

# **TOWN OF EAST WINDSOR BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

## **SPECIAL MEETING**

**Monday, April 20, 2020  
1:00 p.m.  
East Windsor, Connecticut**

Meeting held via ZOOM Teleconference  
Meeting ID: 332 683 3563  
Town Hall closed to the Public by  
Executive Order of First Selectman Jason E. Bowsza  
Due to Coronavirus pandemic

### **Meeting Minutes**

**\*\*\* These 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  
Charlie Nordell, Selectman

**ATTENDANCE:** **Board of Selectmen:** Jason E. Bowsza, First Selectman; Marie DeSousa, Deputy First Selectman; Alan Baker, Selectman; Sarah Muska, Selectman; Charlie Nordell, Selectman

**ABSENT:** All Selectmen were present this evening.

**GUESTS signing in to teleconference:** Patti Kratochvil, Tax Collector; D. James Barton, Chief, Warehouse Point Fire Department; Rich Austin, Warehouse Point Fire District Fire Marshal.

**Public:** No public present

**Press:** No one from the Press acknowledged attendance.

**TIME AND PLACE OF REGULAR MEETING:**

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First Selectman Bowsza called the April 20, 2020 Special Meeting of the East Windsor Board of Selectmen to Order at 1:02 p.m. The Meeting is being held via teleconference due to closure of the Town Hall to the Public as the result of the coronavirus epidemic.

**ATTENDANCE:** First Selectman Bowsza noted the Board has established a quorum with five members present via video conference.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:**

No one from the public requested to speak at this time.

**OLD BUSINESS/Discuss and Reconsider Executive Order 7S and 7W – Property Tax Deferral:**

First Selectman Bowsza reported that after the Board's approval of a Resolution to provide a property tax assistance program at the April 16, 2020 Meeting he relayed that decision to Tax Collector Kratochvil. After further discussion they feel the Board may need to reconsider their decision. The Board had approved a 90-day Deferment Program for taxpayers that can demonstrate an economic impact based on the effects of COVID-19; Tax Collector Kratochvil has indicated the Town lacks a mechanism to advise taxpayers of the availability of the assistance program, and the need to demonstrate the hardship. First Selectman Bowsza had suggested a flyer could be included in the tax bill; Tax Collector Kratochvil noted the timing of the mailing of the tax bills leaves the taxpayer little time to pursue the assistance program. First Selectman Bowsza and Tax Collector Kratochvil are suggesting the Board reconsider a blanket Deferment Program to any taxpayer under Executive Order 7S rather than to taxpayers who can demonstrate the impact of COVID-19. He indicated this blanket Deferment Program option has been chosen by most Towns.

First Selectman Bowsza cited the RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE PROPERTY TAX RELIEF PROGRAM (*See Attachment A*) which he and Tax Collector have drafted.

Selectman Baker questioned how adoption of the blanket Deferment Program would affect the Town's tax flow? Tax Collector Kratochvil indicated the blanket Deferment Program would not include taxes paid in escrow, which she noted, include some of the largest personal property tax bills. She also noted many elderly taxpayers elect to pay cash for their tax bills at the due date. Tax Collector Kratochvil felt the Town would be ok. First Selectman Bowsza suggested they expect some impact on cash flow but didn't expect any disruption in services.

Selectman Muska noted the Memo of Understanding with the Warehouse Point Fire District requires that they should be paid 100% of their tax collections by October 15<sup>th</sup>; how would this affect them? Tax Collector Kratochvil indicated the way the Executive Order was written if the Town goes with the Deferment Program the District must follow that as well. If the Town



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revenue is reduced for 3 months their revenue would be reduced also. First Selectman Bowsza indicated the Town didn't want to see any disruption in fire services as a result of the Deferment Program; he suggested the Board consider two installment payments of collected taxes. Tax Collector Kratochvil felt additional discussions should be held with the Warehouse Point Fire District and their attorney. Selectman Muska questioned if it would include taxes paid in escrow? Tax Collector Kratochvil agreed, noting there are some large properties within the Warehouse Point Fire District whose taxes are paid via escrow. Selectman Muska hoped the Town will reach out to the Warehouse Point Fire District soon. First Selectman Bowsza indicated that once the Board takes action, he'll reach out to the Warehouse Point Fire District and the Water Pollution Control Authority, as this decision affects them as well.

Deputy First Selectman DeSousa reiterated her prior concerns that the District gets the money they need to function. She questioned if the Town had the ability to issue an Additional Appropriation from the General Fund to assist them with their expenses? First Selectman Bowsza felt that could occur but the Town had to continue to function as well, and no one knows at this point if any money will be returned to the General Fund with passage of the fiscal year budget.

Selectman Nordell had no comments or questions.

First Selectman Bowsza requested the Board consider the amended Resolution. Should the Board agree to move the amended Resolution the prior Resolution should be rescinded.

**MOTION: To RESCIND the following: Resolve, the BOS of the Town of EW, adopts a 90-day deferment program for taxes for taxpayers that can demonstrate an economic impact based on the effects of COVID-19 as specified in Executive Orders 7S and 7W.**

**Baker moved/Nordell seconded/DISCUSSION:** Nothing additional  
**VOTE by rollcall: In Favor: Baker/Nordell/Muska/DeSousa**  
**(No one opposed/No abstentions)**

**MOTION: To APPROVE the amended Resolution as attached.**

**DeSousa moved/Baker seconded/DISCUSSION:** First Selectman Bowsza clarified that the Board is approving a Deferment Program applicable to any taxpayer with a bill due July 1, 2020 not held in escrow as set out in Executive Order 7S and 7W. Selectman Muska indicated she will support this Resolution because she feels there will be people who will have the need for tax assistance, but she didn't think the Town should reward people whose taxes are delinquent.  
**VOTE by rollcall: In Favor: Baker/Nordell/Muska/DeSousa/Bowsza**  
**(No one opposed/No abstentions)**

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**D. James Barton, Chief, Warehouse Point Fire Department:** Chief Barton reported they know the District will be affected by the Executive Order, and they're willing to work with the Town but he felt any taxes paid via escrow should be paid to the District by August 15<sup>th</sup>. First Selectman Bowsza felt the Town could consider pro-rating the District's payment based on the escrowed taxes collected, with the intention to deliver a second pro-rated payment in October or January. Chief Barton felt that would work but also felt the District couldn't wait until January for the next payment. First Selectman Bowsza indicated he would attend the next Fire District Meeting for discussion. Chief Barton suggested holding a ZOOM Meeting prior to the next District Meeting on May 4<sup>th</sup>; First Selectman Bowsza suggested Art Enderle, of the Water Pollution Control Authority, should be included in that meeting as well.

Hearing no additional requests for public participation First Selectman Bowsza called for a motion to adjourn.


**ADJOURNMENT:**

**MOTION:** To ADJOURN this Meeting at 1.24 p.m.

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

**VOTE:** In Favor: Unanimous

Respectfully submitted

  
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Peg Hoffman, Recording Secretary, East Windsor Board of Selectmen

**ATTACHMENTS:**

RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE PROPERTY TAX RELIEF PROGRAM



BA 4/20/2020 Attachment 9

**RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE PROPERTY TAX RELIEF PROGRAM**

**WHEREAS**, there exists a global pandemic of Coronavirus Disease 2019 ("COVID-19"); and

**WHEREAS**, the pandemic has resulted in the rapid spread of infections throughout the State of Connecticut; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 10, 2020, the Governor declared a public health emergency and civil preparedness emergency throughout the State pursuant to sections 19a-131a and 28-9 of the General Statutes; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 13, 2020, the President of the United States declared a national emergency pursuant to section 501 (b) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. 5121-5207 (the "Stafford Act"); and

**WHEREAS**, on March 16, 2020, the First Selectman declared that a state of emergency exists in the Town of East Windsor as a result of the global pandemic of COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS**, many residents and taxpayers are suffering financial hardship due to illness, business operations being suspended or ceased, layoffs and other complications due to the COVID-19 pandemic; and

**WHEREAS**, on April 1, 2020, the Governor issued Executive Order No. 7S which requires municipalities to implement, by action of its legislative body, one or both of two prescribed property tax relief programs; and

**WHEREAS**, the Deferment Program allows eligible (as defined by the Connecticut Office of Policy and Management) taxpayers, businesses, nonprofits and residents who have suffered a significant adverse economic impact by COVID-19 and those that are providing relief to others significantly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic to defer up to ninety days the payment of real property, personal property, and motor vehicles taxes; and

**WHEREAS**, the Deferment Program adopted by the Board of Selectman shall also apply to taxes, fees and assessments levied by the East Windsor Water Pollution Control Authority and the Warehouse Point Fire District

**WHEREAS**, the Low Interest Rate Program establishes a maximum interest rate of three (3) percent for certain delinquent tax payments on real property, personal property or motor vehicles due and payable.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Selectman of the Town of East Windsor, by an affirmative vote of its members, hereby adopts the Deferment Program as set forth in paragraph 6.a. of Executive Order 7S and extends the program to all categories of taxpayers, businesses, nonprofits and residents.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the First Selectman, or his designee, shall promptly notify the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management of East Windsor's selection, with such notification to occur no later than April 25, 2020.

Adopted this 20<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2020