

**BOARD OF FINANCE
TOWN OF EAST WINDSOR
11 RYE STREET
BROAD BROOK, CONNECTICUT 06016**

**MINUTES FOR BUDGET WORKSHOP
Monday, April 6, 2015, at 6:30 p.m.**

DRAFT DOCUMENT – These minutes are not official until approved at a subsequent meeting

Members Present: Jerilyn Corso (Chairman); Cindy Herms, Robert Maynard, Kathy Pippin, and Sharon Tripp.

Members Absent: Robert Little.

Alternate Present: Paulette Broder

Alternate Absent: Gil Hayes

Others: **Town Treasurer:** Kim Lord; **Deputy First Selectman** Jason Bowsza; **Selectman** Dale Nelson; **Library Association of Warehouse Point:** Vincent Bologna, Librarian; Elyse Spielberg, Friends of the Warehouse Point Library; **East Windsor School System:** Dr. Christina DeBarge, Assistant Superintendent of Schools; **Board of Education:** Cathy Simonelli, Vice Chairman; **TMS,** consultant to the school system: Andy Paquette.

Press: Kyle Penn, Journal Inquirer

Call to Order:

Chairman Corso called the Meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

Time and Place of Meeting:

Monday, April 6, 2015 at 6:30 p.m. at the East Windsor Town Hall (11 Rye Street, Broad Brook, CT.)

Appointment of Alternates:

MOTION: To **APPOINT** Paulette Broder as a voting member in the absence of Robert Little.

Tripp moved/Pippin seconded/**DISCUSSION:** None

VOTE: In Favor: Unanimous

Approval of Minutes:

Approval of Budget Workshop Minutes to be approved at Board of Finance April Meeting.

Public Participation:

No one requested to speak.

Budget Workshop/a. Discussion and Action: FY 15-16 Budget Requests

Libraries:

a) Library Association of Warehouse Point:

Vincent Bologna, Librarian for the Library Association of Warehouse Point, and Elyse Spielberg of the Friends of the Warehouse Point Library joined the Board.

The Board reviewed the FY 2015 – 2016 Budget request for the Library Association of Warehouse Point. It was noted that the original request had been \$283,722.00; the Board of Selectmen cut the request to \$250,000.00 during their Budget Workshops.

Discussion followed; Mr. Bologna reported that most of the complaints from the public are that the library is not open enough, and they are not offering enough programs. He suggested their intent is to increase both the number of hours the library is open, and the programming. Reduction of hours also reduces the availability of the community room for public functions. It was noted a resident had written a letter of support for the library.

The Board of Finance did not make any changes to the Board of Selectmen's approved budget for the Library Association of Warehouse Point.

b) Broad Brook Library:

No one was present to discuss the budget approved by the Board of Selectmen for the Broad Brook Library.

See additional discussion regarding funding for the Broad Brook Library later in the meeting.

Board of Education:

Dr. Christina DeBarge, Assistant Superintendent of Schools, Cathy Simonelli, Vice Chairman of the Board of Education; and Andy Paquette, of TMS Consultants, joined the Board. Discussion followed. Dr. DeBarge responded to a list of questions the BOF provided regarding FY 2015 – 2016 funding requests, including the BOE "needs list". Vice Chairman Simonelli and Mr. Paquette assisted throughout the discussion.

MOTION: To TAKE A FIVE MINUTE BREAK.

Tripp moved/Maynard seconded/VOTE: In Favor: Unanimous

The Board of Finance RECESSED at 7:54 p.m. and RECONVENED at 7.59 p.m.

Discussion continued regarding the BOE funding request as submitted

MOTION: To DECREASE the Board of Education increase to 4.98%, with the total Board of Education amount being \$22,250,000.

Maynard moved/Tripp seconded/

DISCUSSION: Mrs. Herms clarified that the amount for the school board is an amount they understood they may have to come down to but if it goes any further there would be a cut in services. The remaining Board members had no comments.

VOTE: In Favor: Maynard/Broder/Pippin/Tripp
 Opposed: Herms
 Abstained: No one

Mr. Maynard requested to return discussion to the funding for the Broad Brook Libraries:

Libraries:

b) Broad Brook Library:

MOTION: To INCREASE the amount for the Broad Brook Library to \$10,000.00 and leave the funding for the Library Association of Warehouse Point the same as the Board of Finance has approved.

Maynard moved/Tripp seconded/

DISCUSSION: It was noted the increase requested by the Broad Brook Library was 15% higher than the previous year. Discussion followed regarding the limited hours of availability to the public vs. limited staffing time, and other avenues for funding. It was noted an equal amount has been cut from the funding requests for both the Broad Brook Library and the Warehouse Point Library.

VOTE: In Favor: Maynard/Herms
 Opposed: Broder/Pippin/Tripp
 Abstained: No one

MOTION: To SET THIS YEAR's BUDGET at \$37,871,054.00, which is a 6.25% increase and TO SET A MILL RATE AT 31.97

Herms moved/Tripp seconded/

DISCUSSION: The Board felt the budget recommendation was what was needed and what was best for the town. Mrs. Herms suggested that based on an average assessment of \$147,000.00 a 6.25% increase would be around \$350/year; Deputy First Selectman Bowsza suggested that increase would equate to \$30.00/month or \$1.00/day.

VOTE: In Favor: Unanimous (Broder/Herms/Maynard/Pippin/Tripp)
(No one opposed/no abstentions.)

Board Member Comments None.

Invoice Authorization:

MOTION: To **PAY** the invoice for recording secretarial services.

Tripp moved/Pippin seconded/**DISCUSSION:** None.

VOTE: In Favor: Unanimous

Adjournment:

MOTION: To **ADJOURN** this Meeting at 8:45 p.m.

Tripp moved/Herms seconded/**VOTE:** In Favor: Unanimous

Schedule of Motions Respectfully submitted: _____
Peg Hoffman, Recording Secretary, East Windsor Board of Finance