

**TOWN OF EAST WINDSOR
BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

***REGULAR MEETING
Thursday, January 19, 2023
7:00 p.m.***

***THIS MEETING
IS BEING HELD IN-PERSON
In the John Daly, Jr. Meeting Room
Town Hall, 11 Rye Street, Broad Brook, CT 06016***

AND

***REMOTELY 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, and Selectman Muska were present in person; Selectman Nordell signed in remotely.

ABSENT: All members of the Board of Selectmen were present this evening.

GUESTS/SPEAKERS in-person: **East Windsor Police Department:** Active Chief of Police Roger Hart; Interim Deputy Chief of Police Matt Carl; Hart; **East Windsor School System:** Superintendent Dr. Patrick Tudryn; Cheryl Gustafson, Safe School Climate & Equity Coordinator; **Public:** Paul Anderson, Tom Bulkeley, Randy Clifton, Noreen Farmer, Tom Lansner, Don Platt, Wayne Shary, Joe Zotech.

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GUESTS/SPEAKERS signing in to meeting remotely: Selectman Nordell, Collin
Atwood, Gayle Boisvert, Heidi A, iPad 8, Peg Hoffman, Recording
Secretary.

1. TIME AND PLACE OF MEETING:

First Selectman Bowsza called the January 19, 2023 Regular Meeting of the East Windsor Board of Selectmen to Order at 7:04 p.m. in the John Daly, Jr. Meeting Room, Town Hall, 11 Rye Street, Broad Brook, CT 06016.

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.

4. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:

No Minutes presented for approval.

First Selectman Bowsza requested a motion to postpone discussion of **NEW BUSINESS**, Item B. **Items to be listed for Asset Disposal to Include Joe Sauerhoefer** until the Board's next meeting.

MOTION: To POSTPONE discussion of NEW BUSINESS, Item B. Items to be listed for Asset Disposal to Include Joe Sauerhoefer until the Board's next meeting

Baker moved/Muska seconded/DISCUSSION: None

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

5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

First Selectman Bowsza noted the first opportunity for anyone in the in-person audience to comment.

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Randy Clifton, 7 Hickory Trail, East Windsor, CT: Mr. Clifton reported he is attending the meeting with his friend, Don, as representatives of their Homeowners Association. They were very disappointed that the Senior Center/Community Center failed by such a small margin. After discussing it with several people they talked to there was an awful lot of confusion about what was being asked, there was a lot of misinformation that was being generated. Mr. Clifton suggested they would like to ask if there's anything that can be done to resubmit this to try to get this going again. Mr. Clifton felt the Community Center is something that's drastically needed for the community.

Tom Bulkeley, Kings Court, Broad Brook, CT: Mr. Bulkeley reported he has an issue with the last meeting the Board had regarding Item 9E referring to Prospect Hill Road, Mr. Bulkeley clarified that the road mentioned was actually Prospect Hill Drive. First Selectman Bowsza thanked Mr. Bulkeley for the comment, noting it was a common misconception; he noted the Board had been discussing the right area. Mr. Bulkeley questioned if the minutes could be approved with the correction to Prospect Hill Drive rather than Prospect Hill Road, which is Route 5. First Selectman Bowsza noted the discussion will return to the Board for further consideration regarding the outlets discussed, but it will be noted correctly at that time. Mr. Bulkeley noted he grew up on Prospect Hill Drive, so it's a little bit of a personal thing for him. First Selectman Bowsza concurred.

Don Platt, 3 Mockingbird Lane: Mr. Platt thanked First Selectman Bowsza for letting him make comments. Mr. Platt noted that there were three gentlemen, Randy Clifton, Charlie Shifler, and himself, that went around after the disappointing finding that the Community Center didn't pass, he suggested it was a sad situation for a lot of people. Mr. Platt noted they did a lot of canvassing, there is 99.9% positive reaction for those that want – and I'm going to clarify, the Community Center/Senior Center – it shouldn't be just the Senior Center because everyone can use it as well as the Seniors.

Mr. Platt noted anyone who uses the current Senior Center realizes how inadequate it is, he suggested there's actually a safety issue. We were there two weeks ago, we actually watched an elderly man nearly fall because of the Senior Center situation over there. It's inadequate just because of the slope. Mr. Platt noted First Selectman Bowsza was just there for his coffee with the Seniors – can't do it. People trying to play Wii bowling or Wii golf – they're out in the middle of the hall but there's just too much, it's too much. To Mr. Platt suggested it's time to stop kicking that can down the road, we need a referendum, we need

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to put it out to vote, but, having said that, for those that are concerned about the cost, and I know some people want to use the property over here on Rye Street and Reservoir Road. Well, let's get a finding to see what it's going to cost to do the same exact thing there versus what it's going to cost to put an addition on a present building that has the infrastructure, whether it's sewer, power, water versus going through the whole procedure of infrastructure for a building that's not even built.

Mr. Platt asked that the Board come up with another referendum, another vote, so we can get this done to benefit the Town of East Windsor.

Mr. Platt thanked the Board for their time.

First Selectman Bowsza called for additional comments, no one else in the meeting room requested to be acknowledged. First Selectman Bowsza then offered the opportunity to comment to the online participants; no one requested to speak.

6. **COMMUNICATIONS:** None.
7. **BOARD AND COMMISSIONS RESIGNATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS:**
 - A. **Resignation:** None
 - B. **Reappointments:**
 1. **Victor DeCapua (D), Veterans Commission, regular member for a term expiring February 1, 2027:**

First Selectman Bowsza requested a motion to reappoint Mr. DeCapua.

MOTION: To REAPPOINT Victor DeCapua (D), Veterans Commission, regular member for a term expiring February 1, 2027.

Muska moved/Baker seconded/DISCUSSION: None

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

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2. **Robert Dynak (U), Veterans Commission, regular member for a term expiring February 1, 2027:**

First Selectman Bowsza called for a motion for the reappointment of Mr. Robert Dynak to the Veteran's Commission.

MOTION: To REAPPOINT Robert Dynak (U), Veterans Commission, regular member for a term expiring February 1, 2027.

Muska moved/Baker seconded/DISCUSSION: None

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

3. **Mary Morgan (R), Veterans Commission. Alternate member for a term expiring February 1, 2027:**

First Selectman Bowsza called for the reappointment of Mary Morgan to the Veteran's Commission.

MOTION: To REAPPOINT Mary Morgan (R), Veterans Commission, alternate member for a term expiring February 1, 2027.

Muska moved/Baker seconded/DISCUSSION: None

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

4. **Gil Hayes (D), Greater Hartford Transit District, regular member for a term expiring February 1, 2027:**

First Selectman Bowsza called for the reappointment of Gil Hayes to the Greater Hartford Transit District.

MOTION: To REAPPOINT Gil Hayes (D), Greater Hartford Transit District, regular member for a term expiring February 1, 2027.

Muska moved/Baker seconded/DISCUSSION: None

VOTE: In Favor: DeSousa/Baker/Muska/Nordell

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(No one opposed/No abstentions)

C. New Appointments: None

8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

***A. Discussion of Windbrook Homes Developers Agreement:**

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

***B. Discussion of Permit Link Proposal for Development of Land Use Module:**

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

***C. Discussion of Blight Ordinance:**

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

***D, Discussion of Future Use of Town-Owned Property on Melrose Road:**

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

E. Discussion and Approval of Updated Bid Policy:

First Selectman Bowsza noted he is updating the Board with information requested at the previous meeting. He recalled Selectman Muska had questioned the threshold for bids in other towns. First Selectman Bowsza reported Deputy Director Sauerhoefer researched several towns, and found the following:

- Newtown - \$50,000
- Bristol, Trumbull, Simsbury, Glastonbury, Hebron, Avon, Southbury, Durham, and Meriden - \$25,000
- Brookfield, Beacon Falls, Wethersfield, and Norwalk - \$20,000
- Berlin - \$10,000

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First Selectman Bowsza suggested the recommendation from Deputy Director Sauerhoefer was to leave the bid threshold at \$20,000. First Selectman Bowsza called for comments from the Board.

Selectman Baker concurred with the recommendation to leave the threshold at \$20,000.

The consensus of the Board was the policy as proposed looked good. First Selectman Bowsza called for a motion of approval.

MOTION: To APPROVE the Bid Procedure Purchasing Policy dated January 19, 2023 as presented.

DeSousa moved/Muska seconded/DISCUSSION: None

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

First Selectman Bowsza requested the Board go out of the posted Agenda order and take up **NEW BUSINESS, Item 9D. East Windsor Historic Document Preservation Grant Contract FY 2023 to Include Amy Lam.**

MOTION: To GO OUT OF ORDER and take up NEW BUSINESS, Item 9D. East Windsor Historic Document Preservation Grant Contract FY 2023 to Include Amy Lam.

Baker moved/Muska seconded/DISCUSSION: None

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

9. NEW BUSINESS:

D. East Windsor Historic Document Preservation Grant Contract FY 2023 to Include Amy Lam:

First Selectman Bowsza cited the Town receives an annual grant from the State Library which has been used for document preservation, making records available online, and fireproofing of storage material in the vaults.

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The Town Clerk has requested the Board consider using the \$5,500 grant for additional track racking – which are racks 4 inches parallel which slide along each other to allow access to material behind - which will increase the Town's storage capacity without having to get a bigger room.

First Selectman Bowsza called for comments from the Board.

Selectman Baker noted the Town has been receiving this grant for a long time; First Selectman Bowsza concurred, noting it's always \$5,500.

First Selectman Bowsza called for a motion.

MOTION: To AUTHORIZE the First Selectman to sign the Historic Document Preservation Targeted Grant Contract FY 2023 Grant #047-SF-23.

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

9. NEW BUSINESS:

E. Tax Refunds:

MOTION: To APPROVE Tax Refunds in the amount of \$183.07

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

First Selectman Bowsza suggested the Board present their Selectman's Reports, which should bring the Selectmen's meeting to the time of the Town Meeting.

10. SELECTMEN COMMENTS AND REPORTS:

A. Jason Bowsza:

(See Attachment B)

B. Marie DeSousa:

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Deputy First Selectman DeSousa reported she couldn't attend the **Police Commission** Meeting but will give everyone an update at the next Board Meeting.

She also noted the **Housing Authority** Meeting was cancelled last evening.

Deputy First Selectman DeSousa wanted to publicly thank the Broad Brook Fire Department and the East Windsor Ambulance Association and the Police Department for their timely responses and help over the last month coming to her home three times. Without their expertise and their willingness to come back each and every time - her husband is finally on the road to recovery. Deputy First Selectman DeSousa suggested she's always said that she stands behind when something is wrong and she'll stand behind when something is right. She suggested our volunteers and our employees in this Town that handle emergency services are second to none. Deputy First Selectman DeSousa wanted to publicly put that out there, and thank you to every one of them for their help on the three occasions last month. She suggested that hopefully she'll never have to have them come back but she knows that if she does they'll be there with open arms. Deputy First Selectman DeSousa wanted to thank every one of them publicly.

C. Charlie Nordell:

Selectman Nordell reported that last Thursday the **PTO** met at the Broad Brook Middle School. Some teachers came before the PTO to request assistance in providing incentives to entice kids to more regularly attend school. It was discussed that attendance in school is a big concern for school staff and administrators. The PTO also discussed and planned several upcoming events for the Middle School and Elementary School students coming up in the next couple of months.

Selectman Nordell noted that last night he attended the **Board of Finance** Meeting. It was reported that the Town is slightly down in revenue collections compared to this same time last year but is still in good shape. There was no need for any financial transfer at last night's meeting, but it was warned that the Town's Social Services General Assistance Fund would have to receive yet another transfer this year to cover the expenses

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or the people who are currently displaced and can't find comparable rent from the place they were forced to leave.

Selectman Nordell noted the Board of Education reported to the Board of Finance that they had no significant changes since their last report, and First Selectman Bowsza announced that he and School Superintendent Tudryn would be giving their budget presentations on February 2nd. First Selectman Bowsza also announced and explained the recent \$4.7 million in Project Grants the Town was awarded.

D. Alan Baker:

Selectman Baker reported the Diversity Council Meeting was moved to next week.

Selectman Baker also noted the Broad Brook Fire Department Budget Workshop was cancelled because they're done with their budget review.

Selectman Baker also noted the Pension Commission meeting was cancelled as well.

Selectman Baker reported The Planning and Zoning Commission met and held, he believed, their fourth Public Hearing on the Scantic Event Barn, which he tallied up, was about 12 hours of public input. They did close the Public Hearing and it's on their Agenda for this coming Tuesday. He imagined they'll take action barring some unforeseen information that they might need.

E. Sarah Muska:

(See Attachment C)

First Selectman Bowsza noted the time was 7:30 p.m., he called for a motion to RECESS the Selectmen's Meeting to hold the Public Hearing.

MOTION: To RECESS the Board of Selectmen's Meeting at 7:30 p.m. for the Town Meeting.

Baker moved/Muska seconded/DISCUSSION: None

VOTE: In Favor: DeSousa/Baker/Muska/Nordell

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(No one opposed/No one abstained)

PLEASE SEE SEPARATE MINUTES FOR THE TOWN MEETING.

First Selectman Bowsza RECONVENED the Board of Selectmen's Meeting at 7:36 p.m. and noted the Board would take up Agenda Item 9A.

9. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Youth Services Bureau Presentation to Include (Interim) Deputy Chief Matt Carl:

Interim Deputy Chief Matt Carl joined the Board. Assisting him will be Cheryl Gustafson, Safe School Climate and Equity Coordinator (SSC&EC), also present is Acting Chief Roger Hart, and (East Windsor) School Superintendent Dr. Patrick Tudryn.

Interim Deputy Chief Carl opened his presentation by advising the Board he's not a Youth Services Bureau Coordinator or a Social Worker expert in mental health programming. Interim Deputy Chief Carl noted he's a Police Officer who has been in Town 26 ½ years, he's an investigator and administrator. Interim Deputy Chief Carl noted this presentation isn't about money, it's why East Windsor needs a YSB (Youth Services Bureau).

Following is a brief summary of Interim Deputy Chief Carl's PowerPoint presentation, please see YouTube meeting video for complete presentation.

- **Slide 1 – YSB Laws and Regulations under C.G.S. 10-19m which provides individual counseling, parenting training, alternative special education opportunities**
- **Slide 2 – East Windsor history of YSB – originally applied for 6 years ago by Melissa Maltese (Social Services Director), it's a program funded by DCF and the Department of Education which provides an annual budget, the Police Department became involved in development of a YSB a couple of years ago. Interim Deputy Chief Carl cited receipt of a letter from the State noting their acceptance of the YSB going forward.**

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- **Slide 3 – YSB functions – an Administrative Core Function –** which provides administrative support - and a **Direct Services Function**, who are the people who work with the youth and the Juvenile Justice System and the schools and community outreach.
- **Slide 4 – YSB range of services – youth development, juvenile justice, and family involvement.**
- **Slide 5 – YSB range of services – mental health services, child welfare, teen pregnancy prevention, and community outreach.**
- **Slide 6 – Positive Youth Development** - Cheryl Gustafson, Safe School Climate & Equity Coordinator, noted she works with the East Windsor School District. Mrs. Gustafson, SSC&EC shared her previous experience as a former administrator and assistant principal, as well as the school safety coordinator in another town. She reviewed various programs available to area youth, noting the YSBs provide tiered levels of support to the families and the community.
- **Slide 7 – Academic support, counseling services, and restorative services.** Mrs. Gustafson, SSC&EC, cited student chronic absenteeism has dramatically risen in a 4- year period – which included the impact of COVID - from 12% to 19%, Mrs. Gustafson noted that Statewide rate continued to rise to 23.7% last year. In November 2022 the Statewide rate of chronic absenteeism is 25.4%. Mrs. Gustafson suggested an important program for the parents and youth is the Mental Health First Aid which the YSB coordinator could become trained in as a trainer who could then hold training sessions for parents, school employees, to help identify and address the warning signs of mental health concerns.
- **Slide 8 – Supporting and Educating Parents** – Mrs. Gustafson, SSC&EC, reviewed various programs.
- **Slide 9 - Community Outreach**
- **Slide 10 – Youth Services Benefits**
- **Slide 11 – East Windsor Youth Services Benefits** – Interim Deputy Chief Carl reiterated available existing funding to support a local YSB, and cited the community need. He cited the Police Department having a policy in place for a Juvenile Review Board but lacks a person to run it.
- **Slide 12 – East Windsor YSB Challenges – Staffing, create an Advisory Board, and location.** Interim Deputy Chief Carl suggested the Community Center would provide space and easy accessibility. He advised the Board of other Community Centers or facilities, and there were kids in there having conversations with adults. You start to

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learn about things that are going on in their lives, it's tremendous. Interim Deputy Chief Carl suggested the Town is missing that component. Mrs. Gustafson, SSC&EC, suggested a key component is the parent education as well, to have that parental network in place for younger as well as older children.

Interim Deputy Chief Carl advised the Board of funding available for this YSB through other service organizations, as well as the DCF funding. He suggested the Town could fund a full-time YSB coordinator position. Interim Deputy Chief Carl suggested that the data shows early intervention in the youth and the families is a huge factor in positive outcomes. He noted there are youth and their families in the community that are struggling. The people in the community that need them the most trust them the least, the YSB captures those people.

Interim Deputy Chief Carl took questions.

First Selectman Bowsza questioned that the Town had the structure for the JRB but not staffing? Interim Deputy Chief Carl indicated they have a policy which he reviewed for the Board, noting it would require updating.

First Selectman Bowsza questioned if East Windsor has a local DARE Program; Interim Deputy Chief Carl replied not in some time.

First Selectman Bowsza questioned what the relationship between the SRO and the YSB would be? Interim Deputy Chief Carl suggested the SRO is a component/function of the YSB.

First Selectman Bowsza referenced Mrs. Gustafson's comments on the Statewide chronic absenteeism, he questioned if there was a safety net to intervene already or is that one of the things we're missing? Mrs. Gustafson, SSC&EC, suggested truancy is different than chronic absenteeism, chronic absenteeism is when a child is absent 10% of the 180-day annual school year/enrollment while truancy is when a youth has unexcused absences. Truancy can't be excused by a parent, once the youth reaches 10 or more absences the absenteeism must be documented by a medical professional or the court or if there is an extenuating circumstance, such as a severe illness or a death in the

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family. Truancy is handled through the Board of Education. Having the YSB would act as a buffer for that family.

First Selectman Bowsza questioned that without a functioning YSB how is East Windsor capturing the needs of families in the community, or are we missing things? Interim Deputy Chief Carl felt the community was currently missing assisting the families. He suggested you need a coordinator with the skill set of administrative core functions as well as providing the services to the community. He cited Melissa Maltese (Social Services Director) is running three functions within her department and simply doesn't have the time or staffing available to manage a YSB. Mrs. Gustafson felt there were opportunities to support the students in creative ways that aren't currently in place, the early intervention is key.

Interim Deputy Chief Carl cited the assistance provided by Melissa Maltese (Social Services Director) and her staff. The Town is lucky to have her and her staff running this program. He has also been assisted with financing by Finance Director Amy O'Toole.

First Selectman Bowsza called for comments from the Board.

Selectman Nordell indicated he had no comments at this time.

Selectman Muska thanked them both for the presentation, which shared a lot of information. You addressed a lot of the questions she had about truancy and the Juvenile Review Board. She hoped we can take the steps necessary as a community to make this happen.

Deputy First Selectman DeSousa felt the numbers regarding absenteeism are skewed a lot because of COVID because parents were told in the beginning that you had to quarantine for specific period of time, and that changed from the initial requirement. Deputy First Selectman DeSousa felt we should also take into consideration that when a child is sick and you need to make a doctor's appointment today the kid may be over the illness by the time you can meet with the doctor but you still need the doctor's note. She suggested some people can't afford to go to the doctor every time their child isn't feeling well but they also can't send them to school. She also cited some families used the lockdown as an opportunity to go on vacation because they haven't been on one for years so when the

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world opened up they wanted to get out there. She hoped the numbers will change as the world moves forward.

Deputy First Selectman DeSousa felt the points made about the need for a YSB is absolutely necessary with the world changing as it is. She agreed that Betsy Burns did an excellent job turning several children in Town around and we haven't had that opportunity in some time.

Selectman Baker thanked Interim Deputy Chief Carl and Mrs. Gustafson, SSC&EC, for the presentation, which was an eye-opener for him regarding what could and should be done. He indicated that he assumed the YSB would be under Melissa Maltese, and the money already available is from the matching funds? Interim Deputy Chief Carl concurred, noting Melissa Maltese agrees it's a Social Services function, not a Police function. Interim Deputy Chief Carl noted Melissa Maltese agreed to handle the YSB if additional help was available. Selectman Baker questioned if the YSB director would also need additional staff, or would the director be interfacing with an advisory group? Interim Deputy Chief Carl suggested Finance Director Amy O'Toole felt there was enough money for two part-time people, or a full-time person depending on their skill set to manage the budgets as well as reaching out to the community with the programming. Interim Deputy Chief Carl suggested a competitive full-time salary range would be \$53,000.00 to \$60,000.00+. At some time the Board has to consider budgeting for this position. Interim Deputy Chief Carl suggested potential initial options for the YSB and the JRB, such as working with adjacent organizations, until the funding and staff is available in our community.

First Selectman Bowsza questioned Interim Deputy Chief Carl what the next steps would be? Interim Deputy Chief Carl felt the initial step would be to identify someone the Town would want to hire, and has the skill sets to work with Mrs. Gustafson and the School District. He suggested the Juvenile Review Board can be fit in at any time. He suggested establishing an advisory board, based on South Windsor's example of 2 local leaders, the SRO, a BOE member, 2 members of the community, and a member of the YSB. Interim Deputy Chief Carl suggested the final piece is the location, which is little problematic as East Windsor lacks a recognizable and easily accessible place for the teens to go to interact with other teens. Interim Deputy Chief Carl suggested there are a lot of people

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in our community that can help the youth if we can find a location for them to go.

First Selectman Bowsza called for comments or questions from the in-person audience.

Paul Anderson, 89 Main Street, Broad Brook: Mr. Anderson suggested DCF is the last resort for anyone with a problem because they're understaffed and are under pressure to make decisions, which they do. The more we can do locally the fewer things DCF has to deal with and the better off everyone is. Mr. Anderson suggested, to him, DCF is a scary organization, they don't have the resources and the time to put into individual cases. They're under an obligation from the State to make decisions. If we can do things locally we change the rules completely. And, it's our community, the people live here, we don't want them to suffer, we want them to be successful. Mr. Anderson felt this is a major thing to be done.

Don Platt, 3 Mockingbird Lane: Mr. Platt concurred with Mrs. Gustafson, noting he had been involved in the Safe Grad Program with his 3 teenagers; it's a fantastic program. It's the last time they get together with their friends before they go their separate ways to college or whatever. Safe Grad is a real bonus.

Noreen Farmer, 247 South Water Street: Mrs. Farmer suggested this takes her back to the days of Betsy Burns wanting something like this but not being able to get there. We talk about money and grants but we never seem to be able to get there. Mrs. Farmer felt we need to get people from education, the Police, everyone you've been talking about and form a group. Mrs. Farmer suggested she hates to think about the number of young people who have died from drug overdoses, we're not untouched by that. She gets very emotional about it because she recalls sitting with Betsy (Burns) when Mrs. Farmer was the Chairman of the Board of Finance 15 years ago wondering how to get it going. We've never taken that last step of finding a place for this, is it a classroom that we borrow or ...what? Mrs. Farmer suggested it's time to get there.

Randy Clifton, 7 Hickory Trail: Mr. Clifton noted he has a son who is an Assistant Principal at the South Windsor Middle School. Everyday he

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has a plan for what his kids are going to do when they get to school. That plan is thrown out the window as soon as the students walk in and sit down because little Johnny just punched someone in the face. Mr. Clifton suggested now his son has to call this person, and this person, and this person but as his son has said if there was someone else that could help with these types of situations it would make life a lot easier. Mr. Clifton noted we've been talking for some time about a Community Center, he suggested this is a perfect way to use the Community Center for the community rather than just for a certain group but to make the community better. Mr. Clifton felt it was a great idea.

Unable to identify speaker: The resident felt we need to do whatever we can because we old people won't be around that long but the kids will be, let's leave them something they can be proud of.

Don Platt, 3 Mockingbird Lane: Mr. Platt suggested there's so much land at the property at Abbe Road that you can utilize for a baseball or soccer league, he knows people from Ellington who come over and use those fields. Mr. Platt suggested there's so much opportunity at Abbe Road, he felt it's under-utilized. There's a wonderful walking trail around a pond at Abbe Road. Mr. Clifton felt we need First Selectman Bowsza to get behind it and get the community to use it more, and better.

First Selectman Bowsza called for additional comments from the in-person audience and remote participants; no one requested to be acknowledged.

First Selectman Bowsza thanked Interim Deputy Chief Carl and Mrs. Gustafson, SSC&EC, for their presentation. Interim Deputy Chief Carl indicated that if anyone in the community would like to reach out to him to discuss this know that he supports this he will make himself available to other groups or organizations he'll do his best to educate them.

B. Items to be Listed for Asset Disposal to Include Joe Sauerhoefer:

Discussion postponed until next Board of Selectmen Meeting.

C. Discussion of Next Steps Pertaining to Congressionally Directed Spending Awards:

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First Selectman Bowsza recalled that East Windsor received three Congressionally Directed Spending Awards, one for **the Trolley Museum** for \$750,000.00, one for the **School Hill Water Association** for \$1.2 million, and one for **renovation and expansion of Scout Hall** for \$2.75 million. First Selectman Bowsza cited the \$750,000 will go directly to the Trolley Museum for their plan to transform the Museum into a living history museum. First Selectman Bowsza noted the other two awards require additional action from the Board.

Regarding the **School Hill Water Association**, First Selectman Bowsza noted the Town received an award of \$1.2 million towards a project which will cost between \$1.6 million and \$1.7 million. First Selectman Bowsza noted the Board previously supported spending \$250,000 of our ARPA allocation, of which we have approximately \$2.4 million to help bridge the impact on the residents for the remainder of that project. That still leaves the residents between \$150,000 and \$250,000 short to complete the project. The Town has submitted a Community Investment Fund Grant, which is a State funded grant, to close the gap. First Selectman Bowsza noted to utilize the funding the Board of Selectmen and Board of Finance would have to approve the proposal, and this item would then go to Town Meeting.

First Selectman Bowsza explained the Federal process for this appropriation.

First Selectman Bowsza queried if the Board was ready to commit the Town funding this evening, or if they prefer clarity on potential requirements, such as environmental or plan review.

Deputy First Selectman DeSousa would like to wait until the Board knows what the direction will be. She would also prefer to wait until the funding is in the Town's possession.

Selectman Baker agreed, in case the Town needs to spend any additional funds on a research or engineering study.

Selectman Nordell concurred with Deputy First Selectman DeSousa and Selectman Baker; he didn't feel the need to act until the Board knows if additional funding might be necessary.

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Selectman Muska agreed with the other Board members to wait until there's clarification if any additional expenses might be required.

Deputy First Selectman DeSousa cited the increase in project costs as implementation is delayed, she felt the Board should hold off approval of this funding until the requirements are clarified.

First Selectman Bowsza noted the third appropriation is the \$2.75 million for the **Scout Hall renovations and expansion**. First Selectman Bowsza indicated the Department of Agriculture will require an environmental review and an architectural review. He suggested it's unlikely that any environmental issues would surface as the building has been built for some time. First Selectman Bowsza indicated this would be the last project in line for use of these awards, should the Board agree to move forward with this project.

First Selectman Bowsza noted the Town also has \$1.2 million available in Capital Non-Recurring Funding. He anticipates an additional \$1,050,000.00 required to complete the Scout Hall renovations/expansion which doesn't involve using tax dollars. First Selectman Bowsza called for discussion from the Board.

Selectman Baker suggested if we can get it together let's move forward on that. First Selectman Bowsza noted the Town is working with a professional estimator on the project, the numbers should be available next week. Selectman Baker questioned if the environmental or architectural review is estimated to cost a significant amount? First Selectman Bowsza replied nothing as it's done by the USDA, the Town's cost would be the preparation of the plans.

First Selectman Bowsza cited he would have funding options for the remaining \$1,050,000.00 available for the Board's next meeting.

Deputy First Selectman DeSousa agreed, noting she's always been behind this project, and after listening to the YSB presentation tonight for the Police Department and the Schools willingness to work together for the betterment of the Town she agrees to move this project forward.

Selectman Nordell noted he's still in favor of this project, which he has supported from the beginning, but noted the townspeople previously voted

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this project down. Should the Board look at that issue before developing funding options? Does the order of action matter? First Selectman Bowsza cited the Board needs to have answers to the questions the voters will ask, and how the project will be funded would be one of those questions.

Selectman Baker supports this project, he felt the Board needs to figure out a way to get it done.

Selectman Muska indicated she continues to be in favor of this project, noting the Federal funding is a substantial amount which the Town should be grateful for. She felt the Board should pursue the project as there is a need for it. She felt there was a lot of confusion with the original vote, and the Scantic event center, and there is a lot of talk online; she felt there continues to be a lot of confusion. Selectman Muska is in favor of moving this project forward.

11. PUBLIC PARTICIPATON:

First Selectman Bowsza opened discussion to the in-person audience.

Randy Clifton, 7 Hickory Trail: Mr. Clifton reported when he and Mr. Platt and others canvassed the community one of the things that upset them the most was that people actually thought that this Community Center was going to kick the Boy Scouts out of Scout Hall. They were told that was what would happen.

Mr. Clifton agreed, the funding is a consideration.

Mr. Clifton suggested the other thing that was confusing was that some people were thinking that the plot of land that we have on Reservoir Avenue should be used for a Community Center, but when you look at the cost, he suggested it would cost millions just to put water in. We don't have electricity or sewer, or a stick of a building. Mr. Clifton suggested that project would cost \$10 to \$12 million on that property, but here the Town has an opportunity to do something that's good and take a building which is vastly underused and turn it into a Community Center where everyone can get good out of that building all day long. Mr. Clifton suggested it's a no-brainer.

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Don Platt, 3 Mockingbird Lane: Mr. Platt cited Selectman Muska keyed in on an issue, the misinformation out there was mind-boggling. When you start talking to people and they go – “so, it’s not a budget issue?” He cited people who were concerned that the budget would go up next year, he told them no one has a crystal ball, this is about what we’re doing right now.

Mr. Platt also noted the signs around town were confusing because of the Scantic plan.

Mr. Platt noted Windsor Locks just down-sized their plan for a Senior Center because they don’t have the money. He suggested if people want to use the Reservoir Avenue property we’re dealing with three major items – water, utilities, and sewer - even before we start planning for a building. He also noted that property is a corner lot which gets factored in to expenses for a parcel. Mr. Platt cited Scout Hall has 200 amp electrical service, while the Reservoir Avenue parcel would be 100 amp like a residential home.

Mr. Platt suggested, moving forward, for those people who have questions let’s do a side-by-side comparison of the costs of both properties versus just adding on to an existing structure and making it better. If you compare apples to apples, Scout Hall at Abbe Road would win hands down.

Wayne Shary, Depot Street: Mr. Shary questioned if it was possible to revisit this with the Town, he noted we’re talking pluses and minuses of Scout Hall. Can we do a revote?

First Selectman Bowsza reviewed options, including submission of a petition, or the Board can trigger any question to go to Town Meeting and then send it to a referendum.

Mr. Shary indicated he wanted to address the signs around town. He noted a sign on North Road that said “do you want to spend \$5 million on Scantic?” Mr. Shary suggested they generalize; some people think Scantic is the Scout Hall issue and others think it’s the facility they were talking about so a lot of people were thinking they didn’t want this neighborhood messed up. They had no idea what they were voting for. Mr. Shary indicated he couldn’t believe how confusing it was, two things at the same time under the same name but totally different issues. Mr. Shary felt that was part of what swayed people voting. An unidentified audience member suggested some people did that on purpose, to make it confusing.

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Joe Zotech, 7 Mockingbird Lane: Mr. Zotech questioned if a referendum was necessary, he questioned if the Board had the ability to make this happen? You said we have the money, taxes aren't going to go up; he felt we don't need a referendum if it's not necessary. First Selectman Bowsza indicated if it's appropriated funds in a dollar amount of \$1 million it's required to go to referendum per the Town's Charter. If it's an added appropriation or an appropriation in excess of \$25,000.00 but below \$1 million that can be resolved at Town Meeting.

Paul Anderson, 89 Main Street: We can't do this in a hurry. The signs out there saying "no" are totally pointless but they're still out there and that will add to the confusion. Unfortunately, he was pointing it out to people in general, they're not taking their signs down but they're useless today. First Selectman Bowsza suggested Mr. Anderson's point was well taken, he felt there was cause for due diligence, he felt he spoke for the Board in saying they planned to exercise that.

Don Platt, 3 Mockingbird Lane: Mr. Platt wanted to thank the Board, it's troubling to go through this, but Mr. Platt indicated he appreciated all that the Board does; it's not easy.

Tom Lansner, 27 Laurel Circle: He felt there was a combination of misinformation and confusion, and then some people that are not believing what they're hearing. He noted to someone on Facebook how much it would cost to run water to the site (Reservoir Avenue), and they said that couldn't possibly be. Mr. Lansner cited First Selectman Bowsza had mentioned a quote from Connecticut Water, First Selectman Bowsza indicated the quote, dated November 16th, was for \$3.17 million. Mr. Lansner felt the actual quotes should be shown to people rather than saying it would cost a lot of money. Mr. Lansner suggested he understood the Town couldn't afford an architectural plan for the Kogut property but if we could get an estimate that said it would cost \$12 million for something comparable. We all know it will be more expensive to build on that site but if we had something to show the people.

First Selectman Bowsza called for additional comments; no one in the in-person audience or remotely requested to be acknowledged.

First Selectman Bowsza called for a motion to go into **EXECUTIVE SESSION.**

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12. **EXECUTIVE SESSION** – Pursuant to C.G.S. 1-200 (6)(b), strategy and negotiations with respect to pending claims or pending litigation, (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. Discussion of Attorney-Client Privileged matters. Discussion of contract matter. Action possible:

MOTION: To GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION at 9:14 p.m. Pursuant to C.G.S. 1-200 (6)(b), strategy and negotiations with respect to pending claims or pending litigation, (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. Discussion of Attorney-Client Privileged matters. Discussion of contract matter. Action possible. Attending the Executive Session will be First Selectman Bowsza, Selectman Baker, Selectman Muska, and Selectman Nordell.

Baker moved/Nordell seconded/DISCUSSION: None

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

LET THE RECORD SHOW the Recording Secretary signed out of the Meeting at 9:14 p.m.

First Selectman Bowsza reported the Board had exited the Executive Session at 9:50 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 9:50 p.m.

DeSousa moved/Baker seconded/DISCUSSION: None

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

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Respectfully submitted, -----
Peg Hoffman, Recording Secretary, East Windsor Board of Selectmen

ATTACHMENTS:

- A. Youth Services Bureau Presentation**
 - B. First Selectman Bowsza's Report**
 - C. Selectman Muska's Report.**
- Deputy First Selectman DeSousa, Selectman Nordell and Selectman Baker's Reports included in the Minutes transcription

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BOARD OF SELECTMEN 1/19/2023 ATTACHMENT B

First Selectmen's Report - January 19, 2023

Tonight, a special Town Meeting will be held to consider an added appropriation for engineering of HVAC systems on each of our school buildings. Last fiscal year, the Board of Education returned approximately \$518,000 in unexpended funds to the Town, and we are seeking to reappropriate \$400,000 of that to do the engineering work necessary to allow the town to move forward with air quality grants offered by the state of Connecticut. That town meeting will begin at 7:30pm tonight, and the voters of the town are invited to attend in person or online. Zoom information can be found on the Board of Selectmen's meeting agenda.

Heating costs are affecting many lower income households in our area, especially with fuel prices this winter. To help raise money for local heating assistance programs, the Town is sponsoring our Panther Plunge for the first time in several years. The plunge will be at East Windsor Park on Saturday, February 18th at 1pm. Prizes will be given out for the largest donation by team, by individual, and for best costumes. All proceeds will benefit the East Windsor Fuel Bank. Anyone interested in signing up to take the plunge can reach out to Parks and Recreation at 860-627-6662.

Speaking of the Fuel Bank, we are grateful to have received a \$15,000 donation from the Rockville Bank Foundation. Thank you to them for their generosity.

We are looking for summer help for our parks and recreation summer camp program. Applications will be available on the town website on February 1st. This is a great summer job for a college student or recent graduate. Anyone interested can apply on the Town website.

The Town recently passed a new elderly property tax credit program. The Assessor's office is accepting applications from February 1st through May 15th. Qualifying households will receive a \$250 tax credit on their July tax bill. The state elderly homeowners' program will follow the same enrollment schedule of February 1st through May 15th. Contact the Assessor's office for more information.

After twenty years of service at the East Windsor Senior Center, Teresa Hill has retired as of January 6th. I've known Teresa since I was eight years old, and I've been a young student on her school bus and worked with her as First Selectman, and in any capacity, she always went out of her way to make you feel welcomed and comfortable. She'll be missed as a town employee, but we wish her all the best in her new chapter, and she spends time with her husband Doug and sons Brian and Christopher. Congratulations Teresa!

On January 9th, I met with a group of constituents to discuss the property revaluation process. Even though the recent revaluation will not be implemented, I thought it was still a good opportunity to share what the statutory requirements are, what the options were,

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and why we elected to defer the revaluation. It was a great conversation, and a great opportunity to answer some questions that have probably confused a lot of folks. Over the last two weeks, Finance Director Amy O'Toole and I have been meeting with departments, boards, commissions and agencies about their respective budget requests for the next fiscal year. I will have my recommendation for the Town government ready to be presented at the public hearing on February 2nd, in conjunction with Dr. Tudryn's budget for the Board of Education.

On January 14th, I was happy to help welcome one of East Windsor's newest businesses - 2 Sisters Nutrition. They are located in Kingsway Plaza, and the ribbon cutting officially opening their business was this past Saturday. We wish them many years of good luck in our business community.

Later that night, I was pleased to join the East Windsor Ambulance Association for their annual banquet. It was a great opportunity to thank our local EMS for the good service they provide to our community day in and day out, especially throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

Now that the holiday season is behind us, we've taken a look back on holiday programs that the Town has sponsored. Largely due to the generosity of people in our community, the Town was able to provide 168 families with meals for thanksgiving, and an additional 252 families with meals for Christmas. Thank you for your generous support

Respectfully submitted,

Jason E. Bowsza
First Selectman

BOARD OF SELECTMEN – 1/19/2023 – ATTACHMENT C

Selectmen's Report - January 19, 2023

The Parks and Recreation Commission meeting on January 9, 2023 was canceled.

On January 11, 2023 I attended the Arts and Culture Committee meeting. The Committee is still seeking new members. There are currently three spots available, so if anyone is interested, please fill out an application from the First Selectman's Office. The Committee was notified that their CT Humanities Grant has been approved in the amount of \$5,100.

The Committee collaborated with 2 Sisters Nutrition to feature a local artist at their Grand Opening last Saturday. Artwork from East Windsor's own Kiara Kaiser was displayed.

East Windsor Arts and Culture will be holding a Photography Contest. The contest is open to everyone, no matter their age, skill level or residency. The categories are: People, Animals/Wildlife, Nature, East Windsor Pride, Photographer is 12 or under, Architecture and Photographer's Choice. The Contest should launch any day now and the expected deadline is April 15th. Please follow the Arts and Culture Facebook page for the Contest Rules and additional information.

Later that evening, I attended the Board of Education meeting. The Board received a joint presentation from Assistant Superintendent Darryl Rouillard and Mrs. Fox and Mr. Ryan of Broad Brook Elementary School pertaining to the Audit of the Curriculum based on input from Dr. Rafferty. Modifications were made to the East Windsor Public Schools Literacy Block, Assessments and Data Protocols, Phonics Instruction and Intervention Programming. This is a multi-year improvement approach over a four year time period.

The Board established dates for their Budget Workshops and are working on finalizing the 2023-2024 School Calendar, keeping in mind feedback from parents on when to hold April Vacation, although that might be difficult because surrounding towns seem to be split between two different weeks.

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The Veterans Commission meeting on January 12, 2023 was canceled. However, they are still accepting orders for the Veterans Memorial Walkway Paver Drive. The pavers are 6x9 and are engraved in memory of a loved one to be displayed at the Joseph Tracy Memorial Green. The cost is \$50.00 each and orders will be accepted through February 1, 2023.

Submitted With Sincerity,

Sarah A. Muska, Selectman
smuska@eastwindsorct.com