

**TOWN OF EAST WINDSOR
BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

REGULAR MEETING

April 6, 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 Selectman

Alan Baker, Selectman

Sarah Muska, Selectman

Charles Nordell, Selectman

ATTENDANCE: First Selectman Bowsza hosted the in-person meeting. Deputy Selectman DeSousa, Selectman Baker, Selectman Muska, and Selectman Nordell were present in person as well.

ABSENT: As noted previously, all members of the Board of Selectmen were present this evening.

GUESTS/SPEAKERS in-person: First Selectman Bowsza hosted the in-person meeting. Also present were: Ruth Calabrese, **Director of Planning and Community Development**; Ken Rich, **Building Official**; Joseph Sauerhoefer, **Deputy Director, Public Works Department**; Melissa Maltese, **Director of Recreation and Community Development**; Linda Collins, **Executive Director of the East Windsor Housing Authority**; **Public**: Paul Anderson, Tom Bulkeley, Tom and RuthAnn Lansner, Wayne Shary.

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GUESTS/SPEAKERS signing in to meeting remotely: Noreen Farmer, MM, Peg Hoffman, Recording Secretary.

1. TIME AND PLACE OF MEETING:

First Selectman Bowsza called the April 6, 2023 Regular Meeting of the East Windsor Board of Selectmen to Order at 7:06 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 Deputy Selectman DeSousa to lead everyone in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ATTENDANCE:

See Attendance noted at the beginning of the meeting.

First Selectman Bowsza requested an addition to the Agenda under **NEW BUSINESS, Item K., Discussion of Small Cities Block Grant with Linda Collins.**

MOTION: So moved.

Baker moved/Muska seconded/DISCUSSION: None

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

4. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:

First Selectman Bowsza noted the availability of the Meeting Minutes for the Board of Selectmen noted below, he questioned if the Board had any comments, questions, or revisions. Hearing no requests for revisions First Selectman Bowsza called for motions of approval.

A. March 9, 2023 Board of Selectmen Special Meeting:

MOTION: To ACCEPT the Minutes of the March 9, 2023 Board of Selectmen's Special Meeting as presented.

6. COMMUNICATIONS:

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A. **Memorial Day invitation from the Melrose Schoolhouse Preservation Society:**

First Selectman Bowsza noted an invitation from the Melrose Schoolhouse Preservation Society inviting the Community to participate in a short parade to commemorate Memorial Day. The celebration will be held on May 28th at 2:30 in the afternoon and includes a short parade.

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

A. **Resignation:** None

B. **Reappointments:**

First Selectman Bowsza requested a motion to **TABLE Item 7B Items 1 through 6** under **Reappointments** until after **Discussion of Item 9A** so we can re-establish the Committee before reappointing the members. He also requested the **TABLING of Item 7B Items 1 through 6 under BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS REAPPOINTMENTS** until after the Arts and Culture Committee has been re-established for another term.

MOTION: To **TABLE Item 7B Items 1 through 6** under until after **Discussion of Item 9A**.

Muska moved/Baker seconded/DISCUSSION: None

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

MOTION: To **TABLE Agenda Item 7B Items 1 – 6** until later in the meeting.

Muska moved/Nordell seconded/DISCUSSION: None

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

1. **Debra Williams (D), Arts and Culture Committee, regular member for a term expiring October 21, 2024**
2. **Christine Posniak (D), Arts and Culture Committee, regular member for a term expiring October 21, 2024**

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3. **Russel Williams (U), Arts and Culture Committee, regular member for a term expiring October 21, 2024**
4. **Sharon Aprea (D), Arts and Culture Committee, regular member for a term expiring October 21, 2024**
5. **Karen Stavolone (D), Arts and Culture Committee, regular member for a term expiring October 21, 2024**
6. **Bernard Duffy (U), Arts and Culture Committee, regular member for a term expiring October 21, 2024**
7. **Wesley Bell (R), Agricultural Commission, regular member for a term expiring April 2, 2026**

First Selectman Bowsza requested **POSTPONEMENT** of Item 7B under **BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS REAPPOINTMENTS** until the Boards next meeting as Mr. Bell is applying for an alternate position.

MOTION: To POSTPONE Item 7 for the reappointment of Wesley Bell under Item 7B BOARDS AND COMMISSION REAPPOINTMENTS until the Commission's next meeting.

DeSousa moved/Muska seconded/DISCUSSION: None

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

C. New Appointments:

1. **Stacey Svoboda McKenna (D), Planning and Zoning Commission, regular member for a term expiring October 1, 2023**

First Selectman Bowsza noted an application from a new resident in Town who is applying for a position on the Planning and Zoning Commission. He noted her application and resume have been included in the Board's packet; he called for questions or comments, or a motion.

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Selectman Muska requested the Board consider postponement of the appointment of the new Planning and Zoning Commission member until the Board's next meeting as she had contacted Ms. McKenna to discuss some questions and has not heard back. Selectman Muska indicated she would like to receive answers to her questions before she votes on Ms. McKenna's appointment.

MOTION: To POSTPONE APPOINTMENT of Stacey Svoboda McKenna to the Planning and Zoning Commission until the Selectmen's next meeting.

Muska moved/Nordell seconded/DISCUSSION: None

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

8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

A. Discussion of Blight Ordinance:

Director of Planning and Community Development Ruth Calabrese and Building Official Ken Rich joined the Board for discussion of the status of the Blight Ordinance.

Director of Planning and Community Development noted the Board had received in their packet the April 4, 2023 alternative to the Blight/Property Maintenance Ordinance which is a combination of the alternative document reviewed at the last meeting including Selectmen Nordell's statement that he presented. The Board has also been provided a clean copy of the ordinance previously presented to the Board. Director of Planning and Community Development Calabrese noted section "e" of the Blight Ordinance has been removed as its related to unregistered vehicles, which is now covered under the Zoning Regulations. Director of Planning and Community Development Calabrese requested to add, section 5.1 Enforcement Process, which read "...the enforcement of this ordinance will adhere to the Memorandum of Law prepared for Ruthanne Calabrese, by Brian McCann dated February 17, 2022..." which includes the Statutes and an explanation of the blight enforcement process. The effective date would then become Section 6.1.

First Selectman Bowsza opened discussion to the Board.

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Selectman Muska indicated she liked the direction the ordinance is following now, but offered the following comments:

- Page 2, Section b, referencing “accumulation of junk on the property...”. She cited what’s junk for one person can be other than junk to another, she questioned alternative terms.
- Page 3, Section 3.2(d) which references a separate fund for expenses related to blight enforcement, Selectman Muska requested examples of potential expenses, and who would manage that fund, would it go through the Board of Selectmen, and/or the Board of Finance, or would it be managed within the Planning Department? Director of Planning and Community Development Calabrese suggested the fines would go into a fund which would be used if the Town needed to clean up or repair a property.
- Clarification of “bulk accumulation of...”. The Board suggested someone might have a bulk accumulation of bricks if building a wall, discussion continued regarding storage/location of bulk materials.

First Selectman Bowsza offered the following comments:

- Section 3.c, regarding the appointment of the Blight Officer, he felt that appointment should be made by the full Board rather than by the First Selectman.

Selectman Baker comments follow:

- Noted the language now says “one or more hearing officers”
- Language included at the beginning is an excellent addition

Selectman Nordell raised the following questions:

- Questioned what would be submitted for the Town vote; Director of Planning and Community Development Calabrese cited the 4-page document would be a standalone document.
- The “citations, hearings, and fines”, would that be an addendum; Director of Planning and Community Development Calabrese replied in the affirmative, noting the Memorandum of Law will explain the Statutes and the enforcement process.
- Clarification of “junk”, perhaps “debris/waste” or “debris/rubbish”

Hearing no further requests for comments or changes, First Selectman Bowsza called for a motion to accept the Blight Ordinance with the changes proposed and send it to Town Meeting.

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MOTION: To ACCEPT the Town of East Windsor Draft Blight and Property Maintenance Ordinance, with changes noted, and move to Town Meeting.

Nordell moved/Muska seconded/DISCUSSION: None

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

First Selectman Bowsza thanked Director of Planning and Community Development Calabrese and Building Official Rich for their patience over a 13 month period to create this ordinance.

First Selectman Bowsza then noted the Board has a guest this evening, Mr. Mike Conley, of RiseUP for the Arts is present this evening. First Selectman Bowsza suggested the Board consider discussion of **NEW BUSINESS Item 9B. (Discussion of RiseUp for the Arts)**. He welcomed Mr. Conley to join the Board.

9. NEW BUSINESS:

B. Discussion of RiseUp for the Arts:

Mr. Conley was joined by Debra Williams, Chair, of the Arts and Culture Committee.

Mr. Conley advised the Commission he represents RiseUP for the Arts, which is a Connecticut non-profit organization, their mission is to empower communities to imagine new possibilities through public art and education. Mr. Conley noted they worked with the Arts and Culture Committee to create their first mural at the Connecticut Trolley Museum, which was privately funded. Mr. Conley reported RiseUP for the Arts assists groups with funding for their proposed projects, he noted they've completed over a \$1 million of privately funded public arts projects in Connecticut. He noted some of the funding options are working with a community to create a 50% matching fund, or to seek the private funding through the property owner. Mr. Conley noted they also work with youth in the schools to create internship or workforce opportunities.

Mr. Conley is present this evening to request a more formal partnership with the Town to continue these murals, a percentage of every project

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would be returned to their non-profit organization. He's not looking for any funding up front, but would like to formalize a partnership with the Town going forward working through the Arts and Culture Committee.

Ms. Williams noted the Arts and Culture Committee started slowly but has begun to be recognized for their work, partnering with RiseUP for the Arts would enable them to do more consistent projects throughout the community. Following up on a question First Selectman Bowsza had raised earlier Mr. Conley noted that Sustainable CT can match funds for projects in East Windsor.

First Selectman Bowsza opened discussion to the Board.

Selectman Muska questioned if funding was available for these projects, First Selectman Bowsza clarified there wasn't specific funding dollars requested in the Town's next fiscal budget but they do fundraise privately as they did with the Trolley Museum. Ms. Williams confirmed there are program dollars in the Arts and Culture Committee Budget which could be available. First Selectman Bowsza suggested when RiseUp for the Arts seeks private fundraising dollars, as it did with the Trolley Museum, that funding doesn't appear in the Town's books; Mr. Conley replied in the affirmative. Mr. Conley and Ms. Williams explained the process for selecting artists, their availability for a project, and working with the property owner.

Deputy Selectman DeSousa questioned the obligation of the Town over the next year, are there penalties if the private funding doesn't materialize? Mr. Conley suggested there are none, he cited he's a Connecticut resident with pride in the State, he wants Connecticut to be just as vibrant and as beautiful as other states. He noted this community engaged public art is everywhere, there's a lot of power to it, its about community pride.

Mr. Conley suggested he is requesting the Board to commit to a continuing partnership with RiseUp for the Arts for additional murals. Selectman Nordell cited the lack of a contract, First Selectman Bowsza noted a document which essentially explains the scope of work.

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NO MOTION was made at this time, First Selectman Bowsza and Mr. Conley will continue working on a document for future consideration by the Board.

First Selectman Bowsza requested the Board return to the posted Agenda and take up **Item 9A. (NEW BUSINESS, Discussion and Renewal of Arts and Culture Commission.** First Selectman Bowsza noted the Board had originally given the Arts and Culture Committee a charge, and appointed them for an 18-month period. He suggested he would like the Board to consider extending the Committee under the same charge for an additional 18 month period, should that occur he would then like to take up Agenda **Item 7B 1-6 under BOARDS AND COMMISSION REAPPOINTMENTS** and reappoint the members for another 18-month term

MOTION: To GO BACK INTO ORDER and renew the Arts and Culture Committee for a term of 18 months.

DeSousa moved/Muska seconded/DISCUSSION: None

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

First Selectman Bowsza requested the Board return to **Item 7B (BOARDS AND COMMISSION REAPPOINTMENTS)**, Items 1 – 6.

7. BOARDS AND COMMISSION REAPPOINTMENTS.

B. Reappointments:

- 1. Debra Williams (D), Arts and Culture Committee, regular member for a term expiring October 21, 2024**
- 2. Christine Posniak (D), Arts and Culture Committee, regular member for a term expiring October 21, 2024**
- 3. Russel Williams (U), Arts and Culture Committee, regular member for a term expiring October 21, 2024**
- 4. Sharon Aprea (D), Arts and Culture Committee, regular member for a term expiring October 21, 2024**

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5. **Karen Stavolone (D), Arts and Culture Committee, regular member for a term expiring October 21, 2024**
6. **Bernard Duffy (U), Arts and Culture Committee, regular member for a term expiring October 21, 2024**

MOTION: To REAPPOINT Debra Williams, Christine Posniak, Russel Williams, Sharon Aprea, Karen Stavolone, and Bernard Duffy to the Arts and Culture Committee, all as Regular Members, for terms expiring October 21, 2024.

Muska moved/DeSousa seconded/DISCUSSION: None

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

9. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Discussion and Renewal of Arts and Culture Committee:

See Discussion and motion above.

B. Discussion of RiseUP and East Windsor Public Art Partnership:

No motion, see comments above.

C. Discuss and approve Emergency Management stipend pertaining to Interim Deputy Police Chief Matt Carl and Assistant Treasurer Gayle Carolus:

First Selectman Bowsza noted changes in the Emergency Management team during the transition and search for a new Police Chief. Interim Chief Hart has recommended Interim Deputy Chief Matt Carl to receive the stipend of \$384.62 per pay period as the Emergency Management Coordinator, and for Assistant Treasurer Gayle Carolus, who has taken over the administrative work previously done by a Police Department employee, to receive a one-time \$500.00 stipend for the Administrative Assistant.

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First Selectman Bowsza noted continuing discussions regarding the role of Emergency Management will move forward, including drills on active shooter training in Town buildings and the schools, etc. He noted those discussions will continue to evolve as the Town fills the positions of Police Chief and Deputy Police Chief.

MOTION: To APPROVE and AUTHORIZE the First Selectman to sign the payroll status change form for Emergency Management for Matt Carl for a pay change of \$384.62 on a bi-weekly stipend basis for Acting Deputy Director of Emergency Management.

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

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

MOTION: To APPROVE and ALLOW the First Selectman to sign the payroll status change form for Gayle Carolus for \$500.00 one-time stipend for Emergency Management Grant Coordinator.

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

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

D. Discussion of Farms Road and Jessie Lane road acceptance to include Director of Planning and Community Development Ruth Calabrese (and forward to Town Meeting):

Director of Planning and Community Development Calabrese noted both Farms Road and Jessie Lane have been recommended for acceptance as Town roads, the roads have been inspected and approved by the Town Engineer. She noted the Board has before them recommended Resolutions for acceptance prepared by Town Attorney Brian McCann's office.

First Selectman Bowsza opened discussion to the Board.

Selectman Muska cited the misspelling of Jessie Lane.

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Selectman Baker offered the following comments:

- The reference to the Board of Selectman should be plural.
- Selectman Baker queried Deputy Director Sauerhoefer when Jessie Lane had been paved, and would he anticipate paving it again. Deputy Director Sauerhoefer indicated Jessie Lane received a top-coat 2 years ago. Selectman Baker suggested there's a seam down the center of the crown, he questioned when that would be fixed? Deputy Director Sauerhoefer suggested that was a bad joint as the paver wasn't big enough to pave the entire road, he noted it's been like that since the initial paving 2 years ago, he anticipates it should be ok, if the crack opens up they'll seal it. He also noted the Town is also holding a 1-year Maintenance Bond that can be used for repair if necessary. First Selectman Bowsza noted Permit Link would track the bond retention as well.

While reviewing the Resolution, First Selectman Bowsza noted wherever the draft document says "Board of Selectmen" it should say "Town Meeting", and wherever it says "Town Meeting" it should say "Board of Selectmen", except for the first reference to the Statute.

Selectman Baker offered the following motions/Resolutions:

(DRAFT RESOLUTION/FARMS ROAD)

MOTION: *Draft Resolution for Board of Selectmen, (April 6, 2023)*

WHEREAS, Pursuant to C.G.S. 13a.48. the Town may accept as a public highway any proposed highway situated in the municipality, provided the Town Meeting has approved the acceptance of said public highway.

WHEREAS, on *April 6, 2023*, the *East Windsor Board of Selectmen* has approved the acceptance of Farms Road as a public highway.

WHEREAS, on November 8, 2022, the property owners has offered Farms Road as a public road, and the Planning and Zoning Commission has voted in favor of road acceptance upon a finding that the road is in conformance with the Street Design Criteria of Section 6.1 of the East Windsor Subdivision Regulations.

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WHEREAS, the Town Engineer/Director of Public Works has overseen the calling of a certain performance bond to ensure roadway improvements, including but not limited to, road standards, subsurface stormwater drainage structures, grading, and related easements have been adequately completed as shown on an “As-Built Plan” prepared by J. R. Russo, Surveyors & Engineers, dated October 20, 2022, now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, the Board of Selectmen for the Town of East Windsor, pursuant to the above-referenced authority granted to us through Statute and resolution of Town Meeting, based upon the review and recommendations of the above-referenced commission and public officials hereby *ACCEPTS THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE COMMISSION AND FORWARD TO TOWN MEETING FOR THEIR CONSIDERATION THE ACCEPTANCE OF* Farms Road as a public highway of the Town which shall hereafter be used by the public for all lawful purposed and maintained, repaired, and improved by the Town of East Windsor.

AMENDED MOTION: To RESOLVE, that the Board of Selectmen for the Town of East Windsor, pursuant to the above-referenced authority granted to us through Statute, and resolution of Town Meeting, based upon the review and recommendations of the above-referenced commission and public officials hereby forwards to Town Meeting for their acceptance of Farms Road as a public highway.

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

(DRAFT RESOLUTION/JESSIE LANE)

MOTION: Draft Resolution for Board of Selectmen, (April 6, 2023)

WHEREAS, Pursuant to C.G.S. 13a.48, the Town may accept as a public highway any proposed highway situated in the municipality, provided the Town Meeting has approved the acceptance of said public highway.

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WHEREAS, on *April 6, 2023*, the East Windsor Town Meeting has approved the acceptance of Jessie Lane as a public highway.

WHEREAS, on *January 24, 2023*, the property owners has offered Jessie Lane as a public road, and the Planning and Zoning Commission has voted in favor of road acceptance upon a finding that the road is in conformance with the Street Design Criteria of Section 6.1 of the East Windsor Subdivision Regulations.

WHEREAS, the Town Engineer/Director of Public Works has ensured that all roadway improvements, including but not limited to, road standards, subsurface stormwater drainage structures, grading, and related easements have been adequately completed and are in substantial conformance with the Town and accepted engineering standards as shown on an “Improvement Location Plan” prepared by H. A. Hesketh Associates, Inc., as amended January 31, 2020, now and be it

RESOLVED, the Board of Selectmen for the Town of East Windsor, pursuant to the above-referenced authority granted to us through Statute and resolution of Town Meeting, based upon the review and recommendations of the above-referenced commission and public officials hereby *ACCEPTS THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE COMMISSION AND FORWARD TO TOWN MEETING FOR THEIR CONSIDERATION THE ACCEPTANCE OF* of Jessie Lane as a public highway of the Town which shall hereafter be used by the public for all lawful purposed and maintained, repaired, and improved by the Town of East Windsor.

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

First Selectman Bowsza requested a motion to take up Agenda **Item 9K (NEW BUSINESS)**, Item K., Discussion of Small Cities Block Grant with Linda Collins.

MOTION: To TAKE UP AGENDA ITEM 9K.

Nordell moved/Muska seconded/DISCUSSION: None

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

9. NEW BUSINESS:

K. Discussion of Small Cities Block Grant to include Linda Collins:

Linda Collins, Executive Director of the Housing Authority, joined the Board.

Executive Director Collins advised the Board she's seeking the Board's support to apply for a \$2 million Community Development Block Grant Program to make upgrades at Park Hill. The grant would be used to replace damaged/deteriorating 30-year-old siding on all of the buildings, replacement of insulation, and replacement of HVAC wall units for 84 units and an additional 26 one-bedroom units. Executive Director Collins noted these HVAC units are the primary source of heat and air conditioning for the tenants, replacement of these units would benefit the residents who are responsible for the cost of their utilities.

Executive Director Collins also noted she would like to consider an additional project which would enable the Housing Authority to upgrade 3 of the 8 accessible units and make them fully ADA accessible. She recently became aware of the availability of an additional \$4 million in funding through the Department of Housing, she noted the timeframe for submitting this application is relatively short. She noted Park Hill isn't State or Federally subsidized, their operating budget is based on rental income, their intent is to service the low and moderate income population. The grants are awarded to the municipality, while the Housing Authority is the sub-recipient. Executive Director Collins summarized various projects which were completed through similar grants. She advised the Board she is seeking their support for the submission of these grants.

First Selectman Bowsza noted Executive Director Collins needs to submit the application by the end of the month, the projects require a bid solicitation to hire a consultant to submit the application and manage the project. Should the Board decide to move forward First Selectman Bowsza indicated they'll post the bid solicitation for the consultant on Monday for opening on April 19th, this Board could review the applicants

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and choose the consultant on April 20th to be able to submit the grant application by the end of the month.

Deputy Selectman DeSousa requested the Housing Authority pay particular attention to replacement of the insulation and siding on the end apartments, which would reduce the cost of utilities for those residents.

NO MOTION, CONSENSUS OF THE BOARD WAS IN AGREEMENT WITH EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR COLLINS POSTING AN RFP FOR THE CONSULTANT FOR RETURN AND ACTION ON APRIL 20TH.

First Selectman Bowsza requested the Board TABLE **NEW BUSINESS Item E**, and move on to **Item F, Discussion of DillingerRAD agreement, Item G, Discussion of Regional Microtransit Grant, and Item H, Discussion of new National Opioid settlement.**

MOTION: So moved.

Baker moved/Muska seconded/DISCUSSION: None

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

9. NEW BUSINESS:

F. Discussion of DillingerRAD agreement:

First Selectman Bowsza reviewed the use of this firm regarding the establishment of a Youth Services Bureau. He advised the Board that there had been some movement made to establish a Youth Services Bureau through the Police Department. As that hasn't materialized Melissa Maltese, Director of Recreation and Community Services has been asked to step in and take on the task. One of the requirements made by DCF is certain reporting obligations, DillingerRAD is a DCF vendor who will assist the Youth Services Bureau to collect and manage the data to be submitted to the State. While there had initially been reluctance to use DillingerRAD out of concern for Youth Services Bureaus ability to meet the requirements First Selectman indicated he and Melissa Maltese, Director of Recreation and Community Services, have met with

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representatives from DillingerRAD, which included discussion of the software being used, and the data collection.

Director of Recreation and community Services, speaking from the audience, noted that currently they provide the data to DCF based on their deadlines, this would be a place for them to house the data as they do the programs. First Selectman Bowsza noted Interim Deputy Chief Carl, Finance Director O'Toole, and Melissa Maltese, Director of Recreation and Community Services, are on board with using DillingerRAD. Should the Board be in agreement, First Selectman Bowsza requested a motion authorizing him to sign the agreement.

MOTION: To AUTHORIZE the First Selectman to sign the Dillinger Research Applied Data expanded Youth Services Bureau data-sharing agreement.

Baker moved/Muska seconded/DISCUSSION: None

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

G. Discussion of Regional Microtransit Grant:

First Selectman Bowsza noted East Windsor has been approached by Tolland to participate in a regional grant opportunity to expand transportation options without restrictions for age or accessibility into rural communities. The service would be through an agreement with Ace Taxi, the agreement would be amongst other participating towns, including Tolland, Coventry, Somers, Ellington, Vernon, East Windsor, and Stafford. In order to have this benefit for community residents who are seeking to go to other communities the other communities must be a participant as well.

First Selectman Bowsza cited the Town needs to provide letters of support from the CEO and the Human Services Director by April 14th. Tolland will be the applicant for the grant, the participating communities intend to set up a governing board with members from each community to manage issues, should any arise.

NO MOTION, CONSENSUS OF THE BOARD WAS IN AGREEMENT WITH FIRST SELECTMAN AND MELISSA MALTESE, DIRECTOR OF RECREATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PROVIDING LETTERS OF SUPPORT AND AGREEMENT TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS TRANSPORTATION OPTION FOR EAST WINDSOR RESIDENTS AND THOSE IN PARTICIPATING TOWNS.

H. Discussion of new National Opioid settlement:

First Selectman Bowsza noted the State of Connecticut is a participant in a national opioid settlement, he noted the City of Waterbury is spearheading the involvement of other municipalities in this program which requires agreement to enroll by April 18th. First Selectman Bowsza suggested this is an opportunity to return our portion of the settlement back into the community.

First Selectman Bowsza noted this opportunity requires no contract, but it does require the CEO's signature to participate.

Deputy Selectman DeSousa concurred with the recommendation. Selectman Muska noted the current crisis, and that this opportunity gives East Windsor the ability to do something on the municipal level. Selectman Muska questioned the use of the funds, Director of Recreation and Community Services Maltese suggested East Windsor would partner with the North Central Department Health District, who will be enrolling as well, regarding NARCAN and CPR training,

MOTION: To AUTHORIZE the First Selectman to sign the agreement to participate in the National Opioid settlement.

Baker moved/Muska seconded/DISCUSSION: None

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

E. Discussion of amendment to Strategic Government Resources (SGR) Contract:

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First Selectman Bowsza recalled previous discussions regarding the benefit of having the executive recruitment person on-site for the interviews of the finalist for the Chief of Police position, although it wasn't part of the original contract it's felt this is the best way to incorporate feedback from Department heads, Police Department employees, and the general public. First Selectman Bowsza reviewed the additional cost for the on-site involvement, and the interview process.

First Selectman Bowsza queried the Board for comments; no one raised any questions. First Selectman Bowsza requested a motion authorizing his signature on the SGR contract.

MOTION: To AUTHORIZE the First Selectman to sign the amendment to the Strategic Government Resources contract.

Baker moved/Muska seconded/DISCUSSION: None

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

F. Discussion of DillingerRAD agreement:

See discussion above.

G. Discussion of Regional Microtransit Grant:

See discussion above.

H. Discussion of new National Opioid settlement:

See discussion above.

I. Discussion of CGS 1-206 (b)(5), update on FOIA Requests:

First Selectman Bowsza noted that prior to the recent vote on the Community Center there were allegations regarding the Town's reticence to provide FOI requests and/or public documents. First Selectman Bowsza noted the requests require significant involvement of Staff in the Selectman's Office, the Treasurer's Office, the Police Department, and have a detrimental effect on employee morale. First Selectman Bowsza

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read recent requests for “all” data for a 6-month period, including the cost of employee time spent on various aspects of the requested information.

Referencing a pile of documents on the Board’s table First Selectman Bowsza noted the material requested by just 3 people, he noted one request required 3219 pages of documentation, which was obviously not picked up by the requestor, another request involved 1,400 pages – also not picked up, other requests picked up only a small fraction of the material requested. First Selectman Bowsza read C.G.S. 53(a)(1)-157(b) regarding vexatious requests for information. He wanted the Board to know that the Town takes FOIA requests seriously, but it’s being abused to the point of affecting morale and the productivity of the Board’s employees.

Selectman Baker questioned an estimation of the cost to the taxpayer of attorney review and Staff time? First Selectman Bowsza cited \$10,000.00 in legal review costs. Selectman Baker suggested the cost of the material not picked up probably cost the taxpayer \$20,000.00.

Selectman Nordell questioned why requests for newspaper articles, which are available to anyone, are the responsibility of the Town to supply? First Selectman Bowsza indicated if the Town has the information and can direct the requester to another source we can do that. Selectman Baker suggested he finds it interesting that someone would complain about a \$5,000.00 referendum to decide a multi-million-dollar project but then would potentially vexatiously cost the Town \$10,000.00 or \$20,000.00 in work not adding to the bottom line, and the material is not being used by the requestor. Deputy Selectman DeSousa felt the requests made with a requirement to be picked up within an hour, one of which was a 1,400 page request, falls under the vexatious requests, she would recommend First Selectman Bowsza contact the Town Attorney to consider how the Board moves forward. Deputy Selectman DeSousa cited she has no problem if the material is going to be useful to someone but if it just sits somewhere then it’s a waste of taxpayer dollars, which she does have a major problem with. Selectman Muska agreed, to spend the \$20,000.00 of taxpayer money is unacceptable, and it includes time and money spent on the request which hasn’t been picked up. Selectman Baker suggested it’s too bad that Staff is being put through this work when they could be doing other work which adds to the bottom line for the Town of East Windsor. Selectman Muska agreed with the other members of the Board regarding

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contacting the Town Attorney, as there's a track record for these requests. Selectman Nordell concurred, noting the scope of these requests is outrageous.

J. Tax Refunds:

MOTION: To APPROVE Tax Refunds in the \$698.69

Muska moved/Nordell seconded/DISCUSSION: None.

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

10. SELECTMEN COMMENTS AND REPORTS:

A. Jason Bowsza:

On March 29th the Town welcomed retired Navy SEAL and retired Probate Judge Tim Keeney, currently the First Selectman in Somers, to come to the Senior Center and give a presentation on his experiences as a Navy SEAL and as a participant in the Apollo 17 Dive Rescue Team. Judge Keeney spoke with us for over an hour and a half, and his presentation was fantastic. First Selectman Bowsza noted Selectman Muska has a copy of a video of the presentation, and can provide access to residents. He noted he really appreciated Selectman Keeney's time to share his experience with us, he felt everyone had a great time. First Selectman Bowsza noted there were probably 60 to 70 people who attended the event, there were a lot of new faces who were interested in his experiences. First Selectman Bowsza noted Selectman Keeney did make note that the Town needed a bigger space.

On March 30th Joe Sauerhoefer, Len Norton, and First Selectman Bowsza met with Superintendent Tudryn, their Facilities Director, and their Athletic Director to touch base on where we stand with grounds maintenance on the schools, and to provide some guidance to them as they start getting things ready for the Springs sports season.

On April 1st First Selectman Bowsza indicated he was very delighted to join people with the Easter Bunny breakfast at the Broad Brook Fire Department. He suggested his kids took over the joint like they owned the place, but we all had a really, really good time, and then First

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Selectman Bowsza went solo to the Easter Bunny breakfast at the Warehouse Point Fire Department – actually he had breakfast with Selectman Nordell, but without kids.

On March 3rd Melissa Maltese, Amy O'Toole, and Matt Carl participated in the DillingerRAD webinar to get a sense of what we talked about tonight. Melissa Maltese, Amy O'Toole, and First Selectman Bowsza also participated in the Microtransit Pilot Program, and then Matt Carl, Amy O'Toole, and First Selectman Bowsza had a discussion on where things stand on the replacement of the radio and we should have some forward momentum on that pretty soon. Marcus Communications has been working pretty diligently with us to find the most economic solution to that as we move forward. We're going to have an Emergency Management meeting in the next couple of weeks to catch everyone up on where we are now and what's coming next.

On April 5th, yesterday, First Selectman Bowsza indicated he had coffee at the Senior Center, which is always a fun time. (Deputy Selectman DeSousa) Marie has joined him a couple of times, he suggested if you guys ever have the opportunity to and want to swing by it's just cool to listen to what they have to say.

Last night, the Board of Finance finalized their budget recommendation, which, if approved by voters, would result in a mill rate decrease of one tenth of a mill, which First Selectman Bowsza thought is great, considering the circumstances this year.

Coming up on April 13th the softball field at East Windsor High School is going to be dedicated to Karen Drake, a long-time softball coach and teacher in the school system, whom I've known since I think I was four. It's going to be a very appropriate dedication for somebody who's made a tremendous contribution, so, if you're able to come that's at 3:30 next Thursday, Friday if it rains.

B. Marie DeSousa:

Deputy Selectman DeSousa noted the Economic Development Commission was cancelled so she didn't have that meeting. Deputy Selectman DeSousa indicated that the only meeting that she had the Water Pollution Control Authority, which she wasn't able to attend that meeting

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because she was away. She'll give an updated report when she returns from vacation.

C. Sarah Muska:

Selectman Muska indicated she didn't have anything to report either as she didn't have any liaison meetings this week, but next week she has one Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday, and then the following week there are more. Her next report will be very lengthy.

Selectman Muska hoped everyone has a Happy Easter and a Happy Passover and thank you to everyone who came out to vote on Tuesday.

D. Charlie Nordell:

(See Attachment)

E. Alan Baker:

Selectman Baker reported it's all Land Use meetings for him.

Selectman Baker suggested the Planning and Zoning Commission had a little more work than their last couple of meetings. They postponed a Bond reduction request for West River Farms, and then approved a Bond release for the Charbonneau pit, so that's stuff we're keeping an eye on. They had 2 Site Plan Modifications for Newberry Road and they also heard from the Town for the lights at Abbe Road for the soccer field.

They're also still talking about the Affordable Housing Plan, and they're going to be holding a public discussion period this Tuesday.

Selectman Baker reported he also dragged his whole family to the Pancake Breakfast at the Warehouse Point Fire Department, which was nice. The girls took advantage of the "all you can eat" aspect of it.

Selectman Baker noted the Wetlands Commission met last night, they talked about the As-of-Right Determination for farms. It was a complex discussion that carried over for a couple of months but we did find a compromise for that. No one was 100% happy but I think everybody got what they needed out of that.

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And then I stopped in at the Board of Finance Meeting, which Jason covered in his report.

11. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

First Selectman Bowsza noted this is the second opportunity for anyone present in the in-person audience to offer comments.

Paul Anderson, 89 Main Street, Broad Brook: Regarding the FOI requests, he personally thinks that for any request for anyone there should be a rough estimate of what it's going to take, and they should be required to put down a refundable deposit which could be returned if it costs less than it appears. But doing it absolutely free, up front, Mr. Anderson felt was a giant mistake. Mr. Anderson felt that would curb foolish requests. The Town Attorney will opine on that, which is appropriate, but he felt that was a reasonable thing. Mr. Anderson suggested there was too much money, his money, sitting on that table.

Wayne Shary, 119 Depot Street: Mr. Shary reported he had many comments to make about the Blight and Property Maintenance Ordinance but that train has left the station. Mr. Shary felt the Board is making a mistake combining the Blight and Property Maintenance together, he felt there should be a Blight Ordinance which would cover most of the property maintenance automatically. He felt putting it in the hands of Zoning and the Building Official was the wrong approach. Mr. Shary indicated he's very disappointed that the Board of Selectmen chose to go with this, there's many points that should be checked over.

Tom Bulkeley, Kings Court: Mr. Bulkeley questioned what would happen with all the material provided for the FOI requests? First Selectman Bowsza indicated it would be stored for some length of time, with the hope that the requestor would eventually pick the material up. Selectman Muska questioned if there was a time requirement for the requestor to pick up the material; First Selectman Bowsza indicated that he didn't think so.

The consensus of the Board was that it was a shame to waste taxpayer dollars, which could be spent in a more beneficial way, if the material was not utilized.

Tom Lansner, 27 Laurel Circle: Mr. Lansner noted he and his wife attended Captain Keeney's presentation and spent time in the parking lot talking to other people that attended. Everyone was excited that it was a great presentation, and there were many people there. The people talked about now that we have the

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possibility of a new Community Center wouldn't it be great to more things like that. Mr. Lansner suggested everyone was talking about doing more of these things. Mr. Lansner would like to see more of that momentum continue. Mr. Lansner noted he's also seen comments on a social media post that there's not going to be anything happening at the new building, no one will go there but that's who those people are. Mr. Lansner reiterated that he would love to see a lot of new things that maybe we hadn't thought about before happen. Mr. Lansner noted Captain Keeney's presentation was great, he's glad First Selectman Bowsza brought him here. Mr. Lansner felt it was a catalyst to move forward with more things like that.

First Selectman Bowsza suggested those were great suggestions for the new spot.

No further requests were made from the in-person audience to speak. First Selectman Bowsza then offered the remote participants to speak; no one requested to be acknowledged.

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

- 12. EXECUTIVE SESSION** – Pursuant to C.G.S. 1-200 (6)(a), Discussion concerning the appointment, employment, performance, evaluation, health or dismissal of a public officer or employee, provided that such individual may require that discussion be held at an open meeting, (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 8:51 p.m. Pursuant to C.G.S. 1-200 (6)(a), Discussion concerning the appointment, employment, performance, evaluation, health or dismissal of a public officer or employee, provided that such individual may require that discussion be held at an open meeting, (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

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Session will be First Selectman Bowsza, Deputy Selectman DeSousa, 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 8:51 p.m.

First Selectman Bowsza reported the Board had exited the Executive Session at 9:52 p.m. He requested the addition of Agenda Item 9L. Discussion and approval of settlement authorization through the Connecticut Interlocal Risk Management Agency pertaining to a heart and hypertension claim involving Jeff Reimer

MOTION: So moved.

Muska moved/Baker seconded.

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

MOTION: I move to authorize CIRMA Settlement Authority for up to \$25,000.00 to settle and close out all future exposures of a heart and hypertension claim associated with Jeff Reimer.

Muska moved/DeSousa seconded.

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

First Selectman Bowsza called for a motion to adjourn.

13. ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION: To ADJOURN this Meeting at 9:23 p.m.

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

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

ATTACHMENTS:

A. Selectman Nordell's Report

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Selectman Nordell's Report for 4/6/2023

On March 27th I attended the BMX and Skatepark Committee meeting. They discussed plans for the golf tournament fundraiser they are hosting On May 20th at Grassmere Country Club. Lots of prizes and raffles and today they announced having a whole in one prize of a 2023 Jeep Compass. They are also planning for this year's Rubber Duck Race and Cardboard Boat Race. They are selecting dates for more bottle and can drives.

On April 2 The Warehouse Point Fire Department Auxiliary held their annual Easter Bunny Pancake breakfast. This was a well attended event and the WHPFD Auxiliary would like to thank all the volunteers and people who attended.

On April 3rd I attended the Warehouse Point Fire District Commissioners meeting. They set a Public Hearing date of April 17th for a Budget and Charter Adoption Hearing. That will take place at 7pm at station 1. The Fire Chief reported the department receiving 58 calls for service during the month of March. The Chief also reported an increase in participation in training drills and that they are still seeking volunteer members. The Fire Marshal conducted 30 inspections during the month of March.