

**TOWN OF EAST WINDSOR
BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

REGULAR MEETING

December 1, 2022

7:00 p.m.

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

AND

Meeting also available via ZOOM Teleconference

Meeting ID: 332 683 3563

Passcode: townhall

SCHEDULE OF MOTIONS

Board of Selectmen

Jason E. Bowsza, First Selectman
Marie DeSousa, Deputy First Selectman
Alan Baker, Selectman
Sarah Muska, Selectman
Charles Nordell, Selectman

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

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

GUESTS/SPEAKERS in-person: Amy O'Toole, Finance Director; Westfield State University's Graduate Program participants: Dr. DeStefano, and the following students, Rebecca Slick Rusley, Kendro Currie, Donald Ganley, Elyssa Parrish, Landale Armstrong, and Chris Geraghty; Vision Appraisal Services: Sue Robinson, and Jim Williams; Helen Totz, Assessor; Paul Anderson; Wayne Shary.

GUESTS/SPEAKERS signing in to meeting remotely: Anne; Tom and Ruthanne Lansner; Peg Hoffman, Recording Secretary.

1. TIME AND PLACE OF MEETING:

**TOWN OF EAST WINDSOR
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Regular Meeting – December 1, 2022
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ZOOM Teleconference
Meeting ID: 332 683 3563
Passcode: townhall
*SCHEDULE OF MOTIONS***

2

First Selectman Bowsza called the December 1, 2022 Regular Meeting of the East Windsor Board of Selectmen to Order at 7:00 p.m. in the John Daly, Jr. Meeting Room, Town Hall, 11 Rye Street, Broad Brook, Connecticut.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

First Selectman Bowsza asked Selectman Baker to lead everyone in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ATTENDANCE:

First Selectman Bowsza noted Deputy First Selectman DeSousa, Selectman Baker, Selectman Muska, Selectman Nordell, and himself are present in person this evening.

4. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:

A. November 10, 2022 Special Meeting Minutes:

MOTION: To APPROVE the Special Meeting Minutes of November 10, 2022

Muska moved/Nordell seconded/DISCUSSION: None

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

B. November 17, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes:

MOTION: To ACCEPT the November 17, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes as presented.

DeSousa moved/Muska seconded/DISCUSSION: Selectman Nordell referenced the discussion of ADDED AGENDA ITEMS on page 2, noting **Item H under NEW BUSINESS should have been identified as “Discussion of Fiscal Year 2023 – 2024 Budget Submission Letter.”**

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

AMENDED MOTION:

To ACCEPT the November 17, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes, as amended: NEW BUSINESS, Item H. Discussion of Fiscal Year 2023 – 2024 Budget Submission Letter.

DeSousa moved/Muska seconded/DISCUSSION: Nothing further
VOTE: In Favor: DeSousa/Baker/Muska/Nordell
(No one opposed/No abstentions)

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

A. **Resignations:**

1. **Joseph Sauerhoefer, Building Commission:**

MOTION: To ACCEPT the resignation of Joseph Sauerhoefer from the Building Commission, with regret.

Nordell moved/Muska seconded/DISCUSSION: Deputy First Selectman DeSousa indicated she feels it's a shame because of the activity on Facebook that a man who has given 15 years to this Town without any hesitation to do what needs to be done to better East Windsor; she's sad to see this. Deputy First Selectman DeSousa feels the Commission has lost a wonderful person, we're lucky to get someone to replace him as quickly as we did they're going to have some big shoes to fill, so good luck. Personally, after 15 years I can't accept his resignation, even though I don't have any control over it; I won't be voting on that.

Selectman Muska wanted to echo Deputy First Selectman DeSousa's comments. Selectman Muska noted that Mr. Sauerhoefer was a great addition to this Commission over the years, it's sad to see why he's resigning. Selectman Muska indicated she didn't feel anything unethical was done; she agrees with him, his background was an addition. Selectman Muska is sad to see this happen.

Selectman Baker requested to chime in. He noted this resignation, and the one from the Planning and Zoning Commission, is a loss for us because he brought a good perspective to that Board.

**TOWN OF EAST WINDSOR
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Regular Meeting – December 1, 2022
In-person and
ZOOM Teleconference
Meeting ID: 332 683 3563
Passcode: townhall
*SCHEDULE OF MOTIONS***

4

Selectman Baker felt this is nothing short of character assassination, and he feels people should think twice before they say the things and do the things that they do on Facebook. Selectman Baker felt the actions on Facebook are pretty irresponsible. Selectman Baker regrets the fact that Mr. Sauerhoefer didn't fight it.

Selectman Muska questioned that the Board has to accept Mr. Sauerhoefer's resignation? Selectman Muska questioned if Mr. Sauerhoefer might reconsider?

First Selectman Bowsza suggested he could ask Mr. Sauerhoefer to reconsider but he wasn't sure. He suggested tabling the acceptance of the resignation, and he would talk to Mr. Sauerhoefer offline, but he didn't want to do anything to put Mr. Sauerhoefer in a position he didn't want to be in.

Selectman Muska asked what the rest of the Board thinks?

Selectman Baker felt it's water under the bridge now, the damage is done. First Selectman Bowsza agreed; it's really too bad. We shouldn't turn people away with a lot of value.

First Selectman Bowsza called for a vote.

In favor: No one
Opposed: DeSousa/Muska/Nordell
Abstained: Baker

2. Joseph Sauerhoefer, Planning and Zoning Commission:

First Selectman Bowsza questioned what the Board wanted to do with this resignation? Selectman Baker suggested tabling it. First Selectman Bowsza called for a vote to TABLE the resignation of Joe Sauerhoefer from the Planning and Zoning Commission.

**MOTION: To TABLE the resignation of Joe Sauerhoefer
 from the Planning and Zoning Commission.**

Muska moved/Nordell seconded/

**TOWN OF EAST WINDSOR
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Regular Meeting – December 1, 2022
In-person and
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Meeting ID: 332 683 3563
Passcode: townhall
*SCHEDULE OF MOTIONS***

5

VOTE: **In Favor:** **Baker/Muska/Nordell**
 Opposed: **No one**
 Abstained: **DeSousa**, as she felt there will be negativity due to the postponement, but she's glad to see the Board backing Mr. Sauerhoefer. If anyone is at fault for Joe Sauerhoefer being appointed to the Planning and Zoning Commission we, unwittingly, instead of someone bringing it to the attention of the Planning and Zoning Commission they went out on Facebook and they went after the wrong person who was doing what he thought was best for the Town of East Windsor. So, if people want to criticize and delay, Deputy First Selectman DeSousa indicated she'll take full responsibility for putting him on that Board and putting him in that situation, because he doesn't deserve what he's going through.

3. Tom Burnham, Ethics Commission:

MOTION: **To ACCEPT the resignation of Tom Burnham from the Ethics Commission with regret.**

Nordell moved/DeSousa seconded/DISCUSSION: Deputy First Selectman DeSousa wanted to thank Mr. Burnham for doing his due diligence even though 2 years ago we thought he was done and for actually participating in the last Ethics Commission complaint that was unfounded. He took his role seriously even though he complained that he couldn't get off but he did his due diligence so I congratulate him for that.

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

4. Mary Hevner, Ethics Commission:

MOTION: **To ACCEPT the resignation of Mary Havner from the Ethics Commission with regret.**

Muska moved/Nordell seconded/DISCUSSION: None

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

TOWN OF EAST WINDSOR
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Regular Meeting – December 1, 2022
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SCHEDULE OF MOTIONS

6

(No one opposed/No abstentions)

B. Reappointments: None

C. New Appointments: None

9. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Westfield State Presentation:

MOTION: To take a 5-minute recess.

DeSousa moved/Muska seconded/DISCUSSION: None

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

First Selectman Bowsza RECONVENED the meeting at 7:35 p.m.

C. Discussion of FY 23-24 Budget Letter and Calendar:

MOTION: To ACCEPT the 23-24 Budget Calendar as presented.

Muska moved/Nordell seconded/DISCUSSION: None

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

D. Discussion of Fiscal Sponsorship of Agencies and Groups by the Town to include Amy O'Toole:

MOTION: To ACCEPT the East Windsor Garden Club and the East Windsor Housing Authority to act as their fiscal sponsor in conjunction with the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving.

DeSousa move/Baker seconded/DISCUSSION: None

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

E. Review and Approve PSA Regarding State Bond Funds for Lights and Playground:

MOTION: To AUTHORIZE the First Selectman to sign the Professional Services Agreement Grant Contract between the Town of East Windsor and the State of Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection for Park Improvements, Case #2023-022,

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

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

F. Review and Approve Tighe and Bond Agreement:

First Selectman Bowsza suggested the Board return to this Agenda item after the **EXECUTIVE SESSION.**

H. Discuss And Set Referendum Hours for Calendar Year 2023, Pursuant to C.G.S. 7-96:

MOTION: To SET THE REFERENDUM HOURS FOR Calendar Year 2023 pursuant to C.G.S. 7-96 at 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. and FORWARD TO TOWN MEETING.

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

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

I. Tax Refunds:

MOTION: To APPROVE Tax Refunds in the amount of \$2,638.28.

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

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

**TOWN OF EAST WINDSOR
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
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*SCHEDULE OF MOTIONS***

8

12. **EXECUTIVE SESSION** – Pursuant to C.G.S. 1-200 (6)(b), negotiations, (6)(e) discussion of any matter which would result in the disclosure of public records, or the information contained therein described in subsection (b) of section 1/210.
Action possible:

MOTION: To GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION at 9:16 p.m. Executive Session to include First Selectman Bowsza, Deputy First Selectman DeSousa, Selectman Baker, Selectman Muska, and Selectman Nordell.

Baker moved/Muska seconded/DISCUSSION: None

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

LET THE RECORD SHOW the Selectmen exited the John Daly Jr. Meeting room to deliberate.

LET THE RECORD SHOW the Recording Secretary remained online until the Board returned from their deliberations.

LET THE RECORD SHOW the Board exited the EXECUTIVE SESSION at 9:57 p.m.

F. Review and Approve Tighe and Bond Agreement:

MOTION: To AUTHORIZE the First Selectman to sign the agreement with Tighe and Bond and the Town of East Windsor.

Nordell moved/Muska seconded/DISCUSSION: None

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

13. **ADJOURNMENT:**

MOTION: To ADJOURN this Meeting at 9:58 p.m.

Nordell moved/Muska seconded/DISCUSSION: None

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

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9

Respectfully submitted,

Peg Hoffman, Recording Secretary, East Windsor Board of Selectmen