

# TOWN OF EAST WINDSOR BOARD OF SELECTMEN

## BUDGET PRESENTATIONS - WORKSHOP

Saturday, February 17, 2018

10:00 p.m.

Town Hall Meeting Room  
11 Rye Street, Broad Brook, CT. 06016

### **REVISED** Meeting Minutes

\*\*\* *These Minutes are not official until approved at a subsequent meeting* \*\*\*

#### **Board of Selectmen:**

Robert Maynard, First Selectman  
Steve Dearborn., Deputy First Selectman  
Jason Bowsza, Selectman  
Andy Hoffman, Selectman  
Charles J. Szymanski, Selectman

**ATTENDANCE:** **Board of Selectmen:** Robert Maynard, First Selectman; Selectmen: Jason Bowsza, Andy Hoffman; Charles J. Szymanski.

**ABSENT:** Selectman Steve Dearborn.

**PRESENTERS:** **Members of Boards, Committees, Commissions, or Town Entities:**  
**Broad Brook Library:** Paul Anderson, President; **Town Staff:** **Public Safety:** Warehouse Point Fire District: Vic DeCapua, Commissioner; D. James Barton, Commissioner/Treasurer; Kirk Monstream, Commissioner, Glenn Moule, Commissioner, Terry Waller, Commissioner. **Warehouse Point Fire Department:** James Barton, Chief; **First Selectman's Office:** Robert Maynard, First Selectman, **Youth Center:** Wendy Parker

**GUESTS:** **Town Staff:** **Interim Treasurer:** Gayle Carolus.

**Public:** No one present other than the presenters,

**Press:** No one from the Press was present.

**TIME AND PLACE OF BUDGET WORKSHOP MEETING:**

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First Selectman Maynard called the Meeting to Order at 10:10 a.m.. in the Town Hall Meeting Room, 11 Rye Street, Broad Brook, CT.

**ATTENDANCE:** See Page 1.

**PRESENTATIONS/a. 10:00 a.m. – Broad Brook Library – 910100 – Activities, Fees and Associations: :**

The budget funding request for FY 2018 – 2019 for the Broad Brook Library is \$20,000, which represents a 100% increase.

Paul Anderson, President of the Broad Brook Library, joined the Board. Mr. Anderson noted a 50+/- year history of funding for the Broad Brook Library by the Town. Mr. Anderson noted the Broad Brook Library is a public library which serves a segment of the population which chooses its services. Funding through the Town budget has been as high as \$19,800 in 2006; funding has diminished significantly, with no funding for the past two years. Mr. Anderson reported that the library has a small investment of CDs and stock; the library received \$224 in dividends in the last seven month period. Without funding assistance from the Town CDs must be surrendered to pay normal operating bills. Mr. Anderson reported the library also received \$1,662 in donations and profits from tag sales and raffles. Mr. Anderson offered the Selectmen a recent Journal Inquirer article; he suggested the article sub-heading explains the library's purpose – they just want to get people to read books.

Selectman Hoffman questioned the participation rate for the library? Mr. Anderson suggested between 5 to 20 people visit the library daily; participants are primarily adults, many of whom are older and don't want to drive across town, many walk to the library; youth also visit the library. They have been discussing a shuttle service to Park Hill to deliver books, but that service would add an additional cost to their budget. Selectman Szymanski questioned how many people serve on the library board; Mr. Anderson noted membership is presently 12 but they're considering reducing the number as people are aging out and it's difficult to establish a quorum. Mr. Anderson reported they also plan activity events; card making, which is the most popular event, is offered free of charge. They purchase new books as does any other library; they also accept book donations. Mr. Anderson presented the Selectman and recording secretary a copy of the Love your Library Scavenger Event brochure being promoted in conjunction with the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration. Mr. Anderson reported this event is bringing in a new segment of people from surrounding towns.

Mr. Anderson reported the library is open 2 days a week (Saturday 10 – 5 and Wednesday to 1 6), which is an expansion from two years ago. A Girl Scout troop meets at the library on Wednesday. The Town has given them computers but no monitors; they do not presently have internet service, therefore no wifi availability. Mr. Anderson noted internet service could be provided at a cost of \$24/month for adequate level service. Discussion followed regarding the ability for more hours of operation; Mr. Anderson suggested that would increase the cost of their budget.

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Mr. Anderson suggested that the Broad Brook Library is no different than the Warehouse Point Library; both are public libraries operated as private organizations. He noted funding is provided for the Warehouse Point Library; the Broad Brook Library received no funding the past two years. Mr. Anderson offered this analysis: based on a \$37 million budget funded by a mill rate of 32 mills the cost to the taxpayers to fund the Broad Brook Library at the \$20,000 funding request would be less than .02 cents per \$1,000. While not criticizing the Warehouse Point Library, Mr. Anderson suggested zero funding for the Broad Brook Library is totally unacceptable if the Town gives a quarter of a million dollars to the Warehouse Point Library.

**Selectman Hoffman questioned if Mr. Anderson applied for grants for the library? If that was not the current practice Selectman Hoffman suggested Mr. Anderson consider pursuing grants in the future."**

First Selectman Maynard questioned if the Warehouse Point Library might assist the Broad Brook Library in some way? Mr. Anderson suggested they operate on different system; for instance the Broad Brook Library still has a card catalog.

Selectman Szymanski questioned the capacity of the building? Mr. Anderson reported they have seating for 10 plus a kid's table. They were at capacity for the recent Torchlight Parade as people waited inside until the Parade came by; they will be the location of the judging station for the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Parade. Selectman Szymanski cited the availability of Senior vans; he questioned if the library is a destination for the seniors? Mr. Anderson replied it is not currently, but noted they would like to be.

Mr. Anderson referred to his budget support documentation, noting that the building roof will require replacement in the future, a more pressing maintenance issue is the removal of several 60 to 70 foot pines located on the property line. While he doesn't want to replace the old windows to maintain the architectural integrity of the building they are proposing to purchase window inserts at an estimated cost of \$2,000. An Eagle Scout is planning a project for a non-skid, covered handicapped ramp at the rear entrance. Selectman Szymanski questioned if the second floor is available for use? Mr. Anderson suggested access is currently via a drop-down stairs; greater accessibility would require the installation of an elevator.

Mr. Anderson reported they have become a member of the Chamber of Commerce.

The Board thanked Mr. Anderson for his informative presentation.

**PRESENTATIONS/b. 10:30 a.m. – Warehouse Point Fire District – 910100 Activities, Fees and Associations:**

Joining the Board were the following members of the Warehouse Point Fire District: Vic DeCapua, Commissioner; D. James Barton, Commissioner/Treasurer; Kirk Monstream, Commissioner, Glenn Moule, Commissioner, Terry Waller, Commissioner, and James Barton, Chief, representing the Warehouse Point Fire Department.

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The Budget request for FY 2018 – 2019 for Warehouse Point Fire is \$432,000, which reflects an increase of 100%.

Commissioner DeCapua introduced his fellow Commissioners, and Chief Barton.

Commissioner DeCapua advised the Board the Warehouse Point Fire District is requesting that a funding for the District be returned to the Town Budget; the intent is to equalize taxation for all Town residents for fire protection services. Under the present arrangement the District taxes its taxpayers for fire protection services within the district, those taxpayers are also taxed for fire services provided by the Broad Brook Fire Department via their property tax bill. This request to return funding to the District through the Town Budget in an amount equal to the funding request for the Broad Brook Fire Department (BBFD) equalizes the overall cost of fire protection services. Should additional funding be required for the District they would impose a tax on the District taxpayers only.

Commissioner DeCapua noted the District has additional costs in that the District owns its two Stations while the Broad Brook Fire Department is located within a Town-owned building. The District is responsible for all repairs and maintenance of their stations while property maintenance for the BBFD is the responsibility of the Town. Commissioner DeCapua noted the District has recently repaved the parking lot of Station 1 (Bridge Street) and did masonry work on Station 2 (Stoughton Road). Additional work for Station 2 is replacement of the boiler system and a roof replacement.

Chief Barton gave the Board a brief history of the District formation in 1911 through legislative action; the District charged their own taxes until 1975 when an agreement occurred with the Town to tax going forward. When the District appeared before the CIP for project funding under the previous administration the Town sought a legal opinion; the result of that opinion found that the Town was under no obligation to fund repairs of District buildings. Chief Barton noted the previous administration also changed the budget expenditure process but that didn't work well for the District.

Discussion followed regarding the 1986 expansion of the WHPF District to the South Windsor line to include Station 2. Discussion continued regarding the work done by a Fire Protection Services Committee which investigated options for expanding/integrating fire services. Commissioner Barton cited the Board of Selectman had the option to expand the district townwide but chose not to act on that. He cited a motion made in December 2016 by then Selectman Nelson to endorse the recommendations of the subcommittee report; the motion failed to receive a second and no action has been taken. The Board was given a brief summary of the issuance of separate tax bills for fire protection services generated for properties served by the District and for properties served by the BBFD; that remedy was deemed illegal by the Town Attorney. Discussion continued regarding past efforts to consider expansion of the WHPF District townwide. Selectman Hoffman and Szymanski indicated they would like to be invited to future discussions held by the District and the BBFD regarding potential resolutions for fire protection services. Commissioners DeCapua, Barton, and Chief Barton noted the departments

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work together presently on fire calls; the operation and efficiency wouldn't change. This budget request is the first step to accomplishing fair taxation. Selectman Hoffman and Szymanski requested a comparison WHPFD budget to compare expenses submitted by the BBFD. Chief Barton agreed to provide the requested information.

The Board thanked the District Commissioners and Chief Barton for their time and informative presentation.

First Selectman Maynard called for a five minute recess at 11:55 a.m.; the Board returned to discussions at 12:00 p.m.

**PRESENTATIONS/c. 11:00 a.m – First Selectman's Budgets – 410100:**

**MOTION: To MOVE the Budget Presentation for the First Selectmen's Office to another meeting date.**

**Maynard moved/Hoffman seconded/VOTE: In Favor: Unanimous**

**PRESENTATIONS/d. Youth Center – No Line Item Designation:**

Joining the Board was Wendy Parker, volunteer coordinator for the Youth Center. Ms. Parker is present to discuss options for this program with the Board. Ms. Parker reported the Youth Center operated out of their rental location on Main Street in Broad Brook until September, 2017, at which time they closed. The property had been put on the market for sale; they vacated the property and were unable to find another location. Funding for the Youth Center was provided through private donations, which made it difficult to pay expenses.

Ms. Parker cited the drug problem is out there; she questioned if there is an appetite for this program? Ms. Parker felt the original committee had expired its original term; she would need to find volunteers willing to serve if the committee is re-established. She questioned if Park and Recreation is doing any type of programs to address the drug issue?

Discussion followed regarding the participation rate for this program. Ms. Parker cited the Main Street location was small so they weren't able to accept furniture donations of game tables. Maybe 3 to 7 kids a night dropped in but that was that many kids that weren't on the street. Most of the attendees were Middle School boys but the Main Street location precluded them from setting up an outside basketball hoop. It was also difficult to get volunteers on a consistent schedule; if the center wasn't open consistently the kids didn't come back.

LET THE RECORD SHOW Selectman Bowsza left the meeting at 12:05 p.m. as he had another commitment.

The Board suggested Ms. Parker contact Mrs. Maltese of the Recreation and Community Services Department, as she is knowledgeable of the drug problem. Ms. Parker indicated there

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had been preliminary discussions earlier for use of the school facility for an after school program but use of the school required involvement of certified personnel while working with kids; liability was also an issue. Ms. Parker noted they also wanted to be open in the evening which created different issues.

The Board encouraged Ms. Parker to contact Mrs. Maltese after the budget season ends to discuss options with her. Selectman Szymanski suggested if Ms. Parker could provide information regarding similar programs in surrounding towns, such as Ellington and South Windsor; the information he was seeking was the participation rate, did the participants live nearby, did they walk or were dropped off, was there a high density neighborhood nearby, what programs were offered? Ms. Parker suggested the Main Street location was chosen for its proximity to Mill Pond so students could walk to the center, but most kids were dropped off.

The Board thanked Ms. Parker for her interest. They requested she return to the Board after the completion of budget season for additional discussion.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:**

No one from the public attended this workshop.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION/Pursuant to C.G.S. Section 1-200 (6) (E):**

See Special Meeting Agenda for Saturday, February 17, 2018 at 9:30 a.m. No Executive Session held during this Budget Workshop Presentation Meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

**MOTION: To ADJOURN this Meeting at 12:15 p.m.**

**Maynard moved/Hoffman seconded/VOTE: In Favor: Unanimous**

Respectfully submitted

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Peg Hoffman, Recording Secretary, East Windsor Board of Selectmen