



East Windsor Fire Protection Committee
Special Meeting Minutes
September 13, 2016
8:00 PM
Park Hill
1A Park Hill Road, Broad Brook CT 06016

Opening

The special meeting of the, East Windsor Fire Protection Committee is called to order at 8:00pm on 9/13/2016 by John Burnham.

Present

John Burnham (Warehouse Point Fire Commission), Mike Balf (Warehouse Point Fire Commission), Bob Maynard (Board of Selectman), Charlie Miller (at large for District), Steve Smith (Board of Finance), Nick Macsata (Broad Brook Fire Department), Thomas Arcari (Broad Brook Fire Department), Absent Dale Nelson (Board of Selectman)

Add-on: N/A

Correspondence:

A letter from Jim Nilson in support of one fire district was read aloud.

A letter from the town attorney was provided to everyone.

Public Comment:

N/A

Approval of minutes from last meeting

Motion to approve the minutes from 8/9/2016 Nick, Peter second. All in favor

Motion to approve the minutes from 8/23/2016 Nick, Charlie second. All in favor

Old Business:

Current tax 2016-2017 (John we should fix 2017-2018 and beyond before we work on 2016-2017)

Tax 2017-2018

Nick: I have the information and form need to use a matrix to help form a solution to the charge before us. A matrix is a standardized planning/decision making model

-Identify the mission

Bob-There is a problem with the funding of fire protection.

Nick-Fire apparatus leaves the station almost 1000 per year out of the two departments in town. The NPFA says that the standard is 10 trained people per call, in 10 mins.

| East Windsor Fire Protection Matrix | | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------|------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------|-------|
| | Fair to tax payers | Politically acceptable | Best Funding for Fire Protection | Realistic | Total |
| 1. Do Nothing | | | | | -2 |
| 2. Money Back in Budget | | | | | 0 |
| 3. Dislove District | | | | | -2 |
| 4. Enlarge Current District | | | | | +2 |
| 5. Seperate BB Fire District | | | | | 0 |
| 6. Service District | | | | | 0 |

Nick- The clear best decision would be #4 to enlarge the WHPFD to encompass the whole town with 2 separate departments. If our town attorney is not giving us good/correct information, that is a problem. We have asked him to contact members of BBFD to get the correct information.

John-We need to narrow down the choices before we ask the attorney to get to deep into the research.

Steve-All votes are done by the district? So what role does the BOS play in all of this?

John- EWFPC is looking to make a recommendation to the BOS and have them endorse/support the recommendation.

Steve- Is this committee a political cover?

John-The committee is looking to have support from the BBFD, this committee, BOS, BOF. The decision is in the hands of the voters. BBFD needs to want to become One District with two departments!

Bob- It is helpful to have the recommendation endorsed, but BB voters need to VOTE.

****200 signatures are needed to petition a referendum**

John- So let's move forward with #4

John-

Motion to move forward with enlarging the district to encompass the entire town, as this committee's recommendation to the BOS Bob Maynard, Mike Balf second. 7 in favor, 1 No

Tom-The BB board of directors is mostly in favor.

Important Changes and topic for the District Enlargement:

- Change the name- East Windsor Fire District
- BOFC to become 9 members with 3 year terms
- 2 fire companies/departments
- WHPFD to become a 105 under state statutes
- 1 fire tax for the entire town
- BBFD equipment
- Maintaining of the buildings in BB
- Voting public to say YES!

Bob- A lot of people thinks they will be out of control with the budget. Everything goes to public vote

New Business: NA

Public Comment:

Dorothy Leach- What is the benefit of having a fire tax vs. in the town budget?

Nick- There is a need for local control of the funding for fire protection. Local control of the money will help with meeting of NFPA standards of safe fire protection. We are moving in the direction of paid fire staff due to lack of volunteerism.

Dorothy- Local control?

Nick- Single purpose commission eliminates the need to fight for books vs. fire boots. This all comes down to about \$150 per year per tax payer on average. Homeowner insurance can go up if response times are too long and safe fire protection is not being given.

Bob Lyke- You the town is facing the biggest, most emotional, historical decision this town has faced. We need to do what is best for the entire town. Please be open minded, this will affect our kids, our grandkids and beyond.

Chuck Riggot- How are you going to communicate this to BB? What are you going to if this fails?

Marie DeSousa- This is all about perception. I don't think this will pass on the BB side. Minds are already made up. It's WHPFD against BBFD. They were mad about having to wear district shirts when the paid program started in BBFD. WHP will always have more needs than BB due to the industry. Nick you lead the pack with the matrix right to number 4. Please stop degrading the town attorney.

Bill Lous-Went to Ellington Fire Department and they have entire town in town budget with 2 departments. South Windsor has 3 separate stations and they have no problem getting funding. We need ONE town department funded by the town. A separate fire marshal is not needed. People need to vote.

Bob Lyke- We assume the BOF will do what is right and not back fill the money that they are now not paying for fire protection. We need to unite as one town. The difference with Ellington and South Windsor is they have town managers and a full time director of finance.

Nick- I was not pointing fault with the town attorney, I was speaking to the errors in 2 separate opinions he gave the committee. We do need unity, but If we go to the town budget the fire protection will not get the funding needed.

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 9:21 by John Burnham. The next general meeting will be at 7 on October 11, 2016, at Park Hill.

Minutes submitted by: Jill Caron