

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
BOARD OF EDUCATION**
Town of East Windsor
East Windsor, Connecticut

MINUTES OF PUBLIC HEARING

Wednesday, February 12, 2014 at 6:00 p.m.

*These minutes are not official until approved at a subsequent meeting

Board of Selectmen

Members Present: Denise Menard, Jason E. Bowsza, Steve Dearborn, Dale Nelson and James C. Richards

Absent: None

Board of Education

Members Present: Christopher Mickey, Nichole DeSousa, William Raber Jr., William Schultz and Catherine Simonelli

Absent: Kathleen Bilodeau, George Michna, Scott Morgan and Randi Reichle

Others: Theresa Kane
Press: Gail Montagny

First Selectman Denise Menard called the Public Hearing to Order at 6:00 p.m. in the East Windsor High School Cafeteria.

Ms. Menard stated she had copies of the budget schedule, the grand list and the current budget for everyone. She stated the purpose of this meeting is to hear from the public regarding next year's budget. She asked for specific recommendations that would help in decision making for the next budget.

Public Participation:

Sal Saitta, 17 Old Barn Rd ~ Coleman Farms, spoke representing the East Windsor Condo Association. Mr. Saitta presented packets which included a proposal, hereto attached as Attachment A.

Richard Pippin, 37 Woolam Road, said there are a few things he would like to see as a taxpayer. He said there should be a drop in the Mill Rate due to the large increase in the Grand List. He asked that the fund balance not be used to lower taxes, it is bad business. The town has not done this in the recent past and they are better for it. Mr. Pippin suggested including the anticipated grant revenue into the calculated budget. He does not want grants to show up and have things over funded. Mr. Pippin said it would be a bad decision to sell CIP short with the town falling apart at the seams.

Jack Mannette, 13 Old Ellington Road, said the taxpayers have consistently rejected the budgets every year. The high Mill Rate and high taxes represent a major deterrent to the Town of East Windsor. He compared Windsor Locks which has the eighth lowest taxes in the state and would like to point out significant differences. He stated the employees in Windsor Locks make significantly less than the employees in East Windsor and real estate taxes are much higher in East Windsor as compared to Windsor Locks.

Mr. Mannette said East Windsor is out of balance and the salaries and pension plan needs to be reigned in. He said there is a proposal in place to refinance town debt because we are under funding our road projects. Mr. Mannette asked how that can be when there is currently \$280,000.00 in the town budget along with a state grant for \$266,000.00 for town road aid?

All these things mentioned above are reasons why Mr. Mannette feels the taxpayers are not getting a fair return. The Grand List has increased by 1.77% and will result in additional tax coming into town. He suggested leaving the Mill Rate the same and giving the people of East Windsor a break.

Denise Friedman, 40 Windsorville Road, is a Board of Education town employee. She would like to see money spent to improve parking at Broad Brook Elementary School. She said it is unsafe, with parents double parking in the morning and afternoon. The employees have nowhere to park and school assembly's and functions are divided up because there is not enough parking spaces available for the parents. Ms. Friedman said something needs to be done to protect employee and child safety. There are children and parents crossing the street who cannot see where they are going due to the double parking.

Tom Muska, 216 East Road, said the gap and disconnect between the government and the governed is becoming wider and wider on a local level. He said spending needs to be controlled, things are not good in the private sector and there should be no increase in spending.

Kathy Pippin, 37 Woolam Road, said the town is doing a great job and to be held back the way they have has caused a great deal of infrastructure problems. She said the Board of Finance did a wonderful job and had a group of fantastic people on that board. She is very proud of the volunteers who gave their time. It is a terrible thing to say there is lawlessness in East Windsor.

Mr. Pippin has given 38 years free service to the town and Mrs. Pippin has given 15 or 20 years herself and has no regrets. She said the Town Charter needs corrections and they are trying to get that done.

Motion was made to adjourn at 6:22 p.m. Moved (Nelson) and Seconded (Richards).

Respectfully Submitted,

Heidi Vane
Recording Secretary

PROPOSAL

The East Windsor Condo Association (EWCA), which is comprised of 13 of the 14* condominium communities located within the town of East Windsor, was established for the purpose of achieving equality for condominium homeowners by advocating the acceptance, by the Town of East Windsor, for the maintenance of fire hydrants and street lighting.

As members of the EWCA, each condominium complex stresses that the issues of **health and safety** for its residents and visitors are a top priority. Health and safety specifications were established, adopted and approved by the Town of East Windsor. These specifications were complied with by all the developers during construction.

However, as taxpayer/homeowners, we are not treated **equitably** and with **fairness** by the Town of East Windsor when it comes to providing for these services, as are other taxpayers/homeowners in the Town of East Windsor.

Therefore, it is the proposal of the EWCA that the Town of East Windsor include within its annual budget, a line for reimbursing the costs for servicing of hydrants and the reimbursement of operating costs for qualified street lights in Residential Condominium Complexes within the Town of East Windsor. **The approximate cost of reimbursement for the 2014-2015 budget is \$78,000.**

***Facts and Figures contained in this proposal do not include those for
Mason Brook Condominiums**

<u>NAME</u>	EWCA Lights and Hydrant Costs			
	# Lights	Costs	#Hydrants	Costs
Coleman Farms (age restricted)	41	\$5800	6	\$3600
Greenwoods (pud)	14	3000	4	3108
Hillside Farms (age restricted)	15	1980	4	2000
Meadow Farms(age restricted)	4	900	3	2050
Meadview	34	6384	5	4824
Millbrook	13	4450	3	3120
Newberry Village (age restricted)	16	3000	4	3000
Norton Glen	15	2004	2	1104
Pasco Commons (res & com)	22	1187	2	1712
River Ridge	10	1718	1	679
Scantic Glen	35	5568	9	6612
Stoughton Ridge	16	4238	3	3035
Wolcott Landing	30	3241	3	2244
Total	275	\$40,450	49	\$37,088
Annual Total Lights and Hydrant Costs				\$77,538