

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

**MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING**

**Wednesday, May 24, 2017, immediately following Public Hearing.**

**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:** All Regular Members present.

**Alternates Present:** Paulette Broder.

**Alternate Absent:** Danelle Godek

**Others:** **Interim Town Treasurer:** Gayle Carolus; **First Selectman:** Robert Maynard; **Deputy First Selectman:** Richard P. Pippin, Jr. **Selectmen:** Jason Bowsza; various members of Town Staff or Department Heads were present in the audience: **Department of Public Works:** Len Norton, Director; Joe Sauerhoefer; Operations Manager; **Parks and Recreation:** Melissa Maltese; Director; **Human Services/Senior Center:** Kristen Fromanek, Director; **Assessor:** Carol Madore.

**Press:** Anthony Branciforte, Journal Inquirer

**1. Call to Order:**

Chairman Corso called the Meeting to Order at 7:34 p.m. following a short break at the cessation of the Public Hearing. The Board stood for the Pledge of Allegiance during the Board of Finance Budget Public Hearing.

**2. Time and Place of Meeting:**

Wednesday, May 24, 2017 immediately following the Public Hearing which opened at 7:00 p.m. at the East Windsor Town Hall (11 Rye Street, `Broad Brook, CT.)

**3. 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. Approval of Agenda:**

The consensus of the Board agreed to the Agenda as published.

**5. Public Participation:**

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Nothing additional at the inception of this Special Meeting

**6. New Business/a. Discussion and Action: 2017-2018 Budget – set budget amount for referendum on 6/13/17 (only necessary if budget does not pass 5/23/17). If budget passed, set mill rate for FY 17-18:**

Chairman Corso noted the Board heard a lot during the Public Hearing . She cited the difficulty proposing a palatable budget while trying to deal with the cuts to the revenue being proposed by the State. She noted both the Town and the Board of Education did a great job proposing Fiscal Year 2017 – 2018 budgets.

Chairman Corso queried the Board members for their comments:

Mr. Syme provided his fellow members with a copy of the budget in which he is proposing cuts to bring the next budget going to referendum to a 1.95% increase. Mr. Syme noted he has proposed \$63,812 in cuts for nearly every Town department, and \$120,000 decrease to the Board of Education to reach that 1.95% increase, which is what he feels is necessary to reach a number that will pass at referendum. Mr. Syme reported the departments came in with reasonable budgets but with the anticipated State cuts in revenue the Board needs to do something. The Board of Education came in originally with over \$1,000,000 increase in funding they asked for; he's still giving them \$220,000 which may be said isn't a lot of money but when you look at other towns around us who are decreasing their Board of Education budgets it's still an increase. Mr. Syme noted the Board has also taken \$475,000 from the General Fund to reach this budget; he questions if the Board will be able to do that again next year.

Mrs. Herms is totally the opposite way; she felt the Board needs to propose a budget that will make sense for the Town and is what it needs to run. Mrs. Herms cited the charter's requirement that the budget reverts to last year's amount plus 2% if the referendums fail 3 times; she doesn't feel the Board should go with that. Mrs. Herms would return \$100,000 to the Board of Education.

Mr. Richards reported there isn't anything in the budget he isn't concerned about – staff, supplies, technology, the kids – but the Town doesn't have the money. While the percentage increase is less the Board of Education actually got the most money in the budget. He questioned what our most vulnerable people and businesses will do if taxes are raised? Mr. Richards cited information he was provided which indicates the median income for the town is \$33,000, or \$66,000 for a 2 parent household, and the State isn't going to give them any help. Mr. Richards reported he wasn't happy with the budget that was voted down but he felt it was a functional budget.

Mr. Smith indicated the Town only has a limited amount of money and the Board has to make tough decisions. Everybody has their hand out and no one wants cuts because it affects their interests, well – sorry. He noted the State is \$5,000,000 in the hole; the Town

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realized only a minor .72% increase in the Grand List. Mr. Smith indicated the Town just doesn't have the money; despite everyone wanting things no one has figured out how to pay for it. Mr. Smith agreed the Board needs to cut things but he is more on the conservative side; things need to be cut drastically. We need to restructure how and where we spend; he feels the Board should make substantial cuts across the board because we're only kicking the can down the road one more year.

Mrs. Broder noted the budget will go back to 2% and that doesn't work. The Town needs a realistic budget and we're not getting anything done at 2%.

Mrs. Pippin would love to see people offer suggestions when the Board makes cuts. She questioned where are all these people during the workshops? She cited cuts made to the Broad Brook Library and the Youth Center, and when she heard the cuts to the Senior Center it sent chills down her spine. She is looking for ideas from the public. Mrs. Pippin recalled people complaining about the Police salaries, she noted that's a contractual issue. She noted the Board of Education gets a larger amount; she would cut more, people need to work with the budget they get.

Mr. Smith reported he agreed with Mrs. Pippin, except for the Senior Center, but that's another issue. There is just no money in the budget; people need to make cuts to stay financially stable and fiscally responsible. Mr. Smith doesn't want East Windsor to go the way of Hartford, making huge cuts, renegotiating this and renegotiating that and possibly ending up in bankruptcy down the road. We need to get our house in order through a bunch of ideas which have been presented a bunch of times and we've been told you can't do that, you're hurting this group, you're hurting that group, it hurts everybody - too bad who gets hurt. Mr. Smith cited no one other than the 3 Selectmen and limited staff attended the workshops. Mr. Smith suggested he hasn't heard any ideas from anyone, other than to cut taxes.

Chairman Corso cited there are over 11,000 residents in East Windsor, and only 800 of the voters voted. The Board isn't able to get a good picture with so little resident participation.

Chairman Corso returned discussion to Mr. Syme to review his proposed cuts. Mr. Smith requested to make a motion.

**Sanitation - #910500:**

**MOTION:** Under Line (Account) 910500 – Sanitation – REMOVE Collection at \$695,510.

Smith moved/Richards seconded?

**DISCUSSION:** Mr. Smith indicated the Board has been looking at this for many years. It's a large chunk of the budget – two components – trash collection and disposal; it's

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almost \$1,000,000. Mr. Smith felt the Board should look at this service. Town Engineer Norton noted if the Board chooses to remove collection then you should remove disposal as well. Mr. Richards questioned the extent of the current contract? Town Engineer Norton indicated it expires in 2019. Mr. Richards questioned the cost to get rid of the contract? Town Engineer Norton questioned if you get rid of the contract then who would get rid of the trash which would accumulate around town? Chairman Corso suggested this recommendation is something that should be discussed with the Board of Selectmen, and should occur earlier in the budget discussions. Mr. Smith countered this expenditure is 1/12th of the budget; he felt the Board should look at this. Mrs. Herms suggested this proposal would be more expensive for the taxpayer; Mr. Richards reported the business owners and the apartments pay for their trash pickup. Town Engineer Norton cautioned that the Board couldn't tell people at this late date that starting July 1<sup>st</sup> we're not picking up trash any longer. Mr. Sauerhoefer noted that the trash hauler owns the trash bins; if the Board chooses to cancel this contract then residents will have to purchase their own trash bins. Deputy First Selectman Pippin suggested if the Board cuts disposal then the Department of Public Works budget will increase due to Town employees having to pick up trash left around town. Mr. Smith reported the Board has this discussion every year and then nothing is done. Mrs. Broder reported she's totally against this; it will cost the taxpayer more than if the cost comes out of the budget.

VOTE:	In Favor:	Richards/Smith
	Opposed:	Herms/Pippin/Syme.
	Abstained:	No one

**MOTION FAILS 2 to 3.**

**General Fund:**

**MOTION:** To TAKE \$475,000 that was taken out of the Fund balance and put it back and remove it from this budget.

Richards moved/Smith seconded/

**DISCUSSION:** Mr. Richards felt the Board shouldn't be touching that money; he agreed to it previously as the Board thought it would make the budget functional but with the budget failing he didn't feel it will be functional if it goes under 2%. Mr. Richards indicated he couldn't condone putting that money in the budget; he felt it was robbing Peter to pay Paul. Chairman Corso suggested the current amount of the Fund balance is approximately 20%. It was created to get a better bond rating with the intent to keep the percentage around 17% but keeping the Fund balance too high is hurting the Town when applying for grants. It's time to give that money back to the voters. Discussion continued regarding the history of using a portion of the Fund balance to augment the annual budget. Chairman Corso noted the previous Treasurer was against keeping the Fund balance too high.

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VOTE:           In Favor:       Richards/Smith  
                  Opposed:      Herms/Pippin/Syme.  
                  Abstained:    No one.

**MOTION FAILS 2 to 3.**

Chairman Corso asked Mr. Syme to review his proposals.

**Selectmen – #410100:**

**MOTION:**    To REMOVE \$3,000 from Community Outreach under the Selectmen's budget.

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

VOTE:           In Favor:       Pippin/Richards/Smith/Syme  
                  Opposed:      Herms  
                  Abstained:    No one

**Town Clerk –# 410300:**

Mr. Syme reported he reviewed the Town Clerk's budget and he felt the Board could cut \$600 from Supplies and Equipment as he understands the Town has a central supplies purchasing system. First Selectman Maynard reported that the Town Clerk must order special books which wouldn't be available under the General Supplies available through central purchasing. Mr. Syme dropped his proposal.

**Treasurer - #410500:**           No changes proposed.

**Assessor - #410700:**           No changes proposed

**Tax Collector - #4108900:**    No changes proposed.

**Town Planner - #411100:**

**MOTION:**    Under the Town Planner's budget to REMOVE \$11,500 from Professional Services to reduce the line item to \$15,000.

Syme moved/Smith seconded/**DISCUSSION:** Mr. Smith suggested he would take the entire line out; only \$3,000 out of \$20,000 was spent. Assessor Madore indicated she felt most of the Town Planner's expenses occur at the end of the year as do those for the Assessor's Office; it might look huge now but at the end of June it will be different. Mr. Smith felt that information hadn't been presented to them.

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

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Abstained: No one

**MOTION:** Under the Town Planner's budget REMOVE \$200 from Travel (which reduces the balance to \$800), and REMOVE \$2000 from Education and Dues (which reduces that balance to \$1,453).

Syme moved/Pippin seconded/DISCUSSION: Assessor Madore noted a transition of staff is occurring; the Planner may need some of that money for Education and Dues. Mrs. Herms questioned if the reduction would be cutting funds for association memberships; are any of these conferences or memberships mandatory? Selectman Bowsza suggested he interpreted this budget to be providing funding for association dues which help her stay up to date on her certifications. He cited the national and regional conferences come with a CPU component, and if that's the only way to get them but that isn't clear to him. Selectman Bowsza noted the State's elimination of funding for travel for training.

VOTE: In Favor: Pippin/Smith/Syme  
Opposed: Herms/Richards  
Abstained: No one

**Building - #411300:**

**MOTION:** Under the Building Department budget, to REMOVE \$500 for emergency repairs (which he understands would be used to shore something up on an emergency basis).

Syme moved/Pippin seconded/DISCUSSION: None

VOTE: In Favor: Herms/Pippin/Richards/Smith/Syme  
No one opposed/no one abstained

**Registrar - #411500:** No changes proposed

**Human Services - #411700:**

**MOTION:** Under the Human Services Department to REMOVE \$200 from Supplies and Equipment.

Syme moved/Pippin seconded/DISCUSSION:

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

**MOTION:** Under the Human Services Department to REMOVE \$2,000 from General Assistance.

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Syme moved/Pippin seconded/DISCUSSION: Mr. Smith questioned the average number of people served by this line item? Mrs. Herms questioned how this funding is spent? Ms. Fromanek, Director of the Human Services Department, noted this funding provides financial assistance for low income people. They allow up to \$500 per year per household, and the client must complete an application process which includes providing financial information. They have typically given help with emergency assistance for fuel and rental assistance to help the client avoid eviction. Ms. Fromanek advised the Board the department received a \$2500 grant from the United Way which applied to this funding. She noted the grant applications haven't been released for this year; she couldn't say if this cut wouldn't impact their clients. Mr. Richards questioned if the request for assistance has grown during Ms. Fromanek's employment with the Town? Ms. Fromanek replied affirmatively, noting requests have grown, especially with rental assistance which has helped keeping evictions down.

VOTE:            In Favor:        Herms/Pippin/Smith/Syme  
                     Opposed:        Richards  
                     Abstained:      No one

**Police Department – 510200:**

**MOTION:**     Under the Police Department budget to cut \$1,000 from Education and Dues for a line balance of \$42,041.

Syme moved/Richards seconded/DISCUSSION: Mrs. Herms clarified that this budget did NOT include any new officers; Selectman Bowsza clarified they are actually down one officer.

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

**Emergency Management - #510300:**     No changes proposed.

**Communications - #510400:**            No Changes proposed.

**Broad Brook Fire Department - #41100:**

**MOTION:**     Under the Broad Brook Fire Department budget cut \$1,000 from Professional Services.

Syme moved/Pippin seconded/DISCUSSION: None.

VOTE:            In Favor:        Herms/Pippin/Syme  
                     Opposed:        Richards/Smith  
                     Abstained:      No one

**MOTION:**     Under the Broad Brook Fire Department budget reduce Supplies and Equipment by \$1,787 for a line balance of \$58,000.

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Syme moved/Pippin seconded/DISCUSSION: Mr. Richards questioned that Mr. Syme would cut hoses and equipment; Mr. Syme felt they could make other adjustments.

VOTE:       In Favor:       Herms/Pippin/Syme  
              Opposed:       Richards/Smith  
              Abstained:     No one

**MOTION:**   Under the Broad Brook Fire Department budget to CUT \$1,500 from Education and Dues.

Syme moved/Pippin seconded/DISCUSSION: Mr. Smith reported they have new people coming on and the State is cutting their training; he felt cutting this funding would be prohibitive.

VOTE:       In Favor:       Syme  
              Opposed:       Herms/Pippin/Richards/Smith  
              Abstained:     No one

**MOTION:**   Under the Broad Brook Fire Department cut \$2,000 from Fire-Vehicle and Gas.

Syme moved/Richards seconded/DISCUSSION: None.

VOTE:       In Favor:       Herms/Pippin/Richards/Syme  
              Opposed:       Smith  
              Abstained:     No one

**Public Works - #610100:**

**MOTION:**   Under the Department of Public Works cut Supplies and Equipment by \$1,500 to a line balance of \$10,000.

Syme moved/Pippin seconded/DISCUSSION: Mr. Smith recalled DPW had only requested an increase of 1.4%.

VOTE:       In Favor:       Herms/Pippin/Syme  
              Opposed:       Richards/Smith  
              Abstained:     No one.

**MOTION:**   Under the Public Works Department budget to REDUCE Education and Dues by \$1,000.

Syme moved/Pippin seconded/DISCUSSION: Town Engineer Norton reported he has people whose OSHA certification has expired and other people in training of some sort. He would rather the Board take \$500 from this line and \$500 from Standby.

Syme **RESCINDED** his motion, Pippin **RESCINDED** her second.



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**MOTION:** Under the Public Works Department budget to REDUCE Education and Dues by \$500.

Syme moved/Pippin seconded/DISCUSSION: Mr. Richards reported he isn't in favor of this motion.

**VOTE:** In Favor: Herms/Pippin/Syme  
Opposed: Richards/Smith  
Abstained: No one

**MOTION:** Under the Public Works Department budget to REMOVE \$500.from Standby.

Syme moved/Pippin seconded/DISCUSSION: None

**VOTE:** In Favor: Herms/Pippin/Syme  
Opposed: Richards/Smith  
Abstained: No one

**Town Property - #610200:**

**MOTION:** Under Town Property to REDUCE Capital Purchases by \$1,000 to zero.

Syme moved/Pippin seconded/DISCUSSION: Mr. Sauerhoefer reported this is the only money to replace something like a broken chair; if the Board removes this money entirely there is no other place to purchase a replacement.

Syme **RESCINDED** his motion, Pippin **RESCINDED** her second.

Mr. Syme asked Mr. Norton for clarification; he thought the Town was undergoing a conversion of street lighting to LED fixtures but the Town Property budget includes a line for Electricity – Street. Mr. Norton concurred regarding the conversion to LED; he reported he had spoken with the Eversource contact recently and he could now recommend a \$5,000 reduction to this line.

**MOTION:** Under Town Property to REDUCE Electricity – Street by \$5,000 for a line total of \$137,000.

Syme moved/Herms seconded/DISCUSSION: None

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

Mr. Syme questioned the status of the Electricity – Building line item? Mr. Norton felt this line could be reduced by \$2,500. Mr. Richards cited the recent incident of the Town being responsible for an insurance deductible at Town-owned property at South Road, and the issue of replacement of a sewer pump station at Scout Hall, which is another Town-owned property; he questioned if there is enough money to handle those repairs?

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Mr. Norton cited both of the items mentioned by Mr. Richards would come under Building Repairs. Discussion continued regarding various examples. Mr. Richards questioned if there was enough money in this budget to handle a leak in the Town Hall roof? Mr. Norton suggested this might handle a rook leak but not a roof replacement.

**MOTION:** Under Town Property to REDUCE Electricity – Buildings by \$2,500 for a line total of \$132,050.

Syme moved/Pippin seconded/*DISCUSSION:* None

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

Mr. Smith, noticing the line item for Water-Hydrants under the Town Property budget, suggested that issue falls under the same situation as the trash collection. He recalled he had asked for an estimate of the usage for hydrants within the Warehouse Point Fire District and the Broad Brook Fire Department area. Selectman Bowsza suggested the MOU (Memo of Understanding) between the Town and the Warehouse Point Fire District doesn't address the issue of hydrants, although he concurred that probably should be a discussion point down the road. He noted the Warehouse Point Fire District form of government has already adopted their budget for the next year; he questioned if there was a process for undoing their budget this late. Selectman Bowsza suggested you can't make that change this late in the budget process. Discussion regarding timing of this proposal; Mr. Smith suggested he was only looking for numbers; he wasn't proposing a motion.

**Road Improvements - #610300:** No changes proposed.

**Senior Center - #710100:**

**MOTION:** Under the Senior Center REDUCE Professional Services by \$525 for a line total of \$2,000.

Syme moved/Pippin seconded/*DISCUSSION:* Mrs. Herms requested clarification of this line item; Mr. Syme indicated he removed one appliance repair.. Ms. Fromanek replied the Board has already reduced this line item. She noted the cost of the annual cleaning of the stove hood in the Senior Center falls under this line item, as well as her part of appliance repairs, such as the refrigerator. Mr. Sauerhoefer explained the split of expenses for appliances between the Broad Brook Fire Department and the Senior Center as the parties share the building and both parties use these appliances.

**VOTE:** In Favor: Herms/Pippin/Richards/Syme  
Opposed: Smith  
Abstained: No one

**MOTION:** Under the Senior Center REMOVE \$250 from Supplies and Equipment.

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Syme moved/Richards seconded/DISCUSSION: Ms. Fromanek noted she only has \$750 for this line item. She'll give up \$200 for stamps and money for the copier.

VOTE:           In Favor:       Pippin/Syme  
                  Opposed:       Herms/Richards/Smith  
                  Abstained:    No one

**MOTION FAILS 2 to 3**

**MOTION:**   Under the Senior Center REDUCE Education and Dues by \$400.  
Syme moved/Smith seconded/DISCUSSION: Mr. Syme questioned if this line is a duplication of the same line item under Human Services? Review of the budgets for Human Services and Senior Center found a duplication of a membership.

VOTE:           In Favor:       Herms/Pippin/Smith/Syme  
                  Opposed:       Richards  
                  Abstained:    No one

**MOTION:**   Under the Senior Center REDUCE Programs by \$1,335 for a line total of \$4,500.

Syme moved/Smith seconded/DISCUSSION: Mr. Smith noted he had requested the numbers for program participation of the seniors on a daily basis; Ms. Fromanek reported she would have to research daily participation logs to provide that information. Mrs. Herms noted approval of this motion cuts the program line to half of the previous year.

VOTE:           In Favor:       Richards/Smith/Syme  
                  Opposed:       Herms/Pippin  
                  Abstained:    No one

**Parks and Recreation - #710200:**

**MOTION:**   Under Parks and Recreation Department REMOVE \$1,080 from Professional Services for a line total of \$14,000.

Syme moved/Richards seconded/DISCUSSION: Mr. Syme reported he was removing funding for vandalism. Speaking from the audience Director Maltese clarified that funding for vandalism had already been cut.

VOTE:           In Favor:       Pippin/Syme  
                  Opposed:       Herms/Richards/Smith  
                  Abstained:    No one

**MOTION:**   TO TAKE A FIVE MINUTE BREAK.

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

The Board RECESSED at 8:57 p.m. and RECONVENED at 9:03 p.m.

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**MOTION:** Under Parks and Recreation Department REMOVE \$1,000 from Supplies and Equipment for a line total of \$22,750.

Syme moved/Richards seconded/DISCUSSION: None.

**VOTE:** In Favor: Pippin/Syme  
Opposed: Herms/Richards/Smith  
Abstained: No one

**MOTION:** Under Parks and Recreation Department REMOVE \$1,000 from Site Improvement.

Syme moved/Richards seconded/DISCUSSION: None.

**VOTE:** In Favor: Herms/Pippin/Syme  
Opposed: Richards/Smith  
Abstained: No one

**Warehouse Point Library - #710300:**

**MOTION:** Under the Warehouse Point Library to REMOVE \$3,000 for a line total of \$257,000.

Syme moved/Richards seconded/DISCUSSION: Chairman Corso noted this motion would give the Warehouse Point Library \$45 over last year.

**VOTE:** In Favor: Herms/Pippin/Syme  
Opposed: Richards/Smith  
Abstained: No one

**Board of Finance - #810100:** No changes proposed.

Mr. Syme reported he made no cuts to Boards and Commissions.

**Activities, Fees and Associations - #910100:**

**MOTION:** Under Activities, Fees and Associations REMOVE \$1,800 from Housing Education.

Syme moved/Richards seconded/DISCUSSION: Mr. Syme questioned that this line item was necessary? Ms. Fromanek reported this line is for a research center in Hartford which provides support to those residents who are being evicted or facing foreclosure. Mr. Smith questioned how many people use it? Ms. Fromanek reported the Human Services Office does refer clients to this resource. She clarified that the line item under the Human Services budget includes the cost of maintaining storage units to which personal property of residents facing eviction are stored.

**VOTE:** In Favor: Pippin/Richards/Smith/Syme  
Opposed: Herms  
Abstained: No one

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**MOTION:** Under Activities, Fees and Associations REMOVE \$500 from Recognition.

Syme moved/Richards seconded/DISCUSSION:

**VOTE:** In Favor: Pippin/Smith/Syme  
Opposed: Herms/Richards  
Abstained: No one

**MOTION:** To RETURN a line item for the Broad Brook Library for \$1.

Syme moved/Herms seconded/DISCUSSION: Chairman Corso reported she's in favor of this funding as a good faith gesture but questions the need for it as she felt a request for funding can be made in the manner it was this year. Mr. Smith applauded Mr. Anderson for his plan but the Broad Brook Library isn't listed in the State directory; he felt it has had 20 years of mismanagement. Funding is just prolonging the inevitable. Selectman Bowsza reported he's been an elected official for 10 years; during that time he's asked the Broad Brook Library to make changes to provide expanded services for people not in town during the week and this is the first year they have done that. For that reason he supports them and would like to see this funding request reinstated; he suggested you can't ask people to do better and then not recognize when they do. Mrs. Herms questioned if there was any chance if funding might be available if the casino comes in; Selectman Bowsza reported there had been no discussion on that. Mr. Richards felt this funding request sets a bad precedent for other groups or organizations to make similar requests. Mr. Bill Loos (resident) speaking from the audience gave an historical perspective on establishment of the library.

**VOTE:** In Favor: Herms/Syme  
Opposed: Pippin/Richards/Smith  
Abstained: No one

**MOTION FAILS 2 to 3.**

**Insurance and Pension - #910300:**

**MOTION:** Under Insurance and Pension REDUCE Worker's Compensation from \$220,640 to \$196,640.

Syme moved/Richards seconded/DISCUSSION: None

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

**Information Technology - #910400:**

**MOTION:** Under Information Technology to REDUCE \$2,000 from Professional Services for a new line total of \$30,000.

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Syme moved/Pippin seconded/DISCUSSION: Mr. Sauerhoefer reported the cost of cable to provide live streaming these meetings is included in that line item, as is the cost of the technology consultant.

Syme **RESCINDED** his motion, Pippin **RESCINDED** her second.

**Contingency - #910600:**

Mr. Syme questioned Interim Treasurer Carolus if the Contingency line item could be reduced to \$40,000? Interim Treasurer Carolus reported 2 union contracts expire in June.

No changes were made to the Contingency account.

**Debt Services - #910800:**

Interim Treasurer Carolus reported that when the Fiscal Year 2017 – 2018 budget process started the cost of the Middle School Roof Replacement project cost was \$2,750,000. At that time we didn't know the State reimbursement rate but that's now come in at 62% . Interim Treasurer Carolus reported that given that information, and after discussions with Joe Sauerhoefer and the financial planner – we're going for bond anticipated notes for 9 months so we should have the reimbursement back. So we only need to bond for \$1,500,000 instead of the \$2,750,000. Also, we need to make sure the debt service is covered for if we go up 2% every year we need to be able to make those payment.

**MOTION:** To REDUCE Debt Services to \$1,000,000.

Herms moved/Richards seconded/DISCUSSION: None.

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

On the State Revenue side, Interim Treasurer Carolus reported the State Special Education Grant is in there, so that's been included in this budget. Decreases were made to Adult Education; TAR was back in, and she understood the Pequot, PILOT, and Grants for Municipal Revenue Share of Sales Tax are now gone.; First Selectman Maynard reported a recent receipt of e-mail indicated that the Pequot grant was back in. Interim Treasurer Carolus suggested the State is thinking the mill rate for motor vehicles will remain at 37 mills but that isn't cast in stone so if our budget goes over 32 mills she doesn't know if the town can count on the motor vehicle tax remaining at 32 mills. Interim Treasurer Carolus reported the issue of municipalities sharing a portion of the Teachers' Pensions is unresolved at this time.

**MOTION:** To APPROVE the State Revenue as amended to \$4,701,033 as updated this evening.

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Syme moved/Richards seconded/DISCUSSION: None.

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

**Board of Education - #910900:**

Mr. Syme proposed to cut the Board of Education budget by \$55,000 for a budget increase of 1%.. Mrs. Herms and Mr. Richards felt the Board of Education budget should be left alone. Selectman Bowsza noted that every single dollar cut tonight has been cut from the Town side; there is no equity in this budget, there is no partnership across the budget if you guys do nothing. This is unfair to the people who have to manage the Town side of the budget. . Mrs. Herms reported the Board of Education went from a 4.7% increase to a 1.55% increase; Mr. Syme noted that was a \$1,000,000 increase; Selectman Bowsza clarified the 4.7% increase was a request.

**MOTION:** To REDUCE the Board of Education budget by \$55,000.

Syme moved/Pippin seconded/DISCUSSION: Mr. Syme suggested this would be equitable to what was pulled from the Town budget tonight. Mrs. Pippin felt it should be a larger cut. Mr. Richards felt if the Board of Education budget was cut again the budget proposal will fail at referendum. Discussion followed regarding previous legal opinions in 2010 and 2013 concerning allocation of a 2% budget increase as specified by charter. Discussion continued regarding the need to get an updated opinion.

VOTE: In Favor: Smith/Syme  
Opposed: Herms/Pippin/Richards  
Abstained: No one

**MOTION FAILS 2 to 3.**

Mrs. Herms questioned that the Board made all these cuts but the mill rate went up? Chairman Corso replied affirmatively, noting the Town lost revenue.

**MOTION:** To CUT the amount taken from the Fund balance from \$475,000 to \$225,000

Richards moved/Smith seconded/DISCUSSION: None

VOTE: In Favor: Richards/Smith  
Opposed: Herms/Pippin/Syme  
Abstained: No one

Chairman Corso queried the Board members for comments.

**Mr. Smith:** Nothing to report.

**Mr. Richards:** Nothing additional to report

**Mrs. Pippin:** Nothing to report.

**Mrs. Broder:** Nothing to report.

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**Mr. Syme:** Nothing additional to report .

**Chairman Corso:** She agreed with Selectman Bowsza; what was done tonight was completely on the Town side; this was completely unfair. While she doesn't want to take money from the Board of Education side the Board of Finance has always tried to be equitable, and this is totally unfair. Discussion followed regarding the percentage increase on each side vs. the monetary funding. Selectman Bowsza suggested the Town side represents approximately 40% of the budget. Mrs. Herms noted if the average salary increase is 2% then this budget cuts one teaching position.

**MOTION:** To APPROVE AND SEND TO REFERENDUM a budget of \$37,704,912 for an increase of 1.86% with a mill rate of 32.77.

Smith moved/Syme seconded/DISCUSSION: Nothing addition, see above.

VOTE:           In Favor:       Pippin/Richards/Syme  
                  Opposed:       Herms/Smith  
                  Abstained:    No one

7.    **Board Member Comments:**           See above.

8.    **Adjournment:**

**MOTION:** To ADJOURN this Meeting at 9:50 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted, \_\_\_\_\_  
Peg Hoffman, Recording Secretary, East Windsor Board of Finance.