

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Town of East Windsor
East Windsor, Connecticut

Budget Workshop Meeting

Monday, March 3, 2014 at 5:30 p.m.

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

Board of Selectmen

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

Absent: Steve Dearborn

Others Present: Chief Edward DeMarco, Deputy Chief Roger Hart, Ed Filipone, Bob
Leach, Tom Stremper, Ray Mancuso, Chief James Barton, D. James
Barton, Fire Commissioner Mike Balf, Sherry Sarra, Tony
Dimastrantonio, Chief Tom Arcari, Assistant Chief Jerry Bancroft, J
Jerilyn Corso and Cynthia Herms.

Press: None

Call to Order

First Selectman Denise Menard called the Budget Workshop Meeting to Order at 5:35
p.m. in the East Windsor Town Hall.

Attendance

Denise Menard, First Selectman
Jason E. Bowsza, Deputy First Selectman
Dale Nelson, Selectman
James C. Richards, Selectman

Budget Presentations

• **Warehouse Point Fire District**

Fire Commissioner Mike Balf began by saying the fire district is struggling with utility costs, specifically oil and electricity. They have had four very serious building fires in the past year, North Main Street, Prospect Hill, Rivergate Apartments and Pasco's . They have also been very busy responding to accidents.

Chief Barton said the increase for computer software is to update the operating system from Windows XP, which is no longer supported by Microsoft Office. They have two laptops that were donated by Alstrom. He said the building maintenance and repairs are for sidewalks that were destroyed from salt over the winter. The line increase for generators is for the removal of an existing 500 gallon underground fuel tank and installation of a new 30KW natural gas generator. The current generator is from 1976 so the new generator will be more cost effective and it will be sold to recoup some of the expense of the new generator. Mr. Bowsza asked what the long term savings would be. D. James Barton said it would cost \$8000.00 to install a new tank on the 40 year old generator while the new generator will be natural gas which is cheaper than fuel.

Fire Commissioner Mike Balf said the Warehouse Point Fire District replacement bottles are at their life expectancy. The current bottles are restricted from being refilled after use. He said they need new gear sets and replacement sets for outdated, damaged sets. They are supposed to have spares and do not. He said fuel costs have increased and the fuel used is from the town garage at town price. Chief Barton said they ran out of fuel one weekend at the town garage so they had to call Taylor Energy for a refill resulting in an added cost. Mr. Balf said the department is in need of a new fire engine with a cost between \$800,000.00 and \$1,000,000.00. They have a 25 year old engine with body rot that had an engine fire last year. Ms. Menard stated there is a long line of items waiting to be bonded.

Commissioner Balf said they requested part time firefighters for Station 2 in last years budget but it did not pass. He said there is still a need for the part time firefighters. The cost would be \$40,000.00 for each part time firefighter working 20-30 hours per week. D. James Barton said these positions would cover the overlap in shifts, working 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. to cover the 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. overlap. It also provides the capability of having a fire department closer to Windsorville.

Commissioner Balf said the alarm totals are up - calls for service. Chief Barton said there are a lot of medical calls. When an out of town medic is called, the fire department responds first. Mr. Bowsza said he witnessed a motorcycle accident scene in September and was impressed with the work done on scene by Warehouse Point Fire District.

- **Police Department (2145)**

Chief DeMarco presented a priority needs based budget. He said first and foremost is to keep the community safe. The Chief submitted a 3.15% budget and explained what compromises the increases. He said there is a decrease in salary due to the retirement of senior officers who were replaced with new employees at a lower pay scale. He addressed the need for a sixth dispatcher to cover vacancies due to sick time, vacations, and holidays etc. Chief DeMarco explained the 7.79% increase in Clerical Salaries as contract obligations. There is a 2% increase for this year with three years of catch up included in that 7.79 percentage. He said the increase in officer salaries are step increases, officers being promoted, and the addition of a school resource officer which is

needed to provide public safety. He is requesting the Board of Education and the Board of Finance make a motion to hire a school resource officer now. The Chief said they need to hire a cop and put a seasoned cop in the school. The new officer would have to attend the police academy for six months so they have to hire someone immediately in order to have that officer in place for the first day of the next school year. The cost would be split 50/50 with the Board of Education. Chief DeMarco and First Selectman Menard have spoken with the Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Kane, and she is in agreement.

Deputy Chief Roger Hart said there has been a reduction in police academy slots. They are testing for the one slot open in April but they need the money to hire someone asap. Ms. Menard said it is urgent. There needs to be an official request made to the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Finance.

Deputy Chief Hart explained the increase for conferences and training includes recertification training which is no longer free. It also includes a \$2000.00 reimbursement for dispatchers. Other services for \$5200.00 is for a scanner to scan fingerprints. The lease on the current machine is over. The building maintenance line is for the digital camera security system in the front of the police department building. Ms Menard stated the janitorial service will be one contract with Town Hall and the Police Department which may be cost saving.

- **Emergency Management (2170)**

Deputy Chief Roger Hart said generator maintenance was previously facilities maintenance. The line item increase is for a service agreement with the generator maintenance company who they are very happy with.

- **Broad Brook Fire Department**

Chief Arcari and Assistant Chief Jerry Bancroft presented their budget. Chief Arcari said the department needs part time firefighters. They need four part time drivers and two part time firefighters to cover the 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. shift. He said there have been times when they received calls and other departments had to respond because they did not have any drivers available. Ms. Nelson said this was cut from last years budget and asked if there were policies and procedures in place? Chief Arcari said they have hiring plans but the job description is not set. Ms. Menard asked them to have a concrete job description and proposal ready for the budget hearing. Mr. Bowsza said the shared administrative services with the town is going well.

Assistant Chief Bancroft stressed the need for part time drivers. He said those employees would also shovel out hydrants and complete tasks at the fire department. The volunteers cannot do it. They volunteer their time and cannot be expected to take additional time away from their families. He said they did gain 6 members this year.

Chief Arcari said the \$3000.00 increase in hose equipment is for hose testing which will

be done in June. He said a new washer and dryer were installed which will allow gear to be cleaned on site which will make it last longer. Mr. Bowsza said Broad Brook Fire Department presented a lean budget that is very efficient. Assistant Chief Bancroft said he will prepare a job description for the part time firefighters positions.

Motion was made to adjourn at 7:23 p.m. Moved (Bowsza) and Seconded (Nelson).

Respectfully Submitted,

Heidi Vane
Recording Secretary