

**Town of East Windsor
Economic Development Commission
11 Rye Street
Broad Brook, CT 06016**

**Regular Meeting
Tuesday, February 4, 2020
Town Hall Meeting Room, 6:00 p.m.**

Meeting Minutes

****These Minutes are not official until approved at a subsequent meeting****

**Economic Development Commission
Bob Lyke, Jr., Vice Chairman
Gil Hayes, Secretary
Bob Maynard
James Richards
Maria Rumore**

Members Present: Bob Lyke, Jr., Gil Hayes, Bob Maynard, Jim Richards, Maria Rumore, alternate.

Members Absent: All members were present.

CALL TO ORDER:

Vice Chairman Lyke called the Meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

The Board stood to recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

ATTENDANCE/APPOINTMENT OF ALTERNATES:

A **MOTION** was made (Hayes) and **SECONDED** (Richards) to appoint Maria Rumore as an Alternate Member. **All in favor.**

APPROVAL OF AGENDA/ADDED AGENDA ITEMS:

A **MOTION** was made (Hayes) and **SECONDED** (Richards) to amend the agenda to add Item XI. A. General EDC Discussion. **All in favor.**

A **MOTION** was made (Lyke) and **SECONDED** (Maynard) to amend the agenda to add Item VIII. D. Distribute Informational Materials. **All in favor.**

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

There was no Public Participation.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

MOTION made (Richards) and **SECONDED** (Hayes) to approve the minutes of January 7, 2020.

Discussion: Commissioner Rumore requested the spelling of her name on Page 1, be corrected to “Maria” from “Marie”. **All in favor.**

RECOGNITION OF FORMER MEMBER HERB HOLDEN:

Vice Charmain Lyke stated that Herb Holden was a former EDC Chairman who contributed a lot to the Commission, fought for a larger EDC budget, always strived to bring new businesses to Town and was a strong supporter of all the businesses that were here. Vice Chairman Lyke asked the Commission members for a moment of silence in honor of Mr. Herb Holden. The Commission paused for a moment of silence.

OLD BUSINESS:

A. EDC Website Update

Commissioner Maynard handed out copies of the EDC subsite pages for the Commission to follow as he went through each webpage on the large monitor. He explained that CivicPlus had some technical difficulties regarding the pictures on the homepage, so he had them leave the pictures displayed until they could fix the page to make the corrections requested by the commission.

As Commissioner Maynard went through the various links, Mr. Richards asked that under “Other Business Organizations” we remove Applebrook Farm so that they were not singling out only one farm in Town. The Commission agreed to remove the Applebrook Farm until they were ready to add all farms in town. Under the *Arts and Attractions* tab, a Commission member suggested removing the Opera House Players as they were no longer in Town. The Commission later agreed to add the Broad Brook Opera House to the Historical Slide Show tab. Under the *Regional Higher Education* tab, the commission agreed to change Goodwin College to Goodwin University, a 4-year school. Under the *Connect link, contacts tab*, the commission agreed that there should be photos, biographies, and contact information (phone number and email address) for both the First Selectman and Town Planner. Commissioner Richards suggested that the Commission talk to the Planning Department for development incentives to be added as a tab on the Planning and Development webpage. The Commission members agreed it was a great suggestion.

Commissioner Richards asked if February 15th was still the Commission’s goal for a soft release date of the website. Commissioner Maynard responded stating that February 15th is still the goal dependent upon the approval of Town Planner Flores-Marzan and First Selectman Bowsza. He explained he also needed to contact CivicPlus to be sure they can have the website go live for the 15th. Commissioner Richards asked for clarification on the soft release of the website. He asked what we were planning to do to advertise it. Commissioner Maynard replied that it would be available as a link, but for now, people that know about it can visit it. He indicated the commission will get feedback from the First Selectman, the Board of Selectmen Liaison, the Planning staff, and from any others the link is shared with. Commissioner Maynard, Lyke, Hayes, and Rumore felt that this was a great plan for a “soft release” of the website and agreed

that once we get feedback and make changes and updates based on the feedback, we could publicize it via a press release, Chamber of Commerce email podcasts, etc. Commissioner Richards assured the Commission that he would not put it in the Chamber of Commerce's podcast until they were ready, however, he did not understand the idea of the "soft release" if no one would see it. Chairman Maynard reiterated the content of the discussion above. The Commission members agree there will be a link from the Town website to the EDC subpage when the Commission was ready to link the page.

MOTION was made (Maynard) and **SECONDED** (Richards) to go out of order to Agenda Item IX. A. Election of a Chairman. **All in favor.**

MOTION was made (Richards) to nominate Bob Lyke as Chairman. Bob Lyke respectfully declined.

MOTION was made (Maynard) and **SECONDED** (Rumore) to nominate Gil Hayes as Chairman. **All in favor.**

Commissioner Rumore left the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

The Commission took up the regular order of the agenda.

OLD BUSINESS:

B. Discuss EDC Budget

Vice Chairman Lyke informed the Commission that the Board of Selectmen will be discussing their budget tomorrow night, February 7th. Commissioner Hayes and Vice Chairman Lyke inquired about the fees and duties of other board and commission recording secretaries in Town. Amanda Calve, Recording Secretary for this meeting shared what the current fees and duties of the recording secretaries for the various boards and commissions in town. She informed the Commission that the fees are generally \$75-\$125 per meeting depending on the Board or Commission. Commissioner Hayes considered increasing the budget request for the EDC Recording Secretary and asked about the process. Amanda Calve informed the Commission that the budget for EDC Recording Secretary had already been submitted for FY 2020-2021 and suggested that next budget year they can request an increase to the Board of Selectmen.

C. Casino Update

Vice Chairman Lyke passed out an article for the Commissioners to read. See Attachment A.

D. Distribute Informational Materials

Vice Chairman Lyke passed out 5 packets of material for the Commissioners to read for informational purposes. See Attachment B.

NEW BUSINESS:

B. WPCA Presentation to the Board of Selectmen

Vice Chairman Lyke informed the Commission that WPCA attended the last Board of Selectmen meeting and gave a wonderful presentation. He felt the two most important things they

mentioned were: first, that they are only at 40% capacity meaning the Town has more room for Economic Development, more homes and more businesses. Commissioner Maynard added that he thought we should come up with an inventory of land for sale and have someone to talk to farms and find out if land was for sale, and how much money they would accept for the land. He stated that this is something we really needed to do; the commission agreed. Next, Vice Chairman Lyke applauded the WPCA for winning various outstanding awards and indicated that he was impressed that the Superintendent and Chief Operator act as Human Resources for the WPCA. Vice Chairman Lyke asked if the Planning and Development Department has the EDC By-laws and felt that we need a 5-year plan.

C. Route 5 Business Corridor and Department of Transportation (DOT)

Vice Chairman Lyke informed the Commission that a Public Meeting took place in January concerning the Route 5 Corridor and DOT. He and Commissioner Maynard indicated that this is very important. Commissioner Maynard said DOT needs all the help that the can get from us. He said that we need political clout, Senator Anwar, State Representatives Hall and Davis to get people involved to put pressure on DOT to let them know that this is something East Windsor strongly needs this. Commissioner Richards asked how citizens felt about this. Vice Chairman Lyke indicated that they voiced their feelings and said they were concerned about their front yards.

D. Recommend and recruit candidates for commission vacancies

Vice Chairman Lyke told that Board that he felt it was their responsibility to recommend and recruit candidates to serve on EDC. The Commission members agreed. Vice Chairman Lyke mentioned that he had talked to a resident and had suggested they join.

COORDINATION WITH OTHER TOWN DEPARTMENTS:

A. Town Planner – Not in attendance this evening, the Commission moved to the next item.

B. First Selectman – Not in attendance this evening, the Commission moved to the next item.

NEXT MEETING DATE:

Vice Chairman Lyke informed the commission members of the next meeting date, March 3, 2020.

A. General EDC Discussion

Vice Chairman Lyke informed the Commission members of a Transportation Meeting sponsored by East Windsor Human Services at Mill Pond on February 13th with pizza. He encouraged the members to attend. There was some discussion regarding the importance of getting public transportation in Town, specifically busses, bus stops, and coordination and cooperation with DOT and the Greater Hartford Transit District. Commissioner Richards questioned the funding of the transportation services and it was determined that the Town would have to fund it. Commissioner Richards suggested finding ways to get the Trolley Museum to transport locally and asked if the Town could even build their own infrastructure. A brief discussion continued.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION made (Lyke) and **SECONDED** (Maynard) to adjourn. **All in favor.**

The meeting adjourned at 7:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Amanda Calve". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Amanda Calve
Recording Secretary

Press Aide: Joe O'Leary, 860-240-8820

January 29, 2020

Sen. Anwar Joins Sen. Osten's Unveiling Of Casino Jobs And Revenue Bill For 2020 Legislative Session



State Senator Saud Anwar (D-South Windsor) today joined State Senator Cathy Osten (D-Sprague), a longtime advocate for protecting Connecticut jobs and growing Connecticut revenue, as she unveiled a working draft of her new 2020 bill, "An Act Concerning Jobs In and Revenue From the Gaming Industry," which seeks to expand and grow Connecticut jobs in the gaming and entertainment industry while securing more gaming revenue for Connecticut's cities and towns.

Like

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HARTFORD – State Senator Saud Anwar (D-South Windsor) today joined State Senator Cathy Osten (D-Sprague), a longtime advocate for protecting Connecticut jobs and growing Connecticut revenue, as she unveiled a working draft of her new 2020 bill, "An Act

Concerning Jobs In and Revenue From the Gaming Industry," which seeks to expand and grow Connecticut jobs in the gaming and entertainment industry while securing more gaming revenue for Connecticut's cities and towns.

Sens. Anwar and Osten were joined today by a bipartisan group of legislators who support the bill and its goals.

"Today, we are talking about a win-win strategy," said Sen. Anwar. "If you look at the details, everyone wins. Not only will we have significant new investments in East Windsor and Bridgeport, but we have jobs for the people who will build these places. In East Windsor, we anticipate 2,000 jobs in building the casino and 2,000 more jobs when the casino is built and running. All of the neighboring towns, including East Hartford, Ellington and South Windsor, will also benefit, getting new revenue sources as residents work at these casinos and individuals travel through them to access the casinos. It's the same in Bridgeport – new jobs will come not only where the casino is built but the surrounding areas. I am excited to support these plans and look forward to the project's progress."

"Connecticut needs to embrace and promote two of the largest employers in our state – the Mashantucket Pequot and Mohegan tribes – with the same fervor and conviction that we have embraced the aerospace industry, advanced manufacturing, and biotech. It's a matter of fairness and respect for an industry that that I believe is long overdue," Sen. Osten said. "With the expansion of gaming and entertainment in Connecticut comes the responsibility, I believe, for the two tribes to share some of that wealth with Connecticut's cities and towns. We plan on distributing \$88 million more in gaming revenue to all Connecticut cities and towns – that's up from the current \$51 million – with the possibility of another \$25 million or so for several targeted, impacted communities. There is also accountability in this bill in that we ask DMHAS to create a new program for the treatment and rehabilitation of compulsive gamblers in this state – with that program to be funded by fees from gaming operators – and for the Department of Consumer Protection to increase its outreach on compulsive gambling."

The 41-page draft bill includes several new and important public policies, including:

- Directing Governor Lamont to negotiate and amend the existing tribal compacts by October 1
- Allowing the tribes to operate both retail and online sports betting
- The creation of a new casino in Bridgeport to be jointly operated by the two tribes
- The creation of tribal 'entertainment zones' in Hartford, New Haven, and one other town to be determined
- Extending Connecticut's deadline for serving alcohol in casinos from 2 a.m. until 4 a.m.
- A new system for allotting some of the new tribal revenue, including 10% of gross gaming revenue (not from video slots) to be earmarked for statewide tourism efforts, and 15% to be deposited into the General Fund
- An increase of \$88 million (from \$51 million to \$139 million) of gaming revenue to be distributed annually to all 169 Connecticut cities and towns
- If remaining funds allow, additional grants of \$750,000 each to be distributed annually to Bridgeport, East Hartford, Ellington, Enfield, Hartford, New Haven, Norwalk, South Windsor, Waterbury, West Hartford, Windsor and Windsor Locks
- If remaining funds allow, additional grants of \$750,000 each to be distributed annually to East Lyme, Groton, Ledyard, Montville, Norwich, Stonington and Waterford
- If remaining funds allow, additional grants to \$375,000 each to be distributed annually to Bozrah, Franklin, Griswold, Lisbon, North Stonington, Preston, Salem, and Sprague.
- The City of Bridgeport may impose property taxes on the planned Bridgeport casino for up to 10 years

- The Connecticut Lottery Corporation may conduct online lottery ticket sales, with age confirmation
- The state Department of Consumer Protection must, within available resources, inform the public about programs designed to prevent, treat and rehabilitate compulsive gamblers
- The state Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) must establish a program for the treatment and rehabilitation of compulsive gamblers

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TOWN OF EAST WINDSOR ♦ ANNUAL REPORT ♦ FY2018-19



East Windsor 2019 grand list up 1.61%

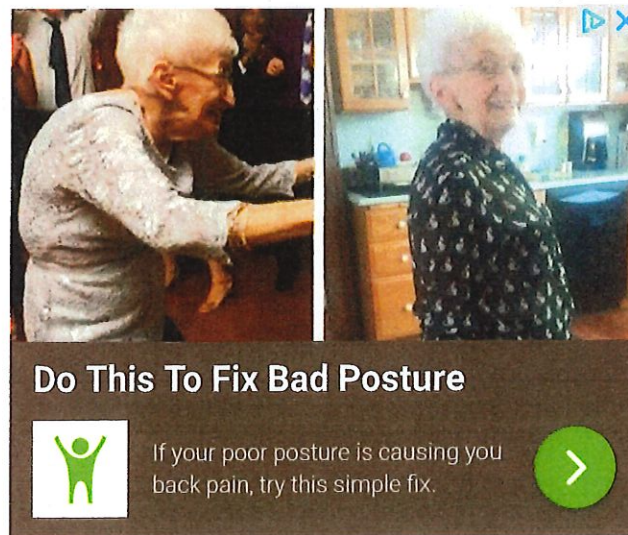
By Joe Chaisson
jchaisson@journalinquirer.com
Jan 30, 2020



EAST WINDSOR — With increases in all of the taxable property categories, the 2019 grand list is up 1.61 percent over the 2018 number.

The value of taxable real estate properties in town climbed by 0.93 percent, to \$786.4 million. Motor vehicles increased by 3.44 percent, to \$99.7 million.

Personal property, which includes business equipment, saw larger growth, much like 2018. It increased to \$83.3 million, or 6.06 percent.



The grand list is used to help calculate the town's tax rate, and it represents the value of all taxable property in town as of Oct. 1.

This year, the grand list totaled \$969,526,900, which is \$15,324,982 more than in 2018. The town also saw a \$15 million increase in 2018 too.

Eversource Energy, formerly known as Connecticut Light & Power Co., and related entities had the highest assessment with \$22.6 million. The second-highest was the Mansions at Canyon Ridge LLC, at \$21.7 million, and third was Walmart Stores East LP with \$18 million.

The overall top 10 list combined totaled \$130.2 million, or 13 percent of the grand list's total.

A total of \$3.1 million in personal property is being appealed in court as well as \$338,200 in real estate, officials said.

In 2017 the grand list saw a decrease, but then an increase in 2018, and another increase this past year.

First Selectman Jason E. Bowsza commented on that trend.

"Obviously, we like to see positive growth in our grand lists. There's clearly opportunity in this town and East Windsor has a particular charm to it," Bowsza said.

"Typically, as the housing market goes up, the grand list goes up. What we are seeing is positive growth that allows for more long-term planning."

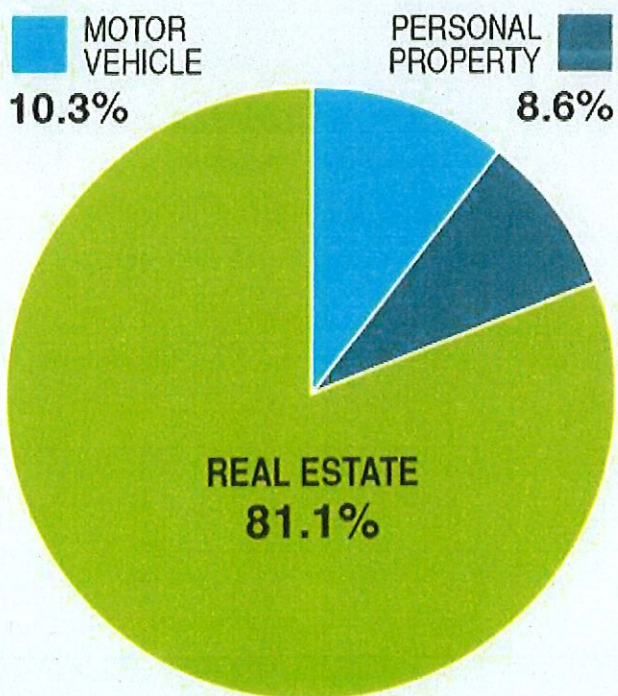
MORE INFORMATION

East Windsor budget fails for 3rd time, triggering 2% increase

East Windsor's Top 10 Assessments

October 1, 2019 Grand List

TAXPAYER	ASSESSMENT	% OF GRAND LIST
Eversource	\$22,627,330	2.3
Mansions at Canyon Ridge	\$21,793,330	2.2
Walmart Stores	\$18,066,180	1.9
Southern Auto Sales	\$15,361,650	1.6
Millpond Ltd Partnership	\$14,224,040	1.5
East Windsor Properties	\$9,772,219	1.0
Wyndwood Apartments	\$8,640,270	0.9
Connecticut Water Co.	\$7,503,160	0.8
EQC Industrial Properties	\$7,000,000	0.7
Prospect Hill Properties	\$5,311,400	0.5
TOTAL	\$130,299,579	13.4



The top 10 assessments of value on East Windsor's grand list, which is used to help calculate the town's tax rate and represents the value of all taxable property in town as of Oct. 1, 2019.

Hollister Breslin / Journal Inquirer

https://www.journalinquirer.com/politics_and_government/backing-for-expanded-gambling/article_a27f5402-4376-11ea-87bd-a78f1fb14956.html

TOP STORY

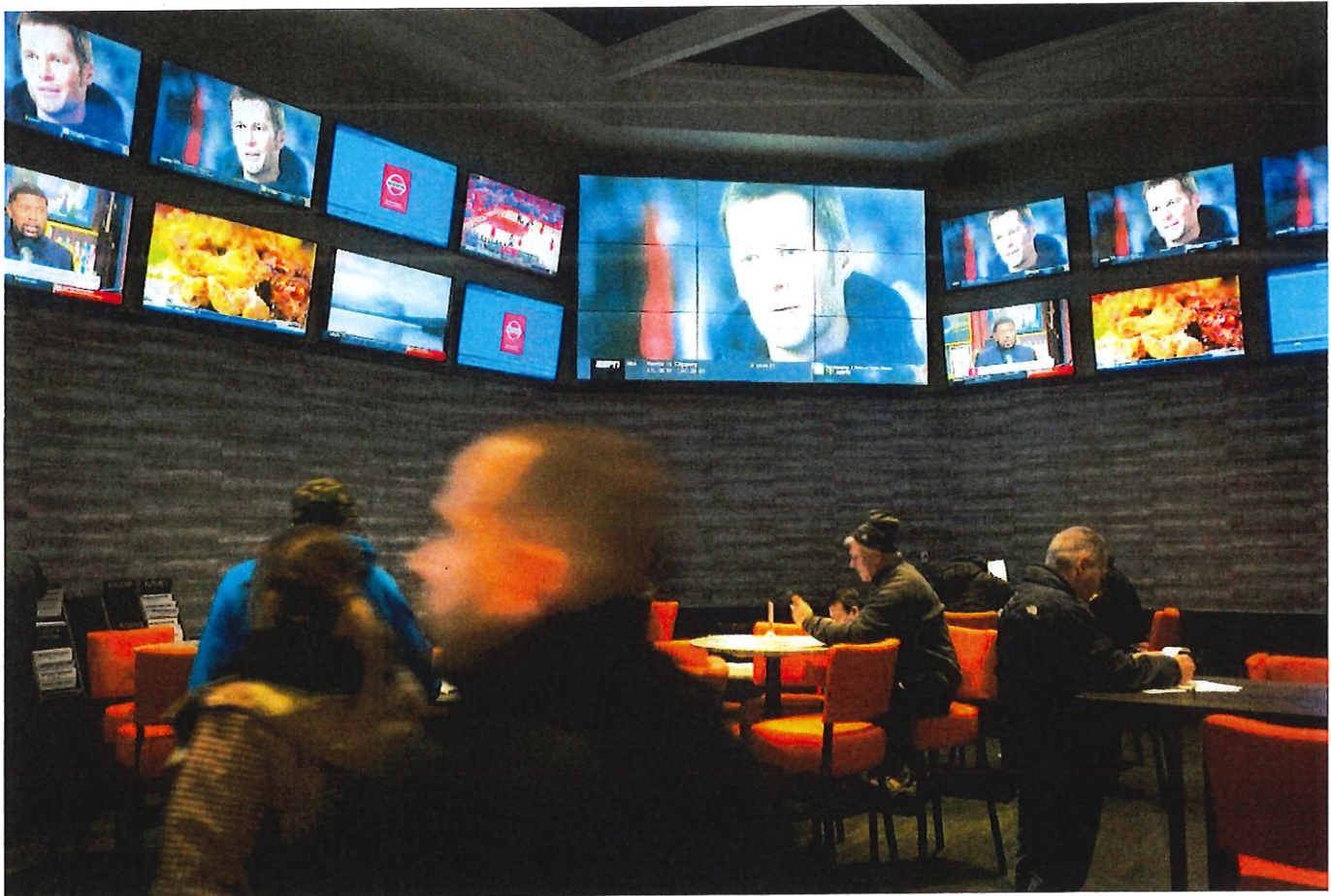
Backing for expanded gambling

Legislative package will reaffirm commitment to East Windsor casino

By Eric Bedner

ebedner@journalinquirer.com

Jan 30, 2020



In this Monday, Jan. 28, 2019 photo, patrons visit the sports betting area of Twin River Casino in Lincoln, R.I. Rhode Island is the only state in the region that has launched sports betting so far.

Steven Senne / Associated Press

HARTFORD — Lawmakers said they're ready to legalize sports gambling and internet betting as a bipartisan group of legislators united Wednesday to lend their support to a comprehensive gambling package, but a deal with the Mashantucket Pequots and Mohegans still must be finalized.

Sen. Catherine Osten, D-Sprague, is leading efforts to allow the two tribes to operate both retail and online sports betting, create a Bridgeport casino that would be operated by the joint tribal venture MMCT, and establish tribal "entertainment zones" in Hartford, New Haven, and another to-be-determined location.

The tribes would have to invest a minimum of \$100 million in the Bridgeport facility, according to the bill's draft language.



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The proposal would allow for alcohol to be served at the state's casinos until 4 a.m., aligning Connecticut's laws with those of neighboring states.

A draft bill also directs Gov. Ned Lamont to negotiate and amend the existing compacts with the tribes by Oct. 1. Amending the agreements is necessary for any gambling expansion as the tribes assert their exclusivity rights extend to sport betting.

In order to place a bet on a sporting event online, the bettor would have to be at least 21 years old and be physically in Connecticut at the time the wager is made, according to draft language. Sports bettors would be able to register at a casino, entertainment zone, or online.

The gambling package also calls for allowing internet lottery and online keno.

The proposal has the support of members from each of the four legislative caucuses as well as both tribes.

The measure would make it clear to other entities that the state is committed to collaborating with the tribes, who are set to open the Tribal Winds Casino in East Windsor, assuming a zoning dispute there is worked out.

It has been a long, slow process to get the East Windsor facility operational, but Rep. Carol Hall, R-Enfield, is confident the new gambling package would enable the casino to open its doors. Hall's district includes East Windsor.

"We're really excited about this bill," she said. "It looks like it's finally coming together" and "we look forward to this great casino coming to our area."

Area towns are slated to receive \$750,000 annually as part of the East Windsor casino deal. These towns include East Hartford, Ellington, Enfield, South Windsor, Windsor, and Windsor Locks, along with Bridgeport, Hartford, New Haven, Norwalk, Waterbury, and West Hartford.

Seven other municipalities also would receive \$750,000 annually and eight would get \$375,000 each year.

Overall, municipalities would receive an additional \$88 million, an increase from \$51 million to \$139 million, in gaming revenue, under the terms of the bill.

While the funds may be used to minimize the impacts to towns around casinos, the ultimate goal is for municipalities receiving gambling revenue to lower their tax rates,

Osten said.

Some of the new gambling revenue, including 10 percent of gross revenue not from slots would go toward statewide tourism efforts, and 15 percent would be deposited into the state's general fund. Eight percent of sports betting revenue also would go to the state, according to draft language.

Sen. M. Saud Anwar, D-South Windsor, called the proposal "a win-win strategy," that will protect casino jobs and create thousands of construction jobs throughout the state.

Senate President Pro Tem Martin M. Looney, D-New Haven, stressed the importance of legalizing sports betting this session, citing the revenue neighboring states are generating.

"A sense of urgency is absolutely necessary," he said.

"We are leaving a lot of money on the table if we don't pass legislation like this," Senate Majority Leader Robert Duff, D-Norwalk, said, adding that casino jobs are well-paying and come with solid health care and retirement benefits. "This is something that is very important to all four caucuses."

Rep. Thomas Delnicki, R-South Windsor, noted it's not often that members of all four caucuses unite to promote a single bill.

Unlike previous proposals, Osten's plan includes all interested areas of the state, preventing legislators from fighting with each other regarding where the next casino could be built.

"Everyone has a slice of the pie," Sen. Dennis Bradley, D-Bridgeport said.

Osten stressed the importance of maintaining a partnership with the tribes, which have contributed about \$9 billion to state coffers over the past two decades and are among the top 10 employers in the state.

Representatives from both tribes are optimistic a deal can be reached with Lamont and the state can legalize sports gambling and internet betting.

Chuck Bunnell, chief of staff for the Mohegan Tribal Council, said his tribe maintains it and the Pequots have exclusive rights to sports betting, but they are willing to negotiate with Lamont.

"I think that my chairman and our tribal council has been pretty consistent that they believe that these casino games are covered under the compact," Bunnell said. "But the chairman has also expressed to the governor that we are open to discussions because that's what partners do."

Likewise, Mohegan Chairman James Gessner said he's "very optimistic that my discussions with Governor Lamont will bear fruit. He and I agree that Connecticut has waited too long to modernize our industry and be competitive with our surrounding states."

Rodney Butler, the Mashantucket chairman, also said his tribe would continue negotiating with Lamont in order to expand gambling options in the state.

"We're excited to bring sports betting and online gaming to all of our patrons and to further modernize our gaming landscape to the benefit of the region and the state at large," Butler said.



What is your vision for Route 5?



Please attend the first Public Information Meeting of the Route 5 Corridor Study to share your thoughts on Route 5 and your vision for its future!

When: January 22, 2020

from 6:30 PM to 8 PM

*Snow Date: January 29 (same time)

Where: East Windsor High School Auditorium

76 S. Main Street (Route 5)

East Windsor, CT

For more information please visit the
study website:

<https://crocog.org/2018/05/route-5-east-windsor-corridor-study/>



NOTE TO PERSONS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS:
We do not discriminate on the basis of disability. Individuals who need auxiliary aids are invited to make their needs known by contacting Pramod Pandey at ppandey@crocog.org or 860-724-4216 as soon as possible.
Un interprete estará disponible para esta reunión si usted lo solicita al 860-522-2217, x4293, lo más pronto posible.

Town of East Windsor

The town of East Windsor strives to preserve its quiet, small town feel in Northern Connecticut.

READ MORE

Attractions

SEE MORE

Old Orchard Farm

Broad Brook Opera House

Shopping

[SEE MORE](#)

Candle Threads
33C South Main St.
[More info](#)

FACTS ABOUT BROAD BROOK

Town/City established:

Settled in 1680.

Named from:

Incorporated from Windsor and named May, 1768. Formerly Windsor.

County:

Hartford.

Notable citizens (past and present):

Jonathan Edwards, Theologian.

Jerry Marquis, Former NASCAR driver.

Kevin Olson, Actor.

Zarley Zalapski, Former NHL player. Lived here during his tenure with the Hartford Whalers.

Top Five Attractions:

Connecticut Trolley Museum.

Scantic Academy - East Windsor Historical Society Museum.

Broad Brook Brewing.

Connecticut Fire Museum.

Abbe Road Soccer Field.

Annual Visitor's Events:

Rails to the Darkside, October.

Turkey Shoot, November.

North Pole Connection, December.

Torchlight Parade and Carol Sing, December.

Quality of town:

The town of East Windsor strives to preserve its quiet, small town feel in Northern Connecticut. East Windsor is peppered with cultural and historical places that are near and dear to Connecticut. The Connecticut Trolley Museum offers an exciting display for children and adults alike. As well as the Connecticut Fire Museum educates everyone on the history of fire safety within the state. Consider taking a stroll through the parks or picking up a game of soccer at the fields. East Windsor is also home to one of Connecticut's premier beer makers - Broad Brook Brewing. Take a visit to East Windsor to discover all it has to offer!