

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

**MINUTES OF BUDGET WORKSHOP – SPECIAL MEETING
Wednesday, April 7, 2010 at 7:00 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: Jamie Daniel and Thomas Baker
Alternate Absent: None
Others: Denise Menard, Catherine Cabral, Chief Edward DeMarco and other townspeople
Press: None

Chairman Jack Mannette called the Budget Workshop Special Meeting to Order at 7:10 p.m., in the East Windsor High School, Board of Education Meeting Room, 70 Main Street, East Windsor, Connecticut.

Chairman Jack Mannette instructed the Board that at the last meeting of March 31, 2010, it was asked that Ms. Catherine Cabral, put together a series of reports giving the Board a chance to examine a few scenarios of budget increases and what effects those increases would have on revenue, taxes, and mill rates. Ms. Catherine Cabral gave all of the Board Members a packet of paperwork relating to that request entitled, “FY 2010-2011 Projected Revenue”, “FY 2010-2011 Projected Revenue – 2%”, “FY 2010-2011 Projected Tax Revenue 99.5% Tax”, “Tax Percentage Budgeting Based on New Grand List”, and “Building Budget Town of East Windsor 2010-2011 General Fund”. Ms. Cabral explained each report in detail to the Board explaining each scenario and the projected bottom line of each scenario. The first sheet compared the current budget versus the proposed budget as presented. This sheet shows a tax increase of approximately 15.69% and a mill rate increase of 3.4116. The second sheet compared the current budget versus the charter driven budget of a 2% increase. The tax increase of approximately 10.33% and a mill rate increase of 2.2476. The third sheet discussed the projected revenue at the 99.5% tax rate.

A lengthy discussion was held among the Board Members and Ms. Catherine Cabral regarding the reports. Questions were raised by Board Members of the accounting of the 99.5% rate and the decreased revenue of .5% which is approximately \$135,614. Ms. Cabral explained if you reduce the revenue, the tax base has to be reduced. Ms. Cabral again went over the figures and the accounting with the Board. Ms. Marie DeSousa inquired what last year’s budget increase was, if any. Ms. Cabral indicated last year’s

budget was not an increase, but a decrease at -0.65%. The conversation among Board Members continued discussing the tax base and revenues.

Chairman Jack Mannette wanted to discuss with the Board how to present the proposed budgets to the public at the public hearing and prepare for the referendums. He inquired if the Board wanted to vote on presenting the 15.11% tax increase to the public. Ms. DeSousa indicated the budgets which have been proposed by all departments have been done in good faith. However, some elements; such as, Board of Selectman furlough day requests and Board of Education early retirement proposals have not yet been responded to. Ms. Cabral indicated she is also waiting for confirmation from insurance representatives regarding premiums for dental and health insurance for the Board of Selectman and Board of Education. The Board of Education has estimated their costs and the Board of Selectman budgeted for 10.75% increase, but that increase has not yet been confirmed. First Selectwoman Denise Menard indicated a meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 12, 2010 with the insurance representatives, Mr. Timothy Howes, Superintendent of Schools and Ms. Cabral. She indicated she should have firm numbers for the Board on Tuesday, April 13, 2010.

Mr. Mannette voiced his concerns with the current budget and only having two additional budget workshop meetings scheduled before the public hearing on April 26, 2010. He suggested inviting the Board of Selectman and Board of Education to the last workshop meeting scheduled for April 14, 2010 to discuss the presentation of the proposed budgets to the public. However not having the confirmed figures for the insurance premiums was concerning to him. He recommended the Board not take any action until the meeting on Tuesday, April 13, 2010. Ms. DeSousa commented she felt the proposed budgets which have been put forth were done thoughtfully by all departments considering the current economic conditions. She motioned to put forth the proposed budget as presented at the 99.5% tax rate to the public hearing. The motion was seconded by Mr. Jason Bowsza and a discussion was held. Both Mr. Bowsza and Ms. Godeck indicated they agreed with Ms. DeSousa, however, they would prefer to wait until the next two upcoming meetings to get confirmation of insurance premiums and furlough days. The motion was not passed.

It was **MOVED** (Little) and **SECONDED** (Bowsza) and **PASSED** (U) that the Board of Finance adjourns the April 7, 2010 Budget Workshop Special Meeting at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Denise M. Piotrowicz
Recording Secretary