.

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First Selectman Bowsza suggested \$2.1 million in funding is available to the Town, and must be spent by 2026. He offered the Board this copy of the survey results to review and discuss at a future meeting.

9. NEW BUSINESS:

E. Discuss and Approve Application for Exception Alcoholic Beverages to Include Irene Mosher:

First Selectman Bowsza reported Irene Mosher has requested permission to allow beer and wine at a wedding reception at Reservoir Park on September 24, 2022. All other required parties have already signed off on the application, First Selectman Bowsza noted he will sign off as well subsequent to the Board's approval.

MOTION: To ACCEPT the Application for an Exemption for Alcoholic Beverages for September 24, 2022 at the East Windsor Park Pavilion for Irene Mosher.

DeSousa moved/Muska seconded/DISCUSSION: None.

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

F. Discuss Diversity Council EMG Proposed Workshop Contract to Include Rick LeBorious:

First Selectman Bowsza reported that last week the Diversity Council held a conversation on equity, diversity, and inclusion, which had been funded by a Greater Together grant. The discussion was part of a three-part series provided by the Executive Mommy's Group, who provided the facilitator who is an educator in Manchester, and a former school psychologist. The contract before the Board is for parts 2 and 3 of the series, for a cost of \$3,000.

First Selectman Bowsza called for comments.

Selectman Muska noted she had planned to attend but was unable due to a death in her family, she's pleased to hear additional conversations will be held. Since we have a Diversity Council it's good to see them promoting a series like this.

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MOTION: To AUTHORIZE the First Selectman to sign the contract with ExecMommyGroup LLC for workshops presented through the Diversity Council for \$3,000.

Baker moved/Muska seconded/DISCUSSION: None.

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

Deputy First Selectman DeSousa indicated she had also been unable to attend the discussion and had wanted to research the group to see what the series was about and see a client list but was unable to find the information.

Rick LaBorious, Vice Chairman of the Diversity Council, requested to be recognized. He noted he's familiar with the group through another individual who is involved in this type of conversations, and they're held in high regard around the State. They are really qualified and skilled facilitators. First Selectman Bowsza cited he was able to find a list of clients, which included Shipman & Goodman, Yale, and others.

Selectman Muska questioned the anticipated timeframe for the follow-up sessions? First Selectman Bowsza suggested the dates of the discussions haven't been scheduled but felt they would be held relatively soon.

10. SELECTMEN COMMENTS AND REPORTS:

A. Jason Bowsza:

(See Attachment)

Additionally, First Selectman Bowsza noted that on June 6th and June 16th respectively the Town and the Lieutenant Governor will be honoring Veterans of the Korean War at the High School Auditorium, and the Vietnam War on the soccer field behind the High School the day after Graduation. First Selectman Bowsza reported he plans to cancel the Board of Selectmen's Meeting scheduled for June 16th, if any of the Board members can attend the Veterans' event he welcomed them to join him.

B. Marie DeSousa:

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(See Attachment)

C. Alan Baker:

Selectman Baker reported that because of personal family issues he's been unable to attend a number of meetings, but he's followed the meetings he did miss by reading the Minutes.

Selectman Baker reported he missed Planning and Zoning but they had an interesting conversation about affordable housing. East Windsor is actually over the State limit but there are a number of households which are cost burdened, which is not something he thought about regarding affordable housing. He found the information to include the statistics interesting.

Selectman Baker reported the Wetlands Meeting was last night, which he was able to attend. They don't have a lot going on regarding applications but there's a lot of work being done regarding violations. What struck him during the meeting last night was the Staff that we have now in relation to where we were three or four years ago when he chaired the meeting was that the Wetlands Commission shouldered the burden of handling the violations coming in and now we have processes and people are working on it and things are getting done, and done well. He felt the addition of the (Blight) ordinance is putting some backbone behind what we're asking people to do and although we haven't asked anyone to pay fees he felt this will help to bring people to the table. He's really happy with the way the Planning and Zoning Office has come together in the last few years.

Selectman Baker reported the Agricultural and Conservation Commission continues to work on reaching out to property owners of 30-acre farmland. Selectman Baker reported they've put together a letter, that they may also bring to this Board for review, they're looking for more support from the public in preserving farmland/open space/forest land. They graciously allowed Selectman Baker to offer input for that letter, he was going to bring it to this Board so you will know what's coming because this will be on Facebook and other places.

Selectman Baker offered the following draft letter:

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“East Windsor has a long and continued history as a rural farming town. The Town’s character has always been what its residents cherish about living here. It nourishes their spirit and souls. The highly productive soils and scenic vistas are an important part of the fabric of life here. However, the open space and farmland are being lost at a rapid rate. Our opportunities for conservation are diminishing rapidly with the passage of time. East Windsor’s location in the Connecticut River Valley means it has some of the best farmland in the world. Anyone who has farmed in a town with rocks, ledge, and steep slopes can see how East Windsor’s flat and virtually rockless agricultural soil is a treasure worth preserving for current and future generations. The valley soil, carved out by glaciers with deposits of rich sediment, cannot be duplicated, only preserved. When it is gone, it is permanently gone.

Conservation of open space provides benefits for residents for years to come. Improved quality of life and increased property values result when we act to preserve the health of our watersheds and aquifers. Preservation of open space provides room for local agriculture and diverse wildlife habitat, enriching the lives of Town residents. Preserved open space and farmland are also less expensive to the taxpayers as they demand few public services, such as police protection, schools, public utilities, and road maintenance, etc. Many of the property owners in East Windsor have legacy farms, or property that has been passed down to them for generations. There may be sentimental connections to the property and the family may wish to preserve it, not sell it for development. Some town farms could use an infusion of money to keep going. Selling the properties development rights can provide a solution to these issues. The owner is still free to sell the property at any time while assuring it can’t be developed. Several farms in town have been protected from development in just such a way. This process uses funds from the Town’s Open Space Fund. As a result, that fund is now too low to do much good. In the last 18 months over 500 acres of open space in town has been committed to solar installations. Due to Connecticut laws the Town has little control over where these installations go. The bottom line is if we as a town value preserving farms before us then we need to replenish our Open Space Fund. We could choose to commit some of our tax dollars to the Open Space Fund, we may be able to buy the farmland before the solar corporations do.

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If you're interested in learning more about preserving open space the Town of East Windsor Conservation Commission can help you in the right direction. The Connecticut Farmland Trust has a booklet that can help outline ways to preserve farmland. The Connecticut Department of Agriculture has several preservation programs. The Town of East Windsor, using its Open Space Fund, can partner with Connecticut DEEP to purchase properties for preservation. The Northern Connecticut Land Trust can also be consulted. The property can be sold to the Trust to preserve it, the land can also be donated with the right mechanisms so tax deductions can be achieved. In as short a time period as one more generation we may lose most of the open space and farmland we have left. As residents, and Town leaders, we can find ways to increase our Open Space Fund, and offer assistance to residents who want to preserve the best of East Windsor."

First Selectman Bowsza suggested that's a great letter, he would offer a couple of suggestions regarding edits.

D. Sarah Muska:

Selectman Muska reported that the way her liaison meeting schedule occurred these past two weeks she really didn't have a report for this meeting, although the Board could expect a long report for the next meeting.

Selectman Muska noted she wanted to commend the Veterans Commission for doing such a great job for the ceremonial parade on Monday. It was great to see so many people out and participating this year.

E. Charlie Nordell:

(See Attachment)

11. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

First Selectman Bowsza offered the in-person audience the second opportunity to offer comments or raise questions; no one requested to speak.

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First Selectman Bowsza then offered the same opportunity to speak to those members signed in remotely; 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 at 9:45 p.m. Attending the Executive Session will be First Selectman Bowsza, Deputy First Selectman DeSousa, Selectman Baker, Selectman Muska, and Selectman Nordell.

Muska moved/Baker seconded/DISCUSSION: None.

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

First Selectman Bowsza indicated he didn't expect any actions to occur after the **EXECUTIVE SESSION**.

LET THE RECORD SHOW the Recording Secretary signed out of the meeting at 9:45 p.m.

NEED INFORMATION REGARDING EXITING FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION AND ADJOURNMENT. – NOT ON VIDEO

13. **ADJOURNMENT**:

MOTION: To ADJOURN this Meeting atp.m.

...moved/.... seconded/VOTE: In Favor: Unanimous

Respectfully submitted,

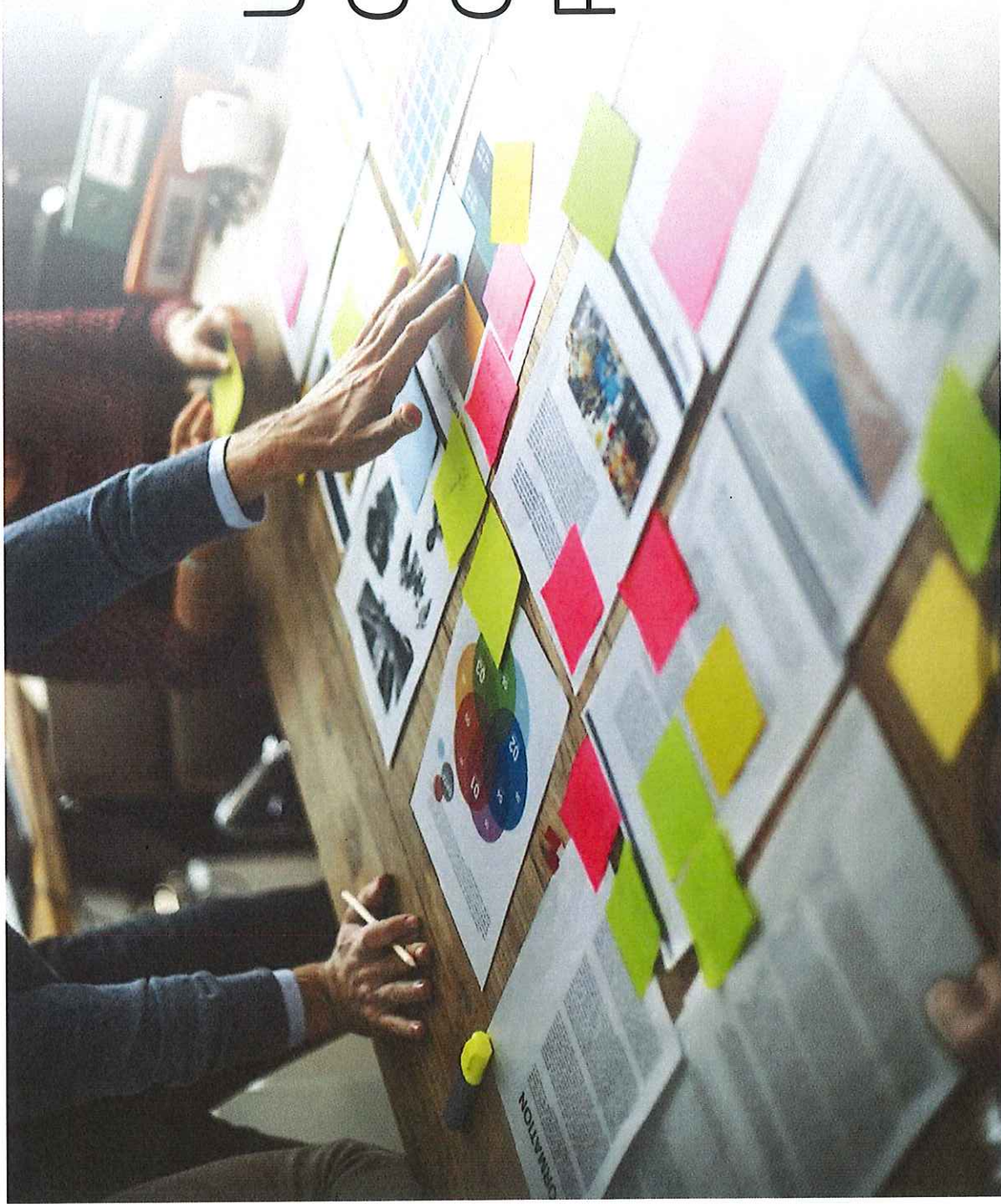
Peg Hoffman, Recording Secretary, East Windsor Board of Selectmen

ATTACHMENTS:

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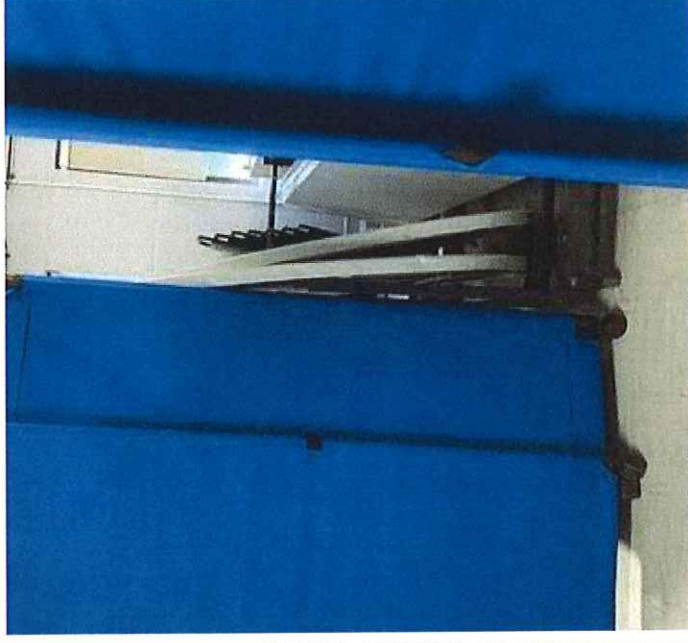
- A. Community Center proposal
 - B. Summary results of the Community Survey
 - C. First Selectman Bowsza's Report
 - D. Deputy First Selectman DeSousa
 - E. Selectman Nordell
- (See transcription of Selectman Baker's report above)

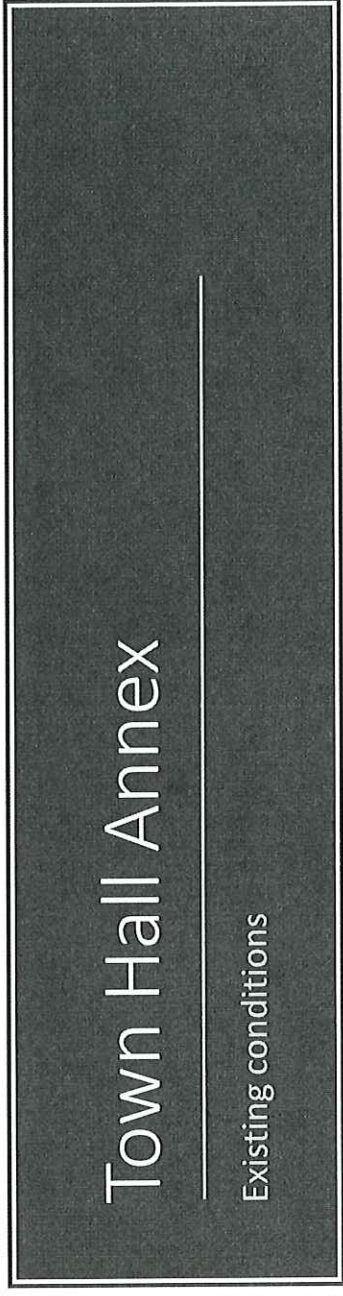
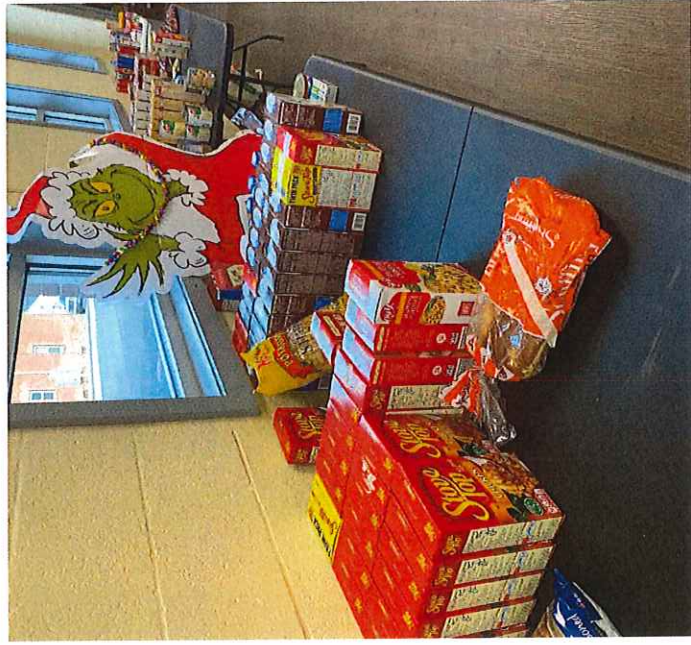
Update on Community Center Planning



Senior Center

Existing Conditions





Existing limitations and needs

- Limitation: Lack of sufficient programming space to provide multiple programs at once.
- Limitation: Accessibility at both existing locations is problematic for seniors, handicapped individuals, mothers with strollers, etc.
- Limitation: Aging in Place resources are not available
 - Currently, seniors need to go to two different locations to sign up for needed programs (i.e. Medicare and Renter's Rebate)
- Limitation: Parks & Recreation has inadequate programming space, particularly during adverse weather during summer camp.

This resolves several challenges

- Consolidates the Community Services Department in one area
 - Senior Services, Social Services and Parks & Rec will cohabitate, creating efficiencies between staff and resources
- Provides spatial access for people of all ages
- Provides a centralized location for community needs (i.e. cooling center, community distribution, etc.)
- Provides ample programming space for people of all ages
 - Senior center during the day
 - Youth and community groups at night and on weekends
- Dovetails with other funded improvements to the location
 - Abbe Road lighting project, new bathrooms, etc.

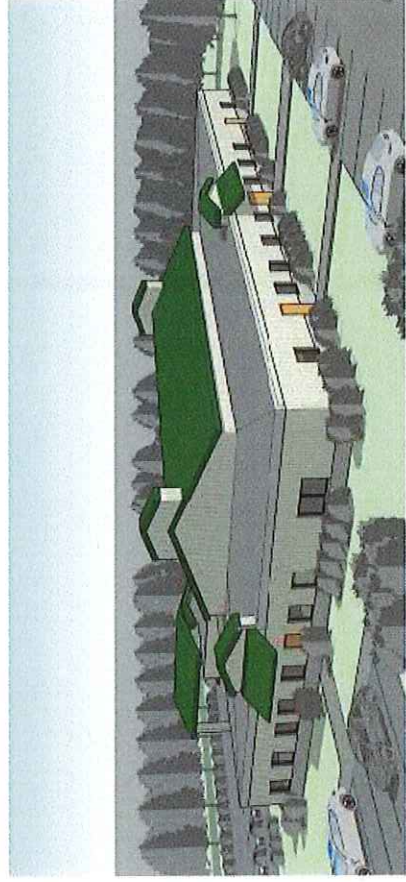
This is what it could look like



This is what it could look like

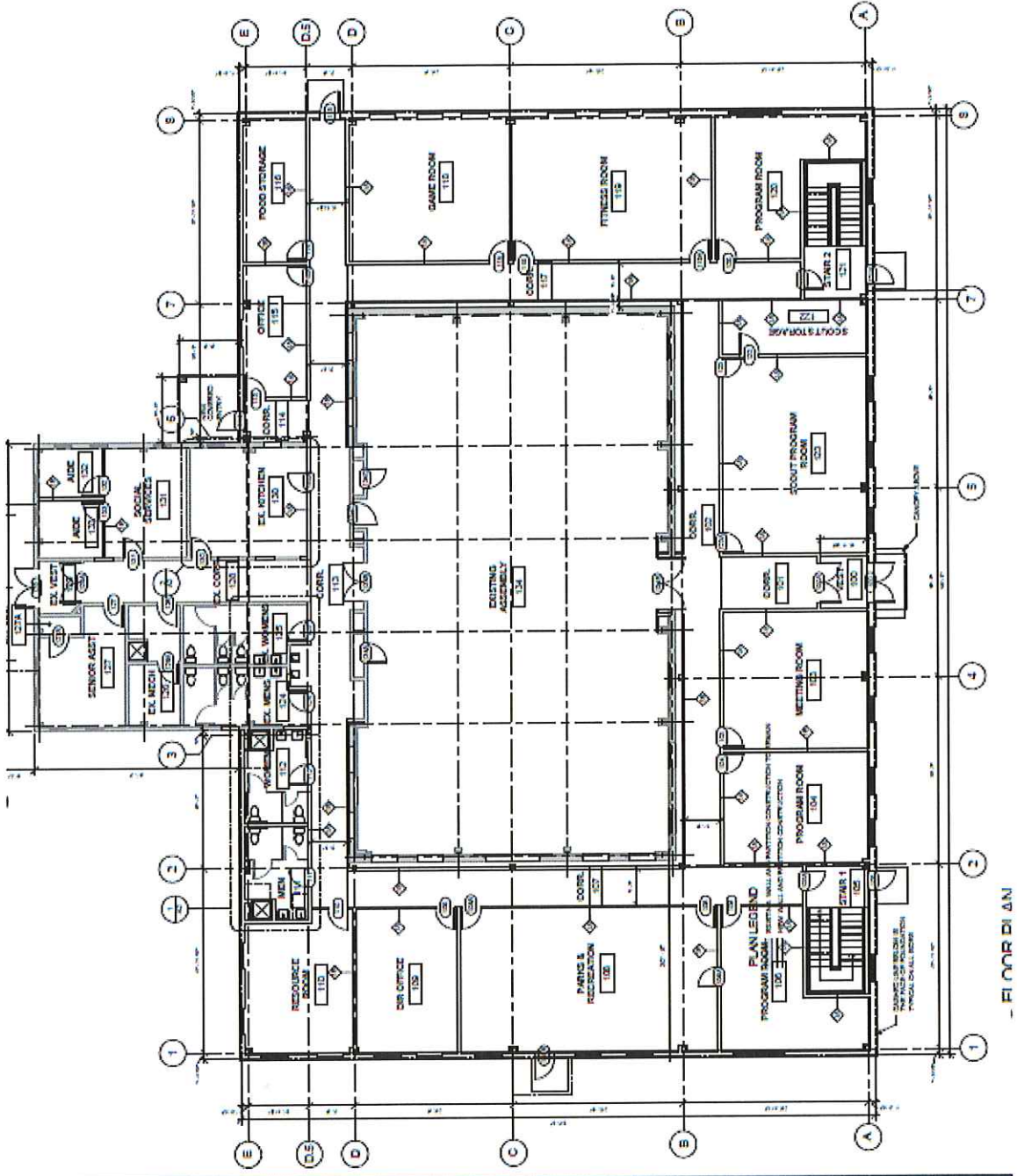


② VIEW LOOKING SOUTHEAST

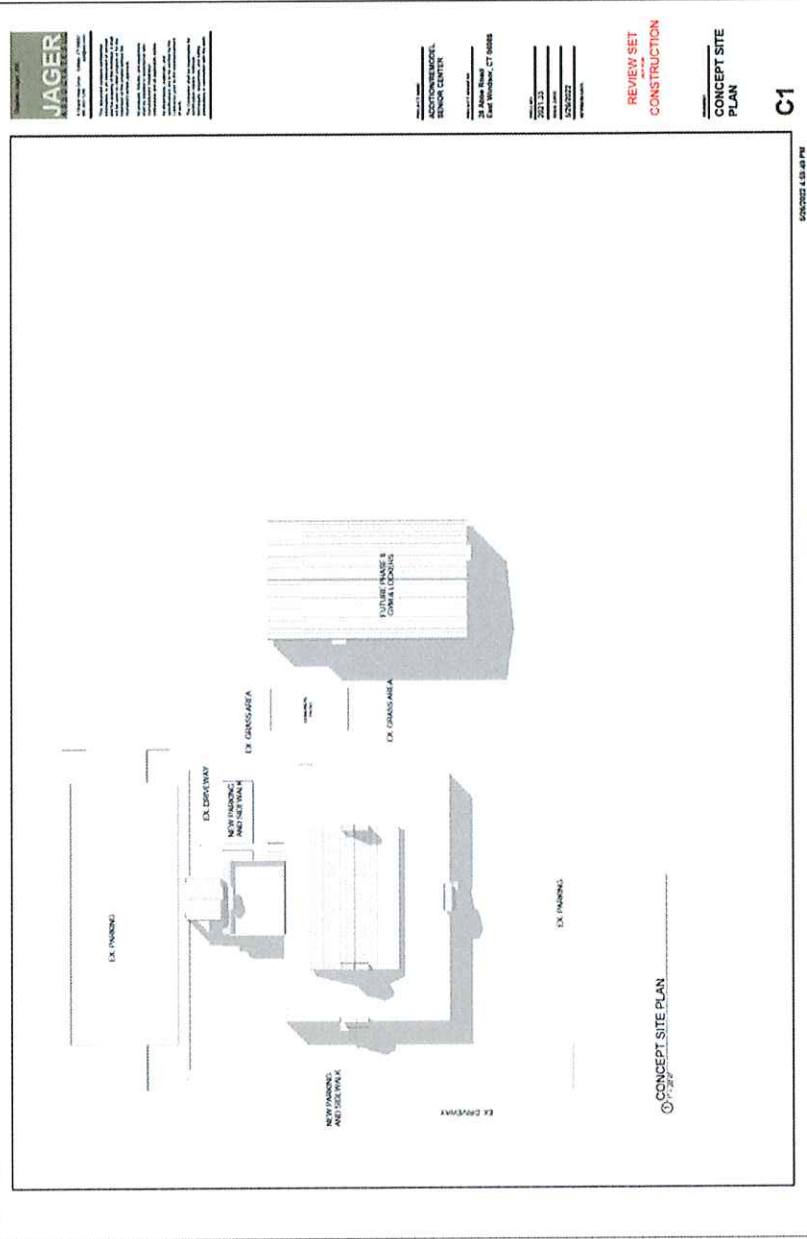


① VIEW LOOKING NORTHEAST

This is what it
could look
like



This is what it could look like



This is what it could look like

JAGER
ASSOCIATES

The design team has been selected to provide architectural and interior design services for the addition to the Model Senior Center. The project is located at 25 Apple Road, Danbury, CT 06829. The project is a two-story addition to an existing one-story building. The addition will include a new entrance, a new wing, and a new roof. The design team will be responsible for all aspects of the design, including conceptual design, schematic design, design development, and construction documents. The design team will also be responsible for coordinating with the engineering and construction teams. The design team will provide regular updates to the client and will be available for meetings and site visits. The design team will also be responsible for obtaining all necessary permits and approvals. The design team will provide a high-quality design that meets the needs of the client and the community. The design team will also provide a high-quality construction document set that is clear and easy to understand. The design team will provide a high-quality construction document set that is clear and easy to understand. The design team will provide a high-quality construction document set that is clear and easy to understand.

PROJECT NAME
ADDITION MODEL
SENIOR CENTER

PROJECT ADDRESS
25 Apple Road
Danbury, CT 06829

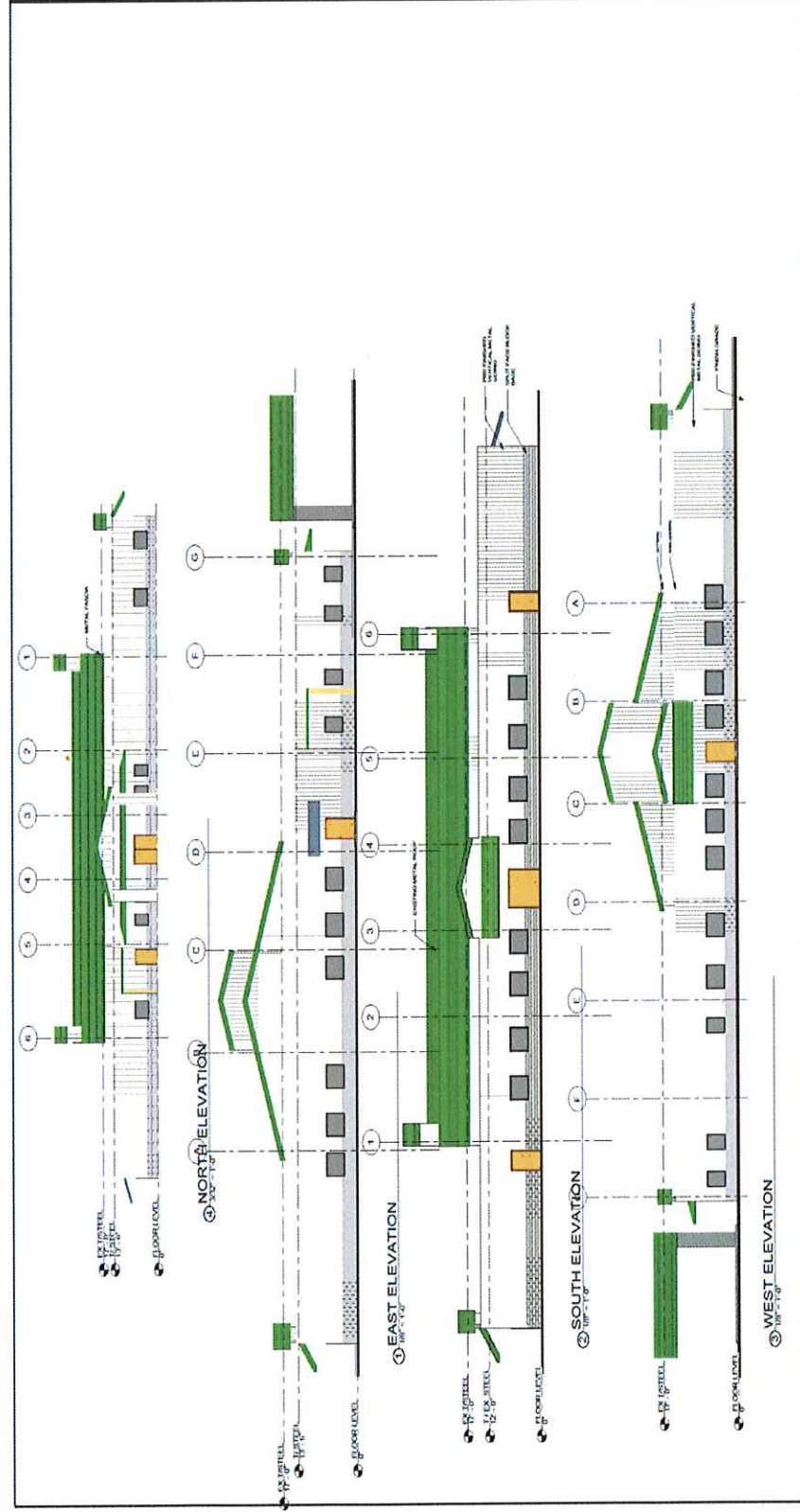
PROJECT NO.
2021-33
DATE
02/20/2022
BY
JAGER ASSOCIATES

REVIEW SET
CONSTRUCTION

CONCEPT
EXTERIOR
ELEVATIONS

A3

5/26/2022 4:59:34 PM



Project Comparison

- Windsor Locks



Senior Center



19,960 sqft



Project cost: \$13,872,644

- East Windsor



Community Center



Approximately 15,000 sqft



Approximately \$5,000,000

Funding Options



TOTAL COST: \$5 MILLION

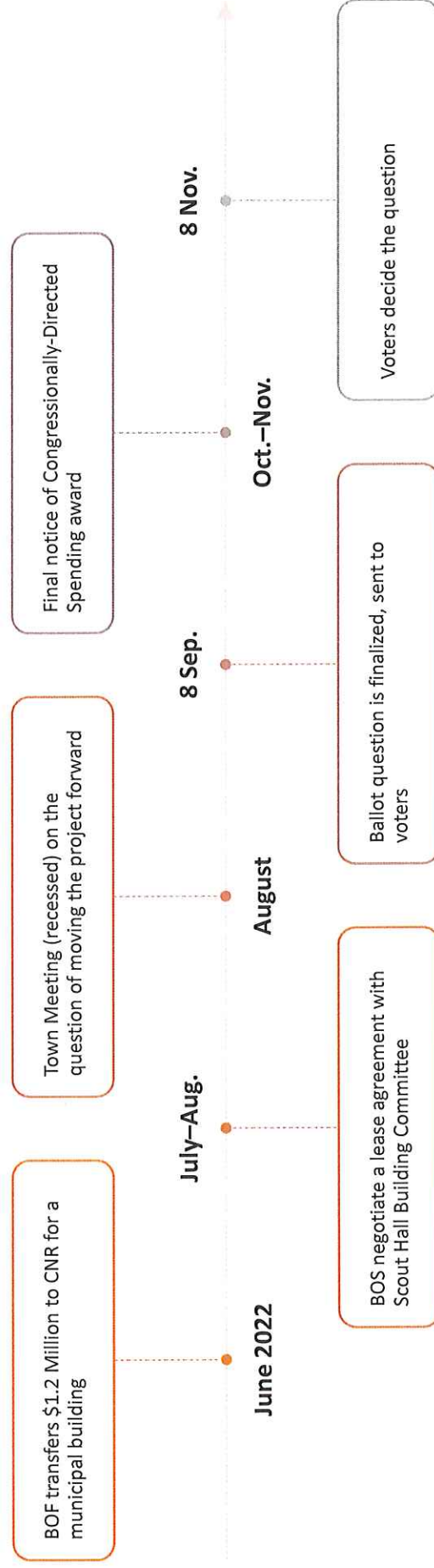


FUND BALANCE: \$1.2 MILLION

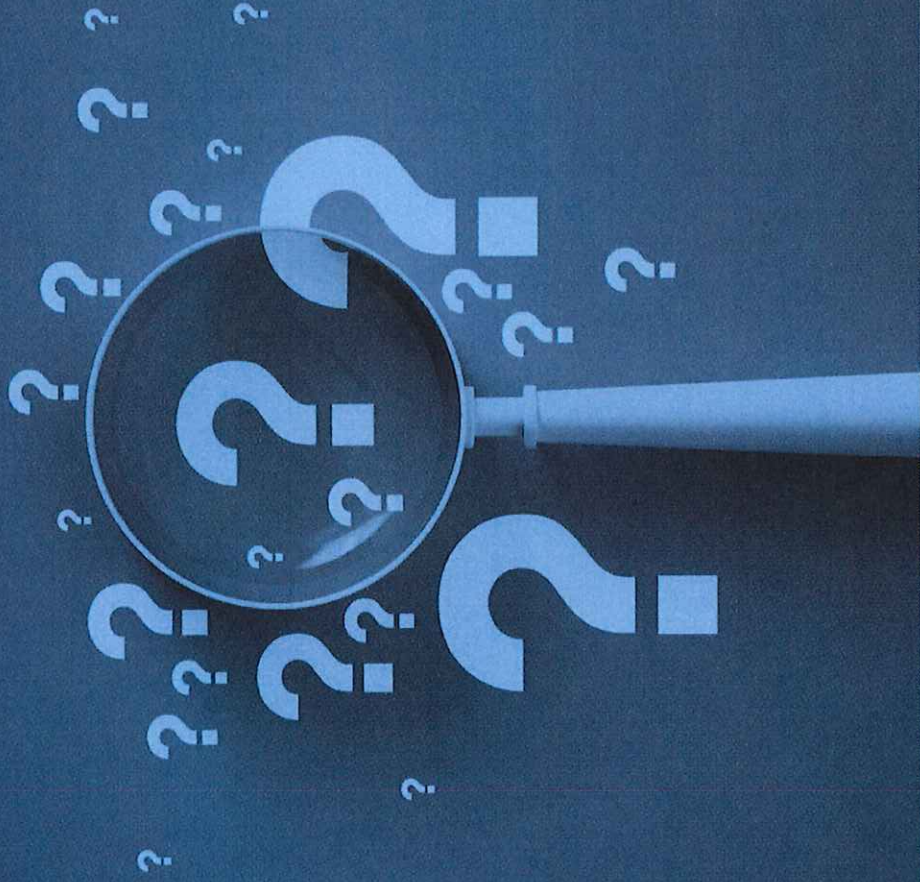


BOND FUNDING: \$3.8 MILLION

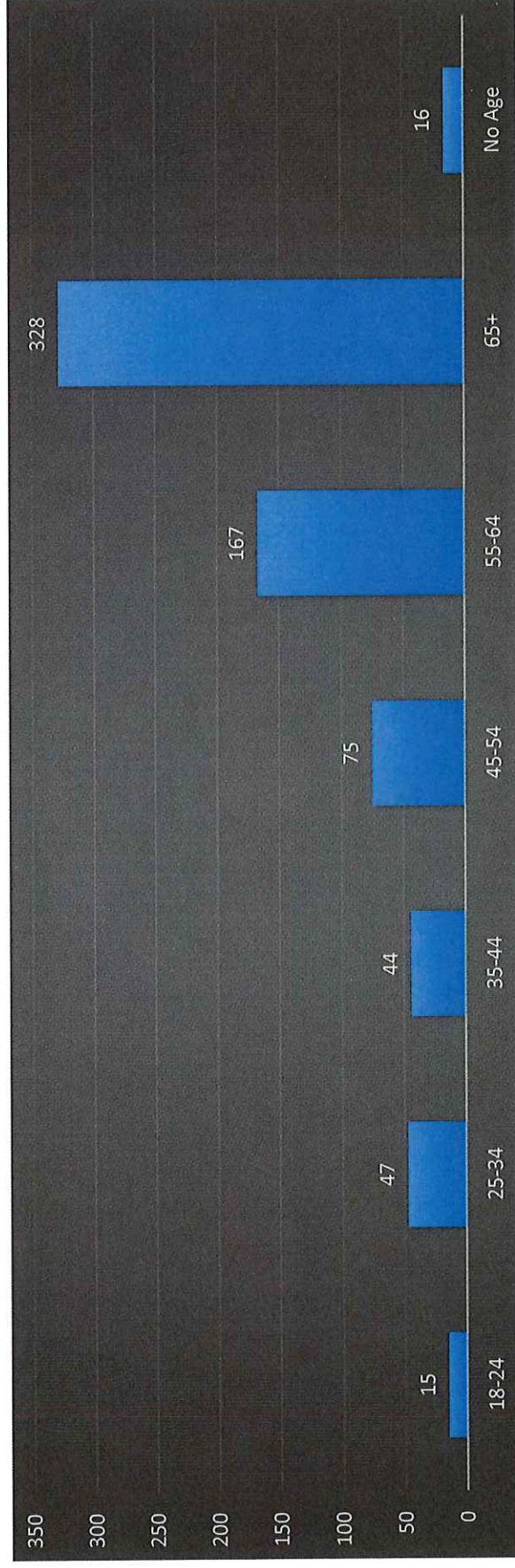
Project Timeline



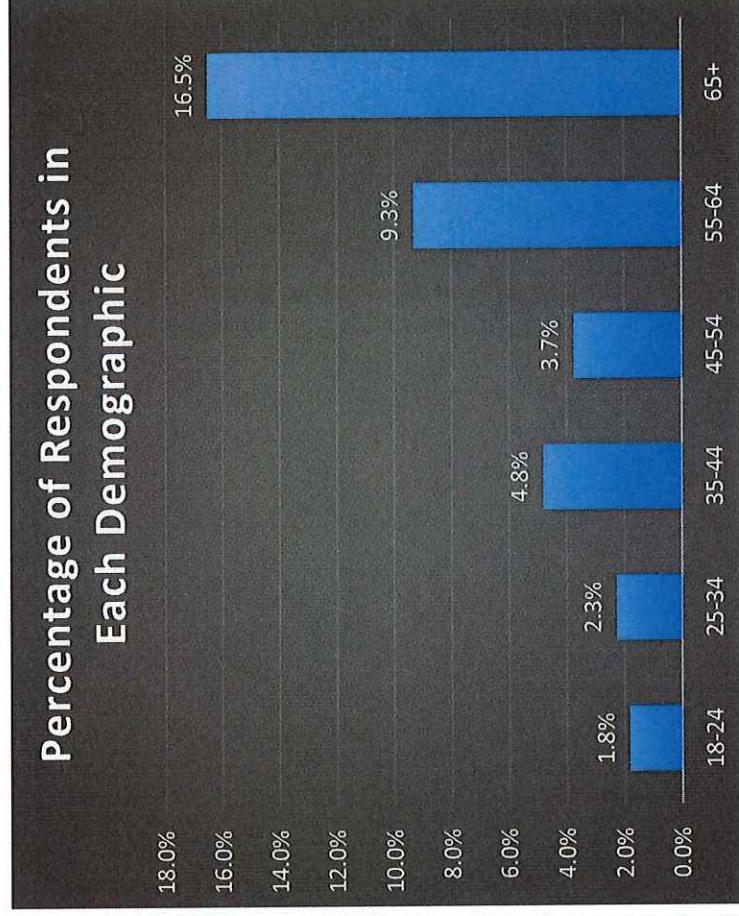
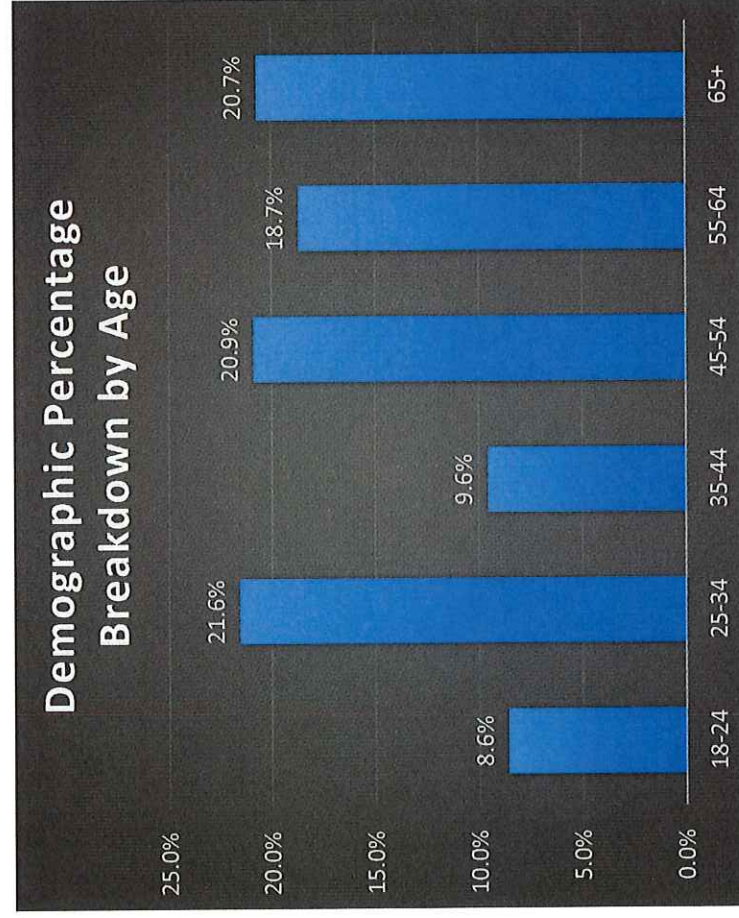
Any Questions



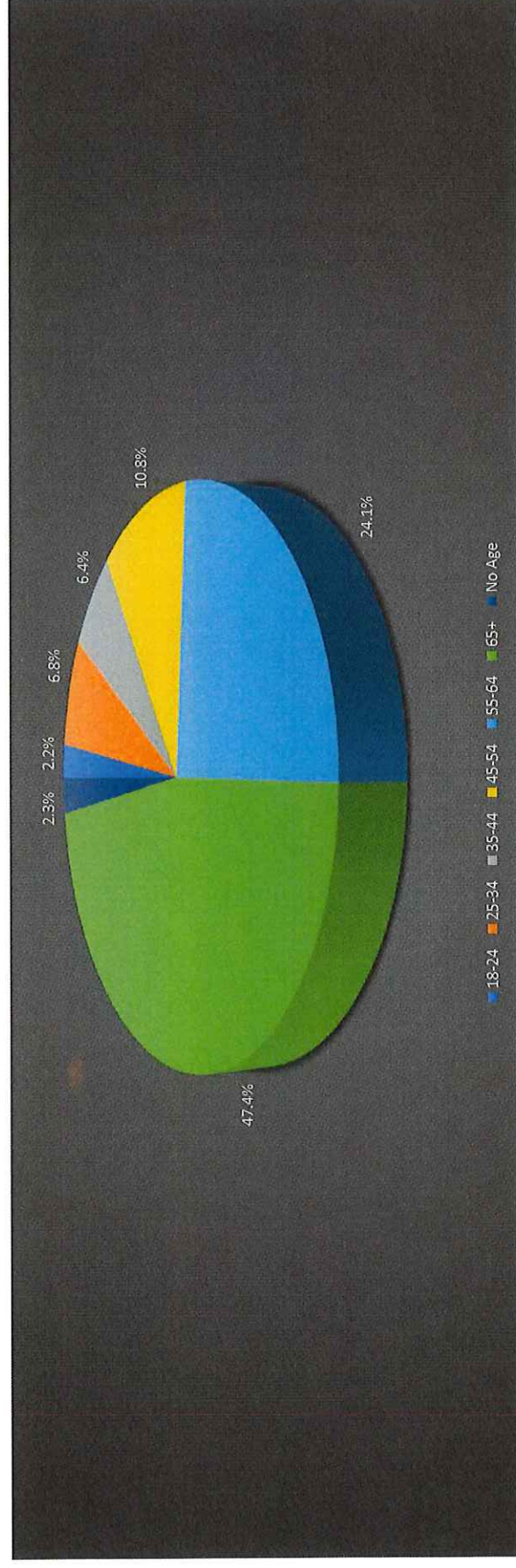
Total Responses by Age



Town Population vs. % of Respondents per Demographic



Percentage of Responses by Age



Survey Results Average Score



*With 5 being the highest available score

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BOARD OF SELECTMEN – 6/2/2022 - ATTACHMENT

First Selectman's Report – June 2, 2022

I want to start off by recognizing two long time Town employees whose time working with us is coming to an end. Keith Tetro retired on May 13th, after nearly thirty years caring for parks and recreation facilities in town. At the end of June, Sgt. Jeff Reimer will be retiring after nearly 27 years of dedicated service to our police department. We wish them both many happy years with their families in retirement.

On May 24th, the Town's Emergency Management team held a tabletop exercise planning for a weather-related event to impact the Town of East Windsor (in this case, a hurricane). These are an opportunity to get emergency management personnel together to brainstorm reactions to potentially real-world scenarios, making us more prepared if/when they happen. Thank you to East Windsor PD, Warehouse Point Fire, Broad Brook Fire, EWEMS, Public Works, Community Services, Town Finance, and Dr. Tudryn for participating.

Later that day, Director of Planning and Community Development Ruth Calabrese and I hosted a prominent developer operating in the Tri-State area on a driving tour of East Windsor. We shared some of the strategies that we are employing as a means of encouraging economic development in the community and took the opportunity to show him potential development opportunities in town. These in-person, small visits are key to demonstrate that East Windsor is open for business.

On May 26th, through the generosity of the Greater Together Community Fund, the Diversity Council held an excellent workshop on diversity, equity, and inclusion. About thirty people participated in an interactive and enlightening conversation.

On May 27th, the East Windsor Senior Center dedicated a memorial garden in honor of those senior center members that we've been unable to mourn together over the span of the COVID pandemic. We celebrated too many familiar names, names of people who we all truly miss.

There were two wonderful Memorial Day festivities this past weekend, on Sunday in Melrose, and another in Warehouse Point on Monday. Thank you to those who took the time to participate and thank you to those American soldiers that we honored.

On Tuesday, 5/31, we hosted Matt Hart, the new Executive Director of the Capital Region Council of Governments. Matt has some exciting ideas about ways of improving municipal service delivery on a regional basis that will save towns money and enhance services. He's going to be a great addition to that organization.

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Just around the corner is our first summer concert of the year, scheduled for June 16th at East Windsor Park. We have an exciting schedule of bands to play each Thursday throughout the summer. Residents are invited to join the festivities and bring your families and a picnic. We're looking forward to another great year. As a nice feature starting this year, the Arts and Culture Commission will be highlighting local artists and craftsman. Each week, the commission will select up to five artists to showcase, with a preference being given to East Windsor-based artists.

The Arts and Culture Commission is also teaming up with RiseUp for Arts and the CT Trolley Museum, to raise money for an interactive mural on the front wall of the Trolley Museum. The mural will be painted by local muralist Heather Herindeen and will depict East Windsor's history with trolley transportation. This mural will be visible from 140 and will hopefully entice even more visitors to the Trolley Museum. To donate towards the mural, visit the East Windsor Arts and Culture Facebook page for the GoFundMe link.

Finally, on June 25th the Town and our local Animal Control Officers will be sponsoring a rabies vaccine clinic for dogs and cats. The clinic will be held at Town Hall from 10am to 12pm. During that time, the Town Clerk's Office will also be open for anyone who still needs to register their dogs.

Respectfully submitted,



Jason E. Bowsza
First Selectman

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BOARD OF SELECTMEN – 6/2/2022 - ATTACHMENT

June 02, 2022

Deputy First Selectmen's Liaison Report

Since, our last Board of Selectmen meeting I was honored to be able to attend the Senior Center Memorial Garden Dedication for all those attendees who lost their lives since 2020. Cub Scout Pack 89 was helpful in the creation of this Garden and deserves to be recognized for their continued community involvement.

I also attended the Memorial Day Services in Melrose and Warehouse Point. Both organizers did justice to the memories of those who served and lost their lives for our freedom.

On May 27, 2022 I attended the Water Pollution Control Authority meeting. Chairman Anderson provided a draft Mission Statement along with recent news articles relating to surrounding towns WPCA updates.

There were no new applications.

A public hearing was held for a revision to the Sewer Use Charges. A motion was made and approved unanimously to institute a rate of \$416.00 per sewer user unit. It is important to note the WPCA has no debt service. This is the first increase in two years but due to costs inflations for material it was deemed justified. Perri Lane, Mill Street, and Scantic Road pump stations are either being rebuilt or replaced.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marie E. DeSousa

**TOWN OF EAST WINDSOR
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Regular Meeting – June 2, 2022
In-person and
ZOOM Teleconference
Meeting ID: 332 683 3563
Pascode: townhall
MEETING MINUTES**

BOARD OF SELECTMEN – 6/2/2022 ATTACHMENT

Selectman's Report 6/2/2022

On May 23rd, I attended the East Windsor BMX and skate Park committee meeting. At this meeting Brenda Crockett was elected Committee Chair, Lori Gabriel was elected Vice Chair and Rebecca Crockett was elected Secretary. Their annual Rubber Duck race will be held on June 26th at 1pm in collaboration with American Heritage River Commission's cardboard boat race. They will also be holding a bottle and can drive fundraiser at Town Hall on July 9th from 9-12. The committee has also started a facebook page so anyone interested in following them and their events can get more information.

On May 25th I attended the Board of Education meeting at the East Windsor High School.

They reported that the schools have completed the state testing for this year. Senior graduation ceremonies will take place on June 14th and the last day of classes for all grades will be on June 16th. In regards to financials, the new financial advisor is still working hard on getting the Board of Education financials reconciled, properly categorized and reported. They also believe the budget will end the year in adequate shape.

On Memorial Day I also marched in the Memorial Day parade in Warehouse Point. It was great to see a large number of community members out and participating in the events paying tribute to our fallen soldiers. Thank you to our Veterans Commission for putting on another great parade and ceremony this year.