



**TOWN COUNCIL
VIRTUAL MEETING
April 5, 2021
Regular Town Council Meeting**

APPROVED MINUTES

1) CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Trinks called the meeting to order at 7:34 p.m.

Present: Mayor Donald Trinks, Deputy Mayor Joseph McAuliffe, Councilor Nuchette Black-Burke, Councilor Lisa Rampulla Bress, Councilor James Dobler, Councilor James Govoni, Councilor Donald Jepsen, Councilor Lenworth Walker and Councilor Kenneth Wilkos

2) PRAYER OR REFLECTION

Councilor Dobler led the group in prayer/reflection.

3) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilor Dobler led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

4) PROCLAMATIONS AND AWARDS

- a) Proclamation designating April 2021 as National Child Abuse Prevention Month

Councilor Black-Burke read the proclamation designating April 2021 as National Child Abuse Prevention month.

- b) Proclamation recognizing April 2021 as Fair Housing Awareness Month

Deputy Mayor McAuliffe read the proclamation recognizing April 2021 as Fair Housing Awareness month.

- c) Proclamation recognizing April 4- April 10 as National Library Appreciation Week

Councilor Dobler read the proclamation recognizing April 4 - April 10, 2021 as National Library Appreciation Week.

5) PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS

George Slate, 74 Ethan Drive, discussed Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) also known as post retirement, medical and life insurance benefits. Mr. Slate wanted to focus on one word, equity, or intergenerational equity. Equity has been focused on a lot in the past year. Mr. Slate stated that he was in Atlanta, Georgia in October 2009, and heard an interview with Cynthia

Tucker on NPR. The interview was titled “Placating the Greediest Generation,” which had to do with the social security administration announcing that since there was no inflation there would not be social security for the first time since it was introduced in 1975. Social security recipients were crying out “where’s mine” and as a result President Obama proposed and congress passed a bill to give \$250 to each social security recipient. Mr. Slate asked how this relates to Windsor and OPEB. Windsor has an unfunded OPEB obligation of about \$38,000,000. The U.S. Government has unfunded social security and Medicare obligations closing in on one hundred trillion dollars. These unfunded obligations arise because taxpayers want to receive benefits and services now but they do not want to pay for them, thus they push payments for services for future generations. Nicholas Kristoff, who is a regular CNN commentator, wrote something on May 1, 2005 entitled “The Greediest Generation”. Mr. Slate read a paragraph from the article about running up debts for children by creating new entitlement programs and by running budget deficits today. There was another author who calls this “fiscal child abuse.” Mr. Slate would like to bring this home to Windsor and to OPEB, on page four of the proposal by Jed Isram says that \$750,000 will be spent to fund OPEB in fiscal year 2022. Mr. Slate stated that this is wrong in a sense that it excludes the \$1.5 million that is also funded for actual OPEB benefits that will be paid in fiscal year 2022. These are out of period costs that should have been paid for when the services were rendered by the people now receiving those benefits for their spouses. This can be verified on page 63 of the fiscal 2020 CAFR. The annual service cost for OPEB is about \$1.4 billion. Based on the possible funding of \$750,000 for OPEB in FY 22, you still fall over \$600,000 short of funding the current OPEB service cost. Mr. Slate has stated before that Windsor has yet to fund anything for OPEB if you define that as fully funding the current service cost. That service cost can also be verified on page 63 of fiscal 2020 CAFR.

Sally Grossman, 106 Niles Road, called to share a story about Millbrook Village. Ms. Grossman stated that one of the most common complaints that she hears from residents is about the lack of pull cords in the apartments. Millbrook Village is undergoing renovations and residents are currently being moved from an old units to new renovated apartments. While the older units had two to three emergency pull cords depending on its size, the newly renovated units have none. A letter had been sent to Millbrook residents informing them that emergency pull cords will be installed only after all construction had been completed. This means that some residents will be without them for over a year. In the renovated units it is possible to see where the old pull cords used to be located, so the wiring is there. Last week, Archie Butler, an elderly disabled resident at Millbrook Village, fell in his apartment. Mr. Butler is paralyzed on half of his body and because of that he was unable to pull himself up. Due to the apartment not having emergency pull cords, Mr. Butler laid on his floor by himself for eight hours before a family member came to check on him. Ms. Grossman stated that it is a well-known fact that falls for elderly individuals can result in death. When Ms. Grossman was a volunteer EMT in town, she responded to a call for an elderly woman who fell during the night and stayed there for hours until she was found by a family member. This woman had an injury that caused a muscle to release a protein that eventually caused organ failure and she passed away a few days later. This same thing could have happened to Mr. Butler. Another issue that Millbrook Village has is that many of the newly renovated units do not have outside lighting. There is exposed wiring outside where the old light fixtures used to be. About a month ago, Mr. Butler had a medical emergency that required an ambulance to be called. This was at night and because of the lack of lighting the paramedics had a hard time locating Mr. Butler, which delayed his care. Ms. Grossman stated that they also had difficulty transporting him from his apartment to the ambulance because it was so dark out.

Mr. Butler's story is not unique and there are many residents with similar stories to his. Ms. Grossman urged the Town Council to please help these Millbrook Village residents.

Paul Panos, 40 Brookview Road, commented on the lawsuit against a number of democrats regarding the Executive Director of Windsor Housing Authority. The lawsuit fits the definition that the party has been using for years and is now passed in Town Council in politically expedient revolution policies. The road to remove the John Mason statue is an example of white supremacy and racism as well as the vote to rename Columbus Day. Mr. Panos also spoke about the changes in police structure and the George Floyd tragedy. Mr. Panos would like to know what anyone here has to do with the mistake made in Minneapolis.

Ned Bacigalupo, 89 Farmstead Lane, commented on an Executive Session agenda item 16(a). Mr. Bacigalupo would like to know if this is a town litigation or if it is a personal protest. There is concern that town tax dollars are going to go toward fighting this lawsuit.

Assistant Town Manager Scott Colby read some comments received via Zoom from William Pelkey, 133 Portman Street.

6) COMMUNICATIONS FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS

Councilor Dobler thanked everyone for being diligent about listening to the government during this pandemic. Please continue to wear masks and follow the CDC safety guidelines. Councilor Dobler also thanked everyone who has come out to make a statement during the public comment portion of the meeting. While we may not all agree or disagree with what you're saying, everyone's opinion is appreciated. Councilor Dobler reminded everyone that it is called a budget process and it will be a process from beginning to end.

Councilor Walker followed up on what Councilor Dobler stated, please stay safe and continue to follow the guidelines. As always, Councilor Walker reminded everyone to shop locally in Windsor and support the local businesses. Councilor Walker stated that he will wait until the New Business portion of the meeting with Mayor Trinks' permission to address one line or one sentence in the letter sent to the Town Council, dated March 28, 2021.

Councilor Black-Burke stated that she appreciates the public comment session and everyone who shared their concerns and for being engaged and feeling free to share their thoughts and perspectives. Councilor Black-Burke continued to urge everyone to be safe by wearing masks, social distancing, and to get vaccinated if you feel it necessary. Assistance is available on the town website to anyone who needs help finding a vaccination site or making an appointment. Councilor Black-Burke stated that she is also willing to help assist people with the vaccination process. There is a vacci-thon coming up this weekend that starts at 5:00 p.m. on April 9, 2021 and will go for twenty-four hours. Please continue to lock your doors and be mindful of speeding now that the weather is nicer, and children playing outside. Councilor Black-Burke shared a quote by James Baldwin, "Not everything that's faced can be changed, but nothing can be changed until it's faced."

Councilor Govoni stated that the Windsor Safety Services program this year is "serving up safety in the kitchen." Councilor Govoni thanked everyone for their great efforts in reducing those fires

at home by paying attention while cooking in the kitchen. They have done an excellent job and hope to see it continue for the remainder of this year. Councilor Govoni reminded everyone that as the clocks changed, we should all be changing the batteries in smoke alarms as well as the CO2 detectors.

Councilor Rampulla Bress first thanked the library workers in Windsor during national library week. Councilor Rampulla Bress stated she visited the library in the center of town and the one in Wilson. They are beautiful libraries with dedicated personnel who have kept everyone connected during the pandemic. Councilor Rampulla Bress also shared with the council that April is Autism and Awareness Acceptance month. Acknowledging this is important to Councilor Rampulla Bress and her family as well as many other families in Windsor. Windsor Public Schools and the Town of Windsor as a whole has always done a wonderful job in welcoming, accepting, and supporting neuro-diverse individuals. Accessibility is being able to get into the building, diversity is getting invited to the table, inclusion is having a voice at the table, but belonging is having your voice heard at the table. Councilor Rampulla Bress encourages neuro-diverse individuals in our community to be part of our government, part of our boards and commissions, and to be part of our educational process. Councilor Rampulla Bress thanked the community for continuing to support these beautiful people.

Councilor Wilkos stated that on March 26, 2021 the Windsor community lost Doctor Robert Kalman. Doctor Kalman practiced in Windsor for almost forty years and was a near and dear friend to Councilor Wilkos. He was the only pediatricist in the Windsor community that took care of multiple generations in Windsor. Doctor Kalman retired a few years ago from his practice. Councilor Wilkos wanted to make sure his legend status in town was recognized. He will be truly missed by all of his patients and friends here in Windsor. Councilor Wilkos extended his condolences to Doctor Kalman's family.

Deputy Mayor McAuliffe thanked the teachers and staff of the schools who have gotten their second vaccine dose and had to deal with the reactions from that second dose. He also extended a thank you to the health department people and the first responders who have also gotten vaccinated and had to deal with some rough reactions as well. Deputy Mayor McAuliffe thanked the principal of Windsor High School, Doctor Osunde, for his service to the town. He is leaving us for a job in Stratford as a Superintendent. Deputy Mayor McAuliffe wishes him the best and hopes we get another great principal in there. It is appropriate that it is Fair Housing Awareness month, because Windsor lost another great citizen, Lynn Gillette, who was a realtor in town. Deputy Mayor McAuliffe sends condolences to her family and hopes they are well.

Councilor Jepsen stated he has nothing to report this evening.

Mayor Trinks stated that he is a week into his second dose of the Pfizer vaccine, without any side effects. Sometimes people just want to talk about the bad but there is good out there. Mayor Trinks also acknowledged Councilor Black-Burke's comments about the children being outside now. We have been waiting a long time between COVID and the winter to get outside and we really need to bring the speeding down in town. Some of the speeds on these roads are not conducive to having these kids out playing.

7) REPORT OF APPOINTED BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

a) Board of Education

A hard copy of the report was distributed to all councilors prior to the meeting.

President Leonard Lockhart apologized in advance for potential tones going off while he is at drill at the firehouse. President Lockhart stated that on March 9, 2021 Doctor Terrell Hill was elected as the new Superintendent of Schools. Doctor Hill has been serving as the Interim Superintendent since October 2020. President Lockhart publicly commented that he is pleased to welcome Doctor Hill as their new superintendent and this is a new chapter that we are all eager to begin, especially with the grasp of the pandemic. Doctor Hill's career and personal roots in Windsor mixed with his extensive teaching and administrative experience is a fit Windsor demanded during the search process. One of Doctor Hill's first acts was to name Christina Wieckowski as the Interim Director of Pupil Special Education, replacing Ms. Barbara Trinks. Ms. Wieckowski began her career with Windsor Public Schools in 2010 and was hired as a permanent special education teacher in August 2010. In 2014 Ms. Wieckowski transitioned over to LPW as the out of district special education teacher. In August 2018, she was named secondary special education supervisor.

The Board of Education will be holding a special meeting on April 6, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. on the district and school equity work. This meeting will be virtual and there will be an audience portion at the beginning of the meeting. More details on how to participate along with the agenda are listed on the district website. Mr. Lockhart personally invited everyone from the Town Council to participate in that equity seminar.

Doctor Santasha Oliver has been overseeing the COVID 19 vaccination program for Windsor Public Schools. Most Windsor teachers and staff received their second dose of the COVID vaccine on Wednesday, March 31, 2021. The remaining staff will receive their second dose on Wednesday, April 7, 2021.

Windsor Public Schools will be closed for spring break from Monday, April 12, 2021 to Friday, April 16, 2021. School offices and the central office will be open that week from 7:45 a.m. to 4:15 p.m.

The Board of Education is looking forward to presenting the budget to the Town Council on Wednesday, April 7, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. President Lockhart and David Furie will be presenting the budget to the Council along with Superintendent Doctor Hill and Director of Business Services, Danielle Batchelder who will be present in the Council Chambers.

Last year there were students in the CTE program at Windsor High School that had their tape dispenser designed for the NASA hunts program. A few students across the country contributed to the portions of design for one handed use. This idea came right out of Mr. Ricky and his students' Technology Innovation classroom. If you wish to see the video go to WindsorCT.org.

Councilor Dobler thanked President Lockhart for the presentation that was just given and also a congratulated Doctor Hill for a well-deserved bump up in position.

b) Public Building Commission

A hard copy of the report was distributed to all councilors prior to the meeting.

c) Conservation Commission

A hard copy of the report was distributed to all councilors prior to the meeting.

d) Windsor Housing Authority

Adam Gutcheon, Chair of the Board of Commissioners of the Windsor Housing Authority, stated that the Housing Authority is a political subdivision of the State of Connecticut that is not a part of the Town of Windsor. It is a public housing authority defined by the *Connecticut General Statutes* and the US code. The Board of Commissioners of the Windsor Housing Authority is the policy-making, fiduciary and oversight body which governs the housing authority. It is comprised of five people appointed by the Town Council. Mr. Gutcheon stated that there is currently one vacancy that became available a couple of weeks ago and another vacancy will arise with the expiration of term at the end of July.

Mr. Gutcheon acknowledged with great appreciation the work of the Council and the Personnel Committee on filling the many vacancies that existed last year and those that have popped up over the last couple of months. It is hard to find good people who have the right skills and knowledge and are willing to do the hard work for free.

The Housing Authority operates for the elderly and disabled housing programs (located at Millbrook Village and Shad Run Terrace) and the housing choice voucher program known as section eight within the Town of Windsor. They also own and operate Fitch Court Apartments which is an age restricted affordable housing development. Between all of the programs, there are one hundred and fifty-four housing units available for elderly or disabled individuals and affordable housing through the section eight program for two hundred and sixty-nine more Windsor families. That is four hundred and twenty-three housing units in Windsor. Individuals and families are able to stay in the community in safe conditions with a roof over their head. The duty of the board is to provide careful fiscal stewardship and policy oversight to ensure that they can continue to help those housing units and help them continue to exist. The rehab project at Millbrook village has not gone according to plan and a growing chorus of resident complaints about that project and other issues was not graciously received by the board. It became apparent last year that the board had lost institutional knowledge and expertise necessary to provide that fiscal stewardship and policy oversight.

Mr. Gutcheon stated that he is the Housing Authority's third board Chair this year. He was elected less than two weeks prior to tonight's meeting. Mr. Gutcheon has been focusing his time on grab bars, pull cords, and smoke detectors, because as a speaker in the public comment portion of the meeting mentioned, the safety of the residents must come first. Mr. Gutcheon stated that he spoke to Mr. Archie Butler as well about his ordeal and this motivated him even more to do everything humanly possible to get all of the residents who need it, in safe conditions.

In addition to resident's safety, the board is determined right now to rebuild governance and oversight capacity that has been lost over time. Also, to reestablish its authority. We passed several resolutions last month in order to do this. The board is also doing some cleanup with respect to policies and even contracts that were executed without a vote of the board. It has only been a couple weeks, but we are making progress. The Town Council has helped by filling vacancies and at some point, during the last several months, by keeping the public pressure off. If the Housing Authority and the board have not made it sufficiently clear, Mr. Gutcheon stated that everyone deserves to be treated with respect and dignity and elderly and disabled individuals in our housing are no exceptions. We are determined to do better.

Deputy Mayor McAuliffe thanked Commissioner Gutcheon and all the members of the commission for all they are doing.

Councilor Dobler reiterated what Deputy Mayor McAuliffe said.

Councilor Black-Burke stated that as a Council, the concerns had been heard. We have received correspondence, and wanted to say that she appreciates Mr. Gutcheon's response to that and what is being done by him and the commission to address the concerns that have been brought to the council's attention. Thank you for taking the time to take care of these issues on behalf of the Windsor citizens. Mr. Gutcheon responded by stating that he has heard over and over, especially from residents at Millbrook Village, that it is a beautiful place to live and it is not just beautiful to the people that live there because it is a nice tight knit community, but it is beautiful because it is their town. Mr. Gutcheon hopes that the stewardship will be able to expand the current number of housing units available in the future.

e) Citizen Advisory Task Force on Clean and Sustainable Energy

Eric Weiner, Chair of the Citizen Advisory Task Force on Clean and Sustainable Energy, gave an extensive slideshow presentation of what the Task Force has been doing during the last few months. The slideshow presentation can be viewed on the town of Windsor's website. Please look for the recording of the April 5, 2021 meeting to see the presentation.

Deputy Mayor McAuliffe thanked Mr. Weiner and the task force for putting the presentation together as it is very helpful to see this. Deputy Mayor McAuliffe would like to know more about the percentage of solar power and LED and the impact on that. Mr. Wiener deferred that question to Mr. Colby or Town Manager Souza because he does not have that number handy.

Councilor Rampulla Bress thanked Mr. Weiner and the task force for such a well thought out and researched report. Councilor Rampulla Bress is amazed at how much is available to us in Windsor. The effort that gets put into things like this makes Windsor a better place to live. Councilor Rampulla Bress looks forward to seeing more and being together with the council for these initiatives in the future.

Councilor Dobler stated that he appreciates Mr. Weiner for putting this presentation together at a very high level. Councilor Dobler is very much looking forward to Mr. Weiner and the committee getting into the weeds, meaning looking at the cost benefit analysis of upgrading different parts of the town.

Councilor Black-Burke echoed and applauded everything that has already been shared by her fellow council members. In addition to this type of report that was presented, just knowing that the task force has really held fast to their intention of public awareness in our community is appreciated. Mr. Weiner's closing quote was perfect to really describe the work they are doing, which was, "We do it with the community, we don't do it to the community."

Councilor Walker thanked Mr. Weiner for his report. There are a lot of times that we meet in Personnel Committee and it is a volunteer group, but you have a very powerful group here.

Councilor Govoni thanked Mr. Weiner for the detailed presentation. Councilor Govoni stated that he has had the pleasure of seeing the work that Mr. Weiner has put together in the past and this just exceeds it. It is such a great contribution for our community.

Councilor Jepsen stated that there is always a question that pops into his head about solar power and would like to know what would happen with battery capacity to save the electricity into the nighttime hours and if that has been a part of the review yet. Mr. Weiner stated that they have not dug directly into that yet themselves. There has been a lot done by DEEP. The battery storage technology is behind the solar and wind technology, but Mr. Weiner believes that they will find that it will ramp up in capacity and reduce its unit cost perhaps as dramatically as solar generation itself. There is now Utility Scale Solar, where the battery array can output as much power as a full-size natural gas plant. We will see that come on board over the next decade. At an individual residence or municipality level, it still a little bit early.

8) TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Mini-Police Academy

For anyone interested in learning more about our Police Department and law enforcement in Connecticut, there is still room available for the Mini- Police Academy at the Windsor Police Department. This two-part event begins this Wednesday April 7, 2021 from 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM and concludes on Saturday, April 10, 2021 from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM. The goal of this mini academy is to foster a better understanding of police work, increase communication, and engage our community through demonstration and discussion of the department's overall philosophy and approach to policing. More information is available on the Police Department's Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/townofwindsorct/photos/a.842654559199747/2193320380799818>.

Street Sweeping

The annual street sweeping program has begun. It is expected that the sweeping will be complete in early June. Delays may occur due to weather conditions, but sweeping will continue until the entire town is swept.

This year, the sweeping began in the River Street, Strawberry Hill neighborhoods. The order of the neighborhoods to be swept changes each year so that one neighborhood is not always swept first or swept last. Please see the town's website for the order at <https://townofwindsorct.com/public-works/announcements/2021-street-sweeping-schedule/>

Town Delinquent Tax Sale

The Tax Collector is conducting a delinquent Tax Sale on April 17, 2021. In October, there were 37 properties with a total amount due to the Town of \$546,893. Per the final official listing, there were 15 unpaid properties remaining. Since then, we have received payment in full on 6 of those properties, leaving 9 properties with a remaining unpaid balance of just over \$160,000. For more information, go to <https://townofwindsorct.com/tax-collector/tax-sale/> or call the Tax Collector's Office at 860-285-1810.

Windsor Center Community Clean up

Come join First Town Downtown on Saturday, April 17th from 9:00 -11:00 AM for a Windsor Center Clean up day! We'll be cleaning up Windsor Center to rid it of litter along its sidewalks and alleyways. Bring your willingness to keep our community looking clean. Free coffee will be available from The Bean @226 for each volunteer who fills a bag with trash from Windsor Center. Community service hours will be available to students and youth groups who assist. Contact us at info@firsttowndowntown.org for more details and to sign up. Volunteers should meet at 8:30 AM in front of The Bean @226 to get their gloves, trash bags and to sign in.

Thank you to Our Library Staff and Volunteers

Our libraries are a great resource. Our professional and capable staff and volunteers are fantastic. They consistently offer a wide range of programs for persons of all ages and backgrounds. Throughout the last year, they have stepped up their game and developed new virtual programs to continue to connect with both new and long-time patrons.

We have been one of the leading libraries across the state in terms of virtual programming, lending and maintaining open hours during the past year.

There are a whole host of programs planned for this spring and summer. Just to mention a few virtual programs that are upcoming:

Backyard Composting April 17, 2021 from 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Presentation on backyard composting. Participants will learn how to make compost with kitchen wastes, fallen leaves, and lawn clippings in backyards. Presented by the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station. Registration required for zoom access. Please register by Friday, April 16th. <https://www.windsorlibrary.com/wilson-events/sign-up-for-a-wilson-program/>

NASA Virtual Field Trip April 14, 2021 from 10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

NASA and the Windsor Public Library are inviting you along non a virtual field trip to the Wallops Flight Facility in Virginia where we'll learn all about rocketry and all of the cool vehicles that get us to space! Activity kits and an out of this world treat will be available for pick up to accompany this program. Seats are limited so register early! <https://www.windsorlibrary.com/teens-2/register-for-a-teen-program/> Zoom links will be sent after registration. Recommended for ages 12-18. Free.

Councilor Rampulla Bress thanked Town Manager Souza for his report and agreed with him about the library staff. Councilor Rampulla Bress would like to know more about the COVID 19 vaccine efforts and reaching those without computer access to schedule appointments along with those who are homebound. Councilor Rampulla Bress has concerns about residents who

fall into that category, especially after reading about other communities that are having difficulties because they do not have computer access or transportation. Town Manager Souza stated that he can get some additional information in terms of what the results for Windsor have been within the last several weeks. These people who may fall into that category can call the Windsor senior center at the LP Wilson Community Center to get assistance with signing up and for transportation services as well as getting vaccinations at their home.

Councilor Black-Burke would like to know more about vaccination clinic dates for here in Windsor and if we will be partnering with Charter Oak again. Town Manager Souza stated that the partnership with Charter Oak is still in the works. Charter Oak has not yet been able to provide a specific date because they are going through their second rounds of the vaccines that they gave out over the last three or four weeks. Town Manager Souza's understanding is that once they get through those rounds, Charter Oak will be more confident in setting a date in Windsor to start. Our own Health Department has been continuing to focus on the educators in Windsor as well as the childcare providers. Over the course of the next three weeks or so, we should be able to be open up our vaccine clinics beyond educators so the community wide groups can access those. CVS in Windsor is offering the vaccines as well as in the neighboring communities.

Councilor Black-Burke mentioned that there was a lot of activity over the Easter holiday, so it would be important to reiterate to the community how that information gets out to a particular neighborhood that may need to know of something taking place in town. Town Manager Souza stated that if there is an emergency such as a natural disaster or manmade disaster, we can use Everbridge also known as reverse 9-1-1 emergency notification. If there are ongoing impacts, we can use that service for calling. Town Manager Souza wants to encourage people to go online to register if you do not have a home landline. That information can be found on the front page of the town's website.

9) REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Town Improvements Committee – Councilor Dobler stated there is nothing to report from the Town Improvements Committee.

Special Projects Committee – Councilor Dobler stated there is nothing to report from the Special Projects Committee.

Health & Safety Committee – Councilor Black-Burke stated again to keep the speed down and stay safe.

Personnel Committee – Councilor Rampulla Bress stated that the Personnel Committee will be meeting on April 22, 2021. There are more candidates to interview and there are still a few spots left on boards and commissions, but they are very important positions. If anyone is interested in serving, democrat, republican, independent, unaffiliated, please take a look and submit an application.

Finance Committee – Deputy Mayor McAuliffe stated that the Finance Committee met on March 22, 2021. As Councilor Dobler stated, this is a budget process and we are going through the process of trying to get as low of an increase as possible. Deputy Mayor McAuliffe reminded

everyone that the money from the new Amazon building will not come into play until FY 23. The budget process is a multi-year process and it has to be looked at as how it will affect years rolling forward. We are doing the best we can as a committee to bring in as low as possible of an increase if not at all. Deputy Mayor McAuliffe also reminded everyone that the funding receive for COVID from the federal government is explicitly not to be used for tax relief.

10) ORDINANCES

11) UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a) Approve a bond ordinance entitled, "AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$2,020,000 FOR COSTS IN CONNECTION WITH PHASE ONE OF SAGE PARK SCHOOL HVAC ENERGY EFFICIENCY UPGRADES PROJECT; AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUE OF \$2,020,000 BONDS AND NOTES FINANCE THE APPROPRIATION."

MOVED by Councilor Jepsen, seconded by Councilor Dobler that the reading into the minutes of the text of the ordinance entitled, "AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$2,020,000 FOR COSTS IN CONNECTION WITH PHASE ONE OF SAGE PARK SCHOOL HVAC ENERGY EFFICIENCY UPGRADES PROJECT; AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUE OF \$2,020,000 BONDS AND NOTES FINANCE THE APPROPRIATION" is hereby waived, the full text of the ordinance having been distributed to each member of the Council and copies being made available to those persons attending this meeting; and that the full text of the ordinance be recorded with the minutes of this meeting.

Motion Passed 9-0-0

MOVED by Councilor Jepsen, seconded by Councilor Dobler that an ordinance entitled, "AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$2,020,000 FOR COSTS IN CONNECTION WITH PHASE ONE OF SAGE PARK SCHOOL HVAC ENERGY EFFICIENCY UPGRADES PROJECT; AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUE OF \$2,020,000 BONDS AND NOTES FINANCE THE APPROPRIATION" be approved.

Town Manager Souza stated the improvements proposed to be constructed in this phase of the multi-phase project will include a new electrical service and installation of air conditioning for all second floor classrooms and hallways. Replacement of all existing roof top units and energy recovery units is also included. The two gymnasiums' air handling units will be replaced with energy efficient units with air conditioning as well. The project cost includes a contingency for possible hazardous material remediation.

Motion Passed 9-0-0

MOVED by Councilor Jepsen, seconded by Councilor Dobler to refer Sage Park School HVAC Energy Efficiencies Upgrades Project to the Public Building Commission for oversight.

Motion Passed 9-0-0

12) NEW BUSINESS

- a) Presentation of FY 21 – FY 22 budget as proposed by the Town Manager

Town Manager Souza gave an overview of the proposed FY 21 – FY 22 budget.

Deputy Mayor McAuliffe shared some things that were discussed at the Finance Committee meeting on March 22, 2021. One being that they had looked at using some of the reserves, (\$2,000,000), to bring the increase down to 0.77%. That is a good starting point. The Finance Committee had not received the detailed budget report at that point but now that the whole council has, we will be able to look deeper into the budget. As of Wednesday, we will be able to get more reports from town staff to address how we can help the town deal with what they are dealing with after this awful year we have had and move forward with very little if not a zero percent increase.

Councilor Jepsen stated that they did talk about increasing opening cash from \$900,000 to \$2,000,000, but part of the concept there is that in future years we eliminate it entirely. As Town Manager Souza stated, the \$900,000 has been the amount for several years now, but there was a time where we had whittled it down to \$100,000 and on our way of getting rid of it. Because Amazon will be contributing next year, there is an opportunity to get rid of it in one swoop. It would reduce the tax increase a great deal by going to \$2,000,000 and have the capacity to eliminate that line. This would bring a fair way to look at the budget and a fair way for the Town Manager to process it. Councilor Jepsen stated that concept is out there, and he knows that it has been talked about on this committee a lot.

Councilor Rampulla Bress confirmed what the previous members of the Finance Committee have said and one of the things we were very cognizant of is the difficult year that people are having during COVID this year and last year. The timing was not absolutely ideal, but the Finance Committee along with the members of the town staff, have been working hard to try to do something to spread that benefit out over the three years in order to keep this year's taxes low. Councilor Rampulla Bress thanked her fellow Finance Committee members and the town for giving us a variety of scenarios. We are working very hard to reduce this amount to something quite reasonable.

Councilor Wilkos stated that Town Manager Souza stated an interesting fact and it made him want to expand on it more. It was mentioned that we had a significant loss in the interest revenues. The interest revenues from eight years ago, our holdings and the general fund were almost half of what they are now in 2021. So in today's dollars, that is a loss of interest probably around \$1,500,000, if not more, which is a staggering number. Councilor Wilkos would like to know about the police dispatcher and if one is enough. The dispatch position creates a lot of overtime for our officers. Councilor Wilkos would like to know if the Chief of Police has been able to break that down. Town Manager Souza stated that it varies greatly from year to year, which is the challenge. When there is significant long-term medical or disability then most definitely it is a one for one replacement essentially for dispatchers. There would not be enough dollar savings solely in overtime to be able to add more than the one full-time person. There may be opportunities to offset the cost by adding more than one FTE. Town Manager Souza stated that he will pose that question to the Chief.

b) Re-approve Fair Housing Policy Statement

MOVED by Councilor Jepsen, seconded by Councilor Rampulla Bress to approve the attached "Fair Housing Resolution" and "Fair Housing Policy Statement."

Town Manager Souza stated the attached Fair Housing Resolution and Fair Housing Policy Statement state that the town will follow fair housing regulations and not discriminate against any protected classes in carrying out federal programs. The resolution and policy also designates the Town Manager or his/her representative to respond to fair housing complaints, provide contact information for same, and sets forth a complaint procedure.

APRIL, 2021

TOWN OF WINDSOR

FAIR HOUSING POLICY STATEMENT

It is the policy of the Town of Windsor to promote fair housing opportunities and to encourage racial and economic integration in all its programs and housing development activities.

Programs funded and administered by the Town of Windsor must comply with the provisions of Section 46a-64c of the C.G.S., and with related state and federal laws and regulations that prohibit discriminatory housing practices.

The Town of Windsor or any sub-recipient of the Town will carry out an affirmative marketing program to attract prospective buyers or tenants of all majority or minority groups, without consideration of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, ancestry, creed, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, marital status, lawful source of income, disability, age or because the individual has children in all programs and housing development activities funded or administered by the Town.

The Town Manager is responsible for the enforcement and implementation of this policy. James Burke, Economic Development Director is the staff person responsible for fair housing and may be reached at (860) 285-1877 or electronically at burke@townofwindsorct.com.

Complaints pertaining to discrimination in any program funded or administered by the Town of Windsor may be filed with the Town's Office of Community Development. The Town may attempt to resolve complaints at the local level or forward to one of the following agencies:

Complaints may also be filed with the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities, Special Enforcement Unit, 21 Grand Street, Hartford, CT 06106, Telephone (860) 541-3403 within 180 days of the alleged violation by submitting a notarized complaint and/or the Boston Regional Office of FHEO, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Thomas P. O'Neill, Jr. Federal Building, 10 Causeway Street, Room 321, Boston, MA 02222-1092, Telephone (617) 994-8300 or 1-800-827-5005, TTY (617) 565-5453. A complaint may be filed with HUD within one year after an alleged violation. Additionally, an individual may file suit, at his/her expense, in Federal District Court or State Court within two years of an alleged violation. If the individual cannot afford an attorney, the Court

may appoint one. A suit can be brought even after filing a complaint, if the complaining party has not signed a conciliation agreement and an Administrative Law Judge has not started a hearing. A court may award actual and punitive damages and attorney's fees and costs. Finally complaints may also be filed with the Connecticut Fair Housing Center, 221 Main Street, Hartford, CT 06106, Telephone (860) 247-4400 or emailed to info@CTfairhousing.org.

A copy of this policy statement will be given annually to all Town of Windsor employees who may potentially deal with fair housing complaints and they are expected to fully comply with it. In addition, a copy will be posted in appropriate locations throughout the Town of Windsor.

Peter Souza, Town Manager

Date

IF REQUESTED, THIS STATEMENT WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE IN LARGE PRINT OR ON AUDIO TAPE by contacting James Burke, Town of Windsor, 275 Broad Street, Windsor, CT (860) 285-1877.

Certified a true copy of a Resolution adopted by the Town Council of the Town of Windsor, Connecticut in meeting duly assembled on April 5, 2021 and which Resolution has not been rescinded or modified in any way whatsoever.

(Seal)

Anna Posniak, Town Clerk

Date

APRIL 2021

**TOWN OF WINDSOR
FAIR HOUSING RESOLUTION**

WHEREAS, All persons are afforded a right to full and equal housing opportunities in the neighborhood of their choice; and

WHEREAS, Federal fair housing laws require that all individuals, regardless of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, national origin, or gender identity be given equal access to all housing-related opportunities, including rental and homeownership opportunities, and be allowed to make free choices regarding housing location; and

WHEREAS, Connecticut fair housing laws require that all individuals, regardless of race, creed, color, national origin, ancestry, sex, marital status, age, lawful source of income, familial status, learning disability, physical or mental disability, sexual orientation, or gender identity or expression be given equal access to all housing-related opportunities, including rental and home ownership opportunities, and be allowed to make free choices regarding housing location; and

WHEREAS, The Town of Windsor is committed to upholding these laws, and realizes that these laws must be supplemented by an Affirmative Statement publicly endorsing the right of all people to full and equal housing opportunities in the neighborhood of their choice.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Town of Windsor hereby endorses a Fair Housing Policy Statement to ensure equal opportunity for all persons to rent, purchase, obtain financing and enjoy all other housing-related services of their choice on a non-discriminatory basis as provided by state and federal law; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Town Manager of the Town of Windsor or his/her designated representative is responsible for responding to and assisting any person who alleges to be the victim of an illegal discriminatory housing practice in the Town of Windsor and for advising such person of the right to file a complaint with the State of Connecticut Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities (CHRO) or the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) or to seek assistance from the Connecticut Fair Housing Center, legal services, or other fair housing organizations to protect his or her right to equal housing opportunities.

Motion Passed 9-0-0

c) Introduce Capital Improvements Program for FY 2022 to FY 2027

Town Manager Souza stated that historically, Windsor has adhered to recommended best practices in order to maintain a debt burden that is in line with available resources. Windsor holds its total debt service requirement to within 8% of total operating expenditures. This is consistent with recommendations from bond rating agencies that debt service be held to within 5% to 15% of the total operating budget. In recent years, borrowing has been structured to allow for the relatively quick retirement of outstanding debt.

Town Manager Souza gave a few highlights of the proposed CIP. If funding were to be authorized for all projects listed in the CIP as proposed, annual debt service payments would be expected to increase from roughly \$7.6 million in FY 2021 to a peak of just over \$7.8 million in FY 2022. The pay-as-you-go portion of the CIP (which is included in the annual operating budget) would range from \$2.52 million to \$2.74 million per year during that period. As a result of this, the debt service ratios are projected to not exceed the 8% policy goal in any year of the CIP.

It is recommended that the proposed CIP be referred to the Town Improvements Committee for review prior to final consideration by the Town Council.

d) Introduce and consider an ordinance authorizing the sale of 451 Windsor Avenue

RESOLVED by Councilor Jepsen, seconded by Councilor Rampulla Bress that the reading into the minutes of the text of the ordinance entitled, "AN ORDINANCE APPROVING THE SALE OF

451 WINDSOR AVENUE” is hereby waived, the full text of the ordinance having been distributed to each member of the Council and copies made available to those persons attending this meeting; and the full text of the ordinance be recorded with the minutes of this meeting.

Motion Passed 9-0-0

MOVED by Councilor Jepsen, seconded by Councilor Rampulla Bress to introduce and approve an ordinance entitled, “AN ORDINANCE APPROVING THE SALE OF 451 WINDSOR AVENUE.” The full text of the ordinance is available in the Town Clerk’s Office.

Town Manager Souza stated that in the past several months, staff has been engaged in discussions with the Capital Region Education Council (CREC) who has been interested in utilizing the property. An agreement in principal has been reached to sell the property to CREC for educational programing space with a focus on early childhood education.

With an agreement reached on the primary terms of disposition, the next step in the possible sale of the property include the Town Council, per *Town Charter*, considering an ordinance approving the sale of real estate and referring it to a Special Town Meeting for adoption.

Councilor Govoni would like to know if the two parcels will be aligned. Town Manager Souza stated that the front portion of this parcel that runs on Windsor Avenue is currently zoned business, B2. The majority of the parcel is in a residential zone. Staff will be presenting on April 13, 2021 rezoning of this property to the Town Planning and Zoning Commission to a category called ‘No NZ’ or No Zone. Most of our public facilities are zoned NC.

Councilor Rampulla Bress is very pleased and gratified that there are some benefits here particularly for our Windsor families in terms of having 25% of the paid daycare seats available and the 10% discount. Councilor Rampulla Bress stated that the other concern she has is the opportunity to gain some points for the Head Start program and would like to know if that has been determined and if there is a problem with the fact that it is run by another organization. Town Manager Souza stated that, at this time, CREC has not been able to confirm the actual point amount. We hope to be able to confirm that as we move forward but at this time we do not have the number of points on that eligibility scale. Councilor Rampulla Bress would like to know if the vote this evening will allow the process to go through regardless of whether or not we receive those points. Town Manager Souza stated that the process that is outlined here is the Special Town meeting would vote on the authorization of the sale and that ordinance provides the Town Council and Town Manager the authorization to take any actions to commence or finalize that sale. Town Manager Souza envisions coming back to the town council with a final disposition agreement that would outline in detail the overall agreement with the legal framework put in place.

Motion Passed 8-1-0 (Councilor Black-Burke against)

- e) Set a Special Town Meeting for April 14, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. to approve an ordinance authorizing the sale of 451 Windsor Avenue

RESOLVED by Councilor Jepsen, seconded by Councilor Rampulla Bress, that a Special Town meeting be set for Wednesday, April 14, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. (prevailing local time) in the Council Chambers of the Windsor Town Hall, to approve or disapprove an ordinance entitled, "AN ORDINANCE APPROVING THE SALE OF 451 WINDSOR AVENUE" which the Town Council has recommended its approval and BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town Clerk is authorized and directed to post and publish notice of said Special Town meeting.

Councilor Jepsen is wondering why that time and date was chosen. Town Manager Souza explained that is the earliest we could have the meeting. If council wanted to choose another date, there is nothing special other than that allows us to meet all of the public noticing of the meeting.

Motion Passed 9-0-0

MOVED by Councilor Jepsen, seconded by Deputy Mayor McAuliffe that item 12(f) and 16(a) be tabled.

Town Manager Souza stated that there has been a question posed by the insurance carrier regarding indemnification. We are postponing this so we can get clarity with the insurance carrier and the next possible steps. This will allow the Town Council to have full information prior to acting on this on a later date.

Motion Passed 9-0-0

MOVED by Councilor Jepsen, seconded by Councilor Wilkos to add the discussion of Naughton letter of item 12(g).

Motion Failed 5-2-2 (Councilor Black-Burke, Deputy Mayor McAuliffe against; Mayor Trinks, Councilor Rampulla Bress abstained)

13) RESIGNATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

MOVED by Councilor Rampulla Bress, seconded by Deputy Mayor McAuliffe, to:

- Accept the resignation of Karl Profe from the Town Planning & Zoning Commission
- Accept the resignation of Herman Woodard from the Windsor Housing Authority

Motion Passed 9-0-0

14) MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETINGS

- a) Minutes of the March 15, 2021 Public Hearing

MOVED by Councilor Jepsen, seconded by Councilor Rampulla Bress to approve the unapproved minutes of the March 15, 2021 Public Hearing as presented.

Motion Passed 9-0-0

b) Minutes of the March 15, 2021 Regular Town Council meeting

MOVED by Councilor Jepsen, seconded by Councilor Rampulla Bress to approve the unapproved minutes of the March 15, 2021 Regular Town Council meeting as presented.

Motion Passed 9-0-0

15) PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS

Paul Panos, 40 Brookview Road, called again regarding the lawsuit with the Executive Director of Windsor Housing Authority against democrats. The democratic party in general has often used this issue of race heavy handedly. Now we have an example of white democrats in Windsor directly attacking a black executive director. The very existence of white people are people of privilege. There are people ousting a black executive director. Mr. Panos stated that these democrats are surprised about this type of accusation and you shouldn't be. This environment has been created by you. Mr. Panos stated that if the democrats had integrity they would not attest this lawsuit, but you are guilty as charged because it fits your own definitions.

Ned Bacigalupo, 89 Farmstead Lane, stated that he heard Mr. Weiner talking about power and electricity, and would like to know if he knows anything about electricity or if he is an engineer. Mr. Bacigalupo stated that his father brought power to 35 different countries across the planet. Mr. Bacigalupo believes that the solar panels are a scam and the windmills will only last a certain amount of time before they become useless.

16) EXECUTIVE SESSION

17) ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by Councilor Rampulla Bress, seconded by Councilor Black-Burke to adjourn the meeting at 10:15 p.m.

Motion Passed 9-0-0

Respectfully Submitted,

Elizabeth Brisebois
Clerk of the Town Council