

**Board of Finance  
Town of East Windsor  
11 Rye Street  
East Windsor, CT**

**MINUTES OF PUBLIC HEARING, Wednesday, March 24, 2010 at 7:30 p.m.**

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

Members Present: Jack Mannette, Danelle E. Godeck, Robert Little, Kathleen Pippin, Jason Bowsza, and Marie DeSousa  
Members Absent: None  
Alternates Present: None  
Alternate Absent: Thomas Baker and Jamie Daniels  
Others: Denise Menard, John L. Burnham, Richard P. Pippin, Jr., Mark Simmons, Gilbert Hayes, Catherine Cabral, Timothy Howes, Dale Nelson, and many other townspeople  
Press: K. Loucks (Journal Inquirer)

Chairman Jack Mannette called the Public Hearing to Order at 7:40 p.m., in the East Windsor High School Auditorium, 70 Main Street, East Windsor, Connecticut.

Chairman Jack Mannette introduced himself as Chairman of the Board of Finance and introduced all members of the Board which were present at the meeting: Ms. Maria DeSousa, Mr. Jason Bowsza, Ms. Kathleen Pippin, Ms. Danelle Godeck, and Mr. Robert Little.

Mr. Mannette began explaining to the audience the purpose of the public hearing is in accordance with the revised Town Charter which was approved in November, 2009, wherein before the Board of Finance can begin reviewing the proposed budgets from the Board of Selectman and Board of Education, to receive public comment and input on the Town Budget. Presentations of these budgets will go over key issues in the budget. Questions and comments from the public and Board Members will be entertained and an open dialog among all will be held. Mr. Mannette asked any person who wishes to speak to the Board of Finance regarding the budget issues, can do so later in the meeting. He asked if they would keep their comments brief and not to exceed three minutes. He also asked if they could sign their names and give their addresses on a legal pad which was placed on a table in front of the microphone.

The presentations will be done in two phases. The first phase will be the Board of Selectman Proposed Budget narrated by Mr. Mannette and the second phase will be the Board of Education Proposed Budget narrated by Mr. Timothy Howes, the Superintendent of Schools.

Mr. Mannelle began his presentation indicating the last Wednesday, March 17, 2010; the Board of Selectman presented its proposed budget to the Board of Finance. He indicated that copies of that presentation are available for the audience for their review. He commented that the Board of Finance and Board of Selectman met in December to discuss the budget process for the upcoming year. At that meeting, it was agreed a zero tax increase was the goal. By use of a slide presentation, Mr. Mannelle began discussing the first slide was entitled "Fiscal Year 2010-2011 – Proposed Town Budget Summary of Expenditures". This slide gave a summary of Expenditures of the following departments: Town Government, Public Safety, Public Works, Sanitation and Waste Removal, Conservation of Health, Recreation, Insurance and Benefits, Miscellaneous, Capital Improvement Plan, and Debt Services. The slide compared the approved budget appropriation for 2009-2010 versus budget requests for 2010-2011. The approved budget for 2009-2010 was in the amount of \$13,405,427 and the proposed budget for 2010-2011 is in the amount of \$13,696,006, an increase of approximately \$290,579 or 2.17% increase. The mill increase required to support the proposed town budget would be 0.27.

The second slide was entitled "Fiscal Year 2010-2011 – Proposed Town Budget, Capital Improvement and Debt Service". He discussed the figures on this slide. The total Capital Improvement Program is in the amount of \$737,758.00 and total Debt Services is in the amount of \$1,832,200.00. The third slide Mr. Mannelle discussed was the proposed budget including the Board of Education expenditures. The slide compared the expenditures of 2009-2010 and budget requests of 2010-2011 and the percentage of change for each department, including Board of Education. When comparing the figures, an increase of 5.03% was indicated.

Mr. Mannelle began to discuss the projected revenue for 2010-2011. The slide also compared the revenue from 2009-2010. He indicated the revenue from the State of Connecticut is projected to be substantially lower. He also made note of transfers which were made last year in the amount of \$1.25 million to keep the taxes low. He said he would explain later in the meeting those transfers. The revenue shortfall the town is experiencing is due to the current economic situation. After working the numbers for expenditures, revenues, and taxes; an increase of approximately \$3,388,254 from last year's budget. The current mill rate is 21.75 which was an increase last year of 0.84 from 20.91. The current proposed mill rate is 24.89 or an increase of 3.14.

Mr. Mannelle started to discuss elements that were not shown in the budget presentation, a new account for expenses to support post employment OPEB Funding, which he had compiled recently. He was interrupted by Board Member Marie DeSousa indicating it was premature for Mr. Mannelle to discuss this information since the Board has not had time to review the material. Mr. Mannelle told Ms. DeSousa that he appreciated her concern, but she would have to grin and bear with it. Mr. Mannelle indicated he wanted to delay this meeting because the budget was just presented a week ago to the Board of Finance, but was told he could not. Board Member Jason Bowsza called for a point of order. Mr. Bowsza explained that a point of order supersedes anyone on the floor. Mr. Bowsza quoted Section 8-4e(1)a of the Town Charter wherein it indicates the public hearing is to present the budget as the Board of Selectman proposed and not Board of

Finance interpretation of the proposed budget. Mr. Mannette responded that is where the Charter is wrong. Mr. Bowsza again cited the Town Charter Section 8-4e(1)a. Mr. Mannette indicated if the Board did not approve what he was doing, at the next meeting they could vote him out as Chairman. Mr. Mannette indicated at this first public hearing, he wants to provide the public the information he has compiled which may lead to a major increase in the budget approximately 14.45% to 17%. Ms. Godeck agreed with Mr. Mannette, however, she was unable to review the material he compiled and wanted time to review same.

It was **MOVED** (Godeck) and **SECONDED** (Little) and **PASSED** (3-2) that the Board of Finance adjourns the March 24, 2010 Public Meeting at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Denise M. Piotrowicz  
Recording Secretary