

# TOWN OF EAST WINDSOR BOARD OF SELECTMEN

## SPECIAL MEETING

**Tuesday, August 18, 2020  
7:00**

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:** Charter Revision Commission: Rebecca Talamini, Co-Chair, Tanya Unsworth, Co-Chair; Ruth Anne Lansner, Richard LeBoriosis, Jim Richards, Heather Spencer, Nicole Vacila; Board of Finance: Noreen Farmer, Tom Lansner; Capital Improvement Planning Committee: Bob Leach; Bill Towers, Jr.

Public: Fred Stuckland, Tom Talamini, Kate Carey-Trull, Roseanne Wilcox.

**Press:** Joe Chaisson, Journal Inquirer.

**TOWN OF EAST WINDSOR  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
Special Meeting – August 18, 2020  
ZOOM Teleconference  
Meeting ID: 332 683 3563  
MEETING MINUTES**

**TIME AND PLACE OF REGULAR MEETING:**

First Selectman Bowsza called the August 18, 2020 Special Meeting to order at 7:00 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 Selectmen present via video conference.

**MOTION: To RECESS the August 18, 2020 Special Meeting of the Board of Selectmen until the conclusion of the Public Hearing.**

**Baker moved/ DeSousa seconded/DISCUSSION: None.**

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

First Selectman Bowsza reported the August 18, 2020 Special Meeting of the Board of Selectmen has been RECESSED at 7:01 pm.

First Selectman Bowsza called the August 18, 2020 Public Hearing to order at 7:01 p.m. He reported the Public Hearing is being held to hear comments regarding the recommendations made by the Charter Revision Commission.

**PLEASE REFER TO SEPARATE MINUTES FOR THE AUGUST 18, 2020  
PUBLIC HEARING.**

First Selectman Bowsza RECONVENED the Special Meeting of the Board of Selectmen at 7:29 p.m.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

First Selectman Bowsza requested Selectman Baker lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ATTENDANCE:**

See attendance at the Call to Order of the Special Meeting above.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:**

**TOWN OF EAST WINDSOR  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
Special Meeting – August 18, 2020  
ZOOM Teleconference  
Meeting ID: 332 683 3563  
MEETING MINUTES**

First Selectman Bowsza requested comments from the Public which would address the Board of Selectmen's considerations of the Charter Revision Commission's (CRC) proposals.

**Noreen Farmer, 247 South Water Street:** Mrs. Farmer indicated that after listening to the other conversations she had one thing to add. She felt the most important thing the Board of Selectmen needs to do is make a recommendation to the Charter Revision Commission to get rid of the 2%. If the CRC's current proposal fails the Charter stays at 2%, which isn't a sustainable number. Mrs. Farmer hopes the Board of Selectman can come up with another plan to get rid of the 2%. Mrs. Farmer suggested we may need to have another Charter Revision Commission next year, or wait 5 years; she felt the Town can't live with this, we'll have a roof fall in and we don't have the money to pay for it.

**Bob Leach, CIP member:** Mr. Leach suggested the Board has a chance to do this this year; his recommendation would be to get rid of the 2%, and go to referendums until the budget passes. What have you got to lose? He felt if you tie the Board of Finance setting the budget after 3 referendums to the proposal he didn't think it would pass.

First Selectman Bowsza called for additional comments from the public; no one requested to speak.

**NEW BUSINESS/A. Discussion and Vote on Charter Revision Proposals:**

First Selectman Bowsza suggested this part of the meeting is limited to the 5 members of the Board. He wanted to share where the Board is in the consideration of the Charter revision process.

First Selectman Bowsza referenced C.G.S. 7-191(c), which says in part, if the appointing authority makes recommendations for changes in the draft report to the Commission the Commission shall confer with the appointing authority concerning any such recommendations and may amend any provisions of the proposed Charter, Charter amendments, or home rule ordinance amendments in accordance with the recommendations, or the Commission may reject such recommendations.

First Selectman Bowsza noted the Board is the appointing authority, and can make recommendations to the Charter Revision Commission regarding future action, and they can decide to either accept, amend, or reject our proposals and then send a final report back to us.

First Selectman Bowsza called for comments from the Board.

**TOWN OF EAST WINDSOR  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
Special Meeting – August 18, 2020  
ZOOM Teleconference  
Meeting ID: 332 683 3563  
MEETING MINUTES**

Deputy First Selectman DeSousa suggested a lot of the narrative she heard on July 16<sup>th</sup> and at last night's CRC Meeting is that the majority of the people who spoke don't want the budget to go back to the Board of Finance. Deputy First Selectman DeSousa noted she had been on the Board of Finance, as Chairman, when the budgets were failing multiple times. She cited she had been given information from the Town Attorney that said the Board of Finance, after so many failures, could make the decision. Deputy First Selectman DeSousa recalled they took the budget as low as they could without going to another failed referendum and causing harm to the town. She, as Chairman, took the responsibility, with the Board of Finance and made the decision to set the budget for the town. Deputy First Selectman DeSousa felt she did what was in the best interest of the town from a financial standpoint but she felt she disrespected those voters in the town who care enough to come out and vote; she felt she took that right to vote from them; she regrets that. Deputy First Selectman DeSousa feels that to send the budget to the Board of Finance and take the vote away from the public - she doesn't feel we're doing our community any justice.

Deputy First Selectman DeSousa suggested that she would like to take the 2% out; she agrees with everything Noreen Farmer has said and Paul Anderson the other day – our bonding and our growth are affected. She would like to keep on voting as the Charter Revision Commission has decided, and let it go. She cited we have the Board of Finance, some things need to be looked at and we need to do a better job of getting information to the voters so they understand what the budget cycle is and what the future holds for East Windsor. She acknowledges the concerns raised by the pandemic; people are concerned financially. But you still have to run a town. Deputy First Selectman DeSousa hopes if we do our jobs and the Board of Finance gets information out she feels the voters will vote based on the right thing. And if they don't, it will be what it is.

Selectman Muska agrees, the 2% has hindered growth and the ability to bond. Having capital improvements and debt service part of that 2%; she'd like to see that removed. Selectman Muska offered the Board the following options:

- That we continue to vote as previous members of the public and Deputy First Selectman DeSousa stated until it does pass
- The 2% plus the inflation rate for that year
- Based on the Gross National Product

Selectman Muska doesn't want the Board to pull a percentage out of thin air without any basis and use that; she didn't feel that would be moving forward. She agreed, if we're going to have 3 referendums and people are going to come out to vote and the Board of Finance is just going to set the budget anyway, she feels it doesn't make sense to have people come out and vote. She felt that was like taking away their voice when they're opposed to the budget. Selectman Muska cited she appreciates the work the Charter Revision Commission did on this proposal.

**TOWN OF EAST WINDSOR  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
Special Meeting – August 18, 2020  
ZOOM Teleconference  
Meeting ID: 332 683 3563  
MEETING MINUTES**

Selectman Nordell suggested he's been torn with this decision. He was initially adamant to go with the CRC's recommendation. He felt the Board had selected a great group of people and they did an awesome job with what they presented. But, he's decided he's not going to do what the last Board of Selectmen did and ignore the public's input. He agrees, the 2% needs to be eliminated, but taking away the vote after 3 referendums – Selectman Nordell indicated his perspective previously was the Board of Finance members are elected officials and we entrusted them with our budget, and we should trust them to set it if need be. The public was given 3 opportunities to set the budget, and if they obviously couldn't agree on it and make it happen then you give it to someone else to make it happen. Selectman Nordell pointed out the public doesn't want that; he's not going to go with that.

Selectman Nordell agrees to take away the 2% but do something else as far as voting, whether it's voting until it passes, or... The thought of the financial burden and what happens when school starts, and we still don't have a budget scares him. Selectman Nordell concurred with Bob Leach; it's worth a try.

Selectman Baker indicated that he dislikes that our budgets get set to 2% but they get set to the 2% because people don't come out to vote for anything more than that. They know they can vote 3 times and set the budget to 2%. His concern is if we take away that failsafe you would potentially find budgets throughout the years less than 2%. He feels that happens because the people who get out to vote tend to want to spend less. Selectman Baker questioned if you could imagine several years in a row at 1% what would our education system look like? He understands a lot of us think that the 2% isn't adequate but apparently not a majority of us because we tend to get the 2% most years. He felt it was wishful thinking that we can get rid of the 2% and go to unlimited voting and end up where we want to end up. Selectman Baker suggested he felt the 2% was put in for a reason, which he felt was the town was getting budgets less than 2% and it wasn't cutting it. We have 20 years of lack of investment in this town so if we were to just rip the 2% out we could end up in a worse situation than we are now. His fear is if we make a change just to make a change because we want a change we end up with a situation like the Warehouse Point Fire Department and it takes us 10 years to fix that. Selectman Baker would rather not make a change just to make a change.

Selectman Baker indicated another concern he has with continuing to vote until it passes is that there are towns where it does drag on. And if you talk to anyone that's in finance, for a town that's kind of one of the worse things that can happen; it's very disruptive to the operation of the town. He didn't feel that was a great idea. Selectman Baker suggested if we do go that route we should start earlier and compress the budget season as much as we can and start as early as we can because they'll be years it will go on and on.

Selectman Baker suggested he was thinking to raise the cap and get a little more out of it than what we're getting now, and remove CIP and debt service from the cap. His concern is that if

**TOWN OF EAST WINDSOR  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
Special Meeting – August 18, 2020  
ZOOM Teleconference  
Meeting ID: 332 683 3563  
MEETING MINUTES**

we get rid of the 2% cap we'll get what we want because the evidence so far is we aren't getting what we want.

First Selectman Bowsza suggested as he looks at what the Commission has come up and what they discussed over time and what we've heard from the public there are a number of options to consider.

- The recommendation from the Charter Revision Commission. First Selectman Bowsza asked for a straw vote from the Board to give him some direction.

Deputy First Selectman DeSousa cited Selectman Baker made the comment about the other towns, and she follows the news, maybe the thing to do is say the 2% isn't working, to keep on voting could cost us more than we have in the budget because of the cost of a referendum and it goes on and on and on; maybe we should just change the percentage. She's heard comments about 3%, 4%, 10% - maybe we could do something in the middle to eliminate Selectman Baker's concerns and eliminate her concern because the 2% isn't helping us. Deputy First Selectman DeSousa suggested she's willing to compromise; both sides have good arguments.

First Selectman Bowsza suggested one thing came up in our discussion and in the Public Hearing that he wanted to offer as a correction, and that's what happens if the referendum process continues into the new Fiscal Year? He understands the Statute allows for a "continuing resolution" so the Town's business can continue to operate until the budget question is resolved. The Town effectively operates on the most recently adopted budget until there is a conclusion of the referendum process. Where it may take enough referenda to get into the new Fiscal Year it's not like the lights get shut off or the schools shut down when that happens.

First Selectman Bowsza noted one of the things he's heard on social media, and in the comments made earlier, if the Town were to continue on the course outlined by the CRC we would be canceling the public's participation in the budget process. He felt it's important to consider that the process that we currently have already does that. By having a set number of referenda and then having a final determination that's prescribed that is effectively vetoing the public's role in the budget process as well. First Selectman Bowsza suggested there really is no difference in the status quo we currently have and what has been proposed by the CRC in terms of respect for the rights of the voters. We already currently don't respect them in the process that's currently in the Charter. This really isn't doing any more of a disservice than we've been doing for the last decade. First Selectman Bowsza suggested if the intention is to empower the voters all of the time it seems to him the most obvious solution is to remove a concluding point in the process and just have referenda run until the voters adopt a budget by referendum. If the intention is to have a budget document in place that is the most sensible by which to govern than that would be so many referenda and then we're just going to be done with it. First Selectman Bowsza felt the Board needs to look at the percentage number to see if it's enough to meet the needs of the community. Or, does this Board want to make a recommendation to the CRC that they strongly

**TOWN OF EAST WINDSOR  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
Special Meeting – August 18, 2020  
ZOOM Teleconference  
Meeting ID: 332 683 3563  
MEETING MINUTES**

consider an option that hasn't been as thoroughly vetted in the public dialogue as those other two possibilities?

First Selectman Bowsza returned to the straw vote on the potential options:

- The recommendation from the Charter Revision Commission. First Selectman Bowsza asked for a straw vote from the Board to give him some direction – 2 selectmen supported the CRC's recommendation.
- Adjusting the final percentage number with something more governable to replace the 2% number – 4 selectman could support that option.
- Running unlimited referenda until the voters ultimately adopt a budget to govern by – 2 selectmen could support that option; Selectman Baker was in for purposes of discussion.
- 2% plus inflation – 2 Selectmen could support that option.
- To remove CIP and debt from the 2% rule and keep the 2% as is – 3 Selectmen could support that option.

First Selectman Bowsza suggested the two options the Board could rule out based on the straw poll are the 2% plus inflation, and the recommendation from the Charter Revision Commission.

First Selectman Bowsza noted the Board must now make a recommendation to the CRC. He suggested discussion now comes down to running unlimited referenda, or do we want to leave everything status quo but pick a different arbitrary number than the 2% that's currently in place?

Selectman Baker cited his concern with the unlimited referendums is it takes out the failsafe. He knows that the 2% was put in to limit rather than to save but it ends up working both ways. You could get a 1%, a zero, or a negative 1 or 2% with the right Board. Selectman Baker suggested it does change the dynamic; he didn't feel we fully understand how our voting population would react to that and how it would change the conversation. He suggested our conversation now is arbitrary and it's almost by rote what we're going to do every year. Selectman Baker reiterated taking away the 2% does take away the failsafe – which concerns him - but it may also change the dynamic. Selectman Baker indicated he's projecting that it's going to go bad for the town based on our voting history, which is basically no, no, no. But it might change the dynamic completely if people know they're in this until the bitter end; maybe something good could come out of it.

First Selectman Bowsza suggested he sees that concern bearing out if there is a particularly anti-group elected to the Board of Finance. Absent that, there's nothing to compel the Board of Finance to keep cutting below any benchmark when we have referenda running until it's ultimately adopted. There's nothing pushing that towards a negative; they could decide that they want to increase it or run the same budget again. And, also a different voter participation. That would be an upside to the referenda until it passes approach.

**TOWN OF EAST WINDSOR  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
Special Meeting – August 18, 2020  
ZOOM Teleconference  
Meeting ID: 332 683 3563  
MEETING MINUTES**

Selectman Nordell suggested the Board of Finance doesn't typically increase the number from one referendum to the next; they go down; that's just how they're designed to work. As Selectman Baker said we could just keep going until we get into the negative numbers and then where would the town be?

First Selectman Bowsza noted that before the Board continues its discussions we need to allow the Charter Revision Commission to CONVENE their meeting because they were noticed for 8 o'clock, and RECESS it, and then return to the Board's meeting and finish discussion.

**MOTION: To RECESS the August 18, 2020 Board of Selectman Special Meeting to enable the Charter Revision Commission to CONVENE their Meeting.**

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

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

First Selectman Bowsza noted the Board of Selectmen Special Meeting of August 18, 2020 is RECESSED at 8:01 p.m.

First Selectman Bowsza requested CRC Co-Chair Talamini to CONVENE and then RECESS the Charter Revision Commission Meeting.

**SEE MOTIONS UNDER MINUTES FOR THE CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION  
MEETING HELD ON AUGUST 18, 2020.**

First Selectman Bowsza RECONVENED the August 18, 2020 Board of Selectman Special Meeting at 8:02 p.m. to pick up discussion on the Charter Revision Commission proposed changes.

Deputy First Selectman DeSousa agrees with Selectman Baker, keeping it going on and on could put us in more harm than good and defeat our purpose. Deputy First Selectman DeSousa also questioned if Selectman Baker's suggestion to remove the CIP and debt service from the budget could be done? First Selectman Bowsza suggested that would be a substantial change which would require legal review beyond the time we have to move this to the Presidential ballot. He suggested the Board would have to make a decision if the goal was to make a modest improvement or no improvement at all and still hit the Presidential ballot, or tap the brakes and decide if we want to take a more holistic view of things. Deputy First Selectman DeSousa didn't want to tap the brakes; she questioned what the percentage be to eliminate the 2% and go higher? Deputy First Selectman DeSousa felt if the Board keeps the referendums going there'll be a group of people who won't vote for that because they'll be afraid there would be an 8% increase. Deputy First Selectman DeSousa questioned the percentage again, noting she wouldn't go any higher than 4%. First Selectman Bowsza cited two examples; Massachusetts sets a cap on



**TOWN OF EAST WINDSOR  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
Special Meeting – August 18, 2020  
ZOOM Teleconference  
Meeting ID: 332 683 3563  
MEETING MINUTES**

municipal spending at 2 ½%, while in 2009 Governor Rell proposed a statewide 3% municipal tax cap. Selectman Baker suggested 3% isn't a ton of money into the budget but it's a little bit more money to work with; he suggested he felt that would be the minimum to not fall behind. He felt the Board could look at something else a bit higher if you're looking to engage voters.

Selectman Nordell questioned if the Board sets a higher number and the voters saw 2 1/2% at the first referendum would they vote for that? Or if we set another arbitrary number, like 3%, will that help us with bonding and debt service? Do we need to set a number a bit higher? Following that thought, First Selectman Bowsza questioned what if we said if the budget fails 3 times it would go to a 3 ½% increase with 1% being dedicated to capital projects? First Selectman Bowsza noted that they try to have CIP be 2 to 3% of the total budget; so, if we took a more generous spending increase and earmark some of that specifically for capital or infrastructure projects that get's us there. The same holds true with debt service and paying down enough of our debt service quickly enough to allow us to bond. It's the limit in the budget for debt service that prevents us from taking on projects. He considered the ability to tie some of the requested money to those more infrastructure-based projects.

Selectman Nordell also questioned could the Board implement some rule that if the budget failed 3 times the Board of Finance had to go up in their next proposed number. He felt people would say that's deceiving or confusing, but everyone knows now that it reverts to 2% if it fails 3 times. Following that line First Selectman Bowsza suggested what if we were to turn the 2% number to 3 or 4% and after 3 referenda it reverts to that? He suggested the check on the Boards going crazy is that the Boards are elected, and the voters will encourage us to try to get a more appropriate number that could be adopted at referenda. There's the pressure on the elected officials to be representative of the people we serve.

First Selectman Bowsza queried the Board for their proposed percentage? Selectman Baker cited previous budgets passing at 3%; he felt that was the maximum that people would go for on a regular basis, although he felt there might be people that would go for 4% or 5%. He suggested his experience on the Board of Finance and the Board of Selectmen indicates the 2% isn't making it, 3% doesn't quite get you there but you're not falling behind as much as you are with the 2%. Selectman Baker suggested he didn't know what kind of room that would give the town with debt service, which is really the number we need to fix. And, if you take away the failsafe with no cap then how does that affect debt service in any situation? If a budget passes at 1% can you do what needs to be done with debt service? First Selectman Bowsza cited if the budget passes at 1% that's what we live with. Selectman Baker felt we still need the failsafe. We need to run a town, or at least stop the bleeding.

First Selectman Bowsza cited under the current circumstance our 2% is about \$800,000. Until we made the conversion this year our health care costs were around \$300,000 a year, every year. So, out of that \$800,000 you only have \$500,000 left before the Board of Education pays for

**TOWN OF EAST WINDSOR  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
Special Meeting – August 18, 2020  
ZOOM Teleconference  
Meeting ID: 332 683 3563  
MEETING MINUTES**

their healthcare increase, which is going to be more than that. First Selectman Bowsza suggested it's pretty clear that there isn't extra money kicking around at the 2% level. If you go to 2 ½% that \$800,000 goes up by \$200,000; if you go to 3% that \$800,000 goes up by \$400,000. That's just thinking about the big costs that you have little control over, and you still want to have something left to something meaningful for the community. First Selectman Bowsza felt 3% was the number; it couldn't reasonably be much more or less than that. As you look at what drives our budget and what we're left with that seems about right without going totally afield of what would be acceptable to the average taxpayer. First Selectman Bowsza noted it's just an arbitrary number.

Deputy First Selectman DeSousa suggested she'd like to go a little higher to 3 ½%; Selectman Nordell agreed with Deputy First Selectman DeSousa. First Selectman Bowsza clarified that that's a spending increase number, not a tax increase number. He cited that's important information to educate the people about. If the town continues to grow and we have good economic development, then that 3 ½ spending increase may accompany a 1 or 1 ½% tax increase. As it stands now with Gravel Pit Solar and the Silverman Group, assuming nothing changes, that would equate to 1 ½% of the 2% spending increase next year in new tax revenue. So, we would have a 2 ½% spending increase but a .50% tax increase based on nothing other than economic development. First Selectman Bowsza suggested the Board needs to be very articulate about what we're asking people to consider.

Selectman Muska indicated she shared everyone's concerns about the 2% but she also concerned that we're just picking a percentage number out of the air without a formula, or a basis or a reason. She questioned if the difference between the 3 and the 3 ½ is going to solve the debt service issue, or the CIP? What's the actual difference of that percentage? And what's the basis for it so when the constituents ask we have a reason why we picked this. She agrees that the 2% has hindered us and we need to move forward; she just wished it was based on an actual basis or formula as to why we picked that number.

First Selectman Bowsza suggested the difference between the 3% and the 3 ½% is roughly \$200,000; every half a percentage point is about \$200,000. He suggested the budget is split 60/40 Board of Education vs. the Town so what's 40% of \$200,000 – that's \$80,000 for the Town and \$120,000 for the Board of Education. Discussion followed regarding what the Town could do with the \$80,000; First Selectman Bowsza suggested that would probably go into CIP for the Town and be maybe a teacher and a para-professional for the Board of Education. Selectman Muska suggested she wasn't really thinking about the math side of that questions, it's what's the basis for us picking that number. First Selectman Bowsza suggested if the commitment is going to be some type of stopgap in the process there is also a recognition that the current stopgap isn't adequate to meet the growing needs of the town. We're trying to figure out a number that would allow us to meet those needs without being unacceptable to taxpayers. We're trying to get a number that's a little bit better than it is now, still has that stopgap, and hopefully is acceptable to voters as a reasonable percentage, recognizing that 2% hasn't gotten us

**TOWN OF EAST WINDSOR  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
Special Meeting – August 18, 2020  
ZOOM Teleconference  
Meeting ID: 332 683 3563  
MEETING MINUTES**

anywhere. Selectman Baker suggested that although it seems like picking a number out of the air it's actually \$1.2 million dollars which means you can pay off increased pension or healthcare costs without taking the money out of CIP projects. It's not a lot of money but it's stopping the bleeding and keeping us from falling further behind. Selectman Baker noted we'll get hit with those costs just as much in the future as we have in the past.

Selectman Nordell suggested for him, picking the 3 ½% - he hopes we never get there. Hopefully the Board of Finance comes out with budgets below that and can stick to keeping tight budgets, but at the same time, if it continues to fail it will hopefully put us in a positive direction rather than the negative direction we've been going in for so many years.

First Selectman Bowsza suggested to illustrate what the Board is talking about, if a homeowner is paying \$5,000 in taxes this year, next year, at a 2% budget, they'll pay \$5,100, at a 3% budget they'd be paying \$5,150. Keeping the basic \$5,000 tax obligation the difference between 2% and 3% for the average household is \$50.

Selectman Baker suggested if nothing changes in our electorate, and we put out a budget next year in that range it could very well be that the people who are voting no because they want to get to 2% may say we'll go with the 2.5% because we don't want to go to 3.5%. It's not a guarantee that your taxes will go up or the spending will go up 3 ½% every year, it just changes the conversation and the dynamics a bit. If we increased the percentage to 3 ½% it's not a guarantee that the spending will happen that way. First Selectman Bowsza suggested it's not a windfall; the objective here isn't for it to be a windfall; government just needs to continue.

First Selectman Bowsza suggested he felt the Board had gravitated away from the unlimited referenda; the Board concurred.

First Selectman Bowsza queried the Board for their preferred percentage. He questioned if anyone wanted to keep the 2%; no one wanted to maintain the 2% - it isn't working for the town. First Selectman Bowsza questioned who would like less than 2%; no one responded. First Selectman Bowsza questioned if the Board preferred 3% or 3 ½%; he asked if anyone was ready to make a motion?

**MOTION: To RECOMMEND to the Charter Revision Commission to set the budget after three (3) failed referenda to go to 3 ½% to go to the voters**

**Nordell moved/Baker seconded/DISCUSSION:** Selectman Muska reported she's against the 2% as it has hindered us but she's not in favor of voting on a number that's not based on something. Selectman Muska reported she has an issue with going to a number that's not based on inflation, or the economy, or what's going on in the State with funding so we would need to increase our spending. First Selectman Bowsza suggested Selectman Muska was saying the Board doesn't have standards for its choice. Selectman Baker indicated he just googled "inflation"; he offered the Board inflation rates from 2014 (1.62%) through 2020 (1.35%) to give

**TOWN OF EAST WINDSOR  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
Special Meeting – August 18, 2020  
ZOOM Teleconference  
Meeting ID: 332 683 3563  
MEETING MINUTES**

the Board a benchmark. Selectman Baker noted the inflation rate doesn't include things like gas, or groceries. Selectman Baker indicated he isn't totally against Selectman Muska's suggestion. Selectman Nordell agreed with what Selectman Muska was saying but he felt the Board of Finance takes the rate into consideration when setting the budget and the people consider their competency when they vote for the Board of Finance members. Selectman Nordell felt the 3 1/2% is high; he would rather see it lower, but it may turn people away from voting for the budget to fail all the time. First Selectman Bowsza asked Selectman Baker how many times during the period he reviewed had the GDP plus inflation fallen below 2%? Selectman Baker suggested it appeared to be 5 out of 10 times. First Selectman Bowsza felt that information provided some basis for establishing a percentage but it doesn't provide that stability for a business that's looking to locate in the community and they're looking for that tax stability as a positive for locating here.

First Selectman Bowsza questioned if the Board had any other recommendations regarding the proposed Charter revisions? Deputy First Selectman DeSousa, Selectman Baker, and Selectman Nordell had no objections to other proposed changes; Selectman Muska noted on page 27 she had commented that changing the position from Town Treasurer to Finance Director could obligate the Town to higher salary requirements but if it gets better candidates then she's ok with that revision. First Selectman Bowsza called for a vote.

**VOTE (by rollcall): In Favor: Baker/Nordell/DeSousa  
Opposed: Muska  
Abstained: No one**

**ADJOURNMENT:**

**MOTION: To ADJOURN the Board of Selectman Special Meeting at 8:44 p.m.**

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

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

Respectfully submitted

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Peg Hoffman, Recording Secretary, East Windsor Board of Selectmen