Date: January 26, 2022
To: Amy Lam, Town Clerk
From: Jason E. Bowsza, First Selectman
Re: Budget Requests for Fiscal Year 2022-2023

Pursuant to East Windsor Town Charter Section 8-4(D)(3)(a), attached please find my budget submission for Fiscal Year 2022/2023. The submitted budget was developed by town department heads and agencies and includes my recommended changes to their initial requests.

The recommendation contains sufficient funds to increase authorized strength for the Police Department from twenty-six to twenty-seven sworn officers and reallocates funding from lease-purchases to Debt Service to further expand our ability to bond. The proposal also seeks to better support key Town agencies such as both Library Associations and the Cemetery Association.

This recommendation currently contains an estimate of a five percent increase in health insurance costs. Our insurance consultant, One Digital, has indicated that the five percent number is conservative, and may come down further. If so, that will provide additional opportunity for savings. If the final number, now expected in May, comes in higher, additional budgetary decisions will need to be made.

The Town Assessor is projecting a Grand List increase of 4.08% before the Board of Assessment Appeals process commences in March. Expenditure requests from department heads and agencies totaled a 6.56% increase for total Town Government spending, exclusive of the Board of Education. My recommendation reduces that to an increase of 3.63% over last year’s spending level, again exclusive of the Board of Education.

This submission represents a starting point in the process. Department heads, the Finance Director and the First Selectman have reviewed the budgets, but it is imperative that the Boards of Selectmen and Finance thoroughly review the proposals for voters’ consideration and approval.