

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

**MINUTES OF PUBLIC HEARING,  
April 5, 2011 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, Marie DeSousa, Jason Bowsza, and Kathleen Pippin

Members Absent: None

Alternates Present: None

Alternate Absent: Jamie Daniel and Thomas Baker

Others: Denise Menard, Richard Pippin, Gilbert Hayes, Catherine Cabral, Dale Nelson, Eric Moffett, Chief Edward DeMarco, Deputy Chief Roger Hart, Bill Schultz, Cathy Simonelli, John Pica-Sneedeen, Bill Raber, Kathy Bilodeau, Linda Giuliano, Carol Fox, Laurie Slater, Leslie Hunt, Dave Menard, Carol Madore, Edward Bowsza, Alan Baker, Bob Lyke, Andrew Masters, and others

Press: L. Smith (Patch.com); K. Loucks (Journal Inquirer)

**I. Call to Order**

Chairman Jack Mannette called the Public Hearing to Order at 7:01 p.m., in the East Windsor Middle School auditorium.

**II. Budget Presentation**

Mr. Mannette thanked all who were in attendance and the purpose of this Public Hearing is the presentation of the Board of Selectmen and Board of Education proposed budgets for fiscal year 2011-2012. He had a slide presentation of approximately ten pages which would assist him in presenting those proposals.

He indicated if anyone would like to speak after the presentation, could do so by signing their name and address on the legal pad and those people would be called up in the order of which they signed the sheet. Mr. Mannette asked the Board Members to introduce themselves to the audience, which they did.

The first slide was entitled "Fiscal Year 2011-2012 Proposed Town Budget Summary of Expenditures". Mr. Mannette explained this slide only shows the Town Government portion of the proposed budget. The proposal is an increase of \$267,839 or a 1.96% increase over the approved appropriation for 2010-2011. He briefly discussed the summary of expenditures in the departments listed,

which were: Town Government, Public Safety, Public Works, Sanitation and Waste Removal, Conservation of Health, Recreation, Insurance and Benefits, Miscellaneous, Capital Improvement Plan, and Debt Service. The next slide was the Summary of Accounts of the proposed budget of the Board of Education. Mr. Mannette indicated the Board of Education is requesting \$898,246 increase or a 4.77% increase over last year's budget. The next slide was entitled "Fiscal Year 2011-2012 Proposed Town Budget Including the Board of Education" which shows the overall budget an increase of 3.59% over the 2010-2011 approved appropriation.

The next slide presented was entitled "Fiscal Year 2011-2012 Proposed Town Budget Projected Revenue and Transfers". The slide indicated revenue sources of the State of Connecticut and local revenue. It is estimated the State of Connecticut will be increasing the revenue from \$5,615,885 in 2010-2011 to \$6,100,190 in 2011-2012, which is a significant increase. Local revenues are anticipated to be decreasing and there are no fund transfers anticipated. Total projected revenue is \$6,759,788.

The next slide entitled "Proposed 2011-2012 Town Budget Spending Increases" discusses the spending increases for the Town Proposed Budget and Board of Education Proposed Budget. The total spending increase is \$1,166,084. The next slide shown was entitled "Fiscal Year 2011-2012 Proposed Town Budget Debt Service Detail". This gave detailed information on the debt service, interest and principal, due for each project for the years 2010-2011 and 2011-2012. The debt service for 2011-2012 has decreased. The next slide entitled "Fiscal Year 2011-2012 Proposed Town Budget Summary" was discussed. It summarized all the figures which were previously explained. All the figures accounted for, the bottom line is the mill rate increase would be .87 or a percent tax increase would be 3.63%. The last two slides of the presentation showed the Grand List information for the fiscal year 2011-2012 and the property tax analysis of the proposed budget. Mr. Mannette gave an example of a house valued at \$200,000, the property tax would increase approximately \$173.00 annually or \$14.00 per month. His last comment was that taxes have been raised approximately 30% over the last two years. He indicated that was the end of the presentation and if anyone would like to speak, they may. If anyone would like a copy of the presentation, it is on the website or the Town Clerk's Office would have copies.

Mr. Bob Lyke, 80 Rye Street, Broad Brook, addressed the Board. He has always tried to be proactive when it comes to the budget process. He went to many meetings last year and was told that the Town had to "bite the bullet" and tax increases were inevitable and the rising costs of education and other costs. Businessmen attended the hearings also expressed their frustration to the Board of Finance. The system is broke and it needs to be fixed and the process needs to be changed. The Charter is flawed. He indicated his income is not going up. He believes the Town needs to raise revenue and cut costs. He believes the Town should start at a 0% increase when discussing the proposed budget.

Ms. Leslie Hunt, 105 Tromley Road, East Windsor, addressed the Board. She gave a handout to the Board Members for their information regarding surrounding towns and how those towns fund their Board of Education budgets. The data was from 2008. She indicated last year East Windsor only funded the budget at 58% and the year before funded at 60%. The funding of the school system affects the accreditation process of East Windsor High School and the funding the State of Connecticut provides. Other towns funds their education budget the highest being East Granby at 73.56% and the lowest being Ellington at 65%. The Town of East Windsor has to do more. It is true that the State of Connecticut helps the towns fund education, but if the towns fund more, the State of Connecticut will fund more. She believes in education and it is everyone's responsibility to support education and help education the youth. She does not have children and she supports education. She hopes that the Board of Finance looks at all then umbers and gives the Board of Education a big piece of the pie.

Andrew Masters, 310 Rye Street, Broad Brook, addressed the Board. He indicated he is a life long resident of the Town of East Windsor. He wanted to remind everyone that the teachers of the town understand the current economic difficulties, and negotiated a contract with no raises, no movement increases and co-pay increases for cost sharing purposes. The teachers have done what they can do keep costs down. Due to the budget constraints of last year, teachers and other personnel lost jobs in all schools. If the budget is cut again this year, more jobs will be lost. The accreditation of the high school could be jeopardized. Other programs could be cut which kids enjoy, such as, sports, art, and extracurricular activities. Presently, field trips have been cut to one per year and the students rarely leave the classroom. He understands no one wants to raise taxes. His wife is unemployed and he is feeling the pain also. However, he believes supporting education is the right thing to do.

Mr. Mannette thanked all for coming to the hearing and the meeting ended at 7:21 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Denise M. Piotrowicz  
Recording Secretary