#### TOWN OF EAST WINDSOR BOARD OF SELECTMEN

SPECIAL MEETING March 9, 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.

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

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

meeting. Joe Sauerhoefer, **Deputy Director of Public Works**; Amy O'Toole, **Finance Director**; Helen Totz, **Assessor**; Matt

Carl, Interim Deputy Chief.

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

#### 1. TIME AND PLACE OF MEETING:

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First Selectman Bowsza called the March 9, 2023 Special 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, CT 06016.

#### 2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

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

#### 3. <u>ATTENDANCE:</u>

See Attendance noted at the beginning of the meeting.

#### 4. **APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:**

First Selectman Bowsza noted the following Meeting Minutes presented for approval.

## A. February 16, 2023 Board of Selectmen Special Meeting/Budget Workshop:

MOTION: To APPROVE the February 16, 2023 Minutes of the Special Meeting/Budget Workshop as presented.

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

#### B. February 16, 2023 Board of Selectmen Regular Meeting:

Deputy Selectman DeSousa requested an amendment to the wording of the motion on page 6, under <u>NEW APPOINTMENTS</u>, Appointment of Valerie Romano to the North Central Health District. Deputy Seletman DeSousa requested a revision to the representation of First Selectman Bowsza's response regarding political affiliation from "negatively" to "in the negative."

MOTION: To APPROVE the February 16, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes, as amended:

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Page 6, Appointment of Valerie Romano, (D), to the North Central Health District, under motion comments, "...Selectman Muska questioned if the political affiliation mattered for this appointment? First Selectman Bowsza replied negatively IN THE NEGATIVE."

Muska moved/Nordell seconded/<u>DISCUSSION:</u> None VOTE: In Favor: DeSousa/Baker/Muska/Nordell

(No one opposed/No abstentions)

### C. <u>February 16, 2023 Board of Selectmen Special Meeting/Broad Brook</u> <u>Fire Public Hearing:</u>

**MOTION:** To APPROVE the February 16, 2023 Special

Meeting/Broad Brook Fire Department Public Hearing

as presented.

Muska moved/Baker seconded/DISCUSSION: None

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

(No one opposed/No abstentions)

#### D. <u>February 16, 2023 Board of Selectmen Public Hearing (CDS):</u>

First Selectman Bowsza requested that the Minutes for the CDS Public Hearing be postponed until the Board's next meeting.

MOTION: To POSTPONE the Februry 16, 2023 CDS Public Hearing until the Board's next meeting.

Muska moved/Baker seconded/DISCUSSION: None

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

(No one opposed/No abstentions)

#### 5. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:**

First Selectman Bowsza noted the first opportunity for anyone present in the inperson audience to comment.

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**Paul Anderson, 87 Main Street, Broad Brook:** Mr. Anderson requested a clarification regarding Agenda item 9C – the Veterans Exemption Ordinance. Is that meant to replace the existing Ordinance 18-04? First Selectman Bowsza replied in the negative. Mr. Anderson questioned that Agenda item 9C would be in addition to the existing ordinance? First Selectman Bowsza replied in the affirmative.

First Selectman Bowsza called for additional comments from the in-person audience; no one else requested to speak. First Selectman Bowsza then offered the remote participants to offer comments or questions. No one requested to be acknowledged.

#### 6. **COMMUNICATIONS:**

#### A. <u>Citizen's Recognition and Proclamation:</u>

First Selectman Bowsza noted there is a woman in the in-person meeting who has received recognition from an International Nurses Association, called the Daisy Foundation. The Daisy Foundation is a non-profit organization which honors nurses internationally for the dedicated care they provide their patients. The Daisy Foundation Award is a way to say thank you to extraordinary nurses and honor the super human work they do for patients and families everyday. First Selectman Bowsza noted this is an internationally recognized and prestigious award, and East Windsor's Andrea Boudrea, RN is one of this year's winners. Andrea is a pre-natal and labor delivery nurse in the Baystate area hospitals. On behalf of the Board of Selectmen and the Town of East Windsor First Selectman Bowsza presented Ms. Boudreau with a Proclamation, which he read for the audience.

Ms. Boudreau, and her family, joined the Board of Selectmen for photos of the presentation.

#### **B.** Women's History Month Proclamation:

First Selectman Bowsza requested one of the female Selectmen to read the Proclamation for Woman's History Month. Selectman Muska read the Proclamation proclaiming March 2023 to be Woman's History Month.

#### C. <u>Letter to Secretary Jeffrey Beckham regarding Property Revaluation:</u>

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First Selectman Bowsza noted the Town had deferred implementation of the October, 2022 Grand List. He reviewed the process for that decision, part of which is to request a waiver of penalities from OPM (Office of Policy and Management). First Selectman Bowsza noted under the Connecticut General Statutes Section 12-62 c and d we need to wait for 30 days after the signing of the Grand List by the Assessor to send the waiver request to Secretary Jeffery Beckham. First Selectman Bowsza noted the Grand List was signed on or about March 3<sup>rd</sup>, he referenced his letter to Secretary Beckham dated March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023 requesting the waiver.

#### D. <u>Testimony Regarding H. B. 6764, An Act Concerning Solar Incentives</u> and Shared Clean Energy Facilities:

First Selectman Bowsza referenced testimony he's given before the Legislature related to solar projects.

# E. <u>Testimony Regarding S. B. 506, An Act Concerning Property Tax</u> <u>Exemptions for Solar Projects and the Tax Calculation of Solar</u> <u>Projects on One Parcel of Land:</u>

First Selectman Bowsza referenced another instance of his testimony related to solar projects.

### F. <u>Letter to Melanie Bachman, Executive Director of Connecticut Siting Council regarding East Windsor Solar One:</u>

First Selectman Bowsza noted his notification to Melanie Bachman, Executive Director of the Connecticut Siting Council regarding noise intrusion for the residents of Jessie Lane from the East Windsor Solar One Project.

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

#### A. Resignation:

First Selectman Bowsza noted the resignation of Elzear Rodrigue from the Building Commission.

#### 1. Elzear Rodrigue, Building Commission

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**MOTION:** To ACCEPT the resignation of Elzear Rodrigue

from the Building Commission effective

February 27, 2023, with regret.

DeSousa moved/Muska seconded/DISCUSSION: First

Selectman Bowsza noted Mr. Rodrigue has served on the Building Committee for a long time, and oversaw some significantly impactful projects; we're sorry to see him go.

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

(No one opposed/No abstentions)

B. <u>Reappointments:</u> None

C. New Appointments: None

#### 8. <u>UNFINISHED BUSINESS:</u>

#### \*A. Discussion of Windbrook Homes Developers Agreement:

Any starred (\*) items will not be discussed but will remain on the agenda pending receipt of additional information.

#### \*B. <u>Discussion of Permit Link Proposal for Development of Land Use</u> Module:

Any starred (\*) items will not be discussed but will remain on the agenda pending receipt of additional information.

#### \*C. <u>Discussion of Blight Ordinance:</u>

Any starred (\*) items will not be discussed but will remain on the agenda pending receipt of additional information.

#### 9. **NEW BUSINESS:**

A. <u>Discuss and Vote on Resolutions Authorizing the Community Center Project and Forwarding the Resolutions to the Board of Finance and Town Meeting:</u>

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First Selectman Bowsza noted the Town has received a grant in an amount not to exceed \$2.75 million for the renovation and expansion of the Scout Hall facility into a multi-service municipal service center to be called the Community Center. First Selectman Bowsza noted a Public Hearing was held a couple of weeks ago to discuss preferred funding options from the community; he noted he has not heard much feedback. He and Finance Director O'Toole have discussed the most appropriate source of funding and believe that to be using money already in the CNR Account, the \$2.75 from the Federal Government, and \$924,000.00 from the Town's ARPA allocation.

First Selectman Bowsza noted the 2 Resolutions in the Board's packet, one forwarding the Resolution to the Board of Finance and Town Meeting, and the second is to remove that question from a vote at Town Meeting and place it on a ballot for Referendum.

First Selectman Bowsza opened discussion to the Board.

Deputy First Selectman DeSousa noted she and First Selectman Bowsza discussed taking all of the funding from ARPA and subsequently decided half would be better. She noted she doesn't have a problem with that but questioned if the Board of Finance might change the process? First Selectman Bowsza suggested if the Board of Finance changed the funding source, he understood they would have to refer the issue back to the Board of Selectman for consideration and forwarding to a Town Meeting. Because the amount being appropriated is \$924,000.00 it could be done through a Town Meeting but First Selectman Bowsza suggested he would prefer to do it through a Referendum which is a more inclusive and transparent option.

Selectman Nordell felt this is the best option at this point.

First Selectman Bowsza asked if Selectman Nordell would read the following Resolution.

Resolution authorizing the Community Center Project and forwarding to the Board of Finance and Town Meeting:

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#### RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION APPROPRIATING \$4,720,000.00 FOR COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH AN ADDITION AND RENOVATIONS TO THE SCOUT HALL YOUTH CENTER (COMMUNITY CENTER PROJECT) AND AUTHORIZING THE USE OF FEDERAL AND STATE GRANT MONEYS TO FINANCE THE PORTION OF THE APPROPRIATION NOT FUNDED FROM MONEYS IN THE TOWN'S CAPITAL AND NONRECURRING FUND.

WHEREAS, there exists \$1,200,000 in the Town's Capital and Nonrecurring Fund that is set aside for the costs associated with additions and renovations to the Scout Hall Youth Center (Community Center Project) (the "Project"); and

**WHEREAS**, the cost of the Project is estimated to cost approximately \$4,720,000; and

**WHEREAS**, on December 23, 2022, the Town of East Windsor (the "Town") received a grant commitment from the United States government in the federal Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023 (H.R. 2617) for the costs associated with the Project; and

**WHEREAS**, such federal grant commitment is in an amount equal to fifty-five percent (55%) of the Project costs, up to a maximum amount of \$2,750,000 (the "Federal Grant) and can only be accessed if the Town can secure the remaining funds for the Project; and

**WHEREAS**, in light of the recent Federal Grant and the available funds in the Town's Capital and Nonrecurring Fund for the Project, the Board of Selectmen desire to approve the Project and authorize for spending a total of \$4,720,000 for the Project; and

WHEREAS, in addition to the \$1,200,000 available in the Town's Capital and Nonrecurring Fund for the Project, the Board of Selectmen desire that the Federal Grant to used to pay Project costs, and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Selectmen desire that the remainder of the Project costs not paid for by the available funds in the Town's Capital and

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Nonrecurring Fund or the Federal Grant be paid for by the Town's federal American Rescue Plan Act grant moneys, or so much thereof as may be necessary after deducting other grants or other sources of funds available to the Town for the Project, including, but not limited to, the receipt of State of Connecticut Community Investment Fund grant moneys; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town Charter provides that the \$4,720,000 appropriation for the Project requires the approval of the Board of Selectmen, the Board of Finance and the Town Meeting.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Selectmen of the Town of East Windsor hereby approves and recommends to the Board of Finance that:

- (i) \$4,720,000 be appropriated (the "Appropriation") for the costs of an addition and renovations to the Scout Hall Youth Center (Community Center Project) including, but not limited to, the cost of materials, construction, renovation, site improvement and restoration, permitting and inspection, and the purchase and installation of equipment and furnishings and all alternations, repairs and improvements in connection therewith, as well as engineering, architectural and all related costs (collectively the "Project"), and
- (ii) to meet said Appropriation, in addition to the \$1,200,000 available in the Town's Capital and Nonrecurring Fund, the Federal Grant (in a maximum amount of \$2,750,000) and up to \$924,000 of the Town's federal American Rescue Plan Act grant moneys, or so much thereof as may be necessary after deducting other grants or other sources of funds available to the Town for the Project, including, but not limited to, the receipt of State of Connecticut Community Investment Fund grant moneys, be authorized to finance the remainder of the Appropriation; and
- (iii) the First Selectman is authorized to apply for state and federal grants related to the Project and is authorized to execute all agreements, contracts, certificates and other documents necessary for the completion and funding of the Project.

**MOTION:** I MOVE the forgoing Resolution be forwarded.

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Nordell moved/Baker seconded/<u>DISCUSSION</u>: First Selectman Bowsza cited the project cost is \$4.72 million, we have up to \$2.75 million from the Federal Government to cover 55% of the project costs. There is \$1.2 million in CNR (Capital Non-Recurring), the balance, which is expected to be \$924,000.00, would come from the Town's ARPA allocation. First Selectman Bowsza noted the project is significantly funded by the Federal Government. Deputy First Selectman DeSousa questioned if the cost of the project will affect the tax base to the public? First Selectman Bowsza indicated project costs will not affect the budget.

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

First Selectman Bowsza requested Selectman Baker read the second Resolution, which removes the question from a Town Meeting, and sets a Referendum.

Resolution which removes the question from a Town Meeting and sets a Referendum:

#### TOWN OF EAST WINDSOR BOARD OF SELECTMEN RESOLUTION

## RESOLUTION SCHEDULING A SPECIAL TOWN MEETING AND REFERENDUM VOTE FOR THE SCOUT HALL YOUTH CENTER (COMMUNITY CENTER PROJECT)

WHEREAS, at its meeting on March 9, 2023, the Board of Selectmen approved and recommended to the Board of Finance a "Resolution Appropriating \$4,720,000 for Costs associated with an Addition and Renovations to the Scout Hall Youth Center (Community Center Project) and Authorizing the use of Federal and State Grant Moneys to Finance the Portion of the Appropriation not Funded from Moneys in the Town's Capital and Nonrecurring Fund" (the "Resolution"), and

WHEREAS, the Town Charter provides that the \$4,720,000 appropriation for the Scout Hall Youth Center (Community Center Project) requires the approval of the Board of Selectmen, and the Board of Finance and the Town Meeting.

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#### **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOVED, that**

- (i) should the Board of Finance approve the Resolution at its March 15, 2023 meeting, a Special Town Meeting is hereby called to be held on March 22, 2023 at 7:30 p.m. at Town Hall, 11 Rye Street Broad Brook, Connecticut (the "Town Meeting"), to discuss (but not vote on) the Resolution; and
- (ii) pursuant to Section 7-7 of the Connecticut General Statutes and the Town Charter, the Board of Selectmen hereby removes the Resolution from the call of the Town Meeting for submission to the voters entitled to vote at a referendum to be held on April 4, 2023 during the hours from six o'clock a.m. and eight o'clock p.m. Such referendum vote to be held at the Town's two polling places under the following heading and ballot label:

Shall the Town of East Windsor authorize an appropriation of \$4,720,000 for the costs of the Scout Hall Youth Center (Community Center Project) to be paid for, in part, by a federal grant in the maximum amount of \$2,750,000 and up to \$924,000 of the Town's federal American Rescue Plan act grant moneys, after deducting other grants or other sources of funds available to the Town for the project? **YES/NO** 

Those desiring to vote for the question shall fill in the box in front of the question on the ballot at "YES". Those desiring to vote against the question shall fill in the box in front of the question on the ballot at "NO". Absentee ballots will be made available in accordance with law.

The moderator of the Town Meeting shall adjourn such meeting after reasonable discussion of such item and conclusion of such other business as may properly come before the Town Meeting and order such vote by voting machine in accordance with this resolution, Section 7-7 of the Connecticut General Statutes and the Town Charter.

The First Selectman is hereby authorized and directed to call the Town Meeting in accordance with the provisions of this resolution and the Connecticut General Statutes. The warning (i.e., notice) shall also state that the full texts of the aforesaid resolution and question are on file open

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to public inspection, in the office of the Town Clerk, that the vote on the aforesaid resolution is taken under the authority of Section 7-7 and Chapters 90 and 152 of the Connecticut General Statutes and that absentee ballots will be made available in accordance with law.

(iii) The Board of Selectmen hereby authorizes, at the discretion of the First Selectman, the preparation and printing of explanatory text by the Town Clerk in accordance with Section 9-369b of the Connecticut General Statutes for the question to be voted upon on April 4, 2023 approved above. The Board of Selectmen, at the discretion of the First Selectman, further authorizes the preparation and printing of materials concerning the question to be voted upon on April 4, 2023 approved above in addition to the explanatory text in accordance with Section 9-369b of the Connecticut General Statutes.

**MOTION:** I MOVE the forgoing Resolution.

Baker moved/Muska seconded/DISCUSSION: None

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

(No one opposed/No abstentions)

#### B. Discuss and Vote on Town FY 23/24 Budget:

First Selectman Bowsza opened discussion on pending budget requests, or revisions to budget approvals already considered.

Finance Director O'Toole exited the meeting to make copies of recently received e-mail associated with the Budget requests. During her absence, First Selectman Bowsza offered the Board a proposal regarding the Capital Improvements Budget.

#### CIP:

First Selectman Bowsza noted the CIP request is for \$1.9 million, he reduced that to a 4% increase of \$38,000.00 over the current year for a department request of \$988,000.00. He noted the Town would be running a surplus in Debt Service due to unassigned debt attached to that surplus. He suggested moving some money from Debt Service to cover more items on the CIP list while still preserving Debt Service when it comes time to issue bonds. Discussion amongst the Board felt moving the \$200,000.00

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into the CIP Budget was a reasonable way to accomplish additional projects.

On her return to the meeting First Selectman Bowsza asked Finance Director O'Toole what her thoughts would be on taking \$200,000.00 out of Debt Service and moving it to CIP, with the intent to be reducing the items on the CIP list while recovering that money in the out years when we know we need to bond? Finance Director O'Toole indicated she felt it would be ok because it's a one-time thing.

The Board returned to the order of Department/Organization Budget requests.

#### **REGISTRAR OF VOTERS:**

Under consideration is an amended department budget of \$107,339.00 incorporating department requests and First Selectman Bowsza's revisions.

Review of the most recent Department Budget request found it to include a significant increase in the Salary Line, although it appeared that there is disagreement between the Registrars on how to handle the additional work in the office. Finance Director O'Toole suggested the current budget request would increase compensation for each Registrar to \$32,000.00 annually. Deputy Selectman DeSousa indicated she understands the additional workload due to the continuing changes coming through at the State level. Discussion continued regarding the effect of early voting, and the timeframe for implementation; First Selectman Bowsza indicated discussions continue at the State level, but no firm decision has been made.

Finance Director O'Toole suggested the Budget request also includes a significant increase in the salary of the poll workers, and there has been consideration of making the poll workers employees. Deputy Selectman DeSousa indicated she can see the increase for the poll workers due to the staffing for both districts in each polling location. Deputy Selectman DeSousa noted she had previously calculated \$31,500.00 rather than the \$24,000.00 requested for the election workers but the figure should be \$36,750.00 with the extra positions for the double districting.

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Selectman Baker cited concern for the lack of funding for aging equipment. Selectman Nordell suggested the lack of direction from the State impacts the equipment replacement as well.

Selectman Baker felt some of the justification for a higher salary line for the Registrars is the impact of early voting, which appears unlikely this budget cycle. He suggested he would consider no increase in the Registrar line but increasing the line for the election workers. Selectman Muska agreed with Selectman Baker, the request appears to be thrown together, and Deputy Selectman DeSousa caught a large error in the election workers line. Selectman Muska indicated she would be ok with the original number for the Registrars Salary line of \$34,985.00.

First Selectman Bowsza called for a motion to reconsider the Registrar of Voters Budget request.

MOTION: To ACCEPT a modification to the Registrar of Voters Budget in the amount of \$87,285.00.

**Baker moved/Nordell seconded/***DISCUSSION:* Review of the line items found a miscalculation in the printing line.

Selectman Baker RESCINDED his motion, and moved instead.

MOTION: To ACCEPT a modification to the Registrar of Voters Budget in the amount of \$88,785.

**Baker moved/Nordell seconded/***DISCUSSION:* For clarification, First Selectman Bowsza noted that sets the Registrar of Voters line at \$32,935.00 and the election workers line at \$36,750.00, for a Department total of \$88,785.00.

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

Deputy Selectman DeSousa suggested the need for a comparison of other towns regarding hours and salary to determine a salary for the Registrars.

#### **PROPERTY INSURANCE:**

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First Selectman Bowsza indicated there's no change in the LAP coverage line. Finance Director O'Toole concurred, noting last year the Town paid an additional \$7,000.00 for the cyber policy.

**MOTION:** To ACCEPT Property Insurance at \$191,500.00.

Muska moved/Baker seconded/DISCUSSION: None

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

(No one opposed/No abstentions)

#### **TOWN PROPERTIES:**

First Selectman Bowsza noted he and Finance Director O'Toole had discussed restoring an additional amount to the oil and heat line in the Town Properties Budget.

**MOTION:** To AMEND the Oil/Heat line.

Baker moved/Muska seconded/DISCUSSION: None

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

(No one opposed/No abstentions)

**MOTION:** To AMEND the oil and heat line from \$40,000.00 to

\$45,000.00 in the Town Property Budget.

Baker moved/Muska seconded/DISCUSSION: None

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

(No one opposed/No abstentions)

**MOTION:** To ACCEPT the Town Property Department Budget at

\$1,243,352.00.

Baker moved/Muska seconded/DISCUSSION: None

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

(No one opposed/No abstentions)

First Selectman Bowsza advised the Board that the Board of Education approved their budget last evening in the amount of \$26,748,855.00 for a 3.98 percent increase.

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#### **DEBT SERVICE:**

First Selectman Bowsza conferred with Finance Director O'Toole regarding moving \$200,000.00 from Debt Service to CIP. Finance O'Toole concurred, noting the funding should come from the principal balance.

**MOTION:** To RECONSIDER the principal line in Debt Service.

Baker moved/Muska seconded/<u>DISCUSSION:</u> None

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

(No one opposed/No abstentions)

**MOTION:** To CHANGE the principal number in Debt Service to

\$616,523.00.

Baker moved/Nordell seconded/DISCUSSION: None

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

(No one opposed/No abstentions)

#### **CIP (CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLANNING COMMITTEE):**

**MOTION:** To APPROVE the CIP Budget at \$1,188,000.00.

Muska moved/Nordell seconded/DISCUSSION: None

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

(No one opposed/No abstentions)

Selectman Baker noted the Board had not approved a Debt Service Budget.

#### **DEBT SERVICE:**

**MOTION:** To APPROVE Debt Service at \$928,133.00.

Baker moved/Nordell seconded/DISCUSSION: None

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

(No one opposed/No abstentions)

#### **EMPLOYEE BENEFITS:**

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Finance O'Toole noted she's received a new figure for Workers Comp at \$130,000.00.

**MOTION:** To DROP the Workers Comp line to \$130,000.00.

Baker moved/Muska seconded/DISCUSSION: None

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

(No one opposed/No abstentions)

Finance Director O'Toole noted she's received a renewal for the Health Insurance at 7.4% increase for a \$1,683,000.00.

**MOTION:** To APPROVE the Health Insurance line at

\$1,683,000.00.

Muska moved/Nordell seconded/DISCUSSION: None

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

(No one opposed/No abstentions)

**MOTION:** To APPROVE the Employee Benefits Budget at

\$3,675,674.00.

Muska moved/Baker seconded/DISCUSSION: None

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

(No one opposed/No abstentions)

#### **CONTINGENCY:**

First Selectman Bowsza noted the Board had kept Contingency open pending the results of contract negotiations. As negotiations continue, the Board needs to approve the Contingency Budget at its current amount.

**MOTION:** To APPROVE Contingency at \$278,000.00.

Muska moved/Nordell seconded/DISCUSSION: None

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

(No one opposed/No abstentions)

#### **REVENUE:**

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Noting that it was not in the Board of Selectmen's purview First Selectman Bowsza advised the Board that in his recommendation to the Board of Finance he plans to suggest that they increase the Undesignated Fund balance from \$750,000.00 to \$1,200,000.00. He noted the current balance is at the high end of the Board's policy, he felt this was an appropriate time to provide some relief to the people. Assuming no changes are made to the Board of Selectmen's budget or the Board of Education's budget, that change in funding would increase the mill rate to 34.92 for a difference of approximately \$122,000.00 between a zero mill increase and a 0.11% mill rate increase. The total Town Budget would then represent a 3.63% increase, while the Board of Education's budget would represent a 3.98% increase, making the overall 2023 – 2024 Budget increase of 3.8%. First Selectman Bowsza suggested continuing a \$750,000.00 balance in the Undesignated Fund balance would result in a mill rate increase of 0.54%.

First Selectman Bowsza opened discussion to the Board. The consensus of the Board was to recommend to the Board of Finance to increase the Undesignated Fund Balance to \$1,200,000.00.

#### **TOWN GOVERNMENT:**

First Selectman Bowsza requested a motion approving the total Town Government total budget in the amount of \$17,756,125.00.

MOTION: To APPROVE the Town Government total budget in the amount of \$17,756,125.00 for a 3.63% spending

increase.

Muska moved/Baker seconded/DISCUSSION: None

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

(No one opposed/No abstentions)

First Selectman Bowsza suggested the Board consider taking Agenda item 9D – Discuss and Vote on the FY 23/24 Town of East Windsor Broad Brook Fire Department Budget Request.

MOTION: To GO OUT OF ORDER and take item 9D – Discuss and Vote on the FY 23/24 Town of East Windsor Broad

**Brook Fire Department Budget Request next.** 

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Baker moved/Muska seconded/DISCUSSION: None

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

(No one opposed/No abstentions)

#### 9. <u>NEW BUSINESS:</u>

#### D. <u>Discuss and Vote on the FY 23/24 Town of East Windsor Broad</u> Brook Fire Department Budget:

Finance Director O'Toole noted the Broad Brook Fire Department Budget request was for \$970,066.00 for an increase of \$12,750.00.

First Selectman Bowsza suggested the budget included an increase in parttime salaries but included a reduction in the Fire Marshal's stipend. Increases include a \$3,000.00 increase in incentives, an increase in annuities, and an increase in FICA. Finance Director O'Toole noted the budget includes a reduction in vehicle maintenance, a \$2,000.00 increase in gas/diesel, and \$4,000.00 in dues and fees.

First Selectman Bowsza indicated this budget is a 1.33% increase while the Town's Grand List has gone up 2.8%, some of which will be out of district, but this is pretty close to a flat tax rate for the Broad Brook Fire Department.

MOTION: To ACCEPT the Town of East Windsor Broad Brook

Fire Department Budget in the amount of \$970,066.00,

which is about a 1% increase.

Baker moved/Muska seconded/DISCUSSION: None

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

(No one opposed/No abstentions)

#### 9. **NEW BUSINESS:**

#### C. <u>Discuss Veteran Property Tax Relief Ordinance:</u>

First Selectman Bowsza advised the Board this proposal has been recommended by the Veterans Commission. A new State Law, Public Act 22-34, was passed last year, the Public Act allows for a 10% reduction in a qualifying Veterans primary residence (which must be owner-

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occupied), qualifying is defined as having attained Veterans status according to State Statute, and the Veteran must have an adjusted gross income of \$51,100.00 or less. While this bill allows the Board to implement the Act through their vote First Selectman Bowsza felt creating the ordinance was a more appropriate affirmation of the recommendation.

First Selectman Bowsza advised the Board before them this evening is a draft of the ordinance he had asked Pullman & Comley to prepare. He asked if the Board was comfortable with the proposed draft or if they had revisions to offer. No one requested revisions. First Selectman Bowsza called for a motion.

**MOTION:** To ACCEPT the Property Tax Relief Ordinance for the

Veterans and forward to Town Meeting.

**DeSousa moved/Muska seconded/ DISCUSSION:** None **VOTE:** In Favor: DeSousa/Baker/Muska/Nordell

(No one opposed/No abstentions)

#### E. <u>Discuss Items to be Listed for Asset Disposal to include Joe</u> Sauerhoefer:

Joe Sauerhoefer, Deputy Director of the Department of Public Works, joined the Board. Deputy Director Sauerhoefer advised the Board he has available a 2009 Crown Victoria which was formerly used by the Police Department. He would like to convey the vehicle to the Warehouse Point Fire Department, its equipped with the lights and radio and it would be a good asset for the Warehouse Point Fire Department. Deputy Selectman DeSousa questioned the vehicle number; Deputy Director Sauerhoefer indicated the vehicle had been used by the former Chief and didn't display a vehicle number. Selectman Baker felt this was a good suggestion as the vehicle is already equipped with the lights and radio.

MOTION: To CONVEY a 2009 Crown Victoria to the Warehouse Point Fire District.

**DeSousa moved/Muska seconded/***DISCUSSION:* Clarification was made that the vehicle will be going to the **Warehouse Point Fire** *DISTRICT*.

VOTE: In Favor: DeSousa/Baker/Muska

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Opposed: No one Abstained: Nordell

### F. <u>Discuss Recommendation for Road Acceptance – Jessie Lane to include Ruth Calabrese:</u>

First Selectman Bowsza noted a memo from Ruth Calabrese, Director of Planning and Community Development, indicating all the requirements for the Town to accept Jessie Lane as a Town road have been met, including an 8-24 referral from the Planning and Zoning Commission regarding the acceptance. The Board needs to vote to accept Jessie Lane and send the acceptance to Town Meeting.

Selectman Baker indicated he appreciated the supporting documentation regarding the road acceptance.

**MOTION:** To ACCEPT Jessie Lane as a Town Road and forward it to Town Meeting.

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

#### G. <u>Discuss and Vote on the Revaluation Bid Proposals to include Helen</u> Totz:

Assessor Totz joined the Board, noting she had provided the Board a comparison of the bids received for the new revaluation. The bids ranged from \$67,000.00 to \$74,800.00 to \$99,000.00 from two of the four bidders.

Assessor Totz advised the Board her recommendation would be to select Vision Government Solutions again, not only because of the bid price but also because of her experience with them. Assessor Totz indicated Vision Government Solutions has given the Town a \$21,000.00 discount if we require the review of only sales and permits.

Assessor Totz suggested she personally felt Vision Government Solutions did an awesome job last year, she suggested their work was close to a full revaluation. She felt they brought the Town up to the values we should

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have been carrying, it wasn't their fault the market was high at that time. She noted she's worked with Vision Government Solutions for nearly 40 years, her experience has always been positive, Assessor Totz felt the quality of their work is what the Town needs.

Discussion continued regarding the interaction of staff members of Vision Government Solutions with the public and the Board. All Board members cited negative experiences as members of the Board with Vision Government Solutions, and all had received negative feedback from the public. Assessor Totz felt the negative interaction occurred because of the staff who represented the company during discussions. She suggested other representatives may have presented the material in a less technical manner.

Selectman Baker noted Assessor Totz had mentioned issues with licensing, he requested clarification. Assessor Totz noted the Town converted to CAMA assisted software, part of the request for proposals included the requirement for bidders to use that software. Vision Government Solutions had indicated they weren't an authorized user of the CAMA system, and were concerned that the Town would have to purchase a license for that use. She noted one of the other bidders had said they could access our information via our server, but she's concerned that would be possible without purchasing a license as well. Selectman Baker questioned the cost of the license; Assessor Totz cited it's based on the Town's population and would be about \$10,000.00. Selectman Baker questioned that the Board should then consider adding \$10,000.00 to the bids of the other companies; Assessor Totz replied in the affirmative. First Selectman Bowsza noted that the Town has sufficient funding in the Capital Non-Recurring Account for that cost.

Selectman Baker suggested he's leaning towards choosing a different company based on the Board's past experience with Vision Government Solutions. He would also like a second opinion, to see someone else's work product and be able to compare it to what we have. First Selectman Bowsza asked for Assessor Totz's second choice, she suggested Municipal Valuation Services; Selectman Baker suggested that was the company he was considering, they're a Connecticut company and would be familiar with the environment by living here.

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Selectman Nordell agreed with Selectman Baker, that to choose the same company wasn't a good idea. He also noted the amount of negative feedback on Vision Government Solutions, particularly from the residents. Selectman Nordell felt choosing the same company was unwise.

Selectman Muska noted she's on the same page and agrees with everything that's been said. Deputy Selectman DeSousa would prefer to go with another company as well.

First Selectman Bowsza called for a motion to approve Municipal Valuation Services, and authorize him to sign the contract.

MOTION: To ACCEPT Municipal Valuation Services LLC and AUTHORIZE the First Selectman's signature.

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

## H. <u>Discuss FY 2023 Highway Safety Project Grant Application to include</u> <u>Interim Deputy Chief Matthew Carl, Amy O'Toole, and Bill</u> <u>Freeman:</u>

Interim Deputy Chief Matthew Carl joined the Board.

Interim Deputy Chief Carl advised the Board this is a Highway Safety Project Grant the Police Department has applied for to purchase e-printers for their cruisers. E-printers interface with their CAD/RMS and the Central Infraction Bureau. Currently, if a person is given a citation an officer must hand-write a ticket, and that ticket must be entered into their records management system (NexGen) the next day. NexGen integrates with the State Central Infractions Bureau.

Interim Deputy Chief Carl cited the current process is redundant, and is a safety issue as the officer is looking down at his ticket book while engaged in the traffic stop.

Interim Deputy Chief Carl noted the State is encouraging Police Departments to pursue this program, so submission of this grant application puts East Windsor ahead of the curve. The program will allow

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the purchase of 11 e-tickets, installation, and licensing for 11 of the Department's line cars.

Interim Deputy Chief Carl cited an error in the documents provided for the Board, he noted the figure on the first page of the grant application of \$17,791.16 has been increased to \$20,846.34 which correlates to the same figure within the document on the equipment side. Should the Board decide to move forward with this grant application it will enable officers to issue tickets with greater effectiveness and efficiency.

Selectman Baker questioned if there was a monthly fee after implementation? Interim Deputy Chief Carl noted the only Town expense will be in Budget Year 2024-2025 for a \$2,500.00 NexGen maintenance fee for the interface between the two systems. That fee will be an IT expense.

First Selectman Bowsza noted an obligation for the Department for the cost of supplies, he questioned how long that obligation would occur? Interim Deputy Chief Carl indicated the supplies are for ribbons, and printers; he didn't recall the cost but indicated it would be part of the Operations Budget.

First Selectman Bowsza clarified that this proposal is a grant opportunity at no expense to the Town.

Deputy Selectman DeSousa referenced the grant application and requested clarification of the date, would it be April 17, 2023? Interim Deputy Chief Carl concurred. Deputy Selectman DeSousa then referenced the \$2,500.00 quote for the NexGen it lists July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024, she had thought she heard Interim Deputy Chief Carl mention 2025. Interim Deputy Chief Carl indicated they would have to put it into the budget for 2024 – 2025. First Selectman Bowsza clarified that this would cover the NexGen cost for the first year of the grant. Interim Deputy Chief Carl advised the Board that should they decide to approve this grant he would submit revised documentation related to the issues discussed.

MOTION: To ACCEPT the FY 2023 Highway Safety Project Grant Application with the CT. Department of

Transportation and AUTHORIZE the First Selectman

to sign the application.

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**Muska moved/Baker seconded/**<u>DISCUSSION:</u> Selectman Muska indicated she felt it's great that the Police Department is being pro-active and if this is something every Police Department will have to do she felt it's great that we're taking the initiative to move this forward.

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

(No one opposed/No abstentions)

#### I. <u>Tax Refunds:</u>

**MOTION:** To APPROVE Tax Refunds in the amount of \$5,236.02.

Muska moved/Nordell seconded/<u>DISCUSSION</u>: None VOTE: In Favor: Baker,Muska/Nordell (No one opposed/No abstentions)

#### 10. SELECTMEN COMMENTS AND REPORTS:

#### A. <u>Jason Bowsza:</u>

(See Attachment)

#### B. <u>Marie DeSousa:</u>

Deputy Selectman DeSousa indicated she had a meeting last night of the **East Windsor Police Commission** at the Police Department. It was a short meeting as most of the discussion was held in Executive Session. They mentioned that they have 3 vehicles ready to be turned over to the First Selectman's Office to provide to Public Works following whatever protocol is required. They've removed the lights and other equipment so the vehicles are ready to go.

Deputy Selectman DeSousa reported that **the Broad Brook Fire Department** is requesting a sign somewhere near Highland Avenue and Main Street indicating that there's a fire station ahead. Although she's never seen it, she understands there is one on the other side coming down Main Street. This sign will probably be near the old Elaine's Pizza area.

Deputy Selectman DeSousa reported **the Police Department** is currently promoting a Detective effective March 19<sup>th</sup>, the new Detective will be Officer Tessier. Also, Officer Gonzales has been put on a leave of

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absence for 5 months as she attends the Academy for DEA which begins on March 17th; they granted the leave of absence in case the DEA isn't what she wants she can come back and take over her current position. There will be a Supervisor vacancy, they'll temporarily appoint a Senior Officer to fill that position pending her decision.

#### C. Charlie Nordell:

Selectman Nordell reported the only thing he had was a Warehouse Point Fire District Meeting. They responded to 55 calls last month, the Fire Marshal reported he completed 27 inspections for the month, and the District is finalizing their budget.

#### D. Alan Baker:

Selectman Baker noted he missed **the Conservation and Agricultural Meetings** as he was attending a Board of Selectmen's Meeting.

Selectman Baker indicated he missed **the Diversity Council Meeting** due to work, but he wanted to note the DEI series that they're having. They've put a lot of work into the series and are excited about it.

Selectman Baker noted **the Wetlands Commission** approved an extension for one of the businesses in the Industrial Park to do a little work. They also had an interesting As-of-Right Determination discussion, the decision was postponed until next month. It's the same company that's currently appearing before **the Planning and Zoning Commission** seeking a Text Amendment Change to have an exception for farms that want to do restoration to farmland to not have to follow the gravel pit rules for a Special Use Permit. Selectman Baker suggested it's a sticky situation, there were a lot of questions at both the Planning and Zoning Commission Meeting and the Wetlands Commission Meeting about the future use of this hole once it's been opened. Selectman Baker noted a Text Amendment isn't for one company, it's for everyone; the Commissions really need to get this right.

#### E. <u>Sarah Muska</u>:

(See Attachment)

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#### 11. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

First Selectman Bowsza noted this is the second opportunity for anyone in the inperson audience to offer comments or raise questions; no one requested to speak. First Selectman Bowsza then offered the remote participants to offer comments or raise questions; no one requested to be acknowledged.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION** – Pursuant to C.G.S. Section 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 9:16 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. Attending the Executive Session will be First Selectman Bowsza, Deputy First Selectman DeSousa, Selectman Baker, Selectman Muska, and Selectman Nordell.

Muska moved/Nordell seconded/<u>DISCUSSION:</u> 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 9:16 p.m.

First Selectman Bowsza reported the Board had exited the Executive Session at 10:05 p.m. He noted no action was taken.

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First Selectman Bowsza called for a motion to adjourn.

#### 13. **ADJOURNMENT:**

**MOTION:** To ADJOURN this Meeting at 10:06 p.m.

Muska moved/Nordell seconded/<u>DISCUSSION</u>: None In Favor: DeSousa/Baker/Muska/Nordell **VOTE:** 

(No one opposed/No abstentions)

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

#### **ATTACHMENTS:**

- A. First Selectman Bowsza's Report
- В. Selectman Muska's Report

Deputy Selectman DeSousa, Selectman Baker, and Selectman Nordell's Report transcribed in the Meeting Minutes.

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#### **BOARD OF SELECTMEN -3/09/2023 - ATTACHMENT**

First Selectman's Report – March 9, 2023

On February 21<sup>st</sup>, I met with residents of Park Hill for a standing conversation with them on any topic they'd like to discuss. I did the same at the East Windsor Senior Center on March 1<sup>st</sup>. In both cases, topics ranged from questions and support for the proposed Community Center project, to road improvement concerns, to questions about the budget, and more. I love these visits, because the format is completely open-ended, with residents asking questions about anything that may be on their minds. It is a great way to stay current on what people are thinking.

On March 2<sup>nd</sup>, I was joined by Lieutenant Governor Susan Bysiewicz, Senator Saud Anwar and Representative Carol Hall as we all visited a pair of very successfully, multi-generational family-owned businesses in East Windsor. The four of us toured Collins Pipe Company and Koma Precision, talked about the history of their businesses, their markets, and what attracted them to East Windsor. Both companies have expanded in their operations here in the last few years.

Later that day, I testified before the Energy & Technology Committee on a number of bills pertaining to the siting of solar facilities that effect municipalities. These projects are sited by the Siting Council, who enjoys sovereignty over municipal zoning regulations.

On Saturday, March 4<sup>th</sup>, I stopped down at Scout Hall to check in on Tim Misluk and his Eagle Scout project. Tim has been working to build covered benches for the soccer field at Abbe Road, which will be a nice added feature to the facility once the lights are installed later this spring. Thanks, Tim, for your work on those, and congratulations on (nearly) attaining the rank of Eagle!

#### Coming up:

There are some important dates to remember in the next few weeks. First, On March 15<sup>th</sup>, the Diversity Council DEI will be holding the first of three workshops on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. The event, cosponsored by my office, Superintendent Patrick Tudryn, and Acting Police Chief Roger Hart will be at 5:30p at Broad Brook Elementary School's cafeteria. All are welcomed and encouraged to attend.

Also, March 15th is the deadline to schedule deliverable fuels through the Connecticut Energy Assistance Program (CEAP) for residents that have been approved. To determine if you still have benefit funds available or have any other questions, call Social Services at 860-623-2430.

East Windsor Social Services will begin making Renter's Rebate appointments after March 20 for qualified East Windsor residents. To qualify you must meet income guidelines, be 65 years old or

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be permanently disabled by Social Security and at least 18 years of age by Dec. 31, 2022. Renter's Rebate provides a onetime payment to qualified Connecticut renters based on income and expenses in 2022. For more information or to make an appointment call Social Services at 860-623-2430.

Coming up on March 29<sup>th</sup>, I've invited my friend Tim Keeney, First Selectman in the Town of Somers and a retired naval captain and Navy Seal to come to the East Windsor Senior Center to share his experiences as a seal, and also as the leader of the dive rescue time for the Skylab II mission. I've seen Captain Keeney's presentation before, and it is simply outstanding. Anyone with an interest in the topics of naval aviation or the space program would love it. That presentation will be on March 29<sup>th</sup> at 12:30 at the Senior Center. It is open to all, and I highly recommend it.

Breakfast with the Easter Bunny will be held at the East Windsor Senior Center (125 Main Street, BB) on Saturday, April 1<sup>st</sup> from 8:30am-11:30am. Breakfast will consist of pancakes, sausage, fruit, juice, milk and coffee. No tickets required – pay at the door. Fee is \$6.00 per adult, \$3.00 per child (cash only please). Raffle tickets will also be sold – raffle baskets are donated from businesses and organizations in the community. All proceeds will benefit summer camp scholarships.

Lastly, I want to extend my condolences to the Bravakis family on the passing of long-time East Windsor teacher, coach and athletic director Leo Bravakis. Mr. Bravakis was one of the greats, having impacted thousands of students over his many years working in our school system. Our thoughts are with his family.

Respectfully submitted,

Jason E. Bowsza First Selectman

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#### **BOARD OF SELECTMEN – 3/9/2023 - ATTACHMENT**

Selectmen's Report - March 9th, 2023

On February 22, 2023, after we finished our Budget Workshop I was able to attend the Board of Education meeting already in progress.

Ryan Galloway reported that the Budget is in good standing and the Food Service and Family Resource Center line clean-ups and reconciliations are projected to be completed by the March 15th deadline. The OPM Corrective Action Plan was completed and sent into the state on February 7th. This was due to not having timely bank reconciliations and an action plan has been put into place.

The Board received a Communications Update from Justin Martin and reviewed a promotional video that he put together to increase enrollment in Pre-K - 2nd Grade and encourage Kindergarten registration for the Fall of 2023. The ad will run in three Hartford zip codes and at CREC. The school district will also be participating at the Fair at the Yard Goats Community Center.

On February 27, 2023 the Building Commission met. This was their first meeting since March 25, 2019. The members thanked Al Rodrigue for his many years of service to the Commission as a member and as Chairman. New Officers were elected. Jim Thurz - Chairman, Heather Spencer - Vice Chairman and Stanley Kement, Jr. - Secretary. Joe Sauerhoefer updated the Board with an overview on projects, including school roofs and the Scout Hall building plan. The 2023 Meeting Schedule has been set and the group will meet the last Monday of every month at 6:30PM at Town Hall.

The Economic Development Commission meeting on Tuesday night was canceled.

Last night, I attended the Board of Education meeting. The Broad Brook Elementary School has chosen "Ranger In Time" for the One School, One Book Event, which was announced last week with the help of Officer Mitchell and K-9 Mylo. The Science Fair was last week at the Middle School and students participated in Read Across America. Students at the High School will be taking

SAT's on March 22nd and that Board voted to give the high school early release on that day.

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The Board voted to approve their FY 2024 Budget at \$26,748,366.69 at a 3.98% increase and send it to the Board of Finance. Dr. Tudryn will present this Budget to the Board of Finance next Wednesday, March 15th at 7:00PM.

The Board approved a Model Congress Field Trip to AIC in Springfield, MA for thirteen students in grades 9-12. Our students are presenting three bills: Capping insulin at \$35.00 a month, the PINK Bill - reducing costs for feminine products and making hospital costs more clarified. There are opportunities for two scholarships to AIC at this workshop.

An update was given on the Open Choice/Pre-K enrollment. There are sixteen kids interested in enrolling in Pre-K, with eight of those listing East Windsor as their first choice. This would give the school district the opportunity to expand the Pre-K program, as there are financial incentives and it would allow us to offer full day Pre-K and the ability to hire another teacher. More discussion is to come on this process.

I was very sad to hear about the passing of Mr. Leo Bravakis. I had the privilege of having him as my teacher and he advocated for girl's basketball while I was on the team, gaining us the respect we deserved in the NCCC Conference. My thoughts and prayers are with his family during this difficult time.

Submitted With Sincerity,

Sarah A. Muska, Selectman smuska@eastwindsorct.com