



East Windsor Fire Protection Committee

Special Meeting Minutes

10/11/2016

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 10/11/2016 by John Burnham.

Present

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

Added Agenda Items: None

Correspondence: None

Bob Maynard made a motion to approve the minutes as presented second Nick Macsata. All in favor

Public Comment:

New Business:

1. Current tax 2016-2017 on hold
2. Tax 2017-2018

Nick made a process chart:

1. WHPFD Board approves a resolution proposing such an enlargement
2. WHPFD must call a district meeting to voluntarily elect to be governed by C.G. S. 7-324 et seq.
3. WHPFD must voters must elect to be governed by C.G.S. 7-324 et seq. by a majority vote
4. WHPFD board calls a meeting of voters in the area to be include w/in 30 days of Boards approval via public notice at least 14 days prior to meeting.
 - a. Alternatively- not later than 24 hours prior to meeting, 200+ voters may petition to the clerk of the district that a referendum be held IAW 7-327
5. A vote is taken. 2/3 majority required at either a district called meeting or referendum
6. NO- ENDS PROCESS
 - a. Yes VOTE APPROVED
7. YES! District Clerk notifies town clerk w/in 30 days
8. District can enter into agreements with both Warehouse Point Fire Department and the Board Brook Fire Department, INC. for service provisions.

Remaining Questions:

1. at what time can the district rename?
2. When does the election of new officers occur?
3. Who/how would a charter for the governing of the expanded district be created?

Steve: If it fails, then it is a district problem

Nick: If it fails go back to the town budget

Steve: 12 million, 22 educations the money is already been spent for the budget

Nick: Reallocate it back

John Burnham: The committee is tasked with giving a recommendation to the BOS

Steve: Regardless this is just a recommendation and is up for a vote by the BOS

Nick- Unfair taxes is what brought us here, so the town should go back to when the taxes were fair.

Bob- I think we should give one recommendation to the BOS with a report

John- I will give them the recommendation

Steve- It does not really matter

Nick- As it stands I think there is a 30% chance of it passing. We are here for the taxation problem. BOS, BOF needs to be prepared to fix this.

John- Josh recommended to have 1 fire district it is going to be up to the WHPFD to advocate and educate the community.

John- The second part of this is the fix 2016-2017

Steve- They are their own government. BOS could vote to not collect the taxes

Nick- we need to resolve the problem, Steve you are putting obstacles up.

Charlie- There is a problem with town government; it should be 1 fire district

Steve- The district should dissolve

Bob- December is when I have to make up a budget; Feb 1 I give it to the BOS to vote on it. If the town has not resolved this, I will put the WHPFD back in the budget.

Dale- I agree! The district has been starved for too long

Tom- How does the WHPFD commission feel about this?

John- They voted to move forward with the enlargement.

Peter- I think it should go back to the budget with not additional taxes.

John- I think you are misreading the people of this community. Most people I have talked to want the fire protection on one umbrella, which would be the East Windsor Fire District. I think people would vote yes, more importantly I think you need to give the people the opportunity to vote. One unit.

Steve- Who is going to pay for this.

John- the district has not asked for money thus far.

Steve- Bob ran on the platform to Not raise taxes and this would be raising taxes.

Nick- Steve you are painting a neg. image, I think we can do it better.

Nick made a motion to add a rider that the town will be prepared to add the district back into the operating budget Peter second.

Bob- give equal parts to WHPFD, BBFD

Discussion about the motion.

John- Last meeting was canceled and was an error on my part. Today's meeting with the holiday was posted this morning. We moved forward with the meeting with full transparency.

Vote on motion-8 yes 1-No Steve Smith

Nick made a motion to present this at the next BOS meeting Tom Arcari second. All in favor

Dale- Need unity of both departments

New Business: None

Public Comment

James Barton (WHPFD Chief)-

Important to know how we got here. We needed money for capital improvements, 2012 CIP got a legal opinion that the town cannot fund improvements on the buildings they do not own. So we are left with a district tax. It was the towns idea to have the district tax. Everything was separated out for both departments. Taxes would have been fair. The people of WHPFD are paying for both the BBFD and WHPFD fire protection, which is not fair. 3 Hours before the budget vote they town attorney said we could not do this. The attorney gave three options. 1. Put money back in budget and the commission for the district agreed to this. BOF said NO. Fire service should be run by a fire district. FM fees keep being brought up, we charge for the services to put less of a burden on our tax payers. We are not a paid fire department. We can make it work smooth.

Mr.Barton- this is not an adversarial relationship. It was the tax collector/assessor idea. We could have avoided the unfair tax.

Nick- I think we should have one East Windsor Fire District. JI misrepresented the vision of a fire district. I district 2 departments.

Steve- BOF we vote on the budget that is given to us.

Bob- I support the East Windsor Fire District

Peter- I support the East Windsor Fire District

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 8:51 by John Burnham.

Minutes submitted by: Jill Caron