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

MINUTES OF BUDGET WORKSHOP Monday, April 3, 2017, at 6:00 p.m.

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

Regular Members Present: Jerilyn Corso (Chairman) Cindy Herms, Kathy Pippin; Jim

Richards, Steve Smith, and Bill Syme,

Regular Members Absent:

Alternates Present: Paulette Broder. **Alternate Absent:** Danelle Godek

Others: Acting Town Treasurer: Gayle Carolus; First Selectman: Robert

Maynard; Deputy First Selectman: Dick P. Pippin, Jr.; Selectmen: Jason Bowsza; Town Staff or Department Heads: First Selectmen's Office: Jennifer Browne, Administrative Assistant to the First Selectman, and Amanda Schroll, Human Resources Generalists/Administrative Assistant; Tax Collector: Patti Kratochvil; Town Clerk: Joanne Slater; Office of Planning and Development: Laurie Whitten, Town Planner; Building Department: Rand Stanley, Building Inspector; Registrar of Voters: Angelo Sevarino, Democratic Registrar; American River Heritage Commission: Richard Sherman, Chairman; Barbara Sherman, member;

Tom Talamini, member; **Board of Education:**, Cathy Simonelli, Chairman; **Public Works Department:** Len Norton, Director; Joe

Sauerhoefer, Operations Manager.

Press: No one from the press was present.

1. Call to Order:

Chairman Corso called the Meeting to Order at 6:03 p.m. The Board stood to recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Time and Place of Meeting:

Monday, April 3, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. at the East Windsor Town Hall (11 Rye Street, Broad Brook, CT.)

3. Attendance/Appointment of Alternates:

Chairman Corso noted all members are present this evening; it will not be necessary to appoint an Alternate member for this meeting.

4. <u>Budget Workshop/a. Selectmen - #410100:</u>

First Selectman Maynard, Jennifer Browne, Administrative Assistant to the First Selectman, and Amanda Schroll, Human Resources Generalists/Administrative Assistant, joined the Board.

First Selectman Maynard reported the Selectmen's budget request represents a 4.5% department increase over the previous year. The two areas within this department budget which represent major increases are postage, and community outreach. The postage line now includes the cost of the QDS system specific to the Tax Department. Mrs. Herms questioned that the Tax Collector's budget should now show a \$5,000 reduction? Mrs. Kratochvil replied that the cost of the QDS system was previously reflected in the IT budget as part of the cost included software. Mr. Sauerhoefer clarified that the QDS cost was shown under purchased services, but there is no correlating reduction under the IT budget this year as Outlook, the web-based e-mail system, has been added at a per employee or board or commission member license cost. First Selectman Maynard reported the community outreach line was originally requested at \$10,000; that request was reduced to \$6,000 by the Board of Selectmen (BOS). The cost of one community wide mailing is approximately \$3,000. Last year 2 mailings went out regarding the referendums; this year they could only do one.

MOTION: To APPROVE the Selectmen's Budget in the amount of \$284,400.

Herms moved/Syme seconded/*DISCUSSION*: None.

VOTE: In Favor: Herms/Pippin/Syme

Opposed: Richards/Smith

Abstained: No one

Budget Workshop/b. Town Clerk - #410300:

Joanne Slater, Town Clerk, joined the Board. Mr. Syme referenced the part-time salary line; while \$12,542 was budgeted for only \$2,500 was spent. Mrs. Slater reported the position was open for a while; no salary was paid until the position was filled. The annual part-time salary is \$12,542. Mrs. Pippin noted an increase in the full-time salary line.

Mrs. Slater noted that on March 11th the BOS cut \$500 from the professional services line. Mrs. Slater noted expenses for this line are often paid at the end of the fiscal year; the BOS may have reduced that line because it carried a balance. Mrs. Slater reported this line includes an estimate of \$200 for repair of typewriters used in the office. If this Board would return \$300 of the \$500 cut by the BOS she'll absorb the repair costs elsewhere. Chairman Corso questioned that Mrs. Slater was saying there will be money left in the education and dues line? Mrs. Slater noted prices are going up but she estimates she will have a balance at the end of the year. Mr. Richards questioned the

travel line. Mrs. Slater reported she and her staff attend 4 seminars; mileage is paid for employees attending those seminars.

MOTION: To ADD \$300 back into the professional services line and APPROVE the

final budget for the Town Clerk's Office in the amount of \$135,465.

Syme moved/Herms seconded/*DISCUSSION:* None.

VOTE: In Favor: Unanimous (Herms/Pippin/Richards/Smith/Syme)

Budget Workshop/c. Treasurer - #410500

The Board decided to postpone discussion of this department budget until all other departments and boards have presented their budgets.

MOTION: To SKIP Item 4c. and move on to the Assessor's budget.

Syme moved/Herms seconded/*DISCUSSION*: None.

VOTE: In Favor: Unanimous (Herms/Pippin/Richards/Smith/Syme)

Budget Workshop/d. Assessor - #410700:

The Board noted the Assessor is out on medical leave. The Board reviewed her budget request as submitted.

MOTION: To APPROVE the Assessor's budget in the amount of \$191,660.

Herms moved/Richards seconded/DISCUSSION: None.

VOTE: In Favor: Unanimous (Herms/Pippin/Richards/Smith/Syme)

Budget Workshop/e. Tax Collector - #401900:

Patti Kratochvil, Tax Collector, joined the Board. Mr. Syme indicated he was ok with this budget request. Mrs. Kratochvil noted salaries are contractual. Chairman Corso questioned the professional services line; Mrs. Kratochvil reported the line represents the anticipated cost of legal ads. Mr. Richards questioned the increase in the education and dues line; Mrs. Kratochvil reported that would provide training for an assistant in Excel, and to also attend Tax Collectors "road shows" which focus on specific training topics. Mrs. Kratochvil reported the assistant has another year to go to complete her training for State certification. Mr. Smith questioned that the job should call for Microsoft proficiency; Mrs. Kratochvil suggested the job has evolved over the years. The intent is to cross-train this position to do everything the Tax Collector does as a backup. Discussion continued regarding staff job descriptions vs. staff positions.

MOTION: To APPROVE the Tax Collector's budget in the amount of \$124,277.

Syme moved/Herms seconded/*DISCUSSION:* None.

VOTE: In Favor: Unanimous (Herms/Pippin/Richards/Smith/Syme)

Budget Workshop/f. Town Planner - #411100:

Laurie Whitten, Town Planner, joined the Board. Ms. Whitten advised the Board she is present to discuss the budget for the Town Planner. Mr. Richards questioned how many full time employees are staffing the Planning Department? Ms. Whitten reported the full time employees for the Planning and Community Development Department are herself as Town Planner, there is an Assistant Town Planner and an Administrative Assistant; there is also a part-time Administrative Clerk. The department provides staff support for the following Commissions: Planning and Zoning, Inland Wetlands, Zoning Board of Appeals, Economic Development, Agricultural, and Conservation. Mr. Richards questioned that the professional services line has been increased \$5,000? Ms. Whitten reported she had originally requested \$18,000 request for a consultant to work on the Warehouse Point Village District. She advised the Board there is a large box entertainment proposal for the other side of Warehouse Point which is on everyone's radar right now; she hasn't the time to work full time on that development issue while administering the department work. Ms. Whitten reported \$13,000 was cut from the budget request. Mr. Richards questioned how the part-time EDC consultant is paid? Ms. Whitten indicated that the EDC consultant reports to the First Selectman and the Town Planner, but is paid out of the Planning Department professional services line item. Ms. Whitten reported she has never requested funding for a consultant except to augment her work on the POCD (Plan of Conservation and Development) but this request is critical. The high speed train and transit-oriented development in Windsor Locks is going to happen, and if we don't plan for it people will come and we'll get only what's on the books; this is the time to develop a proper plan. Windsor Locks has been working on that development since 2008; we're behind already. Mrs. Herms questioned how many hours of work would the town get for \$5,000 vs. \$18,000? Ms. Whitten reported a consultant gets around \$60/hour but they will be taking a project and working on that specifically until it's done. They also do work to create/change the regulations. The hours depend on the project; the consultant used for the Warehouse Point study gave the town more than what we paid for. Mr. Syme questioned if the consultant is currently working with the EDC? Ms. Whitten clarified that consultant is different, that consultant works to assist with EDC issues – maybe talking to the State legislators, or he seeks people to come in to develop property in East Windsor. He also assists the EDC with organizing their priority list; they are currently working on a plan to develop small business workshops. The planning consultant would be used to create a development plan and possibly regulations for the Warehouse Point Development district.

MOTION: To INCREASE the professional services line under the Town Planner's budget #411100 to \$44,000.

Richards moved/Pippin seconded/

> DISCUSSION: Mr. Richards feels this is the most important thing the Town can do. The Warehouse Point development is the most important place to spend money; Windsor Locks has been working on their redevelopment involving the train station for a couple of years already. We need to have things in the hopper; we need to be prepared. This may sound like a lot of money but the rule of thumb is what you spend in economic development you often get 3 to 4 times that amount back. The current EDC consultant has been doing a great job but this is a different funding request. The State is already working on the round-about which will affect traffic in East Windsor; Windsor Locks is working on development of the train station. Mr. Richards felt this department has been short changed in the past. Mr. Smith questioned the success of the EDC consultant; Town Planner Whitten indicated he was instrumental working to get the property owners of the cinema property together regarding the casino, he's been instrumental working with the Economic Development Commission guiding them towards setting their development priorities, and he worked on development of tax incentives; an example of that success is that Calamar is bringing its development to East Windsor. . This money will pay for assistance developing regulations specific to the Warehouse Point village development area. Mrs. Herms questioned if the BOS had this discussion; is this a policy issue? Town Planner Whitten noted the EDC consultant was created during the previous administration, at which time it was decided to put the EDC consultant into the Planning Department budget; it could just as easily go in the Selectmen's budget. Funding for the position began at \$10,000 and was increased to \$20,000 last year. The consultant is paid on an hourly basis. Mr. Richards clarified that the money being requested has nothing to do with the EDC coordinator; this is for the development of Warehouse Point. Windsor Locks is already rolling; they already have the State involved, and they already have a plan, the train station is moving, and we are not prepared. The money you're asking for will assist us with that development. First Selectman Maynard suggested it may be another 2 years before the Windsor Locks development comes; Town Planner Whitten indicated it takes time to get the regulations in place; we would be lucky to have that accomplished in 2 years. Chairman Corso noted \$17,000 of the EDC consultant budget remains until the end of this fiscal year. Discussion continued regarding the EDC's role in economic development. Selectman Bowsza reported the EDC is an advisory commission to the BOS; they do not develop/seek economic opportunities – they present a framework to the BOS. Mr. Syme questioned if anyone in the office works with the consultant? Town Planner Whitten indicated she has hired LADA in the past to work with her developing the POCD update; they prepared a conceptual plan for the Warehouse Point center development; we now need to put those guidelines into regulations. She reported a good deal of her time is taken up with administration of the Planning Office; she couldn't dedicate her time to this development. A consultant has more expertise. Town Planner Whitten noted that most towns the size of East Windsor have a full or part-time EDC consultant; she noted the competition is fierce. Mr. Smith questioned if we got more out of the EDC consultant than we paid for him? Town Planner Whitten indicated she hadn't done a cost analysis, but projects she mentioned earlier in which the EDC consultant was involved have greatly benefited the Town. Discussion continued regarding the level of involvement of the Economic Development

Commission in economic development in general, timing of potential development vs. use of remaining funding to start, and discussion of the consideration to provide additional funding in steps.

Mr. Richards proposed to AMEND his motion; Mrs. Pippin agreed to an amendment.

AMENDED MOTION: To INCREASE the professional services line under the

Town Planner's budget to \$40,000.

Richards moved/Pippin seconded/<u>DISCUSSION</u>: Mr. Richards indicated he has watched East Windsor not be ready for a lot of things; this is cheap money for a consultant. This department returns money not needed at the end of the year, but they run workshops open to the public – for example, the workshop regarding the Warehouse Point area was highly attended - but staff has too much on its plate. Mr. Smith proposed reducing the funding to \$35,000.

VOTE: In Favor: Pippin/Richards/

Opposed: Herms/Smith/Syme???????

Abstained: No one

AMENDED AMENDED MOTION: To INCREASE the professional services line

under the Town Planners budget to \$35,000.

Smith moved/Syme seconded/DISCUSSION: Nothing additional

VOTE: In Favor: Herms/Pippin/Smith/Syme

Opposed: Richards Abstained: No one

MOTION: To APPROVE the Town Planner's budget in the amount of \$247,138.

Syme moved/Richards seconded/DISCUSSION: None.

VOTE: In Favor: Unanimous (Herms/Pippin/Richards/Smith/Syme)

Budget Workshop/g. Building - #411300:

Rand Stanley, Building Official, joined the Board.

Mr. Richards referenced the \$3,500 increase in the professional line; Chairman Corso noted that line had been cut last year. Mr. Stanley reported the budget was submitted to the BOS prior to the ongoing discussions with Calamar; based on recent discussions he understands that project is now "a go". Calamar will be a 120 unit, 3 story construction project which he estimated would be in the \$8,000,000 to \$8,500,000 value range. Mr. Stanley indicated that in the past 8 to 10 years the Building Department has managed an average of \$29.5 million in construction value per year; Calamar would be just under

> 30% of what they handle annually. The professional services line is a request for funding for 100 hours of part-time contracted licensed inspector services to cover vacation, illness, and assist during busy times; the position would not receive benefits. Mr. Stanley reported currently it is probably the strongest construction start he has seen in 7 or 8 years. This person would be doing inspections, signing documents, - all field work – for an estimated \$35/ hour. Mr. Richards questioned if the fees have been lowered for permits? Mr. Stanley reported the current fees have been in place since 2003 - 2004; he indicated he would make a recommendation in the next couple of years to the BOS to evaluate the fees. Mr. Stanley reported that last year the Building Department brought in a little under \$85,000 above budget in revenue. Mr. Richards questioned if hiring a firm would be less costly? Mr. Stanley suggested a firm would cost in the \$50 to \$75/hour range. Mr. Richards questioned that this person would be like an independent consultant? Mr. Stanley clarified that this part time contracted State licensed person would be on call 24/7, and would not receive benefits. Mr. Smith questioned how is the liability structured for that? Mr. Stanley suggested CGS 29-252 regarding building codes allows for a building official to appoint their officers in their office in conjunction with the First Selectman via an interview process. This person represents the Town; it makes a difference who you get. Mr.Stanley suggested that even though this is a contracted part-time person this individual represents the Town. Mr.Stanley suggested in his mind we have an opportunity every day to say this town is open for business with how we do our job, or we can walk away from that individual or business and sometimes they don't have the best impression of that because of their level of expectations. Mr. Stanley suggested the employee must be firm, but kind. Mr. Richards questioned if Mr. Stanley expects their revenue to go above their costs for the next year? Mr. Stanley suggested that based on what he's seeing it started 6 to 8 weeks ago; work is increasing. Mr. Stanley suggested he anticipates matching his projections; there has been only one year in 15 years when the revenues haven't met projections. Mr. Smith questioned the 1, 3, and 5 year average for revenues; he noted in 2015/16 the revenues were \$229,000. Mr. Stanley suggested he will provide those figures for Mr. Smith; he feels it will be in the 225,000 TO \$235,000 range.

Discussion continued regarding at what point does the Town bring in another full time person? Mr. Richards suggested Mr. Stanley runs into the same issues as Town Planner Whitten regarding economic development; she has staff but not enough to do the extra stuff. Mr. Stanley suggested that if we get a large scale recreational development in Warehouse Point that will be a horse of a different color. Mr. Stanley noted there are only so many hours in a day, only so much one inspector can do. Mr. Stanley suggested it all deals with scale; it isn't like inspecting a porch or a deck. He cited the Walmart superstore required 300 inspections; he was there at night, Saturday and Sunday; he did that to keep contractors on schedule.

MOTION: To APPROVE the Building Department budget in the amount of \$154,535.

Herms moved/Richards seconded/<u>DISCUSSION:</u> None. VOTE: In Favor: Herms/Richards/Smith/Syme

Opposed: Pippin Abstained: No one

Budget Workshop/h. Registrar of Voters - #411500:

Angelo Sevarino, Democratic Registrar of Voters, joined the Board. Mr. Syme questioned how many referendums are budgeted for; Mr. Sevarino reported they budget for 4 but usually have 3. He noted the biggest increase was in the part-time salary line. They are losing many of the older people and need to replace them; they bumped the salary to \$12.50/hour last year, with the goal to be \$15.00/hour. He also noted an increase in the cost of media cards

MOTION: To APPROVE the Registrar's budget in the amount of \$62,979.

Richards moved/Herms seconded/*DISCUSSION*: None.

VOTE: In Favor: Unanimous (Herms/Pippin/Richards/Smith/Syme)

MOTION: To RECESS for 5 minutes.

Richards moved/Pippin seconded/

VOTE: In Favor: Unanimous (Herms/Pippin/Richards/Smith/Syme)

The Board RECESSED at 7:25 p.m. and RECONVENED at 7:32 p.m.

<u>Budget Workshop/i. Activities, Fees and Associations - #910100:</u> <u>American Heritage River Commission line item:</u>

Dick Sherman, Chairman, and Barbara Sherman, member, of the American Heritage River Commission joined the Board. Tom Talamini, member, was available in the audience. Chairman Corso noted the Commission's original request was for \$3,500.

Mr. and Mrs. Sherman reported much of the expense is for the cost of testing water quality in 5 locations along the Scantic River. The water is tested free of charge by Dr. Martin; the expense is the cost of the laboratory fees. Testing was done weekly for e-coli in 2015; as a high level of fecal matter was found in the water in 2016 Dr. Martin wants to test additional locations this year. The results of the water quality testing is posted on signs at 3 locations – Cemetery Road, the Filter beds at Mill Street, and the Melrose Bridge on Melrose Road. Mr. Sherman explained the various colors indicated on the signs notify people of the level of safety for use of the river. Mr. Sherman reported the Commission used donated funds last year to fund some of the testing; for that reason and the need for additional testing the budget request for this year is higher. Discussion

continued regarding locating and identifying the source of the contamination, and discussion of various ways to notify the public of the water quality/conditions. Chairman Corso questioned the addition of this information on the Town Facebook page; First Selectman Maynard requested Mr. Sherman e-mail his office with the current information.

The Board continued reviewing the various line items listed under the Activities, Fees, and Associations budget requests. First Selectman Maynard explained New Directions works with the Human Services Department to assist residents with housing issues; they also do seminars for the Housing Authority. Chairman Corso questioned the recognition line item? First Selectman Maynard indicated that funding is used to recognize long term employees or outstanding volunteers. Mr. Richards questioned the Greater Hartford Transit District line item; he questioned how East Windsor benefits from this organization? First Selectman Maynard indicated the cost/participation rate is based on population. Mr. Talamini, speaking from the audience, reported there are several transit stops along Route 5 – such as the Industrial Park and at Baggott's Farms; they don't run to the center of Warehouse Point or Broad Brook. Chairman Corso and Mrs. Herms suggested the support documentation provided for the Board seems to indicate they also assist with grants related to the dial-a-ride program. Selectman Bowsza reported the Transit District operates under CGS 103a; the Board must pay this bill unless the Board of Selectmen decide to pull out of the service. Mr. Richards noted that New Directions and the Community Health Resources organizations are merging; he questioned how many people use these services? Mr. Smith indicated support documentation provided referenced 400 users. Mrs. Herms suggested this service is a huge way for people to get this specialized care. Discussion continued regarding funding adjustments for this budget made during previous meetings.

MOTION: To APPROVE the Activities, Fees, and Associations budget in the amount of \$146,342.

Syme moved/Richards seconded/*DISCUSSION*: None.

VOTE: In Favor: Richards/Smith/Syme

Opposed: Herms/Pippin

Abstained: No one

Budget Workshop/j. Legal Expense - #910200

MOTION: To APPROVE the Legal Fees budget in the amount of \$240,000.

Richards moved/Smith seconded/DISCUSSION: None.

VOTE: In Favor: Unanimous (Herms/Pippin/Richards/Smith/Syme)

Budget Workshop/k. Insurance & Pension - #910300:

Mr. Syme recalled that the Board of Education said they found a decrease in this health I insurance; he questioned that those savings didn't carry over to the Town? Acting Treasurer Carolus reported she received new numbers which are higher than they expected. She noted an increase in rates for supervisors and Public Works due to claim experience; she also noted the change from part-time to full-time in the Police Department, and a new position in the Public Works Department – all of which increase the benefits line.

MOTION: To APPROVE the Insurance & Pension budget in the amount of

\$3,514,047.

Richards moved/Smith seconded/DISCUSSION: None.

VOTE: In Favor: Unanimous (Herms/Pippin/Richards/Smith/Syme)

Budget Workshop/l. Contingency - #910600:

MOTION: To APPROVE the Contingency budget in the amount of \$50,000.

Richards moved/Smith seconded/*DISCUSSION*: None.

VOTE: In Favor: Unanimous (Herms/Pippin/Richards/Smith/Syme)

Budget Workshop/m. Capital Improvements - #910700:

MOTION: To REDUCE the Capital Improvements budget to \$500,000.

Richards moved/Syme seconded/<u>DISCUSSION</u>: Mrs. Herms questioned if the projects on the CIP list are those that would be funded? Mr. Sauerhoefer reported the list is the CIP's request to the BOS, which was \$1.1M. He cited the \$500,000 won't fund much. Mrs. Herms noted the CIP budget has been substantially reduced from last year. Discussion followed regarding funding options, including bonding, or transfer of funds from the Fund balance. The Board reviewed several levels of funding, and the impact of that funding on the fiscal year spending percentage increase. Mrs. Pippin felt the CIP budget was being cut too much.

VOTE: In Favor: Richards

Opposed: Herms/Pippin/Smith/Syme

Mr. Richards proposed to AMEND his motion; Mr. Syme agreed to an amendment.

AMENDED MOTION: To REDUCE the Capital Improvements allocation to

\$600,000.

Richards moved/Syme seconded/*DISCUSSION:* Mr. Syme referenced the CIP line item for lease/purchase; Mr. Sauerhoefer indicated the lease referenced under this line item relates to an existing lease purchase; he also noted he understood that this was to be a one year allocation and was then to have been moved into debt services. It was noted that if that were to occur then the CIP budget funding would return to \$500,000. Acting Treasurer Carolus will research the transfer of this line item to the debt service.

VOTE: In Favor: Richards/Syme

Opposed: Herms/Pippin/Corso

Abstained: Smith

Budget Workshop/n. Debt Service - #910800:

See discussion above under the AMENDED CIP budget approval motion. Acting Treasurer Carolus will research the transfer of the lease/purchase line from CIP to Debt Service.

Budget Workshop/o. Revenues

MOTION: To TAKE \$450,000 from the Fund balance.

Syme moved/Pippin seconded/<u>DISCUSSION:</u> None

VOTE: In Favor: Pippin/Smith/Syme Opposed: Herms/Richards

Abstained: No one

<u>Budget Workshop/i. Activities, Fees and Associations - #910100:</u> <u>Cemetery Association line item:</u>

MOTION: To REDUCE the Cemetery Association budget by \$5,000.

Pippin moved/Syme seconded/<u>DISCUSSION:</u> None. VOTE: In Favor: Pippin/Smith/Syme

In Favor: Pippin/Smith/Syr Opposed: Herms/Richards

Abstained: No one

6. Adjournment:

MOTION: To **ADJOURN** this Meeting at 8:55 p.m.

Pippin moved/Smith seconded/VOTE: In Favor: Unanimous

Respectfully submitted:

Peg Hoffman, Recording Secretary, East Windsor Board of Finance