

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

**MINUTES OF PUBLIC HEARING
Wednesday, May 13 2105, at 7:00 p.m.**

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

Members Present: Jerilyn Corso (Chairman); Cindy Herms, Robert Maynard, Kathy Pippin, and Sharon Tripp.
Members Absent: Robert Little.
Alternate Present: Paulette Broder and Gil Hayes
Alternate Absent: Both Alternate Members were present.
Others: **Town Treasurer:** Kim Lord; **Deputy First Selectman:** Jason Bowsza; **Selectmen:** Dale Nelson, and Jim Richards; **Town Staff or Department Heads:** Melissa Maltese, Director of Parks and Recreation; Joe Sauerhoefer, Department of Public Works; **East Windsor Public Schools:** Dr. Christina DeBarge; **Board of Education:** Chris Mickey, Chairman; and Cathy Simonelli, Secretary.

Press: Kyle Penn, Journal Inquirer.

I. Call to Order:

Chairman Corso called the Meeting to Order at 7:03 p.m.

II. Time and Place of Public Hearing:

Wednesday, May 13, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. at the East Windsor Town Hall (11 Rye Street, Broad Brook, CT.)

III. Public Participation:

Greg Burns, (no address given): .found the 7% increase in his tax bill and his property to be unreasonable. He lives around people with fixed incomes; due to the economic conditions and the fact that the State is ..., Mr. Burns felt the Town should do better to get the budget down.

Cathy Simonelli, 71 Depot Street: Mrs. Simonelli requested clarification as to the percentage of the budget increase; it was noted the budget which failed reflected a 6.25 % increase. Mrs. Simonelli suggested she didn't have a lot of suggestions for areas to be cut; she didn't feel there was a lot of fat to cut on either the Town or the School side. As a taxpayer she suggested good schools are important; she noted the scores are going up in the school system.

Jason Bowsza, 34 Rye Street: strongly urged the Board of Finance to not take funding from the road maintenance budget line; he noted there is no second chance to find money to fund the road improvements. He strongly urged the Board of Finance to do their due diligence during their deliberations.

Dale Nelson, 51 O'Melia Road: urged the Board to not cut significant funding from the CIP (Capital Improvement Projects) Budget. She noted the members of CIP Committee spend many long hours looking at the proposed projects, which include road projects and upkeep of facilities/buildings.

Dick Pippin: suggested whatever cuts the Board makes should be made evenly; he felt the budgets are heavier on one side than the other. The Board needs to make the cuts more evenly. Mr. Pippin felt the salaries are too high. He also noted the year the Board proposed a budget increase of 1.97%, which was below the 2% allowed in the Charter, and that was defeated.

Jim Richards, 27 Pleasant Road: agreed with his fellow selectmen; the Town's infrastructure is not being maintained and if we don't maintain the roads we'll pay more heavily down the road.

Bob Leach, 39 Church Street: reported he advocated for the police and public safety budget requests. He noted they have been working for many years to keep the number of replacement vehicles down. The number of cruisers have been reduced in the past and have been cut again this year. He felt to not replace the vehicles is a liability.

Chairman Corso queried the audience for others who might wish to speak; no one came forward.

IV. Adjournment:

MOTION: To **ADJOURN** this Public Hearing at 7:07 p.m.

Tripp.moved/Herms seconded/VOTE: In Favor: Unanimous

Respectfully submitted: _____

Peg Hoffman, Recording Secretary, East Windsor Board of Finance