

**TOWN OF EAST WINDSOR
BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

REGULAR MEETING
Thursday, October 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

DRAFT 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 Muska and Selectman Nordell were present at the in-person meeting.

ABSENT: Selectman Baker was not able to attend this meeting as he was out of town.

GUESTS/SPEAKERS in-person: First Selectman Bowsza hosted the meeting.

PUBLIC: Paul Anderson, Patricia Shary.

GUESTS/SPEAKERS signing in to meeting remotely: Richard Tuller; Peg Hoffman, Recording Secretary.

1. TIME AND PLACE OF MEETING:

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First Selectman Bowsza called the October 19, 2023 Regular Meeting of the East Windsor Board of Selectmen to Order at 7:01 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 lead everyone in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ATTENDANCE:

See Attendance noted at the beginning of the meeting.

First Selectman Bowsza requested the addition of **Item C** under **NEW BUSINESS**, **Annual Fiscal Year 2024 Dial-a-Ride Operating Assistance Grant**.

MOTION: To ADD Item 8C – Annual Fiscal Year 2024 Dial-a-Ride Operating Assistance Grant.

Muska moved/Nordell seconded/DISCUSSION: None

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

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A. October 5, 2023 Board of Selectmen Regular Meeting:

First Selectman Bowsza called for comments or revisions for the October 5, 2023 Board of Selectmen's Regular Meeting. No one requested any changes, First Selectman Bowsza called for a motion of approval.

MOTION: To ACCEPT the Minutes of the October 5, 2023 Regular Meeting as presented.

DeSousa moved/Muska seconded/DISCUSSION: Selectman Muska noted that the October 5th Meeting had been a Special Meeting rather than a Regular Meeting.

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Deputy Selectman DeSousa AMENDED her motion, Selectman Muska AMENDED her second.

AMENDED MOTION:

To ACCEPT the Minutes of the October 5, 2023 Special Meeting as presented.

DeSousa moved/Muska seconded/DISCUSSION: None

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

B. October 11, 2023 Board of Selectmen Special Meeting

First Selectman Bowsza requested the postponement of the October 11, 2023 Special Meeting until the Board's next meeting.

MOTION: To POSTPONE the Board of Selectmen's Special Meeting of October 11, 2023 until the Board's next meeting.

Muska moved/Nordell seconded/DISCUSSION: None

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

5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

First Selectman Bowsza noted the first opportunity for anyone present in the in-person audience to offer comments or questions on items not listed on the Board's Agenda.

Paul Anderson, 89 Main Street: Mr. Anderson noted that the Water Company project is moving along, but they aren't necessarily advising those who are losing their water for a period of time. Main Street Grille was out of business for 2 hours while Connecticut Water dug holes and never told anyone anything. Without water that restaurant could hardly operate. That was a disappointment. To notify the landlord doesn't do any good, the businesses need to know what's being done. That's not a good situation.

Mr. Anderson indicated he also noticed that we just received another solar farm, thanks to the Siting Council – it's at 31 Thrall Road, 4 megawatts. First

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Selectman Bowsza noted the Town is appealing that decision. Mr. Anderson suggested that's fine, he's just bringing it up, that's what the public sees.

Mr. Anderson noted the Broad Brook Library will be open during construction of putting a roof over the ramp. Access will be available all the time, although there may be cases when the front door needs to be used but the contractor has said if someone needs to use the ramp he'll accommodate them.

Patricia Shary, 19 Depot Street: Mrs. Shary questioned who owns the property at 31 Thrall Road, or who did own it? First Selectman Bowsza noted the owner is the Catholic Cemeteries Association.

First Selectman Bowsza then offered the remote participants the same opportunity to offer comments or raise questions on items not listed on the Board's Agenda; no one requested to be acknowledged.

6. COMMUNICATIONS:

First Selectman Bowsza wanted to share with everyone that the Town of East Windsor was recognized by the Connecticut Economic Development Association as a Silver Certified Community. He noted that East Windsor was one of 17 towns recognized on Tuesday for the 2023 year. First Selectman Bowsza wanted to recognize the Staff in the Planning Department for their hard work, this was several years in the making. First Selectman Bowsza suggested it was quite an impressive recognition from a statewide organization. This will be hung in the Planning Office.

7. BOARD AND COMMISSIONS RESIGNATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS:

A. **Resignation:** None

B. **Reappointments:**

First Selectman Bowsza called for motions on the reappointments listed below.

1. **Rebecca ~~Talamini~~ Davis (U), Inland Wetland Watercourse Agency, regular member for a term expiring November 1, 2027:**

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First Selectman Bowsza noted Rebecca Talamini is now Rebecca Talamini Davis.

MOTION: To REAPPOINT Rebecca ~~Talamini~~ Davis (U), to the Inland Wetland and Watercourse Agency as a regular member for a term expiring November 1, 2027.

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

2. Russell Williams (U), American Heritage River Commission, regular member for a term expiring November 1, 2027:
3. Deborah Talamini (U), American Heritage River Commission, regular member for a term expiring November 1, 2027:
4. Abbott Schultz, Jr. (R), American Heritage River Commission, regular member expiring November 1, 2027:
5. Debbie Williams (D), American Heritage River Commission, regular member for a term expiring November 1, 2027:

MOTION: To REAPPOINT Russell Williams (U), Deborah Talamini (U), Abbott Schultz, Jr. (R), and Debbie Williams (D), to the American Heritage River Commission as regular members for terms expiring November 1, 2027.

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

6. Leonard Norton (R), Hearing Officer of Towing and Impounding Vehicles for a term expiring December 1, 2024:

MOTION: To REAPPOINT Leonard Norton (R), Hearing Officer of Towing and Impounding Vehicles for a term expiring December 1, 2024.

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

- 7. James Bagdikian (D), Historical Preservation Commission, regular member for a term expiring December 1, 2027:**

MOTION: To REAPPOINT James Bagdikian (D), to the Historical Preservation Commission as a regular member for a term expiring December 1, 2027:

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

C. New Appointments:

First Selectman Bowsza noted two applicants have applied for membership on the Building Commission, but only one position is available. He suggested the Board choose one of the applicants.

- 1. David Swaim (D), Building Commission, regular member for a term expiring August 1, 2026:**
- 2. Bob Leach (R), Building Commission, regular member for a term expiring August 1, 2026:**

MOTION: To APPOINT David Swaim (D), to the Building Commission as a regular member for a term expiring August 1, 2026.

**DeSousa moved/Nordell seconded/DISCUSSION: Deputy Selectman DeSousa indicated she would be voting for Mr. Swaim as she felt he has a stronger background in budgets and vendors and has 30 years of experience he'll bring to this Commission.
VOTE: In Favor: DeSousa/Nordell/Muska
(No one opposed/No abstentions)**

First Selectman Bowsza noted that the appointment for the second applicant is no longer under consideration.

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3. **Kyle O’Bara (R), Veterans Commission, alternate member for a term expiring January 1, 2024:**

MOTION: To APPOINT Kyle O’Bara (R), to the Veterans Commission as an alternate member for a term expiring January 1, 2024.

Muska moved/DeSousa seconded/DISCUSSION: Deputy Selectman DeSousa indicated she looked up the organization Mr. O’Bara mentioned in his application – the Big Red Barn as she was unfamiliar with the organization, and found it to be a National organization to help other Veterans all around the country. She felt Mr. O’Bara will bring new opportunities and fresh ideas to East Windsor as a member of the Veterans Commission. First Selectman Bowsza noted he’s a young man with a lot of energy and a lot of ideas and is willing to revitalize the Commission. First Selectman Bowsza noted Mr. O’Bara had spoken to him at last year’s Wreath Across America ceremony and had left him many inspirational thoughts.

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

8. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Discuss and Approve Acceptance Certification Section 5310 Grant from the Connecticut Department of Transportation (CTDOT):**

First Selectman Bowsza noted this grant will enable the Town to acquire a new Senior Center bus for \$787.00, which is the result of State and Federal grants. He noted they were originally under the impression that this program was going to be suspended, but the funding has been reactivated, and this is an opportunity for the Town to acquire a new Senior Center bus – for \$787.00.

MOTION: To ACCEPT and APPROVE the Certification Section 5320 Grant from the Connecticut Department of Transportation (CTDOT) for the Fiscal Year 2021 – 2022 as presented, and

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AUTHORIZE the First Selectman to sign the grant documentation.

DeSousa moved/Muska seconded/DISCUSSION: Selectman Muska indicated she's glad to see this grant opportunity for the Town, she thanked Town Staff for following up on this opportunity. This is a really great opportunity for the Town for \$787.00. First Selectman Bowsza noted Karl Von Eisengrein at the Senior Center. Selectman Nordell questioned that a previous opportunity for funding another Senior bus had occurred, First Selectman Bowsza recalled that another Senior bus had been funded through a Legislative appropriation through the Department of Aging and Disability Services, which was free to the Town. Acquisition of the buses will be staggered. Selectman Nordell questioned that the Town has 2 in service currently, First Selectman Bowsza clarified we currently has 3 in service.

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

B. Tax Refunds:

MOTION: To APPROVE Tax Refunds in the amount of \$3,123.82.

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

C. Annual Fiscal Year 2024 Dial-a-Ride Operating Assistance Grant.

First Selectman Bowsza noted this is an annual contract provided by the vendor, which designates funding for the vehicle.

Deputy Selectman DeSousa questioned if the figure listed in the document was accurate, First Selectman Bowsza concurred, noting the funding was available in the budget.

MOTION: To AUTHORIZE the First Selectman, Jason Bowsza, to enter into the Fiscal Year 2024 Dial-

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a-Ride Operating Assistance Grant contract with the vendor.

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

9. SELECTMEN COMMENTS AND REPORTS:

A. Jason Bowsza:

First Selectman Bowsza wanted to share the news, which he mentioned earlier, that the Town has been recognized for the Economic Development Association's Silver Certified Community Award. The program is a best management practices program which is intended to drive communities to pursue excellence in land use and economic development practices, and to recognize the communities that have established those best practices. Only 17 towns in Connecticut were recognized for their achievements this year, including ours. It's been an area of focus for the last 4 years and it's gratifying to see our hard work pay off. Congratulations to our Planning Staff who have worked very hard to get here, and its very much appreciated.

Our Emergency Management Team has had a busy few weeks. Yesterday we participated in a half-day of Emergency Management training where we simulated our response to a toxins spill in town. Previously we did workshops on snowstorms, hurricanes, tornados, and shootings. All of our Emergency disciplines are truly topnotch, and a service to our community. We also continue to make progress towards assessing our best options for the community as we move forward with replacing our emergency radio system. This week we met with leadership in the Town of Windsor, to discuss their experience doing the same thing. Their feedback and cooperation was very helpful as we chart a path forward.

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Our **Police Department** is set to welcome 2 new Police Officers this week. I understand that 2 other candidates were considered but I don't know if they were offered positions, but they were considered.

East Windsor's Haunted Highway is coming up on October 26th. This event has been wildly popular with kids and families. Booth participants and Town Hall Staff are looking forward to defending our title against the Police Department. Trick or treaters will be able to vote for the best booth on their way out of the Park, and we're asking for a \$5.00 donation per family, with the proceeds benefiting local scholarship programs.

Youth basketball sign-ups are now available to anyone in grades Pre-K through 8th grade, you can enroll at EastWindsorRec.com, and this year's **Veterans Road Race** will be on November 11th at East Windsor Town Hall. Registration forms can be picked up in my office, or on the Town's Website, day of registration begins at 8:00 a.m., the race itself starts at 10:00 a.m. Please come out and support this great community event.

First Selectman Bowsza concluded his report.

B. Marie DeSousa:

Deputy Selectman DeSousa reported **the Water Pollution Control Authority** is in the process of putting together a collection box to install on the front entrance of their building so sewer users can drop off their payments after hours. This will help people working late, and people won't have to come to Town Hall to use our drop box.

At the same meeting, they also spoke of an individual who's out, they talked about FMLA and to see if there's anything they can do to help that individual. They were also having problems with alarms going off on various interceptors on the pump stations, so they've reprogrammed their modems. They also noted that they filed paperwork with CIRMA regarding sewer repairs on 91 Main Street, and the lighting at Scout Hall.

The East Windsor Housing Authority met last night, the meeting was rather short. They discussed two issues, one being the complaint mentioned last month regarding power washing and bed bugs up there, and the water lines going up there. Those complaints were answered in writing. Because of some of the things going on they thought it might be

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in their best interest to hire an attorney to discuss their questions, so last night they voted to hire Attorney Hawks-Ladds as a representative for them. He's been helpful working with them and advising them on some classes they should be taking, and learning Robert's Rules of Order and Freedom of Information. After the meeting she was asked if we have anything on those issues, and questioned if workshops could be done together.

Deputy Selectman DeSousa also noted they also mentioned the Connecticut Community Investment Fund where the Windsorville Road and Old Ellington Road will be tied into the fire hydrants at Park Hill, they were asking if they could get a printout of where the lines would be going. First Selectman Bowsza noted Connecticut Water is designing the work.

Deputy Selectman DeSousa concluded her comments.

C. Alan Baker:

No report, Selectman Baker was not present this evening.

D. Sarah Muska:

Selectman Muska reported she had **the Arts and Culture Committee** meeting on October 10th. Members discussed some current and future projects. The "car cards" featuring some local businesses that were painted by students are completed and on display at the Connecticut Trolley Museum in one of the trolley cars, and they're hoping to plan a reveal of those. Selectman Muska suggested they're really neat, the almost look vintage. Khamp (Phimvongsa), over at the new art studio here in town, and some students were involved in that, and the Arts and Culture Committee helped facilitate that with the Trolley Museum. Collaboration continues with the Soccer Club for the mural that will be painted on a kickboard at Osborn Field. Discussion of possible future projects include a mural of a bulldog or the United States to be painted on the blacktop at the Elementary School, and the possibility of painting games such as Hopscotch and 4-Squares in the play areas for students to utilize. Selectman Muska reported 356 pounds of food were collected at the food drive at East Windsor Park on October 1st, that went directly to the 5-Corner Cupboard. There is talk of making this an annual event. The Committee has set the date for Arts and Culture Day for 2024, which

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will be May 18th, and the group is really eager and optimistic in their planning contests and festivities already for that. Some include birdhouses, and using bottle caps for art.

Selectman Muska reported she was out of town for the **Veterans Commission** meeting, but, as Jason mentioned the Road Race is November 11th.

Selectman Muska indicated that was all she had to report.

E. Charlie Nordell:

Selectman Nordell reported that on October 11th **the Warehouse Point Fire Commission** met, the Chief reported 61 incidents over the past month, and the Fire Marshal's Office reported 25 inspections conducted over the past month. The Commission approved a new snow removal contract for the upcoming season.

On October 10th I attended **the Planning and Zoning Commission** meeting, where they talked about the clean-up that needs to be done at South Main Street, and they also talked about Penske Trucking coming to town on what's now Dearborn's property on Newberry Road.

On October 11th **the Board of Selectmen** conducted a Special Meeting to hire and make an offer to a new Deputy Chief of Police.

Also, on October 11th, Selectman Nordell reported he attended a **Board of Education** meeting. During that meeting the Board discussed their bylaws, particularly those sections related to hiring staff related to members of the Board. The Board of Education is currently only responsible for hiring the Superintendent, yet a policy is still in their bylaws, and some of the policies are specifically guided by certain State Statutes. Board of Education member Noreen Farmer led a conversation on a request for an expansion of sports, arts, music, band, and World language. The Director of Parks and Rec, Melissa Maltese, the Athletic Director, and the Music Director all discussed the importance and challenges of providing these important activities. Ms. Benson, who's one of the band teachers for the Middle School, gave a speech on how she's been inspiring the kids to get motivated about music in the Middle School. She said it's been very successful, and she hopes it continues into the High

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School level. She discussed the importance of music and the skills it helps build within the students, and she's also hoping for an increase in the music budget and staff to expand the program and participate in more Town events.

On Monday, October 16th, the Warehouse Point Fire Department, the Broad Brook Fire Department, and the East Windsor Ambulance Association all teamed up for new Life Star training. It started off in a

classroom setting, and then they continued in a real-life drill with the Life Star helicopter at the High School in the field there.

On October 18th Selectman Nordell reported he attended **the Board of Finance** meeting. On the Town side a fair amount of taxes have been collected year-to-date at 57%, and the Town audit has been started. The Board of Education closed out their financials for the school year 2022 – 2023, and they're also preparing for the audit as well. And, financially, this year, they're in good standings.

The **Board of Finance** approved additional funding for the Broad Brook Fire truck as they had an overage in expenses due to increased supplies and overall inflation. If they hadn't done this it would have delayed delivery by double the amount of time, and it would have put us in a totally different truck which would have had an experimental motor with California emission standards. This expenditure will come out of the Broad Brook Fire Department budget without any additional cost to the taxpayers.

Selectman Nordell concluded his report.

10. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

First Selectman Bowsza noted this is the second opportunity for anyone anyone present in the in-person audience to offer comments or questions on items not listed on the Board's Agenda.

Patricia Shary: Mrs. Shary suggested she's still stuck on the property at 31 Thrall Road, was that property sold? First Selectman Bowsza indicated it's leased.

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First Selectman Bowsza then offered the remote participants the same opportunity to offer comments or raise questions on items not listed on the Board's Agenda; no requested to be acknowledged.

11. EXECUTIVE SESSION – Pursuant to C.G.S. 1-200 (6)(b), strategy and negotiations with respect to pending claims or pending litigation:

First Selectman Bowsza called for a motion to go into EXECUTIVE SESSION, noting it would include himself, Deputy Selectman DeSousa, Selectman Muska, and Selectman Nordell; action will likely follow.

MOTION: To GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION at 7:30 p.m.

Nordell moved/Muska seconded/DISCUSSION: None

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

LET THE RECORD SHOW the Recording Secretary signed out of the Meeting at 7:30 p.m.

First Selectman Bowsza noted the Board has exited the **EXECUTIVE SESSION** at 8:47 p.m., with no further business to come before the Board. He called for a motion to **ADJOURN** this meeting.

12. ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION: To ADJOURN this Meeting at 8:47 p.m.

Muska moved/Nordell seconded/DISCUSSION: None

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

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