

**BOARD OF FINANCE
TOWN OF EAST WINDSOR
11 RYE STREET
BROAD BROOK, CONNECTICUT, 06016**

MINUTES OF PUBLIC HEARING

Wednesday, May 15, 2019

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

Regular Members Present: Jerilyn Corso (Chairman), Kathy Pippin, Sarah Muska, Bill Syme, Karen Christensen, Barbara Petano

Regular Members Absent: None

Alternate Members Present: Alan Baker

Alternate Members Absent: Danielle Godeck

1. CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Chairman Corso called the Public Hearing to Order at 7:00 p.m. Everyone stood and said the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. TIME AND PLACE OF HEARING:

Wednesday, May 15, 2019, 7:00 p.m. at the East Windsor Town Hall Meeting Room (11 Rye Street, Broad Brook, Connecticut, 06016)

3. ATTENDANCE/APPOINTMENT OF ALTERNATES:

The whole Board was present so no alternates needed to be appointed.

4. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

Louis Flynn – Asked the Board not to cut the amount of money in the proposed budget for the Warehouse Fire Department. He was disappointed that the proposed budget didn't pass. He stated that the amount in there now is half of what they originally asked for and to please not cut anymore out of it.

Denise Friedman – Stated she is disappointed the budget didn't pass. She asked the Board to look carefully at the BOE's budget before they made any more cuts to it. She stated that it has been underfunded for many years and to please not cut anymore out of the budget. She stated

there will be cuts to staff, supplies and essential needs. She stated that supplies have been empty for quite a while now and have been underfunded for a long time. She thinks the time is now to move forward.

Bob Lyke – stated he is speaking on behalf of the Economic Development Commission. He stated he wants to see the money stay in the budget for planning and developing so they can do their work and develop the community. He hopes there is a professional developer at some point. He feels it is a conflict of interest to have one person doing two jobs. He says that the Town needs someone that has the experience to do that job. He states to do that the funds need to be there. He would like to see nothing taken away from there and if possible more added to it.

Albert Grant – Stated that he recently heard about the Fund Balance issue which he hadn't heard about before. He is speaking on behalf of the Conservation Commission. He stated that the Town had spent a good portion of the Open Space fund and he was requesting replenishment of that Fund. He stated that he would like the funds replenished with the Fund Balance surplus.

Kathy Bilodeau – Wanted to thank the Board for what they are going to have to work on. She feels that the Board did a very good job going over all of the information given to them. She is very disappointed that the proposed budget has not passed. She was disappointed that all of the Selectmen were not at the public hearing. She wanted to introduce herself as the new member of a Special Interest Group. She is part of the special inters group that is for funding education, fire, police and public works. She stated that she wants the Town to be a better place than it has ever been. She is encouraging the Board to not make any additional cuts to the BOE. She states that they have made sure that all their finances are in order and extremely transparent. She feels that the children deserve a good education. She proposed that the Board instead take a cut that would affect every single person in the Town.

Karin Spencer – she stated that she is a kindergarten teacher across the street at Broad Brook Elementary. She is asking the Board to look at all of the aspects of the BOE budget, the cuts that could be made they would be losing vital staff members that help the students. They are vital to the foundation of the students. She just wanted to say hello and thank the Board for allowing her to speak.

Cathy Simonelli – Stated that she has a strong belief in the education system in the Town and wants to see it stay intact. She reminded the Board of a few recognitions the schools have received, like, one of the top high schools in the state and Broad Brook School was named a school of distinction. She states that they are working hard and they need every resource that they can have to continue making the schools a better place. A place recognized by the public as a good place to be to help the Town grow and the Grand List grow. She stated that equally as important to her are the fire, safety and infrastructure. She hopes that the Board would try and maintain funding and cut the thing the Town are not part of core principles for a town to run.

Richard Pippin – he suggested that the Board be careful funding taxes with the Fund Balance because it could become a very slippery slope. He stated that some people advocate to take more out and when it is gone it is gone. He said to be very careful and it should be used for funding

capital items and that as the policy says but cutting taxes he thinks the Board has taken enough from the proposed budget already.

Bill Loos – He said he was speaking for the seniors and they don't like having the big increases every year. He said there is an increase every year and that decreases the income they have. He thinks that 35% increase in supplies in the schools should be cut down. He also stated that Warehouse Fire District voted for a budget and it was passed by 40 people. He does not see why the Town would want to pay another \$230,000 to them to reduce that. He states that if they already passed their budget let it go ahead or join the Town of East Windsor as a fire department, let them dissolve and become part of the Town.

Keith Yagaloff – Stated that he supports education as the number one priority in the Town. He said that some of the comments online say that everything should be cut except essential services but he does not think that is the way to do it. He recommends that the Board make a cut across the board to reduce the budget. He stated that they couldn't just pick selected areas and say that those are the Towns essential areas because they are not. He stated that everyone is in this together and all of the departments in Town are important. He feels it is really inappropriate to say we are going to cut planning or parks and rec and call that a nonessential service to the community because for some people local programs are the most essential.

5. ADJOURNMENT:

Chairman Corso adjourned the Public Hearing at 7:14 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rebecca D'Amicol, Recording Secretary