

Board of Selectman
Joint Special Meeting
5/2/17

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
TOWN OF EAST WINDSOR
11 RYE STREET
EAST WINDSOR, CONNECTICUT**

MINUTES OF JOINT SPECIAL MEETING

Tuesday, May 2, 2017 at 8:30 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

First Selectman Robert Maynard called the meeting to order at 8:35 p.m., in the East Windsor Town Hall, 11 Rye Street, East Windsor, Connecticut.

2. AGENDA APPROVAL

MOTION made by (Pippin) and **SECONDED** by (Dearborn) to approve the Agenda, as set for the May 2, 2017 Joint Special Meeting of the Board of Selectmen, Board of Finance and Board of Education.

In Favor: J. Bowsza, S. Dearborn and R. Pippin Opposed: None Motion: PASSED

3. ATTENDANCE

Robert Maynard, First Selectman
Richard P. Pippin, Jr., Deputy First Selectman
Jason E. Bowsza, Selectman
Steve A. Dearborn, Selectman
Jerilyn Corso, BOF
Jim Richards, BOF
Bill Syme, BOF
Cindy Herms, BOF
Kathleen Pippin, BOF
Nichole DeSousa, BOE
Randi Reichle, BOE
Kate Carey-Trull, BOE
Theresa Kane, BOE
Cathy Simonelli, BOE
Christine DeBarge, BOE

4. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

NONE

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5. NEW BUSINESS

It was stated that the BOE did not have a quorum. Since the Meeting was called by Mr. Maynard and the Board of Selectmen it was jointly decide that Mr. Maynard would be the moderator.

Mr. Maynard started by telling everyone that he receive a paper stating that East Windsor High School was ranked 29 out of 288 High Schools and 140 Districts in the State of Connecticut. Mr. Pippin would like to know why this isn't on the front page of the JI.

Mr. Maynard stated that he was not sure what the difference between 1% Board of Education Carryover Account and a Revolving Non-Lapsing Account is. He was told that a 1% Carryover Account is an account that holds up to 1% of the current year's budget that can be used at the discretion of the Board of Education in the next fiscal year. A non-lapsing account would be the tuition from Special Ed students from Enfield and their Hartford students and could be used in the next fiscal year.

The BOE discovered that in 2012 the BOF voted to make those accounts lapsing. They are requesting that the BOF rescind their vote making the account lapsing allowing them to be non-lapsing so the money could be used in the next school year. They are also asking for a 1% Carryover account to be established so that it would allow the BOE not to have to do the spend-down that they do every year. The BOE is at a 1.55% increase right now with the new budget if it passes and the non-lapsing account will allow them to keep all the current services in place.

Jerilyn Corso stated that she felt that they got clarification on the two different accounts. She feels that the non-lapsing account can't be solved tonight. She feels that they need a lot more information and research on it. She feels that they were really here for the 1% carryover account and may get somewhere with that but the other needs a lot more information. She was told that the fiscal and school year was ending and that if something wasn't done soon then the BOE would have to start the spend-down.

Mr. Dearborn asked for clarification on the 1% carryover account again. He asked if they were asking for another 1% over their current budget. He was told no that it was up to 1% of their current budget they want to put in the account so they don't have to rush and spend-down the money. He wanted to know why they would want to save this money and not spend it. He was told that they aren't saving the money that it will be spent for the next year. He was told that they will spend money on materials this year with the money and that would free up money for materials to be used for positions. Mr. Bowsza stated that the money does not need to be spent next year it can be carried out to different years.

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Mr. Maynard thought it would be good for all the Boards to focus on the 1% tonight because it is what the Board of Selectmen is really involved in. It was stated that the 1% account can't only be for the sole purpose of one thing. It was stated that I there was no money at the end of the year then no money would get into the account. Any amount can be put in the account up to 1%. The BOE feels that there should not be any restrictions on the account so they can use the money as they want to. Mr. Dearborn stated that if they have \$400,000 at the end of the year and spend it down so they don't lose it he feels that they have too much money and they should give it back to the Town. It was stated that there are some unknowns that they can't predict, like cuts in grants or the needs for Special Education.

Mr. Pippin stated that they are taking money from one year to use on another year and he feels they should not be doing it. He feels if there is money left over they shouldn't try and spend the money last minute but give it back to the tax payers. He feels that they should not be doing this. If money isn't spent it should go into the General Fund like the other departments in the Town. He stated that the money that the BOE is using belongs to the tax payers and not the BOE. The BOE stated the money belongs to the students of East Windsor and in turn were told it belongs to the parents of the students that pay taxes in East Windsor. The BOE stated the money was allocated for the students of East Windsor and they use it accordingly. Mr. Pippin is against the idea. Mr. Dearborn asked how much of the 1% would go to benefits and pay raises. Mr. Bowsza stated that that wasn't a real possibility and that was why he wasn't getting an answer.

After a discussion Mr. Bowsza asked if they were looking for an unrestricted account and he was told yes. He then asked what the control would be on that and he was told the BOE would have the control. After further discussion Mr. Pippin made a motion.

MOTION made by (Pippin) and **SECONDED** by (Dearborn) that the Board of Selectmen opt to not to create an MOA and to further recommend to the Board of Finance that they don't do it either.

In Favor: J. Bowsza, S. Dearborn and R. Pippin Opposed: None Motion: PASSED

There was clarification needed on the motion so Mr. Bowsza amended the motion.

AMENDED MOTION made by (Bowsza) and **SECONDED** by (Pippin) not to make an MOA between the Town and the Board of Education establishing a 1% carryover account and to recommend the Board of Finance establish no such account.

In Favor: J. Bowsza, S. Dearborn and R. Pippin Opposed: None Motion: PASSED

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6. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (Another opportunity for the public to make comments)

Keith Yagaloff – Stated that he thinks the 1% on the whole is a good idea because otherwise there is wasted spending. The Board of Finance can monitor the carryover from year to year. That way there will be some checks and balances. He also questioned if they were supposed to vote tonight because the vote was not on the agenda. He stated that you can't add things to the agenda for a special meeting. Mr. Bowsza stated that nothing was added to the agenda. Mr. Yagaloff stated that in a lot of Towns with non-lapsing accounts the Boards of Educations, not saying East Windsor, are accounting for Expenses but are not accounting for all their Revenues in their budgets. He stated that he would rather have the money spent in a meaningful and thought out manner rather than fast spending on meaningless stuff just to spend the money.

Marie DeSousa – Stated she felt that the timing was off on this request since it is budget time and thinks that it should be looked at again next year before the budget process is completed. That way it doesn't look like a "slush fund". She feels that it is being perceived as a "slush fund" here at the meeting.

7. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION made by (Pippin) and SECONDED by (Dearborn) to adjourn at 9:35 p.m.

In Favor: J. Bowsza, S. Dearborn and R. Pippin Opposed: None Motion: PASSED

Respectfully Submitted,

Rebecca D'Amicol, Recording Secretary