

**Board of Finance**

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

**MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING,  
BUDGET WORKSHOP  
April 20, 2011 at 6:00 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: Jamie Daniel  
Alternate Absent: Thomas Baker  
Others: Catherine Cabral, Richard Pippin, Elizabeth Burns, Dale Nelson, Denise Menard, Joseph Sauerhoufer, Alan Baker, Leslie Hunt, Chief DeMarco, and others  
Press: Larry (Patch.com)

**I. Call to Order**

Chairman Jack Mannette called the Special Meeting – Budget Workshop to Order at 6:03 p.m., at the East Windsor Town Hall Conference Room, East Windsor, Connecticut.

**II. Appointment of Alternates**

Chairman Jack Mannette indicated that all Regular Members are in attendance, along with Alternate Member Jamie Daniel. Alternate Member Thomas Baker was unable to attend this meeting.

**III. Budget Discussions**

Mr. Mannette wanted to review what the Board has discussed in the previous meeting of last night. He gave to all of the Board Members a handout entitled “2011/2012 Budget Worksheet Finance Board”. He indicated. He indicated the sheet summarizes the agreed reductions and additions the Board has decided upon. He reviewed each of the figures listed on the sheet. The total reductions come to \$246,159.

A brief discussion was held regarding the contingency and legal accounts.

Mr. Mannette commented that everyone agrees to those reductions and the conversation last night, Ms. DeSousa indicated the total budget proposal as it stands is approximately 1.9% spending increase. Ms. DeSousa commented that it is 1.8% spending increase. She also indicated that over the last five years, the town has been compromising. She feels all departments were asked to come in at a barebones budget, and they have done so. If any more cuts are to be taken, she feels it would be a disservice to the town. In good times the town did not take advantage and presently economic times are difficult and the town is trying to maintain the services it provides. At last night's meeting, the police representatives walked out of the meeting concerned about the cutting of the \$35,000 in the variable overtime account. She understands their concerns considering the State is proposing cutting down the prison population and paroling inmates. Considering East Windsor is in the middle of Suffield and Enfield, where most of the parolees will be released, it could be a strain on the police in East Windsor. She also commented that the Board of Selectmen made more cuts to the CIP budget, again she feels this is a disservice to the town and there is nothing left to cut from the proposed budgets. Ms. Godeck agreed with Ms. DeSousa and indicated that the Board of Finance is faced with making difficult decisions and some Board Members want a zero percent spending increase; however, it is not practical. Ms. DeSousa also commented that the cuts which have been made, she feels are fair; however, if more cuts are made a big disservice will be done to the town and to the Board of Education effecting the accreditation of the high school.

Ms. Pippin indicated she was not comfortable with the budget, and feels that the Board of Education does their own thing and they find money when they need it. She doesn't believe that the budget can get to a zero percent increase. The Board has gone through the budget, line by line, and she is worried how the budget will affect the children.

Mr. Robert Little indicated he has been working on the figures, and he is trying to figure out how Ms. DeSousa comes up with a 1.9% spending increase which equates to a zero percent tax increase. He believes a compromise of a 1.5% spending increase should be considered so the budget can pass on the first referendum, so time and money won't be wasted on more referendums. He believes there are still excesses in the budgets, and to make additional cuts to reach the 1.5% spending increase. He remarked the economic times are not good and the Board must think about the townspeople.

A lengthy discussion was held between Ms. Godeck, Mr. Mannette, and Ms. DeSousa regarding the differences of a spending increase and tax increase and what should be presented to the public on the first referendum.

Ms. DeSousa inquired with Ms. Cabral regarding the \$97,000 which was in the CNR account. Ms. Cabral was to speak to Ms. Leslie Zoll regarding using some of those funds to fund the ambulance at \$37,500. Ms. Cabral indicated those funds can be used. Ms. DeSousa then indicted, if that is the case, they should fund the \$16,000 in Fund 8/GASB. Ms. Cabral commented those monies in the CNR account cannot be transferred to the general fund, those additional monies are unassigned which were originally allocated for projects.

Mr. Mannette began discussing the numbers. He indicated after taking the deductions from the sheet he gave to the Board Members earlier, the total budget would be \$33,070,521. He wanted to make sure everyone understood the numbers he referred everyone to a sheet given to them by Ms. Cabral which indicated a spending increase of \$573,780 or a 1.75% . Mr. Mannette indicated that increase would be split 60/40 between the Board of Education and Board of Selectmen. Ms. DeSousa questioned the split. Mr. Mannette indicated the 1.75% spending increase is approximately \$568,780; that figure would be split 60/40. Ms. DeSousa disagreed. She indicated at the meeting last night, that \$145,151 decrease in spending on the town side and \$225,000 decrease in spending for the Board of Education. Ms. Cabral commented that the CIP decreased their requests by \$164,000.

Conversations were held between Board Members making calculations. Ms. DeSousa again inquired about the additional \$97,000 in the CNR account. Ms. Cabral indicated if the money is not being reallocated for projects, it cannot be used for the general fund.

Board Recessed at 6:40 p.m.  
Board Reconvened at 6:45 p.m.

Upon the return of the Board, Mr. Mannette asked Ms. DeSousa if she was comfortable with the 1.75% increase figure. She was again inquired about the \$97,000 in the CNR account. Mr. Mannette remarked that \$97,000 is unassigned to projects. Ms. Cabral commented if the Board wants to use the \$97,000 from the CNR account, the money has to be assigned to specific projects. Ms. DeSousa, for clarification purposes, inquired if the money was used, for example, three police cars \$86,000 and the Park and Recreation rail project of \$10,000, totaling \$96,000, the Board could use that \$97,000. Ms. Cabral cautioned the Board, if they decide to do that, it would reduce the CIP budget even further, which would have to be made up in next year's budget.

A brief discussion was held regarding budget figures and percentages.

Mr. Mannette suggested that the Board approve the reductions which were listed on the sheet given to them earlier. He indicated when the budget process started, the budget they were given to start with was \$33,667,835.

It was **MOVED** (DeSousa) and **SECONDED** (Godeck) and **PASSED** (U) that the Board of Finance approves the reduction of Account No. 1086 Building Committee (Recording Secretary) by \$500.00 from the proposed budget.

It was **MOVED** (DeSousa) and **SECONDED** (Godeck) and **PASSED** (U) that the Board of Finance approves the reduction of Account No. 1130 Senior Center Director Salary (error in figures) by \$6,000.00 from the proposed budget.

It was **MOVED** (DeSousa) and **SECONDED** (Godeck) and **PASSED** (U) that the Board of Finance approves the reduction of Account No. 1130 Senior Center Director Salary (salary is \$51,765 not \$57,765 error in figures) by \$6,000.00 from the proposed budget.

It was **MOVED** (DeSousa) and **SECONDED** (Godeck) and **PASSED** (U) that the Board of Finance approves the reduction of Account No. 1130 Senior Center Drivers Salaries (salaries are \$91,346 not \$94,089 error in figures) by \$2,465.00 from the proposed budget.

It was **MOVED** (DeSousa) and **SECONDED** (Godeck) and **PASSED** (U) that the Board of Finance approves the reduction of Account No. 1130 Senior Center Printing by \$250 from the proposed budget.

It was **MOVED** (DeSousa) and **SECONDED** (Godeck) and **PASSED** (U) that the Board of Finance approves the reduction of Account No. 1144 Ethics Commission (Recording Secretary) by \$100 from the proposed budget.

It was **MOVED** (Mannette) and **SECONDED** (Little) and **PASSED** (U) that the Board of Finance approves the reduction of Account No. 2145 Police Department variable overtime by \$35,000 from the proposed budget.

It was **MOVED** (Pippin) and **SECONDED** (Godeck) and **PASSED** (U) that the Board of Finance approves the reduction of Account No. 5235 Human Resources (Travel) by \$500 from the proposed budget.

A discussion regarding taking \$50,000 out of contingency and consolidating the Contingency I and Contingency II accounts making one account total \$86,000. It was suggested to close out the Contingency II account.

It was **MOVED** (DeSousa) and **SECONDED** (Pippin) and **PASSED** (5-1)(J. Bowsza dissented) that the Board of Finance approves the reduction of Account No. 9445/9447 Capital by \$164,368 from the proposed budget.

It was **MOVED** (DeSousa) and **SECONDED** (Godeck) and **PASSED** (U) that the Board of Finance approves the addition of \$2,900 to Account No. 1115 EDC bring to ordinance maximum.

It was **MOVED** (DeSousa) and **SECONDED** (Bowsza) and **PASSED** (U) that the Board of Finance approves the addition of \$10.00 to Account No. 1010 Tax Relief. It was questioned if the new line should be Account No. 1042. Ms. Cabral disagreed saying those line numbers 1040s are used for taxes.

It was **MOVED** (DeSousa) and **SECONDED** (Pippin) and **PASSED** (U) that the Board of Finance approves the addition of \$114.00 to Account No. 8410 Contingency to round the figure off at \$86,000.

A discussion began regarding getting to a 1.75% spending increase. During the discussion, First Selectwoman Denise Menard gave to all of the Board Members a recent email dated April 20, 2011 from Kevin Maloney addressed to CCM Members indicating the Governor and Democrat leaders announced an agreement on the State budget. The deal preserves all statutory formula grants as originally proposed by Governor Malloy in February but fully restores PILOT MME reimbursements and restores \$5 million in cuts to the priority school district grant. She asked the Board to consider this email during their discussions.

Board Recessed at 7:15 p.m.  
Board Reconvened at 7:21 p.m.

Ms. DeSousa indicated that the starting budget was \$33,667,825, and reductions from the worksheet are \$206,159 which makes the budget \$33,466,166. At last night's meeting, it was discussed reducing the Board of Education by \$225,000 and adding \$97,000 brings the figure \$33,023,666, which brings it about 2.1% spending, which will be too high. She believes that the town can afford to give the Board of Education an increase of \$500,000.

A discussion was held between Mr. Mannette and Ms. DeSousa regarding tax increases, what will pass at the first referendum, and how the increase will be split between the Board of Education and Board of Selectmen. Ms. DeSousa reminded Mr. Mannette that at last night's meeting, it was agreed to cut \$225,000 out of the Board of Education budget. Those cuts could be absorbed by cutting the 27<sup>th</sup> payroll, and getting a realistic figure for the health insurance. The estimated figure that is being used is quite high. However, she doesn't believe cutting \$500,000 from the Board of Education will benefit the town.

It was **MOVED** (Bowsza) and **SECONDED** (Godeck) and **PASSED** (U) that the Board of Finance close the budget discussions in this Budget Workshop Meeting of April 20, 2011 and reconvene discussions at the Regular Meeting of April 20, 2011. The meeting ended at 7:31 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Denise M. Piotrowicz  
Recording Secretary

EXHIBIT  
A

Friday, April 08, 2011

To: Members, East Windsor Board of Finance  
c/o: Jack Mannette, chairman  
From: Members, East Windsor Board of Selectmen  
RE: Budget funding oversight

Honorable members of the Board of Finance,

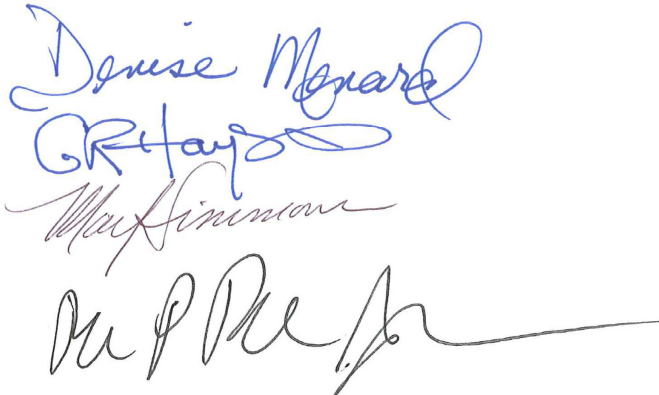
We write to you today to inform you that, after submission of our recommended budget, it was pointed out that a line had not been created in the submitted budget to fund the Property Tax Relief Program for the Elderly and Permanently Disabled.

As you know, this revolving property tax relief program was created and favorably accepted at a town meeting last spring with the intention of being funded in the budget currently under consideration.

During the working group that was tasked with drafting the ordinance, and in discussions at public Board of Selectmen meetings, the intent had been to designate the amount of not more than \$10,000 in an account to be created in the new budget.

We would favorably support adoption and implementation of the new revolving loan program, as it provides a means by which disadvantaged seniors and disabled residents may offset some costs associated with increased property tax rates.

Respectfully,



The block contains four handwritten signatures. The top signature is in blue ink and appears to read 'Denise Menard'. Below it is another signature in blue ink, possibly 'G. R. Hayes'. The third signature is in black ink and appears to read 'Max Finerman'. The bottom signature is in black ink and is a long, stylized signature, possibly 'Du P. P. P.'.