

TOWN OF EAST WINDSOR
JOINT BOARD OF SELECTMEN/BOARD OF EDUCATION
PUBLIC BUDGET HEARING
JANUARY 10, 2011

I. TIME AND PLACE OF HEARING

First Selectman Denise Menard called the hearing to order at 7:00 p.m. in the East Windsor High School auditorium. Ms. Menard reported that she hasn't seen the town's grand list or the new governor's budget yet. Stating that she realizes that these are difficult times, she asked for input from approximately 35 members of the audience.

II. ATTENDANCE

First Selectman Denise Menard, Deputy First Selectman Mark Simmons, Selectmen John Burnham, Gilbert Hayes and Richard Pippin, Jr.; Board of Education Vice Chair Bill Raber, and Board members Kathy Bilodeau, Bill Schultz, Cathy Simonelli; Acting Superintendent of Schools Carol Fox and Recording Secretary Linda Nolan

III. COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE

Paul Anderson, 889 Main Street, Broad Brook:

Mr. Anderson, from the WPCA, said there should be several public budget hearings. Community members need to be part of the process by giving input to what we want and what we don't want to see in the town budget. He reported that the new charter is on the town's website and if you read the charter, you will understand the new rules for the budget process. He also announced that there was a Planning and Zoning farming regulations workshop at Town Hall on Tuesday night.

Alan Baker, 43 Spring Street, East Windsor:

We do not want to neglect the Route 140 corridor. Maybe money should be put aside for a consultant.

Ron Hocutt, 199 Scantic Road, East Windsor

My job takes me to every town in Connecticut. This is the best town I go to and that is why I moved here. We moved here because the people know what a town should be, but it seems that during the last few years, we have forgotten who we are. We have something incredible here.

Cathy Simonelli, 71 Depot Street, Broad Brook

Local businesses are struggling, already. They shouldn't have to pay taxes to have their garbage picked up, because they pay individual companies to get rid of their trash. I don't want our town to become a ghost town.

Chris Russe, 125 Rockville Road, Broad Brook

If you put the burden on the garbage disposers, you need to give them another option.

Ms. Menard stated that the budget process starts with this hearing. It may be necessary to have several public budget hearings. We do not want to exclude anybody's ideas. The Board of Selectmen is responsible for the general government budget. The Board of Education does their own. The Board of Selectmen then makes recommendations to the Board of Finance.

Marie DeSousa, 10 Rice Road, Broad Brook

Board of Finance member Marie DeSousa thanked the members of the audience for caring enough to come to the hearing. Each department has to look and take a step backward and see what it is they can do without. Houses aren't selling. We must do what is in the best interest of the town. Maybe we shouldn't fill every vacancy this year.

Board of Education Vice Chair Bill Raber invited the audience to attend Board of Education workshops. They are all open to the public.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion by Mr. Burnham, seconded by Mr. Hayes, it was unanimously

VOTED: To adjourn at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Nolan
Recording Secretary