

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
TOWN OF EAST WINDSOR
11 RYE STREET
BROAD BROOK, CT 06016**

Minutes of Regular Meeting

Tuesday, January 21, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.

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

I. Call to Order

First Selectman Denise Menard called the Regular Meeting to Order at 7:00 p.m. in the Town Hall Conference Room.

II. Attendance

Present:

Denise Menard, First Selectman

Jason E. Bowsza, Deputy First Selectman

Steve Dearborn, Selectman arrived at 7:08 p.m.

Dale A. Nelson, Selectman

James C. Richards, Selectman

III. Added Agenda Items

None

IV. Approval of Minutes

Regular Meeting of January 21, 2014

It was MOVED (Bowsza) and SECONDED (Nelson) that the Board of Selectmen approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of January 21, 2014. Motion PASSED. In favor – J. Bowsza, S. Dearborn, D. Nelson and J. Richards; Opposed – None.

V. Communications

None

VI. Selectmen's Reports

A. Denise Menard

Ms. Menard's report is hereto attached as Attachment A.

B. Jason E. Bowsza

Mr. Bowsza's report is hereto attached as Attachment B. He will be unable to attend the February 4, 2014 Board of Selectmen's meeting.

C. Steven Dearborn

Mr. Dearborn stated the Zoning Board of Appeals meeting was cancelled due to there being no applications filed. The February meeting has also been cancelled. He said the Zoning Board is doing a great job. Mr. Dearborn did attend the Charter Revision Commission meeting and some things were reasonable.

D. Dale A. Nelson

Ms. Nelson attended the Condo Association meeting on January 8, 2014 and they discussed the procedures for bringing information to the Board of Selectman.

Ms. Nelson attended the Police Commission meeting and the carpets are worse than the photos show. The canine dog, Max, will be retiring on July 2, 2014 and will not be replaced because it is too expensive. They will be using outside towns for canine services.

The ordinance put in place by the Police Department regarding security alarm systems has cut down on the number of calls. Customers are allowed 2 false alarm calls and then they are charged a fee. The calls have dropped from 950 to 570 per year since the ordinance went into effect.

Ms. Nelson attended the Volunteer Incentive Commission meeting on January 13, 2014. Ron Masters is doing a great job. She also attended the Board of Finance meeting.

E. James C. Richards

Mr. Richard's report is hereto attached as Attachment C.

VII. Public Participation

There was discussion of the South Road properties. Ms. Menard stated the Attorneys from the Town of East Windsor and South Road are working on the best solution.

Robert Elliott, 10 South Road, stated there was an agreement made in 1998 or 1999 in which the town agreed to accept South Road as a town road contingent on improvements being made. There would be no cost to the homeowners or the town through a small cities grant, that never happened. Ms. Menard asked if Mr. Elliott if he could get provide a copy of that agreement and he said he would.

Joe Malefant, 4 South Road, said when he moved to South Road twenty years ago, the town was going to make South Road a town road. That was never done. He said maps show boundary lines and warranty deeds and the land was surveyed in 1992.

Mr. Malefant is unable to refinance his mortgage. He said the residents need help. The town is plowing the road and he wants to know why they can't take over the road?

Anne Viveiros, 12 South Road, said she would love to pay her taxes. She asked that the town let the resident's pay their taxes.

Raelando Miller, 77 South Road, asked the Board of Selectmen what the town's objective is? The town wants the taxes paid and the residents will pay if they are given the land. They will maintain their own properties. The town and the residents have the same objective and the residents want to meet that objective. Mr. Miller said he understands that Creative Housing owns the land and knows there are mechanisms in place. It seems to be more adversarial than working together.

Ms. Menard stated the town's attorney is not a tax attorney. She said the Board of Selectmen are on the same page as the residents.

Mr. Miller said the residents of South Road want to own the land, they do not want a condo association. He said the road is in good shape and it is on town maps.

Ms. Menard said what is legal is what has to be done and they want the best resolution for the homeowners.

Robert Elliott said when he first moved in the residents were paying taxes to the town for the land. He stated there was a letter from Attorney Sparge dating back to 1996 settling the land issue.

Jerry Rudolph, 11 South Road, said he attended the last Board of Selectmen's meeting on January 7, 2014 and stated at that time he has information that can resolve this situation. He said there are reasonable solutions but they are still sitting in a spitting contest. Mr. Rudolph said he saw a full size copy of the plot plan which shows the South Road property as four acres with a \$300,000.00 land value. He said residents occupy two and one half acres of the land.

Ms. Menard said she cannot respond because it is in the hands of the attorneys. Mr. Rudolph said he sent the map to the tax attorney representing the residents and called the mortgager on his house, he said his equity is at stake. He assumed discussion of South Road was going to be on the agenda for tonight's meeting. He said an email could have been sent to advise residents the issue could not be discussed in public.

Ms. Menard cautioned the Board of Selectmen, what is said in executive session cannot be told to the public. Mr. Dearborn said he went to the First Selectman's office to be put on the agenda because he does not want to speak in executive session. He said the Creative Housing issue needs to be resolved.

Mr. Richards recommended a five minute recess at 7:38 p.m.

Ms. Menard called the meeting back to order at 7:43 p.m.

Kathy Elliott, 10 South Road, asked why the town did not notify the residents they went to a nonprofit organization so they could have been involved sooner? They were not notified for two years that Creative Housing was being sued. Ms. Menard said the residents attorney is aware why.

Ms. Elliott said the dimensions of each of the lots is documented with the town. She said WPCA came out when she was getting a permit for a pool to make sure it was on her property and she was on the sewer line.

Jay Viveiros, 12 South Road, said he applied for three different building permits in eighteen months. He had a tax guy knock on his door and ask if he could look around his

house because he wanted to adjust his taxes. Why didn't he tell Mr. Viveiros that his taxes weren't paid in three years? Ms. Menard informed him that the taxes were paid on his house not the land.

Tom Holman, 8 South Road, said there are sixteen families on South Road who want to own their land and who's houses right now are worth absolutely zero and have been since the law suit was sent. It is depressing. From the residents view it looks like the town is trying to run them out. He is not saying they are but this has been going on since April and it is tough. He is paying a big mortgage for nothing.

Ms. Menard told him they are scheduled for court on January 28, 2014 and the town's Tax Collector will be attending. She suggested the residents contact their attorney to request attendance at the court hearing, but she does not know if that is an option.

Mr. Holman said the land should just be given to the residents by the government and they can pay the taxes with their mortgage companies, they all have no problem with that.

Lori Holman, 8 South Road, said it should not have to be this complicated. Everyone seems to be saying the same thing but it cannot be worked out. She does not understand.

Joe Malefant said he has a mortgage on his home and he is sure he will get another tax bill. Is he supposed to pay taxes on a house that is not worth anything? There is nothing they can do about it. He said back around 1994, 1995 or 1996 the residents were taxed on the land. If there are no boundaries that exist, what information did the town use to tax them on the land for each individual house? Mr. Malefant told Ms. Menard that she was quoted in the paper as saying she wanted to keep South Road as a low to moderate income housing project. That is not going to help the residents. The worst case scenario he can see is walking away from the house and letting the bank take over it. Ms. Menard said not to do anything rash.

Jerry Rudolph was concerned about the presentation to the Historical Commission regarding Barber Hill School House being sold. Mr. Richards told Mr. Rudolph that was not what occurred, they were not part of the presentation. John Burnham was giving a presentation to the Historical Preservation Commission because before they can move forward with other things they need approval from that commission. Mr. Rudolph asked why Mr. Richards and Ms. Menard were at that meeting? Mr. Richards explained that he was there as a liaison and Ms. Menard is an ex officio to every Town Commission.

Ms. Menard explained that any property transfers need to go to town meeting and the public has to be involved. Mr. Richards said the Barber Hill School House has been a problem for ten years. The building is deteriorating and the complaints from neighbors started eight years ago. Ms. Menard said the issue is far from over and any sale or transfer of town property has to go to a public hearing and town meeting.

Richard Pippin, 37 Woolam Road, stated the article from the Journal Inquirer regarding the Barber School House blunder should be corrected and addressed in the paper.

Kathy Pippin, 37 Woolam Road, asked for the Board of Selectmen to provide an update at a future meeting on the status of the marijuana production facility.

VIII. Board and Commissions Appointments

Resignations: None

Re-appointments:

Water Pollution Control Authority

David Tyler (R), regular member

It was MOVED (Richards) and SECONDED (Bowsza) to re-appoint David Tyler as a regular member to the Water Pollution Control Authority for a term expiring 12/1/2017. In favor – J. Bowsza, S. Dearborn, D. Nelson and J. Richards; Opposed – None.

New Appointments:

Water Pollution Control Authority

Kirk Montstream (R), regular member

It was MOVED (Bowsza) and SECONDED (Nelson) to appoint Kirk Montstream as a regular member to the Water Pollution Control Authority for a term expiring 12/1/2017. In favor – J. Bowsza, D. Dearborn, D. Nelson and J. Richards; Opposed – None.

Mr. Richards said Mr. Montstream will do a great job. He is a great asset to the Historical Commission.

IX. Unfinished Business

Discussion of Selectmen's priorities

Each Selectman was asked to give an item that they would like to have set as a priority for the Board of Selectman to work on.

Ms. Nelson said she would like to see a Citizens Hour scheduled quarterly with different venues used for each meeting. She suggested a 6:00 p.m. coffee hour at the Library, Park Hill, Mill Pond and the Senior Center.

Mr. Bowsza would like to see a fast track permitting process and notification system. All processes would be on one computer system. The Tax Collector, Assessor, Planning and Zoning would all have access to the same information. Ms. Menard said the old database would be converted into the new systems database. The town is making strides. Ms. Nelson suggested the information about the fast tracking permits be posted on the town's website homepage.

Mr. Richard's priority is to see economic growth in East Windsor. He said it would be a good idea to have Parks and Recreation and the American Heritage Commission meet with the Historical Preservation Commission. They are creating the driving tour and there are a lot of good things going on but the information is not getting out to the world.

With the new computer system, maybe there could be a quality of life page for East Windsor.

Mr. Dearborn would like to see Broad Brook Center brought to life. He said he would like the town to take over the old mill property and the pond area and get it cleaned up. He said the building could be used for Town Hall.

Mr. Dearborn said the Dollar Store is bringing people to Broad Brook and they did a good job with the store.

X. New Business

A. Authorize change in electronic tax payment vendor

Ms. Menard discussed the memo from Kim Lord regarding online credit card payments. The new vendor, Point and Pay, offers the best service for the taxpayers of East Windsor. Mr. Bowsza said this is a win for the town and the taxpayers.

Motion was made to authorize Denise Menard to sign the contract for Point and Pay electronic tax payment processing. It was **MOVED** (Bowsza) and **SECONDED** (Nelson). Motion **PASSED**. In favor – J. Bowsza, S. Dearborn, D. Nelson and J. Richards;
Opposed – None.

Mr. Dearborn said this new vendor will be cheaper and will help the taxpayers.

B. Propose schedule for Chairmen's meetings

The Board of Selectmen discussed the schedule for the Chairmen's meetings and agreed the meetings will take place at Town Hall. The Chairmen of the Boards and Commissions will be notified of the meeting dates.

Mr. Richards said it would be advantageous to invite the Vice Chairmen as well as the Chairmen so there is representation at all of the meetings. Mr. Bowsza suggested it be extended to the Chairmen or their designee.

C. Discuss town wide property maintenance sweep

Ms. Menard distributed an updated report from Robin Newton and Rand Stanley that they worked on together to address property maintenance issues in town. The town was split into four quadrants and the residents were notified and given a chance to remove items to clean up their properties. They were given guidance, telling them where to bring the trash and word has gotten around so people are cleaning up.

D. Discussion of First Selectman and Board of Selectmen's duties: requested by S. Dearborn

Mr. Dearborn was reviewing the Charter and he wants to make it perfectly clear that the four Selectmen need to make a decision before the First Selectman does anything. He wants to be informed and does not want his name stamp used without permission.

Mr. Bowsza commended the First Selectman's office for keeping him informed of pressing matters and issues that need consideration. He appreciates the level of professionalism shown in his short time on the Board of Selectmen.

Ms. Menard said if there are criticisms or weaknesses to come to her office and she will address them.

Mr. Richards said the Chairmen's meetings will fulfill the requirements of the Charter under Section 4-5, B, General Powers and Duties.

XI. Budget Matters

A. Tax Refunds

Motion was made to approve tax refunds of January 16, 2014 in the amount of \$3,338.96. It was MOVED (Nelson) and SECONDED (Richards). Motion PASSED. In favor – J. Bowsza, S. Dearborn, D. Nelson and J. Richards; Opposed – None.

B. Propose schedule for budget meetings

The Selectmen discussed the schedule for budget meetings and agreed on the following dates.

Public Hearing:

February 12, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. at East Windsor High School cafeteria

Budget Workshops:

February 24, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. at East Windsor Town Hall

February 26, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. at East Windsor Town Hall

March 6, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. at East Windsor Town Hall

March 8, 2014 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at East Windsor Town Hall

March 10, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. at East Windsor Town Hall

XII. Executive Session

Pursuant to C.G.S. Section 1-200 (6) (a) Personnel & (b) Litigation. MOVED (Richards) and SECONDED (Bowsza). The Board of Selectmen entered into Executive Session at 8:56 p.m.; came out of Executive Session at 9:47 p.m.

XIII. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn, made by (Richards) and seconded by (Nelson). The meeting was adjourned at 9:48 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Heidi Vane
Recording Secretary

January 21, 2014

My report to the Board of Selectmen

Friday was Catherine Cabral last day working for East Windsor. We wish her well in her new position in Windsor Locks. We have begun to receive applications for a new Treasurer. The cut off for applications is this Friday January 24.

Andrea Drossel-Shea, the full time employee that worked in the Tax office gave her notice of resignation. With this vacancy also in the finance area, I am using the opportunity to look at the best way to staff the Tax/Treasurer's offices.

Applications for the Facilities Maintainer/Inspector position closed on January 15. The Human Resource Consultant Judy Hall and Public Works Director Len Norton have reviewed the applications and have chosen 6 candidates to interview. Len will now contact public works professionals to participate in the interviews. We expect to interview the first week in February.

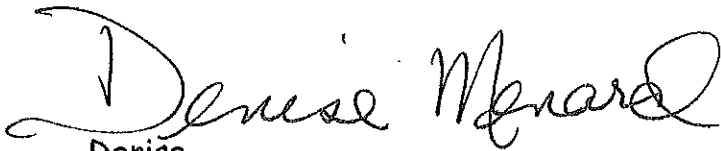
We have received notice from Police, Supervisor's and Public Works unions that all 3 contracts will be up for negotiations since they all expire June 2014. I will be discussing this further with the Board once I have more info on timing, expectations, etc.

The Housing Authority did not hire an Executive Director from the pool of candidates they interviewed. I don't know their next step.

I have received a number of calls and visits from people that are in favor the Barber Hill School House being moved to the Historical Society's site. The matter will be back on our agenda of February 3 for discussion under Unfinished Business.

A reminder that the Economic Development Commission Business Forum is next Thursday Jan. 30.

Enjoy this snowy weather.


Denise

Heidi Vane

Attachment B

From: Jason Bowsza
Sent: Monday, January 20, 2014 10:05 PM
To: Heidi Vane
Subject: Selectman's report - 1/21/14

This month's meeting of the Inland Wetlands Commission was canceled. The commission is hoping to do a local training session for members in the near future.

On January 8, Dale and I met with the East Windsor Condo Association, at their request, to discuss their concerns about tax parity. We made it clear that we were not there representing the board or the town, and that they should extend the same invitation and consideration to all selectmen.

There was no building commission meeting this month.

There will be a charity auction to benefit St. Jude's hospital. 1/30/14. 6-10pm at Golden Gavel, sponsored by Joe's package store. It's the same night as the Board of Selectmen/EDC state and local meet and greet, but runs later.

The significant issue discussed at the PZC meeting was a court case (known as McKenzie) that eliminates the ability of PZC's around the state to grant variances. This will have significant implications on development opportunities.

Several selectmen attended the Board of Finance meeting where the auditors presented our annual audit. The bottom line is that our town's finances are in very good shape.

Lastly, I had the privilege to represent the first selectman at the annual dinner of the East Windsor Chapter of the Pursuers of Horse Thieves and Robbers. This was a great event, and I was very pleased to be a part of this tradition that goes back to 1841.

Respectfully submitted,

Jason E. Bowsza
Deputy First Selectman

Sent from my iPad

Board of Selectman Liaison report Jim Richards 1/21/14

Board of Education – Presentation on Broad Brook School by Principal Laura Foxx- Lots of exciting things happening- Preparing for the Budget

Economic Development Commission-

Next meeting Jan 27th 6pm Town Hall

The Annual EDC meet & Greet along with the Business Assistance Forum will be on Jan 30th at Merlot on the Water starting a 5pm- RSVP to Planning & Development 860 623 6030

Parks & Recreation-

Normal meeting with presentation by Town Planner of POCD- The Park & Recs Comm. is looking at their share of POCD or new ideas-

Historical Preservation Commission-

Commission still going great- John Burnham did a presentation on the Barber Hill School House- Commission voted to allow Selectmen to proceed with steps involved (P&Z , etc) /East Windsor driving Tour being worked on.

Housing Authority-

Had several special meetings on Executive Director Position

Calendar now showing their regular meeting is same night as BOS (tonight 7pm)

Veterans Commission-

No Meeting in January

American River Heritage Commission-

Very active Group- Community Hike on New Years quite successful- Discussion of Possible other community activities- They also discussed that Park & Recreation should be more together on promoting Activities in the Town (Quality of Life, Tourism)- They have sent a request to Park & Rec to meet and discuss common goals.