

Council Agenda

Council Chambers Windsor Town Hall May 19, 2025



Zoom Instructions

Dialing in by Phone Only:

Please call: 305 224 1968 or 309 205 3325

- 1. When prompted for participant or meeting ID enter: 847 6619 0297 and then press #
- 2. You will then enter the meeting muted. During 'Public Comment' if you wish to speak press *9 to raise your hand. Please give your name and address prior to voicing your comments.

Joining in by Computer:

Please go to the following link: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84766190297

When prompted for participant or meeting ID enter: 847 6619 0297

- 1. Only if your computer has a microphone for two way communication, then during Public Comment if you wish to speak press **Raise Hand** in the webinar control. If you do not have a microphone you will need to call in on a phone in order to speak.
- 2. During 'Public Comment' if you do not wish to speak you may type your comments into the Q&A feature.

7:20 PM Public Hearing

To hear public comment on an ordinance entitled, "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 5, ARTICLE XVII, PROPERTY TAX RELIEF FOR ELDERLY AND/OR DISABLED HOMEOWNERS."

7:30 PM Regular Council Meeting

- ROLL CALL
- 2. PRAYER OR REFLECTION Deputy Mayor Klase
- 3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE Deputy Mayor Klase
- PROCLAMATIONS/AWARDS
 - a) Proclamation designating May 18 May 24, 2025 as Public Works Week in Windsor
 - b) Proclamation designating May as Historic Preservation month
 - c) Proclamation proclaiming May 2025 as Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage month
- 5. PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS

(Three minute limit per speaker)

6. COMMUNICATIONS FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS



7. REPORT OF APPOINTED BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

- a) Public Building Commission
- b) Fair Rent Commission
- 8. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT
- 9. REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES
- 10. ORDINANCES
 - a) *Approve an ordinance entitled, "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 5, ARTICLE XVII, PROPERTY TAX RELIEF FOR ELDERLY AND/OR DISABLED HOMEOWNERS." (Town Manager)
- 11. UNFINISHED BUSINESS
- 12. NEW BUSINESS
 - a) *Set mill rate for Fiscal Year 2026 (Town Manager)
 - b) *Approve Tax Suspense List (Town Manager)
 - c) *Accept a utility and pedestrian easement at 150 Broad Street (Town Manager)
- 13. *RESIGNATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS
- MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETINGS
 - a) *Minutes of the April 30, 2025 Special Town Council Meeting
 - b) *Minutes of the May 5, 2025 Regular Town Council Meeting
- 15. PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS

(Three minute limit per speaker)

- 16. EXECUTIVE SESSION
 - a) Discussion of the selection of a site or purchase of real estate (Town Manager)
- 17. ADJOURNMENT
- ★Back-up included

PROCLAMATION

Designating May 18, 2025 through May 24, 2025 as National Public Works Week

WHEREAS, the public works services provided in our community are an integral part of our citizens' everyday lives; and,

WHEREAS, support, understanding and informed citizenry is vital to the efficient operation of public works systems and programs such as street maintenance, the operation of a resident transfer station, public building maintenance, public grounds beautification, snow removal, and community event support; and,

WHEREAS, the health, safety and comfort of this community greatly depends on these facilities and services; and,

WHEREAS, the quality and effectiveness of these facilities, as well as their planning, design, and construction, is dependent upon the efforts and skill of public works officials; and,

WHEREAS, the efficiency of the qualified and dedicated personnel who staff public works departments is considerably influenced by the community's attitude and understanding of the importance of the work they perform.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE MAYOR AND THE WINDSOR TOWN COUNCIL THAT:

May 18, 2025 through May 24, 2025 be declared as National Public Works Week in the Town of Windsor, and that the citizens and civic organizations of the Town of Windsor acquaint themselves with the issues involved in providing our public works support, and to recognize the contributions which public works personnel make every day to our health, safety, comfort, and quality of life.

Nuchette Black-Burke, M. Ed. Mayor of Windsor May 19, 2025

PROCLAMATION

Declaring May 2025 as Historic Preservation Month

WHEREAS.

The National Trust for Historic Preservation established May as Historic Preservation Month in 1973 as a way to promote historic places for the purpose of instilling national and community pride, promoting heritage tourism, and showing the social and economic benefits of historic preservation; and,

WHEREAS.

it is important to celebrate the role of history in our lives and the contributions made by dedicated individuals in helping to preserve the tangible aspects of the heritage that has shaped us as a people; and,

WHEREAS.

as Connecticut's First Town, Windsor is rich in history and historic buildings and is designated by the National Park Service as a Certified Local Government demonstrating Windsor's commitment to local preservation and saving the past for future generations; and,

WHEREAS,

Windsor maintains a Historic Resource Inventory and has dozens of properties listed in the National Register of Historic Places, including the Oliver Ellsworth Homestead, a National Historic Landmark; and,

WHEREAS,

the Windsor Historic District Commission is an appointed commission charged with the preservation and protection of the historic character of the Windsor Historic District along Palisado Avenue, between the Farmington River and Bissell's Ferry Road; and,

WHEREAS,

the Windsor Historical Society, founded in 1921, preserves and interprets nearly 400 years of Windsor's history through exhibitions, education programs, publications, active collecting, and research.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE MAYOR AND TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF WINDSOR THAT:

The month of May 2025 is proclaimed as Historic Preservation Month in the Town of Windsor and that all citizens are encouraged to join in this special observance by learning about local Windsor history and exploring and enjoying the town's many historic assets.

SECULATION OF STREET

Nuchette Black-Burke Mayor of Windsor May 19, 2025



Proclaiming May 2025 as Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month

WHEREAS, we celebrate all of those who are included in the Asian American and Pacific Islander community, which is made up of culturally and linguistically diverse peoples, representing populations from many countries and islands; and,

WHEREAS, Windsor recognizes the invaluable contributions from Asian American and Pacific Islander individuals, families and businesses; and,

WHEREAS, those of Asian and Pacific Islander origin contribute to and enrich our community with their leadership, creativity, talent, enterprise and skill in countless ways and are an integral part of building and supporting a vibrant and resilient economy in the Town of Windsor; and,

WHEREAS, people of Asian and Pacific Islander origin are our beloved friends and family, our cherished neighbors and valued members of the Town of Windsor where we remain committed to embracing and accepting all our residents from diverse backgrounds; and,

WHEREAS, the Town of Windsor stands in solidarity with the Asian Pacific Islander community in the town and around the world against systemic racism, xenophobia, and contempt directed against them both in the past and in the present time.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE MAYOR AND TOWN COUNCIL OF WINDSOR THAT:

May 2025 be proclaimed as Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage month in the Town of Windsor and that all residents are encouraged to celebrate the history and culture of Asian Pacific Islanders and Asian Pacific Americans and their vital contributions to our community.

Nuchette Black-Burke Mayor of Windsor May 19, 2025

Agenda Item Summary

Date:

May 19, 2025

To:

Honorable Mayor and Members of the Town Council

Prepared by:

Scott Colby, Assistant Town Manager

Reviewed by:

Peter Souza, Town Manager

Subject:

Property Tax Relief for Elderly and/or Disabled Homeowners Ordinance

Background

State law provides a property tax credit for Connecticut homeowners who are elderly or totally disabled and whose incomes do not exceed certain limits. In 2006, the Town Council adopted an ordinance that provides additional tax relief via a local tax credit for Windsor homeowners who are elderly or totally disabled, and whose incomes do not exceed certain limits.

Over the years, the Town Council has made adjustments to the ordinance. These changes include increasing the eligible income levels and increasing the benefit amounts, with the last change in 2024 when the local benefit amount was adjusted upward from a match of 50% to 100% and the dollar amount for the flat benefit was increased.

Based on the Town Council's expressed desire on April 30th to increase the dollar amount of the tax credit benefit, a proposed amendment to the Property Tax Relief for Elderly and/or Disabled Ordinance is being presented for Town Council consideration. It is proposed the required public hearing be set for May 19th.

Discussion/Analysis

Property tax credits under the state program can be up to \$1,250 for married couples and \$1,000 for single individuals. Credits are based on a graduated income scale. The town provides an additional benefit with a current match of 100% of this credit for those households eligible under the state program. The town's ordinance also provides for a flat benefit of either \$415 or \$550, dependent on marital status for eligible households with incomes between \$45,200 and \$62,200.

The town income level increases have been proportional to the State income level increases, which themselves are proportional to annual Social Security cost of living increases. Since 2019, the town's local income limit has been automatically raised each year, proportional to the increase in the state's programs maximum income limit. The state releases the increase in program maximum levels in mid-December. Typically the increase is the same as the change to social security. For calendar year 2025, the state increased the income levels by 3.1%.

Currently there are 339 participants under the state program and the local match benefit. There are an additional 93 participants in the flat benefit program. Below are charts showing the current benefit levels by income as well as the proposed tax credit level based on the Town Council allocating an additional \$130,000 during adoption of the FY 2026 budget on April 30th.

Current: 100% Match

Income Limit Over Under 22,700 \$ 22,700 | \$ 30,400 \$ 30,400 \$ 37,900 \$ 37,900 45,200 45,200 55,100 \$ \$ 55,100 \$ 62,200

	Married							
	State		Local: 100%		1000	cal > 5,100		Total
	\$	1,250	\$	1,250			\$	2,500
	\$	1,000	\$	1,000			\$	2,000
	\$	750	\$	750			\$	1,500
	\$	500	\$	500			\$	1,000
۲	\$	250	\$	350			\$	600
					\$	550	\$	550

Marriad

174	V			Unma	arrie	d	2	
	State		Local: 100%		Local > \$45,200		Total	
	\$ 1,000		\$	1,000			\$	2,000
	\$	750	\$	750			\$	1,500
	\$	500	\$	500			\$	1,000
	\$	250	\$	350			\$	600
*					\$	415	\$	415
*[\$	415	\$	415

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Proposed: 150% Match

Over		Under					
\$	\$	22,700					
\$ 22,700	\$	30,400					
\$ 30,400	\$	37,900					
\$ 37,900	\$	45,200					
\$ 45,200	\$	55,100					
\$ 55,100	\$	62,200					

Income Limit

	warned								
State		- 7	ocal: 150%		ocal > 5,100	Total		Additional Over Current Match	
\$	1,250	\$	1,875			\$	3,125	\$	625
\$	1,000	\$	1,500			\$	2,500	\$	500
\$	750	\$	1,125			\$	1,875	\$	375
\$	500	\$	750			\$	1,250	\$	250
\$	250	\$	675			\$	925	\$	325
				\$	800	\$	800	\$	250

								Ada	ditional
	State	Local: 150%		Local > \$45,200		Total		Over Current Match	
\$	1,000	\$	1,500			\$	2,500	\$	500
\$	750	\$	1,125			\$	1,875	\$	375
\$	500	\$	750			\$	1,250	\$	250
\$	250	\$	675			\$	925	\$	325
				\$	600	\$	600	\$	185
100				\$	600	\$	600	\$	185

^{*}Supplement to local match to allow increased benefit for local program particpants

Financial Impact

The State of Connecticut no longer reimburses municipalities for the state program. The program as a whole has a current cost of \$434,475.

Based on the same number of participants as FY 25, the estimated cost of the additional benefit is approximately \$130,000 in FY 26 for a total program cost of approximately \$564,295 if the local match was increased to 150% but maintained the current income limit of \$62,200 as adjusted by the State income guidelines.

Other Board Action

None

Recommendation

If the Town Council is in agreement, the following motions are recommended for approval:

1) Waiving of the reading

"RESOLVED, that the reading into the minutes of the text of the ordinance entitled, "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 5, ARTICLE XVII, PROPERTY TAX RELIEF FOR ELDERLY AND/OR DISABLED HOMEOWNERS" 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 the full text of the ordinance be recorded with the minutes of this meeting."

2) Approve an Ordinance

"MOVE to approve an ordinance entitled, "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 5, ARTICLE XVII, PROPERTY TAX RELIEF FOR ELDERLY AND/OR DISABLED HOMEOWNERS."

Attachments

Proposed amended ordinance

Red-lined version of current ordinance

Ordinance Amending Property Tax Relief for Elderly and/or Disabled Homeowners

CHAPTER 5 ARTICLE XVII

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 5, ARTICLE XVII, PROPERTY TAX RELIEF FOR ELDERLY AND/OR DISABLED HOMEOWNERS.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF WINDSOR:

Chapter 5, Article XVII, of the Windsor Code is amended to read as follows:

Section1. Property tax relief for elderly and/or disabled homeowners.

Section 5-17 (b)(2)(i) is amended to read as follows:

For the October 1, 2024 Grand List, local tax credits shall be provided by the town in accordance with the following income and credit guidelines:

Qualifyir	ig Income	Marital Status	Local Tax Credit = % of		
Over	То		State Benefit		
\$0	\$22,700	Married	150%		
\$0	\$22,700	Single	150%		
\$22,700	\$30,400	Married	150%		
\$22,700	\$30,400	Single	150%		
\$30,400	\$37,900	Married	150%		
\$30,400	\$37,900	Single	150%		
\$37,900	\$45,200	Married	150%		
\$37,900	\$45,200	Single	150% + \$300*		
\$45,200	\$55,100	Married	150% + \$300*		
\$45,200	\$55,100	Single	\$600		
\$55,100	\$62,200	Married	\$800		
\$55,100	\$62,200	Single	\$600		

^{*}Supplement to local match to allow increased benefit for local program participants

Section 5-17 (7) is amended to read as follows:

This article shall be applicable to the Grand List of October 1, 2024 and all subsequent Grand Lists thereafter.

<u>Section 2.</u> <u>Savings Clause.</u> The enactment of this Ordinance shall not operate as an abatement of any action or proceeding previously taken, now pending, or taken prior to the effective date of this Ordinance. All said actions and proceedings are hereby ratified to be continued.

Section 3. Severability. All provisions of the Town Code in conflict herewith are hereby repealed and that if for any reason, any word, clause, paragraph, or section of this Ordinance shall be held to make the same unconstitutional, this Ordinance shall not hereby be invalidated and the remainder of the Ordinance shall continue in effect. Any provision herein which is in conflict with the Connecticut General Statutes is hereby repealed, it being understood that said statute shall take precedence over this Ordinance.

APPROVED AS TO FORM:	
Town Attorney	
ATTEST:	
Town Clerk	
Distributed to Town Council	
Public Hearing Advertised	-
Public Hearing	
Adopted	
Advertised	
Effective Date	

Red-Lined Version

Property Tax Relief for Elderly and/or
Disabled Homeowners ordinance

CHAPTER 5 ARTICLE XV11

AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING CONNECTICUT GENERAL STATUTES SECTION 12-129n TO PROVIDE PROPERTY TAX RELIEF FOR ELDERLY AND/OR DISABLED HOMEOWNERS.

Sec. 5-17. Property tax relief for elderly and/or disabled homeowners.

- (a) Pursuant to the authority granted under Connecticut General Statutes section 12-129n, as amended, the tax relief for elderly and/or disabled homeowners provided under said statute is hereby adopted, extended and supplemented by the town council as follows.
- (b) The qualifications for the property tax relief provided by this section shall be as follows:
 - (1) Applicants must be a resident of the town who are:
- (i) Sixty-five years of age or over or whose spouse, living with them, is 65 years of age or over, or 50 years of age and the surviving spouse of a taxpayer who has qualified under this section at the time of their death, and with respect to real property in which such resident or their spouse is liable for taxes under Connecticut General Statutes section 12-48.
- (ii) Applicants under age 65 must be eligible in accordance with applicable federal regulations to receive permanent total disability benefits under Social Security, or have not been engaged in employment covered by Social Security and accordingly have not qualified for benefits thereunder, but have become qualified for permanent total disability benefits under any federal, state or local government retirement or disability plan, including the Railroad Retirement Act and any government-related teacher's retirement plan, in which requirements with respect to qualifications for such permanent total disability benefits are comparable to such requirement under Social Security.
- (iii) Applicants must have been a taxpayer of the town for one year immediately preceding their receipt of tax benefits under this section.
- (iv) Applicants must own and occupy the dwelling of the property subject to tax relief for at least 183 days per year for the property to qualify as the taxpayer's principal residence.
- (v) Applicants and/or their spouses shall have individually, if unmarried, or jointly, if married, adjusted gross income, as shown on Internal Revenue Service Form 1040, (if filed) Social Security benefits, and all other forms of income including but not limited to interest, dividends, annuities, pensions, retirement allowances hereinafter called "qualifying income", during the calendar year preceding the filing of their application in accordance with the guidelines set forth below.
- (vi) Such other conditions, qualifications, standards and procedures as set forth in the Connecticut General Statutes, as may be amended and this section.

(2) (i) For the October 1, 2023-2024 Grand List, local tax credits shall be provided by the Town in accordance with the following income and credit guidelines:

Qualifying Inco	оте	Marital Status	Local Tax Credit = % of		
Over	То		State Benefit		
\$0	\$ 22,000 22,700	Married	100 150%		
\$0	\$ 22,000 22,700	Single	100 150%		
\$ 22,000 22,700	\$ 29,500 30,400	Married	100 150%		
\$ 22,000 22,700	\$ 29,500 30,400	Single	100 150%		
\$ 29,500 30,400	\$ 36,700 37,900	Married	100 150%		
\$ 29,500 30,400	\$ 36,700 37,900	Single	100 150%		
\$ 36,700 37,900	\$ 43,800 45,200	Married	100 150%		
\$ 36,700 37,900	\$43,80045,000	Single	100 150% + \$ 100 300*		
\$ 43,800 45,200	\$ 53,400 55,100	Married	100 150% + \$ 100 300*		
\$ 43,800 45,200	\$ 53,400 <u>55,100</u>	Single	\$4 <u>15</u> 600		
\$ 53,400 <u>55,100</u>	\$ 60,300 <u>62,200</u>	Married	\$ 550 800		
\$ 53,400 <u>55,100</u>	\$ 60,300 <u>62,200</u>	Single	\$4 <u>15</u> 600		

^{*}Supplement to local match to allow increased benefit for local program participants

- (ii) The qualifying income levels described in paragraph (2)(i) above shall be as set forth therein or equal to the qualifying income for the Elderly and Totally Disabled Tax Relief program as published annually by the State of Connecticut Office of Policy & Management, whichever is greater.
- (iii) The local property tax credits provided by this article shall be in addition to and not dependent upon those benefits available to qualified taxpayers under any Connecticut General Statute, Sections 12-129b to 12-129d, inclusive, Sections 12-129h and 12-170aa, provided that the Town and state benefits in any one year shall not exceed

75% of the normal tax which would have been imposed on a qualified taxpayer in the absence of such state statute and this article.

- (3) Except for the "qualifying income" standard as set forth in this article, if the state denies the eligibility of an applicant for the portion of tax relief granted under one of the state programs, the Assessor must deny the applicant the local share of tax relief, remove the applicant from the benefit records and bill them for the full real estate tax due.
- (4) Upon the transfer of the property, the benefit is not transferable to the new owner and the new owner shall lose the benefit. Additionally, the Assessor shall prorate the increased tax liability from the date of transfer and notify the tax collector of such increase who will bill the new owner within a reasonable time period.
- (5) The assessor and the tax collector shall prescribe, with regard to their respective duties under this article, such forms and procedures as may be necessary to implement this article. The Assessor shall, in addition, satisfy himself or herself as to the qualifying income of an applicant for benefits under this article by requesting and reviewing such evidence of qualifying income as may be pertinent. All applications, federal income tax returns, and any additional evidence of qualifying income which the Assessor may require shall be kept confidential and not open to public inspection to the extent permitted under the Connecticut Freedom of Information Act.
- (6) Applications for benefits under this article shall be filed bi-annually with the assessor between February 1 and May 15.
- (7) This article shall be applicable to the Grand List of October 1, 2023 and all subsequent Grand Lists thereafter.
- (8) All provisions of the town code in conflict herewith are hereby repealed and that if for any reason, any word, clause, paragraph, or section of this article shall be held to make the same unconstitutional, this article shall not hereby be invalidated and the remainder of the article shall continue in effect. Any provision herein which is in conflict with the *Connecticut General Statutes* is hereby repealed, it being understood that said statutes shall take precedence over this article. In the event of any conflict between this article and *Connecticut General Statutes* Section 12-129n as it may be amended, the provisions of the statute shall control.
- (9) The local tax credits available pursuant to this article shall be reduced if the total cost of the program exceeds the annual amount appropriated by the Town Council. The re-adjusted tax credits shall be calculated by reducing the tax credit in a pro rata amount until the total cost of the annual appropriation is reached. If in any year the Town Council fails to appropriate any funds for this program, the tax credits will be suspended for that fiscal year only.

(Ord. No. 06-01, 6-5-06)

APPROVED AS TO FORM:	
Town Attorney	
ATTEST:	
Town Clerk	
Distributed to Town Council	MANUAL STATE OF THE STATE OF TH
Public Hearing Advertised	
Public Hearing	
Adopted	
Advertised	And floored to the state of the
Effective Date	

Agenda Item Summary

Date:

May 19, 2025

To:

Honorable Mayor and Members of the Town Council

Prepared By:

Jim Bourke, Finance Director

Approved By:

Peter Souza, Town Manager

Subject:

Setting Mill Rate for FY 2026

Discussion/Analysis

The voters adopted the FY 2026 General Fund budget of \$152,012,160 on May 13, 2025. The adopted budget requires a tax rate of 28.45 mills for real estate, personal property and motor vehicles.

Tax increases on real estate are based on individual property assessments as determined by the Town Assessor's office per the October 1, 2023 revaluation and the second year of a two year phase-in of said revaluation.

Tax bills will be mailed the last week of June with a due date of July 1st, and are payable in full no later than August 1, 2025 to avoid interest charges. Any bills not paid in full prior to or on August 1st will incur a monthly interest fee of 1.5%.

Financial Impact

None

Other Board Action

None

Recommendations

If the Town Council is in agreement, the following motion is recommended for approval:

"MOVE that the mill rate for the Fiscal Year 2026 beginning July 1, 2025 be set at 28.45 mills for real estate, personal property and motor vehicles, which reflects the October 2023 property revaluation with a two year phase-in and a total estimated net taxable grand list for FY 2026 of \$4,552,339,190."

Attachments

None

Agenda Item Summary

Date:

May 19, 2025

To:

Honorable Mayor and Members of the Town Council

Prepared By:

Cathleen Elliot, CCMC, Tax Collector

Reviewed By:

Peter Souza, Town Manager

Subject:

Tax Suspense List

Background

In accordance with *Connecticut State Statutes* §12-165, the Suspense List must be submitted annually to the Town Council. This list consists of motor vehicle, supplemental, and personal property taxes on the 2021 Grand List that are considered not collectable. I have also included one account from the 2020 Grand List, which was added on after that list had been suspended and is still showing as an active account.

Discussion/Analysis

Various methods of collection have been pursued and all vehicle registrations have been reported to the Motor Vehicle Department. Transferring these bills to the Suspense Book does not mean we cannot collect if the taxpayer appears or is found through further efforts. However, this transfer presents a more accurate picture of the town's accounts receivable at this time.

Financial Impact

The accounts receivable will be \$399,186.41 less.

Recommendations

If the Town Council is in agreement, the following motion is recommended for approval:

"MOVE that \$ 399,186.41 in motor vehicle, supplemental, and personal property taxes be transferred to the Suspense Tax Book from the following respective Grand List years."

OCTOBER 1, 2020 -

\$ 72.83

OCTOBER 1, 2021 -

\$ 399,113.58

Attachments

Suspense List Recap

SUSPENSE LIST RECAP

OCTOBER 1, 2020	SUPPLEMENTAL MV 1 ACCOUNT	\$ 72.83
OCTOBER 1, 2021	PERSONAL PROPERTY 43 ACCOUNTS	\$ 17,586.01
OCTOBER 1, 2021	MOTOR VEHICLE 987 ACCOUNTS	\$ 301,167.91
OCTOBER 1, 2021	SUPPLEMENTAL MV 344 ACCOUNTS	\$ 80,359.66
	TOTAL 1,375 ACCOUNTS	\$ 399,186.41

Agenda Item Summary

Date:

May 19, 2025

To:

Honorable Mayor and Members of the Town Council

Prepared By:

Suzanne Choate, P.E., Town Engineer

Reviewed By:

Peter Souza, Town Manager

Subject:

Utility Easement and Pedestrian Easement at 150 Broad Street

Background

150 Broad Street is being developed into Founders Square, a 120 unit mixed-use residential development. As part of the redevelopment project the Town Council is respectively being requested to approve an electric utility easement, as well as a pedestrian right of way easement across the property.

Discussion/Analysis

A new electric line is being installed from an existing service panel near the intersection of Palisado Avenue across 150 Broad Street (Founders Square) to service a relocated town-owned street light on Prospect Street.

A sidewalk that previously connected the neighborhood behind the development along Upper Broad Street to the main intersection at Broad Street and Palisado Ave is being relocated as a result of the redevelopment. As part of the site plan approval process, a pedestrian right-of-way was included to provide a connection between Upper Broad Street and the Palisado Ave and Broad Street intersection. The town is not accepting the sidewalk itself but the easement ensures that pedestrians have the right to walk across the site on the relocated sidewalk. The town will not assume maintenance and repair responsibilities or costs.

Financial Impact

There is no cost for obtaining the easements. The town does not have any construction costs related to these improvements or easements. The town will not be assuming maintenance and repair responsibilities or costs.

Other Board Action

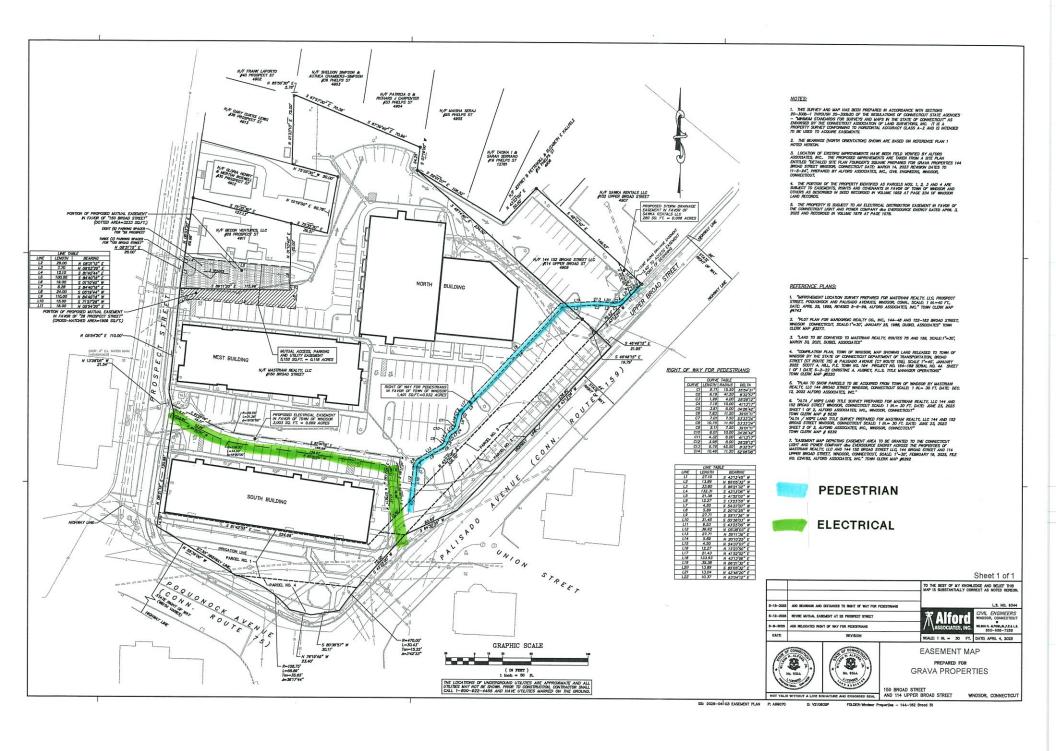
An 8-24 review will be conducted by the Town Planning and Zoning Commission at its May 20th meeting.

Recommendations

If the Town Council is in agreement, the following motion is recommended for approval:

"MOVE that the Town Council accept an electric utility easement and a pedestrian right of way easement at 150 Broad Street as shown on the attached map entitled 'Easement Map' dated April 4, 2025, prepared by Alford Associates."

Attachments
Easement Map





Town Council Resignations/Appointments/Reappointments May 19, 2025

Resignations

None

Appointments/Reappointments (to be acted upon at tonight's meeting)

None

Names submitted for consideration of appointment

A. One Green Member

Conservation Commission Five Year Unexpired Term to expire November 30, 2026 or until a successor is appointed (Nigel Pepin - resigned)

"MOVE to appoint Mike Douville as an Unaffiliated member to the Conservation Commission for a five year unexpired term to expire November 30, 2026 or until a successor is appointed."

B. One Republican Member

Housing Code Board of Appeals Five Year Term to expire October 31, 2028 or until a successor is appointed (LisaAnn Orme – moved out of town)

"MOVE to appoint Mike Douville as an Unaffiliated member to the Housing Code Board of Appeals for a five year term to expire October 31, 2028 or until a successor is appointed."



C. One **Democratic** Member

Public Building Commission
Three Year Term to expire November 30, 2027 or until a successor is appointed (Milo Peck - reappointment)

"MOVE to reappoint Milo Peck as a Democratic member to the Public Building Commission for a three year term to expire November 30, 2027 or until a successor is appointed."

D. One Republican Member

Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission Four Year Term to expire March 31, 2029 or until a successor is appointed (Steven Fraysier - reappointment)

"MOVE to reappoint Steven Fraysier as a Republican member to the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission for a four year term to expire March 31, 2029 or until a successor is appointed."

E. One Republican Member

Greater Hartford Transit District Four Year Term to expire February 28, 2028 or until a successor is appointed (Dave Raney – moved out of town)

"MOVE to appoint Alfred Tanguay as an Unaffiliated member to the Greater Hartford Transit District for a four year term to expire February 28, 2028 or until a successor is appointed."

F. One *Democratic* Member

Windsor Housing Authority
Five Year Unexpired Term to expire July 31, 2026 or until a successor is appointed (Harry Freeman - resigned)

"MOVE to appoint Donald Trinks as a Democratic member to the Windsor Housing Authority for a five year unexpired term to expire July 31, 2026 or until a successor is appointed."

G. One Democratic Member

Arts Commission

Three Year Unexpired term to expire August 29, 2026 or until a successor is appointed (Edward Richters – resigned)

"MOVE to appoint Christina Crosset as a Democratic member to the Arts Commission for a three year unexpired term to expire August 29, 2026 or until a successor is appointed."



H. One Democratic Member

Library Advisory Board Three year term to expire April 30, 2028 or until a successor is appointed (Kaitlin Walsh – reappointment)

"MOVE to reappoint Kaitlin Walsh as a Democratic member to the Library Advisory Board for a three year term to expire April 30, 2028 or until a successor is appointed."

I. One *Democratic* Member

Youth Commission

Three Year Term to expire September 30, 2027 or until a successor is appointed (Bruce McCormick)

"MOVE to appoint Matthew Hellman as a Democratic member to the Youth Commission for a three year term to expire September 30, 2027 or until a successor is appointed."

J. One *Democratic* Member

Zoning Board of Appeals Four Year Unexpired Term to expire November 10, 2027 or until a successor is appointed (Max Kuziak – resigned)

"MOVE to appoint Andrea Olson as a Democratic member to the Zoning Board of Appeals for a four year unexpired term to expire November 10, 2027 or until a successor is appointed."

K. One *Democratic* Alternate (Residential) Member

Historic District Commission Two Year Term to expire October 14, 2027 or until a successor is appointed (Marcia Hinckley)

"MOVE to appoint Andrea Olson as a Democratic Alternate (Residential) member to the Historic District Commission for a two year term to expire October 14, 2027 or until a successor is appointed."



L. One Republican Member

Commission on Aging & Persons with Disabilities Three Year Term to expire January 31, 2028 or until a successor is appointed (Marva Douglas-Wilks - reappointment)

"MOVE to reappoint Marva Douglas-Wilks as a Republican member to the Commission on Aging & Persons with Disabilities for a three year term to expire January 31, 2028 or until a successor is appointed."

M. One Unaffiliated Member

Youth Commission Three Year Term to expire January 30, 2028 or until a successor is appointed (Marco Romero - reappointment)

"MOVE to reappoint Marco Romero as an Unaffiliated member to the Youth Commission for a three year term to expire January 30, 2028 or until a successor is appointed."



TOWN COUNCIL HYBRID MEETING – VIRTUAL AND IN-PERSON April 30, 2025 Special Town Council Meeting Council Chambers

UNAPPROVED MINUTES

1) CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Black-Burke called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Present: Mayor Nuchette Black-Burke, Deputy Mayor Darleen Klase, Councilor Mary Armstrong, Councilor Ronald Eleveld, Councilor Kristin Gluck Hoffman, Councilor Anthony King, Councilor Ojala Naeem, Councilor William Pelkey and Councilor Walker

2) PUBLIC COMMENT

LeighAnn Tyson, 141 Giddings Avenue, said that we are at that time again where one side is telling us to not vote for our town budget and the other side is telling us that we must vote. She was born and raised in this town. She returned here after living in other areas. She also worked for the high school which she graduated from, bought a little house, raised her daughter here, and she's hoping to be able to remain here in her retirement. Hard times are upon us. Not 7 years ago, \$75 at Geissler's filled the entire trunk of her SUV. My haul the other day was barely 3 bags. She explained what she could pay for 10 years ago as compared to now. Services that we may take for granted now are in jeopardy of being cut if the May 13th budget fails. Road repairs, police presence, fire services, schools, classrooms and other programs are at stake. She explained more services that could be eliminated. Please read the budget yourself at townofwindsorct.com on the town's website. It is bare bones. The majority of increases are due to base costs such as electricity, heating etc. There are no extras.

Dr. Linda Alexander, 155 Fieldstone Drive said we've heard from numerous people that they cannot afford these taxes and yet there was a reluctance to make any reductions to proposed spending the other night. Town schools were given money for positions that were supposed to be temporary, but when the time came to roll back that spending, the schools insisted they could not do it. She would also like to address the issue of class size.

She had a very successful educational career. She did not have low student teacher, ratios. She can remember 32 people in a class, or even more, at university, and even more in medical school. We did not have that very intense teacher to student ratio, and yet we were very successful. We learned we helped each other. So there are alternatives to having very small teacher to student ratios, and that could be helpful.

John Cassarino, 48 Arrowbrook Road, said he is opposed to the current budget proposal. Why does the town need brand new fire trucks? The town should not be in the business of making



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money, but to provide for the taxpayers, the homeowners. To the Town Council person that spoke about lowering levels of the Town and Board of Education budgets and them being online. He looked online for 20 minutes last night for the budget. They weren't there. He also called the Town Manager's office and she couldn't find them either. There's nothing there other than topics. He's paying for people's salaries. He wants to see them. He wants to see the salaries. He wants to see the overtime, and he wants to see bonuses for every single person. To the Town Council person that spoke about not getting a stipend for being on the Town Council. He believes that the Town Council should be dissolved, due to the fact that they voted to revaluate property taxes and pay it within 2 years instead of 5 years. To the callers who spoke about the Board of Education, you need to spend some time at the Catholic schools. Their students are in 3 to 6 grades higher than public students, with a 10th of the budget that the Board of Education has. The Board of Education puts money in a bucket that was not approved with the State of Connecticut. If that is not fraud, I do not know what is.

Aaron Jubrey, 38 Crabapple Road stated he wanted to thank all the volunteers in front of him here and all the volunteers on the Board of Education. He knows that none of them are paid and we may disagree but he thanks them all for their time. As we consider this budget, it is crucial we recognize the undeniable importance of providing sufficient funding to our schools not only to support our students and teachers, but to uplift our entire community. He thanked the volunteer firefighters as well. Educating our children is investing directly into our future. When we provide robust funding to schools, we are empowering our students with the tools they need for success. It's not just about the students, it's about valuing and supporting our teachers, the cornerstone of our educational system. Let's remember that strong schools directly contribute to higher property values. When we invest in education, we foster a reputation of excellence in our communities that attracts new families. This is about collective responsibility and shared prosperity. Investing in our schools is investing in the community as a whole, creating a vibrant, engaged, and educated population that drives social and economic progress. Let's remember that the foundation we lay today through educational funding will echo throughout generations. It is not just a moral obligation, it is a strategic imperative that ensures our community thrives economically, socially and culturally. Let's continue to work together for the betterment of our town and its future.

Sharon Gauthier, 142 Sunnyfield Drive, said she has lived in town for 60 years and it's a wonderful town. It's about the people, the community. Yet, we continue to lack the involvement of our residents throughout the town. We are the people and we have the power. She's been in healthcare for 40 years. People complain to each other and they complain at meetings they go to. They complain to neighbors but do nothing else. We have two senators and two representatives in our town. One is noticeable, the other is not. We have two senators, where are they? Have you called them or met with them? Have you gone to the Capitol or online to see what they are and are not supporting? She has spoken to them. She met with her senator and told him he needs to get involved in our town. You voted for them—they are there for you. It's not Windsor's fault that the economy is the way it is. Health Insurance has increased for the Board of Education and the Town. She met with the leader of the Public Health committee, Dr. Anne Wah, and had a zoom call with her to discuss the failures of our system with the elderly. Because of those meetings, there are now 2 bills that will probably pass this year. She explained who she has spoken to in the legislature and what the outcome was. Make the time to activate



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your responsibility as a citizen to do something else but just complain. She stated that we have good services in Town. Her advice to all is to show up and speak up. Only you have the ability to change, and when you don't vote, and you don't go to the people who can help change things, sitting at home and complaining won't help. We have a very angry world right now, and we all know that we can try to be neighbors and help in some way, but be civic minded. Join your community, and you'll feel better about everything in life. Thank you.

Joseph Perry, 347 Rood Avenue, said his taxes for his house in 2022 was at \$3,511. It went up in 2023 to \$3,947. That's a \$326 increase or 12.4%. He now sees that they are projected to go up to \$4,508. That's another \$560 increase or 14.2%. Now that he qualifies as a senior, maybe he can ask that getting help is based on adjusted gross income rather than the gross income. Maybe that would help a lot of the seniors in town.

Ariela Rephone, 28 Spring Street, stated she's a fifth grader at JFK. She's here to talk about something really important to all the kids in Windsor, our school system. Imagine a place where you feel excited to learn every single day. That's what our schools in Windsor are like, and it's all thanks to our amazing teachers. Our teachers in Windsor are not just people who teach us facts. They're like superheroes who can help us discover new things, understand tricky ideas, and even when we're feeling down, they know how to make us smile. But there's something that makes it harder for our amazing teachers to do their best. And that's how many kids are in each classroom. When there are too many students, it's harder for the teachers to help everyone. Imagine trying to answer 23 questions all at the same time. It can be noisy and distracting, and sometimes it's hard to get a chance to ask questions or share our ideas. She's asking them today to please think about the students who don't get a chance to vote when you're making decisions about the budget. Please don't cut the school budget. We kids are the future, and our teachers are helping us get there.

George Slate, 74 Ethan Drive, said he cannot make any comments about expenditures until the town gets back to a decent level on OPEB. If you go back to last year's annual report as audited, the town spent \$2.5 million for post-retirement medical benefits pay as you go. This year you're putting the budget on a \$1.5 million credit card. You know what the problem with credit cards is. It's not the debt, it's the interest. It just keeps accumulating. But you won't touch OPEB, so he can't talk expenditures with you. He sent them out something about senior tax relief. For his clients that are in the senior tax programs, they talk about three meals, two meals, or one meal per day. When can I keep my temperature at 50 degrees? How high do you want me to bring it up? Those are the people that you need to take care of. What he offered to them last night via email was an opportunity to not increase taxes but to decrease it for the 432 people currently on senior tax relief. You can give them all \$850 or you can give those under \$22,700 one thousand dollars or \$1,500. Let's start and do something. Please help the 432 people and help them in a significant way.

Eric Weiner, 130 Palisado Avenue, said he sees that Ariela has left the room, but Windsor's in good hands if that is our future. He apologized that the Town Council were all targets of gross misinformation. The effort they all put in and the job they do is extraordinary. He echoed George Slate's comments. We are a town that values people, whether they are young students through to our elderly. We must look after the low income seniors in town. He would take what George



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is proposing and even push it a little higher. Those are the people we need to look out for and at the same time, recognizing the budgetary situation that we are in is likely to continue for the next 10 years. We haven't done a fundamental shift in priorities in budgeting for our services, and I'm afraid going forward, we are going to have to make some significant cuts. Otherwise, we will push people out of town. From a timing point of view, doing a senior tax relief is tricky. If we could push the referendum for a couple of weeks, he would be grateful for that to get that adjustment through prior to going to the residents for a vote on the budget.

Chloe Taylor, 88 Farmstead Lane, stated she is a proud senior of Windsor High School. She's had an incredible experience in Windsor Public schools since kindergarten, from academics to athletics to the arts. She's so grateful for opportunities she's been given. But she's here tonight not just for herself but for the students whose voices often go unheard. Her younger brother is on the autistic spectrum. He's bright, capable, and deserving of the same strong and supportive education she's received. But she's worried that when budget decisions are made, students like him are always considered, their needs are unique, and when funding is cut or resources are stretched, it's often those who need the most support who feel it the hardest. As a student athlete, some town families have to pay to play sports. That leaves many students out of valuable opportunities for growth, teamwork, and leadership. She recently turned 18 acceptances into over 20 colleges and universities. She knows how to make informed decisions. She will be voting for the first time for the budget this year. She plans on voting yes for the town budget with no further cuts to town services or the Board of Education and she hopes everyone else in Windsor will do the same.

Raisha Khan, 25 Colton Street, said she's honored to serve as the current student representative from Windsor High School to the Board of Education this summer as a senior. She's spent most of her educational journey in Windsor Public schools, and she's seen firsthand how decisions made here shape the lives of students and families across our community. She's also the oldest of 3 siblings. So when she speaks tonight, she's not only thinking about her own experience, but also the experiences of every student who walks through the doors of our school every day. While she's not old enough to vote, she's asking the Council to make decisions that reach beyond today. Windsor has always been a place that believes in its youth. That belief shows when you invest in our schools, our families, and our futures. That belief shows when you invest in our schools, our families, and our futures. She asks that they approve a budget that is equitable, one that ensures all students regardless of background or need have access to the resources and support that they deserve. She hopes that her voice and the voices of every student she represents matter in this process. We're not just asking for support for today. We're asking you to help leave something strong and meaningful behind for the Windsor of tomorrow.

Becky Jacobson, 50 Lighthouse Hill Road, said she is here to read letters on behalf of other parents that she has received. From Gregg Lee, 348 Merriman Road, via letter he stated as the son of a teacher that worked in the Windsor public school system for nearly 40 years, and a special education teacher at that, he has a very strong opinion about why these services for these types of teachers and everyday teachers help these students learn how to grow and to become leaders that eventually take care of the senior citizens right now in this town. As a nearly 9 year member of Windsor little league as a volunteer, he knows what it means to need services and avenues for these children to be able to run and play and build leadership skills and team



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building skills through the services offered in this town as well as through sports. Also as the parent of 2 neurodivergent children that have needed these services that Windsor has provided to them like 504 plans and IEPs, without such services, the school system and my children would be at a loss for the tools vital to their education.

Jennifer Rodriguez McClintock of 164 Toby Avenue stated via letter she's been a member of the Windsor community since buying her home here in 2002. For the first 16 years she did not have a child in the Windsor public school system, yet always voted yes, in support for the school budget. She's a pediatric physical therapist who values the care and growth of all children. For 27 years, she has worked with children of all abilities who need physical, cognitive, and emotional support. It takes a village to care, nurture, and help the children in our community grow and prosper. She can appreciate the professionals who help support our children cognitively and especially emotionally. SEI teachers and staff were not a part of my education growing up. But she wishes that they had been. Now that my son is in the 6th grade at Sage Park Middle School, and halfway through his educational career in the Windsor public school system, she could not be happier with the education he has encountered. Every principal in our system has been nothing but stellar. Their engagement and excitement with students, educators, and staff is phenomenal. They are present, visible, and show that they care about the students and staff. She is always amazed at the opportunities our children have because of Windsor schools. My son still has 6 more years in the Windsor public school system. She will always support the education system because they have been able to provide fantastic education experiences, emotional support, character building to all children in our community. The schools support not only the education of children, but so much more they help to grow the whole child.

Sarah Thornton, 9146 Poquonock Avenue, said she moved here about a year and a half ago. She has two children, one in 5th grade at Clover Street, and one will be entering Oliver Ellsworth in the fall. She understands, from looking at the budget and speaking to people that the increases that we're seeing are just mostly the cost of inflation. Everything is going up in price. We're all experiencing that in our own budgets at home as well. She understands that even with the increases, we're still not replacing some teachers that are leaving. She feels really strongly that we need to increase the budget at least as much as is on the table right now, in order for the kids to keep receiving the kind of education that they need. I've been a teacher for 20 years. She sees that the kids everywhere need so much. She has never seen a school district offer so much support to children. It goes so far with the principals, the teachers, the social and emotional support. My daughter has needed that, and other children have needed it more than we've ever seen before. She thinks that not everyone who went through school a long time ago understands the impact of our world today on kids and how much support they need just to be healthy and develop in a way that they grow into healthy and productive adults that we really need in our town and in the world. She does want to support voting and she'll be voting yes for the budget.

Sally Grossman, 106 Mack Road, stated so many people are rightfully upset about the rising costs of almost everything coupled with stagnant pay. It has become increasingly difficult to afford the basics like food and housing, but this issue is not specific to Windsor. It is a nationwide issue. People asking for cuts to the budget that would have a meaningful impact on their finances likely don't realize the drastic negative effects that would be felt by the entire town. She doesn't want to pay taxes any more than anyone else, but she's not willing to harm our community



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members because our country is in a rough economic situation. People want to cut the budget, but who are we willing to sacrifice? Is it the elderly who are on a fixed income? Is it our children, many who came out today to speak and advocate for themselves, who rely on our education system to be able to become productive members of our society? Are you willing to give up services that benefit you for the betterment of the child? I just want to add that this budget only maintains current services. It's not adding to it.

Pamela Woodruff, 72 Toby Avenue, said she is a teacher herself, not in the district of Windsor, but in another school district, and just wanted to advocate her support of voting yes on this budget. All schools need every dollar that the towns can give them in order to maintain services to support our children. She feels that it's very important that we don't lose any staff members, because as a teacher she can say that she's very happy with how Windsor public schools is supporting her child, who is a child with special needs. She doesn't want other children to not get the same support that her son has gotten so far.

3) FINAL DELIBERATIONS AND VOTE

Mayor Black-Burke called for a recess at 7:17 PM and asked the Councilors to come back by 7:25 PM.

Mayor Black-Burke said that there have been a lot of questions/concerns about Great Pond in regards to this budget being driven because of the Great Pond district. She just wants to add that with Great Pond, yes, there is money that is being collected, but a portion of that comes back to us as agreed upon, but that is not a full driver of our budget.

Town Manager Souza added the town is receiving in total over \$4 million of taxes from the properties that are in the Great Pond Improvement District. Per our agreement, we returned 50% back to the Great Pond Improvement District to pay for their debt service on public infrastructure, meaning roadways, the water and sewer. Just to reiterate the private investment at Great Pond is well over \$200 million of private investment between what has occurred there in the last roughly 7 to 8 years.

Councilor Eleveld said we've heard members of the public, and we received the communication related to the senior tax credit. If there was a decision to do something, what is the process there? Town Manager Souza said there are two elements. Senior Tax relief is via an ordinance and so the ordinance requires a public hearing on the proposed amendments. It's essentially a two step process. The Town Council sets a public hearing date and that has to be noticed appropriately in the newspaper. Then the Council holds that public hearing, and they can choose to consider that same evening the proposed amendments. There are two elements to the senior tax relief. There's one related to the income eligibility threshold/ceilings, then there is the element regarding the level of benefit or financial benefit to those folks that are homeowners that are eligible for that tax credit. If the Town Council chooses to make adjustments to this current budget that's before us, he would suggest that the way to do that would be to adjust the benefit amount, because based upon approximately 450 that are enrolled, we would be able to estimate for you them what that dollar amount would be depending on what the level you would like to increase it. If you want to also include increasing the income ceilings, then that's a little bit harder



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of estimating how big that umbrella is broadened. So it's a little bit harder to make that estimate this evening. Second of all from a timing perspective, you can make adjustments to the budget this evening for the estimated improvements and then if you don't change the income eligibility, then you don't have to adjust the application period because applications are due May 15. The simplest and easiest way to provide relief for this coming fiscal year would be through increasing the benefit amount and at a future date the Town Council can consider other options.

Councilor Eleveld said simplistically put, this would have to be brought up at the next Town Council meeting with the public hearing at the following Town Council meeting. If you stayed to the regular schedule, we could possibly do a special meeting if there's enough time for a notice. The effect of this would be to in essence increase everybody else's taxes, based upon the communication we received. Presuming the numbers that we received are accurate, that would be about \$600-\$650,000 of additional expense that would have to be borne by all the rest of the taxpayers. Correct? Town Manager Souza said it depends on the level of benefit increase.

Councilor Eleveld said it is utilizing the communication that we had received. Did you see it? Town Manager Souza said that he did. Councilor Eleveld then stated that he is making a presumption that the calculations are accurate. The person who did it has a tendency to be pretty good with numbers.

Councilor Naeem said she wants to start off by thanking everyone that both came out tonight and came out Monday night. Right now, we are faced with impacts at a level that we have not seen in the decade prior to the last two years, both in terms of revaluation and the impact on the housing market, but also in terms of inflation, and what we might see coming down the road as an impact of changes happening at the Federal level. We are all here collectively. I think I can say this with confidence, to do what is in the best interest of every single person in this town, and that's not always easy, because we all have different needs. I think we've heard strongly that parents and students think education is important, it builds the future. It builds how successful those coming from Windsor are going to be as they continue to grow and mature in their lives. But we've also heard from many seniors to Councilor Eleveld's point, especially those that are on fixed incomes. Impacts of revaluation have been challenging to figure out how to come up with the funds to pay for the drastic increases that we're seeing from housing property changes. She wants to remind everyone that she doesn't think we addressed this tonight, but there was a question on it that the revaluation that happened is State mandated. It is not something that this Town Council chose to do. It is state mandated. We are required to do it every 5 years, and we will be doing it again in about 3 years' time. We've spent the last month looking at the town side of the budget, looking at each department. I've said this before, but she thinks that over the last decade, we were very cautious on increasing our spending and we are playing some catch up right now. Playing catch up with not just the rate of inflation we're seeing this year, but from prior years we're playing catch up on market rates for salaries, as we see vacancies open up or new positions needed. We'll state there are no net new positions in this budget. Our budget and she can speak definitely on the town side, but she sees it on both sides, it's a pretty lean budget. It is bare minimum. She thinks we need to be investing more, but I recognize that we're also dealing with a revaluation. She expects that tonight we will have much discussion on how do we handle this? What do we do about it? But she does want to address something that we didn't discuss during the last month which is the senior tax credit that



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Councilor Eleveld was pointing to. Back in December the Finance Committee did meet to discuss it. We were reviewing a handful of different credits, a couple of them that we did bring forward and pass and approve as a Council, including changes to the tax credits for veterans as well as for line of duty deaths. She thinks we heard it best tonight from Eric Weiner, that we are a town that values all people whether you are young students or elderly seniors. It's important that we continue investing in the future of our students. But she also thinks it's important that we recognize there are challenges that many of our seniors on fixed incomes are facing. So tonight she would like to hopefully return to some of the recommendations and discussions that we had as a Finance Committee. She knows we didn't make a formal recommendation to the Council, but as we deliberate, she would like to explore the opportunity to increase the credit match that we currently have from 100% to 150%.

Councilor Pelkey said we heard a lot of different things from some folks tonight. We are genuinely here for everybody in town and we're genuinely concerned. Just the realities of the economics are just not going to be good, you know. We can't all be winners, and that's really unfortunate in this situation. A couple of things he wants to address is the whole thing about our stipends. We really are all volunteers, and to the people out there who defended us in that regard, thank you very much. Just a couple other things that he wants to point out. To my ears, I'm not saying that what's been out there isn't true and hasn't been said, but I don't know any of the 9 of us or any members that are on the Board of Education who have realistically suggested pay to play sports at our public schools. So I don't think that's ever really been an item of discussion. He doubts it would be even on the table. Not that we have line item control. He doesn't see that going there, and even for special education, we can't take away many of the special education services because they're required by law. We would have to fund them in some way, shape or form. We just can't cut those things. He would like to dispel some of those rumors that it didn't matter if every single member of the Board of Education and the Superintendent wanted to get rid of them, we can't.

Councilor Pelkey asked Town Manager Souza in terms of the referendum being delayed, can you speak to what the logistics and what the impact of that is, if we wanted to delay something. If you can provide a general understanding what that does to tax bills going out, what it does to the funds we have and all that, it would be appreciated.

Town Manager Souza stated that we've had referendums not pass on the first attempt. There's a small window in which the Town Council, can readjust the budget. You'd be able to probably have a small window, say, maybe a week or two, to be able to push a referendum out. But what that does is it eliminates the ability to have a second referendum in May if the first referendum did not pass. That would push out the tax bills. According to the *Town Charter* we have a certain period of time prior to the first of July. We usually send the bills out in the third week of June. So, everything gets pushed back at least a minimum of a month. That would be part of the procedure just from a calendar perspective. The impact would potentially be a loss in one month of interest earnings. We receive probably 75% out of tax dollars within July and the first couple of weeks of August. We would lose that opportunity for interest earnings if it were to be delayed.



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Councilor Naeem stated she would like to understand what would it look like if we were to cut on the town side about a percent. She believes when she takes out Great Pond and the sewer expenses and a couple of others were at about 5.3% is what you mentioned two nights ago. Town Manager Souza said correct 5.3% percentage wise over Fiscal Year 24. Dollar wise, that's about a \$2.9 million dollar increase year over year.

Councilor Naeem asked Town Manager Souza to share a little bit more about if we were to cut about a percent, what would that look like? Town Manager Souza stated that if you brought that 5.4% down one percentage point, that's in round numbers about \$550,000 would be reduced. It's all about the choices. There are opportunities where we could reduce our pay as you go capital. Town Council did make reductions last year in the FY 25 budget. So there could be possibilities to reduce that for example in the area of paving and sidewalks where the proposed budget includes a \$55,000 increase year over year for those two items. You could reduce that \$55,000 and have that level funded with FY 25 amounts. There are opportunities to look at our debt service allocation. Per the budget parameters we've increased the General Fund contribution for debt service by 3%. That is essentially predicated upon borrowing the budget that you see before you at about \$7.5 million worth of bonds and notes this spring. As we've gone through the spring, that number is reduced down to approximately \$5.5 million in terms of actual new borrowing. We have room within the proposed budget to reduce the debt service allocation if the Council chose to. When you start going beyond that, you're really looking at starting to eliminate levels of service. Particularly when you look at Public Safety, which is an important service that we provide, but that is the largest non-board of education operating budget. Of that, the Police Department is clearly the largest. We have a vacancy within the police dispatch. Our dispatchers do all three emergency services (volunteer fire department, ambulance services) as well as public works during certain times and events. We're looking potentially at a headcount in the Police Department. We could do a partial year police officer vacancy savings. We could go back to contributing funds to OPEB trust. Last year, the Council had to reduce that by approximately \$700,000, but there is still \$135,000 in that account. That is not an immediate reduction to level services. From there, you start getting into some of the other pieces. This budget has \$30,000 for the senior lunch program. To make up some lost revenue from our other partners, that could be reduced and be substituted, at least for the short term with funds from the General Fund Unreserved Fund balance to maintain that service. Looking at 2027 in order to maintain that service, it would be an automatic increase to the general operating budget. Monies from sustainability and renewable energy could be trimmed back. Once you go beyond the \$550,000, you are definitely into reduction of force.

Councilor Neem explained what happened last year when they had to cut services back. She feels that with what the Town Manager explained, that means going back to the same level as this past fiscal year, but those things need to be rebuilt again because if we don't, your car will be hitting more potholes and cracks in the road. That is not something that we want as it impacts the quality of life. About two years ago, they discussed the challenges with response times of ambulance services. We needed to beef up the headcount and dispatch. So cutting back potentially puts us at a threat of not having a rapid enough response time as we need and not having dispatchers available to cover shifts. Regarding OPEB, we heard a speaker say it is



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probably one of those things that most people don't think about or care about. But it is significantly impactful and will cost this town a lot if we don't make sure we're continuing to grow into it. She expounded on the need for resource officers during events in town. She does not want to cut lunches at the Senior Center as seniors need that service.

Councilor Pelkey said if someone has a \$400,000 market value home, the assessed value would be 70% of that. With the budget as proposed, if he looks at the 28.92 mill rate, \$1 on the mill rate comes out to \$280 for the year. To move that \$1 mill rate, it's an add or subtract of \$4.5 million. To get to the \$280, that's a tremendous add or reduction one way or the other that you have to do just to shift the pile to have us have anything meaningful. He explained his point of view on the subject. We are in a hard place here with a lot of tough decisions ahead. But we may need to consider what we can do that while it doesn't harm so many, it helps the most vulnerable that we have. He believes that is a true statement. His overriding concern is that we really have to consider the affordability on these numbers. We really have to look at doing some things that may not be popular and things that none of us want to do, but if it lets people stay in their home, it may need to be done especially if people are keeping their heat to 50 degrees or choosing between one, two or three meals per day.

Mayor Black-Burke said that we all share those sentiments and the term that's been shared several times tonight is 'the most vulnerable.' So yes, today is her mom's birthday, but she's sitting here with all the councilors. Her mother bought her home here in Windsor in 1975. We have two vulnerable populations—our wisdom group and then we say the wonderful budding brains and minds of our students right in front of us today. Those are vulnerable populations in our town. So it's a difficult conversation.

EXPENDITURES

Board of Education (Section D of Proposed Budget)

FY 2026 Proposed Budget	Town Council Action	Amended Amount
\$89,275,120		89,275,210

MOVED by Councilor King, seconded by Deputy Mayor Klase to accept the proposed budget for the Board of Education of \$89,275,120.

Councilor King stated the Board of Education budget was a lean one. It was the very definition of a maintenance budget. They unfortunately had to eliminate a pre-k program in order to make the money work and keep the headcount where it was. The board already took about a \$1 million reduction in the budget before it was sent to us. When folks talk about supports beyond Special Education, they're also taking about SEL supports. The SEL supports were put in place during ESSER funding, but they have helped the children, both in and outside of a special education program immensely. The Board of Education has seen significant gains in their tests, not just in their test scores, but in how the kids are interacting. Like one of the parents had said tonight, they've never seen this kind of support for their kids.



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Councilor King wanted to address the pay to play sports. As someone that was just on the Board of Education, they almost cut that program. It was close. It's something that has been looked at year in and year out. We are one of the few towns that don't charge kids for sports. If we do maintain that funding, or at least at a maintenance level, he would not say with certainty that wouldn't go away. In addition, they've already let us know that to try to cut any large amount of money out of this budget will also reduce headcount as much as to 12 teachers per \$1 million. He thinks we've heard pretty clearly from the parents in town that they don't want to do that. He's hoping everyone will support the motion tonight.

Councilor Gluck Hoffman said when you are talking about pay to play sports, are you talking about in the schools or outside in the community? Councilor King said when he says 'pay to play' sports, we do not charge our students to play sports in our high schools and middle schools. Many high schools you have to pay \$5-\$6,000 every season. We don't charge the students to do that. This allows access to all of the kids, regardless of their family's affordability to participate in sports.

Deputy Mayor Klase stated she would be remiss to not talk about some of the things that were said about the school system and its lack of performance. The Board of Education, actually the Superintendent of Schools, has done a wonderful job in providing a dashboard on how our students are doing in school. They are highly performing. Our students go on to do very successful things, go to very competitive schools or go to into very competitive industries.

Deputy Mayor Klase added that for the town side and the school side, there's been a conscious decision that started way before her to try and bring the salaries to the place where we would maintain and keep/attract talented people to do the work for this town. Some of that budget does go to personnel costs, but we have high quality teachers and instruction.

Mayor Black-Burke stated that she knows that there's been a lot of conversation, especially over the last couple of years as it's related to ARPA dollars or the ESSER funding that came to our school district. Windsor public schools has been looked at across the State as a district who did what they were supposed to do with those dollars which was not to hire a whole bunch of individuals, but to put it towards programs and services at the time that were the need. Our Superintendent, along with his team, have found creative ways to ensure that those services remain even after those dollars have dried up. So I know it was shared that they kept all these people. No, they didn't keep all these people because they didn't hire all of these people with those dollars. They did what the

the dollars that were sent from the Federal Government were intended to do, so just wanted to clear that up as well, and the dashboard is wonderful.

Councilor Walker said this is a huge portion of the budget and in his opinion the town has been lean in making their reductions. He has no problem with saying that the Board of Education, how they're performing over there. But he cannot support this portion, this particular item, because he thinks when we sharpen our pencils if we get an opportunity to do that, or if it goes to the public, we need to make sure that our reductions are all around and not just on the town side. He is not going to support this budget motion.

Town Support for Education (Section E of Proposed Budget)		
FY 2026 Proposed Budget	Town Council Action	Amended Amount
\$6,474.060		6,474,060

Motion Passed 5-4-0 (Councilors Eleveld, Gluck Hoffman, Pelkey and Walker opposed)

MOVED by Councilor Naeem, seconded by Councilor Armstrong to accept the proposed budget for Town Support for Education of \$6,474,060.

Motion Passed 5-4-0 (Councilors Eleveld, Gluck Hoffman, Pelkey and Walker opposed)

Safety Services (Section F of Proposed Budget)

FY 2026 Proposed Budget	Town Council Action	Amended Amount	
\$14,432,640	(\$10,000)	\$14,422,640	

MOVED by Councilor Armstrong, seconded by Councilor Naeem to amend the proposed budget for Safety Services of \$14,432,640 by \$10,000 to \$14,422,640.

This motion reduces funding for equipment replacement in the Police Department.

Councilor Pelkey asked what is the \$10,000? What sort of equipment would we be electing not to budget for? Town Manager Souza stated the Police Department has approximately \$42,000 in an annual replacement plan. This covers items such as replacement of taser radar equipment and other miscellaneous equipment. We have a regular replacement schedule. This would be to reduce that line item by \$10,000, with the expectation that in FY 2027/2028 we would incrementally restore that funding.

Mayor Black-Burke asked about the equipment and our safety services department. The equipment that is currently there, is that dated? Is there enough of the equipment? She's trying to ensure that as we are getting ready to vote on this, that this is something that's being reduced. However, it's not going to be something that is going to create a vast void or a delay of some sort, where they're still able to respond to an emergency. Town Manager Souza said absolutely, they will be able to respond. He does not see an impact in the short term. However, if we're not able to restore the \$10,000 over the course of the next two fiscal years, then we will see an impact in terms of equipment not being replaced on the normal life cycle.

Motion Passed 9-0-0

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Recreation & Leisure Services (Section G of Proposed Budget)

FY 2026 Proposed Budget	Town Council Action	Amended Amount
\$2,720,830		\$2,720,830

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Klase, seconded by Councilor Naeem to accept the proposed budget for Recreation & Leisure Services of \$2,720,830.

Motion Passed 5-4-0 (Councilors Eleveld, Gluck Hoffman, Pelkey and Walker opposed)

Human Services (Section H of Proposed Budget)

FY 2026 Proposed Budget	Amended Amount
\$593,690	\$593,690

MOVED by Councilor Walker, seconded by Councilor King to accept the proposed budget for Human Services of \$593,690.

Motion Passed 5-4-0 (Councilors Eleveld, Gluck Hoffman, Pelkey and Walker opposed)

Health Services (Section I of Proposed Budget)

FY 2026 Proposed Budget	Town Council Action	Amended Amount
\$692,880		\$692,880

MOVED by Councilor Gluck Hoffman, seconded by Councilor Armstrong to accept the proposed budget for Health Services of \$692,880.

Motion Passed 5-4-0 (Councilors Eleveld, Gluck Hoffman, Pelkey and Walker opposed)

Library Services (Section J of Proposed Budget)

FY 2026 Proposed Budget	Town Council Action	Amended Amount
\$2,064,550		\$2,064,550

MOVED by Councilor Pelkey, seconded by Deputy Mayor Klase to accept the proposed budget for Library Services of \$2,064,550.

Councilor Naeem wanted to clarify that they heard earlier that to drop one mill it takes \$4.4 million. We would be able to move one mill with shutting down our two libraries. She just wanted to put that out there.

Motion Passed 5-4-0 (Councilors Eleveld, Gluck Hoffman, Pelkey and Walker opposed)



Development Services (Section K of Proposed Budget)

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FY 2026 Proposed Budget	Town Council Action	Amended Amount
\$2,399,360		\$2,399,360

MOVED by Councilor Eleveld, seconded by Councilor Naeem to accept the proposed budget for Development Services of \$2,399,360.

Motion Passed 6-3-0 (Councilors Eleveld, Pelkey and Walker opposed)

Community Development (Section L of Proposed Budget)

FY 2026 Proposed Budget	Town Council Action	Amended Amount
\$125,550		\$125,550

MOVED by Councilor King, seconded by Councilor Naeem to accept the proposed budget for Community Development of \$125,550.

Councilor Gluck Hoffman asked that the Town Manager explain Community Development to the community. Town Manager Souza stated Community Development is comprised of one full-time staff member and a part-time administrative aid. They administer our housing rehabilitation program which primarily uses State and Federal funds for rehabilitation of homes that are occupied by income, eligible individuals. They also coordinate a variety of community commissions that are appointed by the Council, including Wilson/Deerfield Advisory Board and Human Relations Commission. That is the essence of the community Development program.

Motion Passed 9-0-0

Public Works (Section M of Proposed Budget)

FY 2026 Proposed Budget	Town Council Action	Amended Amount
:		
\$7,307,480	(\$10,000)	\$7,297,480

MOVED by Councilor Naeem, seconded by Councilor Gluck Hoffman to amend the proposed budget for Public Works of \$7,307,480 by \$10,000 to \$\$7,927,480.

This motion....

Reduces funding for materials and supplies in Equipment Repair.

Councilor Pelkey asked what sort of cuts to equipment are we looking at? Town Manager Souza said these are miscellaneous items. But these are towards the area of repair parts and/or replacement. Last year we reduced the Public Works budget and supplies in the area of parks and grounds. So just to be able to achieve a desired level of reduction, we are fortunate that we have been able to replace some of our most aged vehicles within our fleet. This is again

something that we would like to be able to restore to the budget over the course of the next year or two, but we believe this will not have a detrimental effect.

Councilor Pelkey said we are still going to be able to have a plowed street. Town Manager Souza said yes, but we may have a mower that gets down here or there. We may have to unexpectedly use funds from another line item to cover that, but certainly we will do our best to keep more on the road and off-road vehicles in good shape.

Councilor Naeem said it's going to be \$10,000 and again in the grand scheme of things that seems very small. She thinks this is in the spirit of really trying to find where we can make cuts. These small cuts will add up. But these are things that we, thanks to the work that the Town Manager and the staff of these departments have done, we feel like we're in a good place where we can manage them as small or big as they may be, with the goal of being able to hopefully easily rebuild that gap in coming years. She knows \$10,000 seems small and silly, but hopefully we can bring everything together. Our job here is to find every penny we can that does not impact the quality of service that you're getting in the short term and hopefully the long term as well.

Motion Passed 9-0-0

Information Services (Section N of Proposed Budget)

FY 2026 Proposed Budget	Town Council Action	Amended Amount
\$755,450		\$755,450

MOVED by Councilor Armstrong, seconded by Councilor Gluck Hoffman to accept the proposed budget for Information Services of \$755,450.

Motion Passed 9-0-0

Administrative Services (Section O of Proposed Budget)

FY 2026 Proposed Budget	Town Council Action		Amended Amount
\$3,146,170			\$3,146,170

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Klase, seconded by Councilor Armstrong to accept the proposed budget for Administrative Services of \$3,146,170.

Motion Passed 9-0-0

General Government (Section P of Proposed Budget)

FY 2026 Proposed Budget	Town Council Action	Amended Amount	
\$1,338,680	(\$5,000)	\$1,333,680	



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MOVED by Councilor Walker, seconded by Councilor Gluck Hoffman to amend the proposed budget for General Government of \$1,338,680 by \$5,000 to \$1,333,680.

This motion....

 Reduces funding for materials and supplies in Equipment Repair for anti-littering and the Drive Wise programs in the Town Manager's office.

Motion Passed 9-0-0

General Services (Section Q of Proposed Budget)

FY 2026 Proposed Budget	Budget Town Council Action Amen	
\$20.896.010	(\$185.310)	\$20.710.700

MOVED by Councilor Gluck Hoffman, seconded by Councilor Armstrong to amend the proposed budget for General Services of \$20,896,010 by \$185,310 to \$20,710,700.

This motion...

- Reduces funding for paving management by \$30,000
- Reduces funding for sidewalk replacement by \$25,000
- Reduces funding for debt service by \$55,000
- Reduces funding for Open Space by \$35,000
- Reduces funding for Great Pond Improvement District transfer by \$34,150
- Reduces funding for Windsor Center Tax Increment Financing District (TIF) by \$6,160

Councilor Eleveld stated for the Great Pond Improvement District, he thought we had a contractual obligation to pay them \$34,150 or is that savings based upon the reduced amount of taxes? Town Manager Souza said it's based upon a reduced mill rate.

Councilor Eleveld asked if that would also apply to the Windsor TIF district as we said? Town Manager Souza said that is correct.

Councilor Eleveld stated the agreement we have with them, is that they receive a contractual amount of revenue that's generated. So the mill rate is lower, the revenue generated is lower and the split is lower.

Councilor Eleveld asked about debt service reduction of \$55,000. That's because we haven't issued as many bonds as we expected correct? Town Manager Souza said that was correct.

Councilor Eleveld said the bonds are when we borrow money like a mortgage. The amount of time that you spend just to pay it off relates in part to the interest you pay, but it also relates to the payments you must make.



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Deputy Mayor Klase said she's going to say it one more time, but the half that goes back to Great Pond Improvement District goes to public infrastructure. Mayor Black-Burke said yes, that's correct.

Councilor Naeem said she just wanted to reiterate what the Town Manager spoke to earlier when he spoke to what cuts we could possibly make to get to potentially \$550,000. We've included some of those items here. These items must be rebuilt. We recognize that it is a tough year because of revaluation impacts, but these items must be refunded in the coming years. Otherwise, again, it will impact your cars, your tires. Just think about all that vehicle maintenance. If we're not getting our roads done and our sidewalks paved, so same thing can be said for our open space as well. So just please keep that in mind as we make it past this year into coming budget years.

Councilor Pelkey stated regarding the reduced funds in Open Space of \$35,000. The proposed budget, if he's looking at this correctly in the budget book is for Open Space \$100,000 to transfer into the Special Revenue fund of \$250,000. That's \$350,000 as a total for Open Space. His concern is he knows that \$30,000 will pave 15 miles of road but for paving management that's something that everyone in this community uses, benefits from and relies on a daily basis. Could we do a further reduction to Open Space in this budget and just use it to restore that paving management?

Deputy Mayor Klase said she just wants to understand and she's interested on what he's talking about. If she recalls, the Solar Farm that went in over at the farm for River Street, she believes that property owner approached the Open Space fund and there was not the ability to provide an adequate fund. So, they looked for alternatives so that they could stay on their property. Is that incorrect? Town Manager Souza said that is not his understanding on the matter. His understanding is that in years past, the then Windsor Land Trust had some informal conversations with that property owner, but there was never a discussion, to my knowledge with approaching the town for resources.

Deputy Mayor Klase said but we do have that other property, too that has approached us. Town Manager Souza said yes, there certainly are opportunities for agriculture and open space preservation, some by outright purchase by the town and others in partnership with the regional Trap Rock Land Trust potentially.

Deputy Mayor Klase stated her only concern is that we would not have enough in that fund to, if a property were to be available, to make a deal.

Councilor Naeem stated it'd be important to understand where we were two years ago in terms of the funding level because this reduction of \$35,000 brings us back to this current fiscal year's level. She asked the Town Manager for the number as she didn't have it in front of her as she believes it was significant. Would you mind sharing that from what we cut last year? Town Manager Souza said he believes last year we reduced it by \$100,000. Councilor Naeem said so this \$35,000 would get us back to that.

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Councilor Naeem asked that the Town Manager clarify that we are putting in \$300,000 because \$200,000 is Special Revenue. Could you just talk about that? Town Manager Souza stated what you see on that page is that there's a General Fund contribution and then we're taking planned expenditures from the fund. So, we're hoping in FY 26 we'll be acquiring or contributing funds towards preservation. And so that's what that \$250,000 reflects.

Councilor Eleveld said the last large purchase we made he believes was the golf course correct? Town Manager Souza said that was the last purchase. Councilor Eleveld stated that we received some money from State grants on that, but did we or do we utilize a little bit of Unreserved Fund balance for that purchase? Town Manager Souza said they did.

Councilor Eleveld said reducing this doesn't necessarily preclude us from being able to make an acquisition should one become available. It's just not money set aside specifically for that purpose at this moment. Town Manager Souza said that was correct.

Motion Passed 9-0-0

TOTAL GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES

FY 2026 Proposed Budget	Town Council Action	Amended Amount	
\$152,222,470	(\$210,310)	\$152,012,160	

MOVED by Councilor Pelkey, seconded by Deputy Mayor Klase to amend the total proposed General Fund expenditures for the FY 2026 budget of \$152,222,470 by \$210,310 to \$152,012,160 based on the motions discussed.

Motion Passed 5-4-0 (Councilors Eleveld, Gluck Hoffman, Pelkey and Walker opposed)

<u>REVENUES</u>

Revenues (Section B of Proposed Budget)

FY 2026 Proposed Budget	Town Council Action	Amended Amount	
\$152,222,470	(\$210,310)	\$152,012,160	

MOVED by Councilor Eleveld, seconded by Deputy Mayor Klase to amend the proposed budget for Revenues of \$152,222,470 by \$210,310 to \$152,012,160 to reflect expenditure adjustments.

Motion Passed 9-0-0

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MOVED by Councilor Eleveld, seconded by Councilor Naeem to increase Opening Cash under Miscellaneous Revenues from \$0 to \$2,000,000.

The impact of the above motion requires the current levy to be amended to reflect the combination of the expenditure decrease and the use of opening cash.

Mayor Black-Burke said she is always concerned about us tapping into this fund and just being mindful of how we go about it. She's hoping we will not become reliant on having to do that every single year.

Councilor Naeem said we get a lot of questions about using the 'rainy day' funds. She wants to remind the public that we in the Finance Committee both last year and this year have looked at a sort of progression of we took what we had and applied it towards the budget. What would it take to get out of that hole? Because if we put \$30 million in today, the taxpayers are going to have to pay that \$30 million next year. So this \$2 million is reflective on having a decent level of confidence that over the next 3-5 years we can slowly come off of how much we're putting in without making a significant and drastic impact to our taxpayers and not staying reliant on the 'rainy day' fund because that will not stay there forever.

Motion Passed 6-3-0 (Councilors Eleveld, Pelkey and Walker opposed)

MOVED by Councilor Eleveld, seconded by Councilor Gluck Hoffman to decrease the Current Levy by \$2,210,310 from \$129,569,010 to \$127,358,700.

Motion Passed 9-0-0

TAX COLLECTION RATE

Section B of Proposed Budget

FY 2026 Proposed Budget	Town Council Action	Amended Amount	
98.8%		98.8%	

MOVED by Councilor King, seconded by Councilor Pelkey to accept the proposed tax collection rate of 98.8%.

Motion Passed 9-0-0

SENIOR TAX RELIEF

Section B of Proposed Budget

FY 2026 Proposed Budget	Town Council Action	Amended Amount	
\$434,475	\$130,000	\$564,475	



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MOVED by Councilor Naeem, seconded by Councilor Walker to amend the proposed budget for senior tax relief of \$434,475 by \$130,000 to \$564,475.

This will increase the benefit from a 100% match to the state level of 150% match qualified individuals.

Councilor Naeem said she appreciated the question earlier that Councilor Eleveld asked about process. We, as a Council, will need to add this to the agenda for our upcoming meeting Monday night. She hopes that we have full support to do so.

Mayor Black-Burke thanked Councilor Naeem and asked the Town Manager if he could once again share the step by step process for the viewing audience and for the folks who are here. Town Manager Souza stated that action Monday night will be just to introduce the ordinance amendment and ask the Council to set a public hearing for the second meeting in May. Then the Council that evening during the second meeting in May holds a public hearing and acts on the ordinance. This will be just for the benefit level. We will not be adjusting the income thresholds or ceilings.

Motion Passed 9-0-0

VETERANS TAX RELIEF

Section B of Proposed Budget

FY 2026 Proposed Budget	Town Council Action	Amended Amount	
\$38,270		\$38,270	

MOVED by Councilor Armstrong, seconded by Councilor Gluck Hoffman to accept the amount proposed for Veterans tax relief of \$38,270.

Motion Passed 9-0-0

EXEMPTIONS FOR VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS

Section B of Proposed Budget

FY 2026 Proposed Budget	Town Council Action Amended Amou	
\$118,500		\$118,500

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Klase, seconded by Councilor Armstrong to accept the amount proposed for exemptions for volunteer firefighters of \$118,500.

Councilor Pelkey asked if there was any way they could have increased that amount if they wanted to? Town Manager Souza said he believes we are at the maximum allowed by the State. Councilor Pelkey said he thought so.



Motion Passed 9-0-0

ENTERPRISE FUNDS

Landfill Enterprise Fund (Section S)

FY 2026 Proposed Budget	Town Council Action	Adjusted Amount
\$801,610		\$801,610

MOVED by Councilor Walker, seconded by Councilor Pelkey to accept the proposed budget for the Landfill Enterprise Fund of \$801,610.

Motion Passed 9-0-0

Resident Transfer Station Enterprise Fund (Section S)

FY 2026 Proposed Budget	Town Council Action	Adjusted Amount
\$372,300		\$372,300

MOVED by Councilor Gluck Hoffman, seconded by Councilor Naeem to accept the proposed budget for the Resident Transfer Station Enterprise Fund of \$372,300.

Motion Passed 9-0-0

Caring Connection Adult Day Care Enterprise Fund (Section S)

FY 2026 Proposed Budget	Town Council Action	Adjusted Amount	
\$620,730	Proposed amount accepted	\$620,730	

MOVED by Councilor Pelkey, seconded by Councilor Gluck Hoffman to accept the proposed budget for the Caring Connection Adult Day Care Center Enterprise Fund of \$620,730.

Motion Passed 9-0-0

Windsor Montessori School Child Development Enterprise Fund (Section S)

FY 2026 Proposed Budget	Town Council Action	Adjusted Amount	
\$1,642,070	Proposed amount accepted	\$1,642,070	

MOVED by Councilor Eleveld, seconded by Councilor Armstrong to accept the proposed budget for the Windsor Montessori School Child Development Enterprise Fund of \$1,642,070.

Motion Passed 9-0-0



OTHER FINAL MOTIONS

Price Guide:

MOVED by Councilor King, seconded by Councilor Naeem to accept the price guide as proposed (located in Appendix G of the Proposed Budget document).

Motion Passed 9-0-0

4) SET BUDGET REFERENDUM

MOVED by Councilor Naeem, seconded by Councilor Gluck Hoffman that the annual vote on the budget be held on Tuesday, May 13, 2025 between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. at all 7 polling places.

Councilor Naeem thanked the Finance Committee members, Councilor Eleveld and former Councilor Smith. She'd like to also thank town staff, especially the Town Manager and Assistant Town Manager and Jim and Linda who have been sitting here looking ready to go for whatever we throw at them tonight. Thank you so very much for all that you do.

Mayor Black-Burke thanked the Superintendent and Miss Batchelder for all of their questions, asking questions, etc. Thank you so much to everyone that had a hand in making this possible.

Town Manager Souza said this action that the Town Council took tonight, the proposed budget has a 28.45 mill rate. They're on our town's website. As the Council knows, we have what we call our tax calculator for real estate. We've also added this year to be able to look up your car and the impact of that on your taxes. We did that because the State of Connecticut mandated a change in the way that those motor vehicles and valuations are determined. Those are both found on our town budget page. There will also be three different community forums sponsored by the League of Women Voters that Superintendent Hill and he will be answering questions, making a brief presentation and predominantly focusing on answering questions that the community has. Those can also be found on the town's website as well as our update on the Budget in Brief over the course of tomorrow and Friday morning. That will be updated along with a list of all the reductions and adjustments the Town Council made.

Councilor Pelkey asked for a point of information, when do we approve the ballot question? Town Manager Souza stated the Council does not act on the referendum or setting it. The language is already set, so these numbers essentially are plugged in that you adopted this evening, that \$152 million number.

Motion Passed 8-1-0 (Councilor Pelkey opposed)

5) ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by, Councilor Naeem seconded by Councilor Pelkey to adjourn the meeting at 8:51 p.m.

Motion Passed 9-0-0

Respectfully Submitted,

Helene Albert Recording Secretary



TOWN COUNCIL HYBRID MEETING – VIRTUAL AND IN-PERSON May 5, 2025

Regular Town Council Meeting Council Chambers

UNAPPROVED MINUTES

1) CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Black-Burke called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Present: Mayor Nuchette Black-Burke, Deputy Mayor Darleen Klase, Councilor Mary Armstrong, Councilor Ronald Eleveld, Councilor Kristin Gluck Hoffman, Councilor Anthony King, Councilor Ojala Naeem, Councilor William Pelkey and Councilor Lenworth Walker

2) PRAYER REFLECTION

Councilor King led the group in prayer/reflection

3) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilor King led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

4) PROCLAMATIONS AND AWARDS

a) Proclamation designating May 4, 2025 - May10, 2025 as Small Business Week in Windsor

Councilor Naeem read aloud the proclamation designating May 4 – May 10 as Small Business Week in Windsor.

Patrick McMahon, Economic Development Director, introduced several small business owners to the crowd. He also stated that on May 8, 2025 at 4:00 PM at the Dudley Town Brewing Company there will be the grand opening of Saults Eclectic Cuisine. All are welcome to attend.

b) Proclamation designating May as Older Americans Month in Windsor

Mayor Black-Burke read aloud the proclamation designating May as Older Americans Month in Windsor.



5) PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS

Dennis Murray, 85 Pine Lane, stated he's been a resident of Windsor since 1988. He's seen many changes over the years. He's here tonight because he sees something that's reoccurring in the Town at the Price Rite shopping plaza. There are individuals that are there pretty much every day loitering and doing public drinking. He's seen public urination. drug use and dealing at this location. It's the same people. Yesterday there was one individual that was so intoxicated, he couldn't even stand up. He was leaning against the wall. He got arrested last week and is back at it again. Mr. Murray posted this issue on SeeClickFix many times. One Sergeant told him it was trespassing so trespassing tickets were handed out. The next step is that someone would get arrested. He doesn't see anything happening. How can you have children walking around in that area? They're smoking weed and playing music. He's witnessed right in front of Bloom's Liquor store at 6:00 PM two summers ago the guys urinating on the pole. There are some people that won't even go there at night. They were there yesterday all weekend. He's not sure what SeeClickFix does or where it goes once it is inputted in the system. He also discussed that a lady parked her SUV in the walkway of fire lane so she could buy some liquor. He suggested placing poles up at that location. Nobody cares about the signs. To him, this is a public hazard and it doesn't happen at any other plaza.

6) COMMUNICATIONS FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mayor Black-Burke stated it has been a very busy April for all the Councilors. She thanked the Councilors for getting them through all of the budget deliberations. She shared that on April 27th, the Trap Rock Ridge Conservancy had their grand opening of their tree trail at the Hawk Hill farm. It was a great event that she was able to attend along with Patrick McMahon, our Economic Development Director. Later that day, they headed over to the Oliver Ellsworth Homestead where they had a re-grand opening and a volunteer appreciation event. They are doing extensive renovations over there as well. It was great to see what they could do with state dollars and the money that the town agreed to give to them for those renovations as a Council. They are always looking for visitors as well. So if you have the time, please visit. On April 29th, the Office of Family and Community Partnerships along with Windsor Public Schools hosted a volunteer appreciation event for family members and anyone who has volunteered in their school building. It was a nice event. She gave a shout out to the Office of Family and Community Partnerships under the direction of Dr. Mallery and Gianna Gill. They did a great job presenting that. She just wanted to thank everyone involved in those three events.

Councilor King wanted to thank everyone for coming out tonight to speak. He appreciates whenever the public does that. Just to remind everyone, we do have a lot of cool things going on this week including the referendum on Tuesday, May 13th.

Councilor Eleveld stated they had an exciting last several weeks with the Shad Derby and it culminated on Saturday night with the coronation ball. It was well attended by Councilors



as well. It was a wonderful evening and several of our board members also attended. He's glad they are back to their regular schedule of Town Council meetings.

Councilor Naeem said Saturday was the rescheduled Wilson/Deerfield cleanup event. She thanked everyone that came out to that, along with folks from the town that were there. It was a great turnout. It's always wonderful to see folks from the community come together and just work together to beautify our community. She did get to attend the Shad Ball which was great. She hopes we can continue to have these types of events. Our budget reflects the importance of having these events. She congratulated the Queen's Court and the Shad Derby Queen, Hannah Donzella. She wants to say Happy Mother's Day to those celebrating next week.

Councilor Pelkey stated regarding the Wilson/Deerfield cleanup, we had beautiful weather. There were approximately 50 individuals of all ages there. He thanked those that came out to the event. We did have some of our town staff and Councilors there as well. He thanked Flavia Rey De Castro for putting the event together. She deserves a ton of credit for making that community just that much better looking as do all our volunteers. He attended the Hayden Station pancake breakfast a couple of weeks ago that was put on by volunteer firefighters, which is one of his favorite events. It's a great way to meet people and mingle with them. He wished all the firefighters a belated (because it was yesterday) International Firefighters Day. He wanted to thank them for all the work they do for our community. If anyone is interested in joining, get in touch with the town hall or get in touch with one of the Councilors. You can also go to windsorfire.org for more information.

Councilor Armstrong thanked all the people that came out last week, virtually and in person for the budget meetings. She thanked the staff as well. Everything was well done and well prepared. Don't forget to get out and vote because your vote is your voice. Do your research. We have information that is available on the web regarding the budget. She's happy that they had a proclamation for Older Americans this evening. It's always good to celebrate all our community, along with those that have small businesses. There are many small shops in Windsor, so get out and support them if you can. This is the season for allergies. Wear your mask, and be careful. She commended the Public Works department for all the work they do to beautify the town.

Councilor Gluck-Hoffman said as Councilor Armstrong stated, she thanked the Public Works crew for their work in keeping the town looking beautiful. Shad Derby is culminating on May 17th. On May 19th, the Jaycees host the Sheila Schmidt event over at Washington Park. On May 10th, on the town green is the Lion's Craft Fair and then it all culminates on May 17th. One of the things she wants to mention is about the Shad Derby Ball on Saturday was the topic of the essay. It was about volunteerism in our community. Every one of them gave us an incredible idea of how to bring volunteerism to a positive place in town. Town Manager Souza and his wife Lisa were there in attendance as well. They spoke about it after the event that they needed a chat with these young ladies. Maybe a round table with all of them there, along with some folks from town and maybe the heads of some organizations. Just to hear their ideas. She thinks they are our future organizations.



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Deputy Mayor Klase stated she was able to attend the Veterans Appreciation event. She thanked all the folks that put it on. It was a really great event. She wants to thank everyone that came out to speak. We do follow up on your comments and she wanted to ask that people mind their speeding as the weather gets nicer. There are posted speed limits, so try to keep in touch with those and be safe.

Councilor Walker said he is so happy that the Shad Derby ball went off as well as it did. He knew with Councilor Gluck Hoffman's involvement in it that it would be fabulous. Unfortunately, he had a conflict and he couldn't go as it was the 75th anniversary of the West Indian Social Club of Hartford as well. He is an officer of that organization. He gave his congratulations to them. They have done a lot and Windsor has many West Indians that are descendants of esteemed farm workers living here. The Republican caucus met and voted against the Board of Education proposed budget and they voted against other things within the budget. They didn't do that because they didn't want to support their schools, they actually do support good quality education. The issue is affordability. People are complaining that the significant increases will cause a lot of folks, especially seniors, to sell their homes and move out of town. He thinks we need to do more for them, not just the seniors but the younger families as well. It really boils down to can people afford it. He believes they have made cuts along the way, but they need to sharpen the scalpel some more and do a lot more. This budget is now going to the people to vote on and they're going to ask people to vote 'no' because we need to have Windsor be much more affordable

Councilor Eleveld stated the listing of winners of the Shad Derby.

Mayor Black-Burke stated that she wanted to publicly give a big thank you to the West Indian Social Club for their award on community leadership. She did receive that award and it meant a lot to her as a Councilor. Her father migrated here via a farm work program and what a life he established for her and her sister.

Councilor Naeem wanted to follow up about a point that Councilor Walker made about the upcoming referendum and the budget along with the need for cuts. She agrees with him. We did hear from everyone that affordability is important and that is why, especially for our seniors, we passed and included in the budget the increase of the senior tax credit match to 150%. What she didn't hear from Councilor Walker was how do we go about making it more affordable? She did not hear that during budget deliberations, and she did not hear that tonight. But she'll tell you. She's taken a look at that budget through and through. The only way we cut more and make things more affordable is by taking away very critical services such as senior lunches, our public libraries, or the amount of teachers that we have to support our students. So it's very easy to say we need to cut and we need to save more money, but she's not hearing how we go about doing that. She's looked at how we go about doing that, and she believes that to make a significant impact and dent at the average taxpayers bill, it will be detrimental to the quality that this town provides. So she appreciates the commentary, but you know we're always here to listen and learn more



about how we can work together to make our town more affordable and a better place for all of our residents.

7) REPORT OF APPOINTED BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

a) Board of Education

Mr. David Furie, President of the Board of Education, gave the following report:

- The Windsor High School Class of 2025 Commencement will take place on Tuesday, June 10, 2025 at the Bushnell Performing Arts Center at 6:30 PM. Town Council members will receive additional information regarding graduation and other year-end events via the WHS principal's office. The last day of school for student's Pre-K to Grade 11 will be Monday June 9, 2025. The last day for teachers will be Tuesday, June 10, 2025.
- The Board of Education, through a proclamation at its April 8 meeting, declared its appreciation to the district's teaching staff and proclaimed the week of May 5 - May 9 as Windsor Teacher Appreciation Week. The Board will host a special breakfast for teachers and staff at each school location throughout the first two weeks of May. We hope Town Council members and members of the community will reach out to a teacher(s) and express their appreciation for their dedication to the students of Windsor Public Schools.
- On April 24, 2025, the National School Boards Association (NSBA) announced that Leonard Lockhart, Windsor Public School's Board of Education Secretary, would be President-elect for the 2026/2027 school year. He will be working closely with the current president until he takes office next year. As he takes office next year, he will be finishing his second year as CABE president.
- Windsor Public Schools launched a new speaker series in April named, "The Plug", which is made possible with a Windsor Chamber of Commerce E2B (Education to Business) grant. The kickoff event recognized Amazon with WPS' OFCP Office of Family and Community Partnerships Partner of the Year Award.
- The WHS National Honor Society Induction Ceremony was held on Thursday, April 24.
 President Furie congratulated the new inductees. Dr. Abdel-Hady was pleased to
 announce the three superintendent awards given in honor of three previous
 superintendents: Daniel Howard Scholar is Samuel Garcia, Dr. Earle S. Russell
 Scholar is Amanda Eneh and the Paul J. Sorbo Scholar is Victor Alexander Montilla.
- The WHS Music Department participated in the Music in the Parks Adjudicated Festival in Jackson, New Jersey. The following awards were received:
 - Chamber Choir- 1st Place with a rating of Superior



- Gospel Choir- 1st Place with a rating of Superior
- Gospel Choir- Overall Choral Ensemble Award (ensemble with the highest score rating)
- o Emily "Kiki" Romero-Lewis- Most Outstanding Vocal Soloist Award
- Maya White (Keyboard) and Jayden Dailey (Drums)- Most Outstanding Accompanists Award
- Congratulations to our seniors who have signed to play athletics at a college/university next fall:
 - Imanuel Cox- Football- Assumption University
 - Hannah Donzella- Track- Hofstra University
 - Sydney Hicks- Softball- Nichols College
 - Ja'Veon Jones- Football- Southern Connecticut State University
 - Brady Kelly- Baseball- University of St. Joseph
 - Jaden Langford- Football- Central Connecticut State University
 - Cashmire Lewis- Football- Bowling Green State University
 - John Manning- Football- Central Connecticut State University
 - Ryan Mays- Track- Eastern Connecticut State University
 - Anthony (AJ) Pagano- Boys Soccer- American International College
 - Lucas Pearce- Track- Central Connecticut State University
 - o Ryleigh Phillips- Girls Soccer- Southern Connecticut State University
 - Olivia Rosario- Girls Soccer- Rivier University

The Board of Education's next meeting will be Tuesday, May 20, 2025 at 7:00 PM in the board room at L.P. Wilson.

Dr. Hill's next coffee talk will also be on Tuesday, May 20th, at 4:00 PM at Bart's. The instructional service team will be showcasing a surprise project viewing for the community at that time. Please RSVP for the event on the district website. The Board of Education has not yet been told what that exciting news is.

Councilor Gluck Hoffman stated she was glad that Mr. Furie had read all the names. In her hometown, they used to put a listing of every student graduating and the school they were attending or community college, whatever it was. Has that ever been thought of? Has it ever been a thought to put it in the local paper? Mr. Furie stated he is not aware but he can inquire through Dr. Hill to Dr. Parker about whether or not they had considered doing that or not. Councilor Gluck Hoffman said it would be nice to see everyone's names and then where they're attending school or where they're planning on doing sports. It was always a big deal in her town to open up the paper and find that information in it. Mr. Furie said even when they had the scholarship awards his wife usually always writing down who is going where, because we don't have that kind of list. He will inquire about that.

Councilor Armstrong commented that she's very happy and proud of the students. They should be commended for the education they're getting from the Town of Windsor. She

thanked Mr. Furie for presenting their names. She's sure they would appreciate that as well. She thanked him for his service.

Mayor Black-Burke stated that you could hear the choral department of music this Thursday, May 8th. They will be in concert at Windsor High School. You'll want to get there early as it's usually a packed house.

b) Economic Development Commission

Randy Graff, Chair of Economic Development Commission, gave the following report:

Commission Activities for the Last Year

<u>Day Hill Corporate Area Planning Study</u> – The Commission discussed the study on four occasions – 1) prior to consultant engagement, 2) at the launch of the study to discuss community and stakeholder outreach efforts, 3) upon completion of the market analysis to review and discuss findings, and 4) near the end of the study to review and discuss consultants overall study findings and recommendations.

<u>Windsor Center Tax Increment Financing District Annual Budget</u> – The Commission/TIF Advisory Committee reviewed the proposed TIF budget and recommended uses of TIF funds for First Town Downtown, Windsor Arts Center and for pavement improvements on Constitution Way from the CVS to Selig's and the Mechanics Street lot along the rail line.

<u>90 & 92 Deerfield Road</u> – The Commission has monitored the status of the former Stanadyne property through its purchase by IRG and subsequent \$2.2M brownfields grant secured through the efforts of the Town.

<u>Priority Redevelopment Property List</u> – the Commission reviewed the list and made recommendations for amendments including adding 1 & 10 Targeting Centre.

<u>Annual Business Breakfast</u> – The Commission co-sponsored with the Chamber of Commerce a very well attended business breakfast in March at the Hilton Garden Inn. The speaker was Anthony Anthony, Connecticut's Chief Marketing Officer who presented the Make It Here Campaign and state tourism efforts.

Bradley Development League Spring Gathering - Town staff worked with the Bradley Development League in hosting a Spring Gathering at Dudleytown Brewing. John Bordeaux, President and CEO of AdvanceCT - the state's business recruitment and retention arm - spoke at the event. The second annual BDL Day at the State Capitol is planned for May 28th.

Key Economic Development Activity for the Year

During the last year, some of the key development activities in town include:

<u>Baker Hollow Road Construction</u> - Baker Hollow Road to Marshall Phelps Road was completed opening up additional acreage for development.



<u>Baker Hollow Logistics Center</u> – completion of a 185,000 SF flex industrial building for Marvin Windows.

Noble Gas - completion of first phase gas station/convenience store with future phases of corporate office and banquet facility planned as part of Great Pond development

<u>144-152 Broad Street</u> – construction underway for a phased redevelopment of the former Arthur's Plaza in Windsor Center that will include 120 apartments and over 6,000 SF of commercial space.

<u>Bowfield Green</u> – construction underway for the redevelopment of 109-125 Poquonock Avenue to include 77 housing units and 6,991 SF of ground-floor commercial space.

<u>450 Bloomfield Avenue</u> – Zoning approval for 201-unit multifamily development at exit 37 off Interstate 91.

<u>Villages at Poquonock</u> – Zoning approval for 192-unit multifamily development in the Poquonock Village.

<u>29 Windsor Avenue</u> – Zoning approval for a first phase gas station/convenience store and car wash. Second phase expected to be retail.

<u>Small Business Assistance</u> – town staff assisted in the opening of Loft 147, The Alchemist beauty salon, Haircraft 75 and the relocations of Likkle Patty Shop and Giovanni's.

<u>Education to Business Initiative</u> – the town has provided American Rescue Funds to the Chamber of Commerce to help facilitate an initiative to connect Windsor Public Schools with area businesses to expose student to a range of career options.

Mayor Black-Burke had a question about the Villages at Poquonock. She knows that a few years back we did build out the villages at Poquonock. Is this in addition to the structures that are already there, the 192 unit multifamily development? Town Manager Souza stated the original concept for Poquonock Commons was to include the single family and townhome houses that you see constructed. Those are pretty much 100 built out. That concept also included multi-story apartment buildings. So recently there was a reapproval of an adjusted site plan for those multifamily units which if you drive into that neighborhood is to the right, to the north of where the town homes were constructed. Mayor Black-Burke thanked Town Manager Souza for the clarification.

Councilor Naeem asked Mr. Graff if he could share with them what are the goals and priorities of the Economic Development Committee as we look at the coming 12-18 months. Mr. Graff stated they hope to be as pro-active as possible when something comes forward. We currently do not have any requests for incentives from the town, which is one of the major things we do when we do our review. That's probably the most time consuming. One of our concerns, of course, is how the Day Hill corporate area planning study is accepted and how its recommendations are approved by the Council. One of the





major concerns that we have is with the corporate office vacancy rate in town. This is not only happening in Windsor, but throughout the area. It's an ongoing problem along with how those buildings might be reused. One issue with many of these buildings is the age and their ability to be renovated for different use, whether it be for housing or some type of recreational activity. We will continue to monitor those activities that are going on and those partials that have been designated as concerns in terms of getting them developed.

Councilor Naeem said to follow up on the Day Hill Road corporate area planning study, should we expect to hear some recommendations from the Economic Development Commission in terms of what comes out of that study and what you think we should be looking into. Mr. Graff stated they will listen to their suggestions, recommendations and evaluation of the different areas of the corporate area. There are certain areas that might be developed in certain ways that could be beneficial and be applicable. The other concern is that it's not going to be an easy transition for some of these corporate areas that are no longer as occupied as they once were. Town Manager Souza added that we will look at setting some overall focus areas in kind of their spring meeting timeframe. But clearly as Chairman Graff mentioned, the Day Hill corridor study will be high on the priority list, particularly in the area of any kind of financial incentives and policy changes that the Town Council may need to consider. Staff envisions bringing a variety of options and alternatives to get feedback from the Economic Development Commission which ultimately will come to the Town Council. That's probably one of the biggest tasks that the Economic Development Commission will have before them as we move through the next fiscal year.

Mayor Black-Burke is also wanting to hear what's happening next? What is the focus? Where can the public find that information or where can they find what the goals are for next year for the Economic Development Commission? We know that it's the Day Hill study, but how is that information codified for the public? She knows that the Council hears about it, but can that be placed somewhere? Town Manager Souza stated the Economic Development Department has a website. He will say the Economic Development Commission is an advisory commission. A lot of this is driven, not just by the Economic Development Commission, but also by what the private sector is working on. The focus area the Town Council has set for him as Town Manager has been the Day Hill corridor as we continue to grow the grand list through how we transform the corridor to meet today's marketplace as well as continued focus on small business development and enhancement of Town Center and the Wilson neighborhoods. But that information can be found on the website.

c) Board of Assessment Appeals

George Bolduc, Board Member, Windsor Board of Assessment Appeals, gave the following report:

The Windsor Board of Assessment Appeals met on the following dates: March 8, 12, 20 and April 16, which resulted in the following Assessment changes:



Category	# Appeals	\$ Assessment	\$ Reduction	% Reduction
Residential Real Estate	8	\$2,011,730	\$10,920	0.54 %
Comm/Ind Real Estate	5	\$81,447,210	\$ -	-
Personal Property	3	\$403,452	\$321,993	79.81 %
Motor Vehicle	2	\$17,490	\$ -	-
Total	18	\$83,567,158	\$332,913	0.40 %

• 97% of reductions from Personal Property is attributed by a single personal property account that did not file their 2024 Personal Property Declaration.

Deputy Mayor Klase wanted to thank Mr. Bolduc and the Board for all the work they have done. She knows that it's a lot to hear all the appeals that they hear. She appreciates their volunteer time on that effort.

8) TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Community Budget Forums

Community budget forums sponsored by the League of Women Voters and CT Votes will be held on the following dates and locations. Town Manager Peter Souza and Board of Education Superintendent Terrell Hill will provide the latest budget information and answer questions from residents.

- May 6, 2025 6:30 PM 330 Windsor Avenue Community Center
- May 7, 2025 6:30 PM Poguonock School
- May 8, 2025 10:00 AM L.P. Wilson Community Center/Senior Center

For questions or more information on budget forums, call 860-285-1835. For more information on the Town Council proposed budget, please go to https://townofwindsorct.com/finance/town-budget/fy26/

Annual Budget Referendum

The town's annual budget referendum is Tuesday, May 13th. All polling locations will be open from 6:00 AM to 8:00 PM. If you're unsure where to vote, you can easily check for your polling location on our website at www.townofwindsorct.com.

Absentee Ballots are available in the Windsor Town Clerk's Office during regular business hours, Monday - Friday from 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM. The deadline to request an absentee ballot is the day prior to referendum. Absentee ballot requests on the last day must be inperson at Town Hall. For additional information, please call the Town Clerk's Office at 860-285-1902.

For more information on the budget, go to: https://townofwindsorct.com/finance/town-budget/fy26/

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Plan of Conservation and Development Focus Group meeting

Come join us at the Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD) Focus Group on Cultural and Historical Resources, Thursday, May 8, at 7:00 PM at the town hall. Do you care about Windsor's historic sites, museums, arts and cultural events? Join the conversation and give your thoughts and ideas to help shape the future of cultural and historical resources in our community. The POCD is a strategic guide for managing growth and preserving valuable resources within the Town of Windsor. The plan is updated every 10 years. For questions, please contact Todd Sealy at 860-285-1981 or go to https://plan.windsorct.com/

Spring into the Summer of 10,000 Flowers at The Bean

The Town of Windsor invites the community to a special spring pop-up event for the Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD) on Thursday, May 15th from 3:00 PM to 6:00 PM at The Bean @ 226. This casual, drop-in event offers a chance to learn about the POCD—a 10-year plan that will guide Windsor's growth in key areas such as transportation, open space, housing, schools, parks, and community services. Town staff will be available to answer questions and gather feedback from residents. First Town Downtown will be on hand with a preview of this year's farmers market, summer concert series, and a raffle featuring gift baskets with Windsor swag and discount coupons for the Farmer's Market that begins in June. The Bean @ 226 has created a signature sunflower-themed drink especially for the event. Attendees can also pick up a free packet of sunflower seeds—part of a community-wide effort to grow sunflowers alongside the development of the POCD—and snap a photo at the sunflower-themed booth. Stop in for fun and a great opportunity to give your thoughts on how Windsor should grow and change in the future.

River Street Solar Project - Update

Verogy, the private solar facility developer, is anticipating starting construction of the state approved solar facilities on River Street this week pending final permit approval and weather conditions. Verogy indicated to town staff recently they were in the process of notifying all neighboring property owners about the construction schedule.

Win Wag Photo Contest Began May 1st

To help promote annual dog licensing efforts, the annual Win Wag Photo Contest began on May 1st. The photo contest is free and open to all Windsor residents. The entry period for the contest began on May 1st and will end at noon on May 14th. The public voting period begins May 16th and ends May 30th at noon. This year's contest has eight categories: Top Dog, #1 Puppy, Best Smile, Best Athlete, Community Ambassador, Town Employee Mascot, Most Spoiled and Judges Choice. The winning entries determined by online public voting through our website, winners will be announced on June 3rd. Please call 860-285-1902 if you have any questions. For more information regarding the contest, go to: https://forms.windsorct.com/winwag-contest/

Public Works Open House



You're invited to celebrate National Public Works week and meet the amazing crews who take care of our community at the Open House on Thursday, May 22, from 3:00 PM – 6:00 PM at the Public Works facility located at 99 Day Hill Road.

Step into large equipment, go for a ride in a plow truck, take a tour of the facility and learn more about what goes on behind the scenes at the Public Works facility. Staff will be grilling and serving hot dogs and beverages for all in attendance. For more information, contact Public Works at 860-285-1855.

The Healing Space

On Friday, May 9th, from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM, the Windsor Social Services and Youth Services Department will host *The Healing Space*, an event designed to promote mental wellness for individuals of all ages in a relaxing environment. Activities will include creative arts, music and movement, vision board creation, music therapy, and more. The event will take place at the Windsor Community Center (330 Windsor Ave), with registration opening at 5:45 PM. The cost is \$10 per person--includes dinner. This event is open to Windsor residents ages 5 and up. To register, visit bit.ly/thehealingspace (scroll down to Enrichment) or call Windsor Youth Services at 860-285-1839.

Town Manager Souza stated that he will be following up with both the Police Department and property manager relative to the comments that were made earlier during the first public comment session to see if we can make some progress on the issues that were raised by the resident.

Councilor Armstrong asked if Town Manager Souza can repeat the information about the healing space. Town Manager Souza said the healing space is a program that's going to be this Friday evening from 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM at the 330 Windsor Avenue Community Center. It is sponsored by the Social Services Department and the Youth Services Department and there will be a variety of different activities and information related to mental health and mental wellness. The phone number is 860-285-1839.

9) REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Town Improvements Committee - Deputy Mayor Klase - nothing to report.

Finance Committee - Councilor Naeem - nothing to report.

Health and Safety Committee – Councilor Armstrong – nothing to report.

Joint Town Council/Board of Education Committee – Deputy Mayor Klase – nothing to report.

Personnel Committee - Deputy Mayor Klase - nothing to report.

10) ORDINANCES - None



11) UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None

12) NEW BUSINESS

 Set a Public Hearing for June 2, 2025 at 7:20 p.m. to solicit public comment on applications for participation in the Neighborhood Assistance Act (NAA) Tax Credit Program

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Klase, seconded by Councilor Naeem that a Public Hearing be set for June 2, 2025 at 7:20 p.m. to allow for public comment on applications submitted for the Neighborhood Assistance Act Tax Credit program administered by the Connecticut Department of Revenue Services.

Patrick McMahon, Economic Development Director, stated the Neighborhood Assistance Act (NAA) Tax Credit program, established by the Connecticut General Assembly, offers municipalities and tax-exempt, non-profit organizations an opportunity to enhance their fundraising by providing state corporate tax credits to eligible donors. Corporate donors receive a tax credit equal to 60% of their contributions. Contributions for certain energy conservation projects may earn a 100% tax credit.

Town staff is once again soliciting applications from NAA-eligible organizations by way of direct email and press releases. Projects for the 2025 application round must be submitted to the Office of Community Development by close of business on May 21, 2025. Applications must be approved by the governing body of the town after conducting a public hearing. Therefore, staff is requesting the required public hearing be set for the evening of June 2, 2025 and that the list of submitted and eligible applicants be placed on the Council agenda for consideration on the same evening. Approved applications will then be submitted to the Department of Revenue Services by July 1, 2025.

Councilor Gluck Hoffman asked how many applications have they received so far? Mr. McMahon said he doesn't have that answer but we usually get a handful. Based from past experience, he's thinking there will be somewhere around five applications.

Councilor Naeem just wanted to clarify if that is a local tax credit or a state tax credit? Mr. McMahon said it's on the State.

Motion Passed 9-0-0

b) Consideration of Memorandum of Agreement between the Windsor Board of Education and the Windsor Education Association

Town Manager Souza said this item is a bit unusual. By State law, the Town Council has the opportunity to vote to reject the contract between the Board of Education and their



teacher's union. The Town Council can also 'let it lie' and take no action within a 30 day period and then that essentially is treated as a ratification. So, the Council has the option of having a motion that has been set in the agenda packet, which is a motion in the negative. If it's a motion in the negative, and the Council would like to see the vote of the contract approved, then the Council member would vote 'no'. Council has that option to either 'let it lie' for 30 days, or take action within that 30 day period, with a motion that would be to reject the memorandum of agreement between the Board of Education and the Windsor Education Association.

Councilor Eleveld stated just for the benefit of the public and for conversation's sake, if we rejected this and sent it back to the Board of Education to renegotiate, what is the normal course of events? Town Manager Souza said he's not sure of the course of events as he doesn't believe that's ever happened in his tenure here in the Town of Windsor. His understanding though is that it would have to go back to arbitration. He doesn't believe there is mediation because they may have already availed themselves of a mediation.

Mayor Black-Burke stated that the Council will not be taking action on this item tonight.

c) Authorize submittal of an application to the State's Emergency Management Performance Grant program

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Klase, seconded by Councilor Armstrong that the Town Manager is authorized to accept Emergency Management Performance Grant funding in FY 25 of up to \$14,726.50 from the State of Connecticut.

Paul Goldberg, Fire Administrator/EMD, stated the State provides an Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) to municipalities using Federal funds. The Town Council is asked to authorize the acceptance of the grant funds which are utilized for emergency management related expenditures.

The State of Connecticut Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP) oversees this grant program which assists municipalities to complete emergency management activities. Under a per capita formula, the town is eligible for \$14,726 in FY 25. These funds are used to pay for costs related to the Emergency Management Director's annual stipend, annual fees for the Everbridge emergency notification system, training, planning exercises as well as materials and supplies.

Motion Passed 9-0-0

d) Authorize submittal of an application to the State's Cybersecurity Infrastructure Grant program

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Klase, seconded by Councilor Naeem to authorize the Town Manager to submit a grant application to the Connecticut State and Local Cybersecurity Grant program through the Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security.



Jose Garibay, Information Technology Systems Application Specialist, stated through this competitive grant program, staff will pursue reimbursement for the purchase of backup cloud storage. This initiative aligns with our continued efforts to strengthen local cybersecurity infrastructure and ensure the protection of municipal data assets. Our application will highlight the role of the cloud storage solution in enhancing data resilience and supporting secure offsite backups—a key cybersecurity objective outlined in the grant guidelines. The reserved capacity purchase offers both cost-efficiency and long-term value as part of our broader data protection strategy. The total project cost is \$51,847.13. We plan to request reimbursement in the amount of \$41,477.70.

Motion Passed 9-0-0

e) Introduce an ordinance entitled "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 5, ARTICLE XVII, PROPERTY TAX RELIEF FOR ELDERLY AND/OR DISABLED HOMEOWNERS".

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Klase, seconded by Councilor Pelkey that the reading into the minutes of the text of the ordinance entitled, "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 5, ARTICLE XVII, PROPERTY TAX RELIEF FOR ELDERLY AND/OR DISABLED HOMEOWNERS" 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 Deputy Mayor Klase, seconded by Councilor Naeem to introduce an ordinance entitled, "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 5, ARTICLE XVII, PROPERTY TAX RELIEF FOR ELDERLY AND/OR DISABLED HOMEOWNERS."

Scott Colby, Assistant Town Manager stated property tax credits under the state program can be up to \$1,250 for married couples and \$1,000 for single individuals. Credits are based on a graduated income scale. The town provides an additional benefit with a current match of 100% of this credit for those households eligible under the state program. The town's ordinance also provides for a flat benefit of either \$415 or \$550, dependent on marital status for eligible households with incomes between \$45,200 and \$62,200.

The town income level increases have been proportional to the State income level increases, which themselves are proportional to annual Social Security cost of living increases. Since 2019, the town's local income limit has been automatically raised each year, proportional to the increase in the state's programs maximum income limit. The state releases the increase in program maximum levels in mid-December. Typically, the



increase is the same as the change to social security. For calendar year 2025, the state increased the income levels by 3.1%.

Currently there are 339 participants under the state program and the local match benefit. There are an additional 93 participants in the flat benefit program. Below are charts showing the current benefit levels by income as well as the proposed tax credit level based on the Town Council allocating an additional \$130,000 during adoption of the FY 2026 budget on April 30th.

The State of Connecticut no longer reimburses municipalities for the State program. The program as a whole currently has a cost of \$434,000 based upon the same number of participants in FY 25 estimate, the total program cost would be an additional \$130,000 to bring the total program cost to approximately \$565,000. By doing this it would increase the match from 100% to 150% while maintaining the income guidelines that we currently have. So, for example, under the new program as proposed for 150% match, an individual who is married and is in between the income guidelines of \$37,000-\$45,200, that married couple will receive a \$1,250 benefit, which is a total of an increase of \$250. For that same income bracket for an unmarried individual, they would receive a benefit of \$925, which would be a \$325 increase.

Councilor Pelkey asked if the income limits are being raised? Is there a maximum for what they could be? Assistant Town Manager Colby said he does not believe there is.

Councilor Naeem stated because we are tied to the State income limits, we did see an increase in this past year. If the State decides to increase the income limits for their program, the way our ordinance is written, ours will automatically increase as well. So, we did see that change come into place in the last 12-18 months. Assistant Town Manager Colby said that's correct, under the current program, it has increased 3.1% over last year's income guidelines. So, it will continue to increase as the State increases their threshold. Councilor Naeem asked what that percentage was. Assistant Town Manager Colby stated it was about 3.1%.

Motion Passed 9-0-0

f) Set a Public Hearing for May 19, 2025 at 7:20 p.m. for an ordinance entitled, "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 5, ARTICLE XVII, PROPERTY TAX RELIEF FOR ELDERLY AND/OR DISABLED HOMEOWNERS."

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Klase, seconded by Councilor Armstrong that a Public Hearing be set Monday, May 19, 2025 at 7:20 p.m. (prevailing time) in the Council Chambers of the Windsor Town Hall, to hear an ordinance entitled, "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 5, ARTICLE XVII, PROPERTY TAX RELIEF FOR ELDERLY AND/OR DISABLED HOMEOWNERS" and BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Clerk is authorized and directed to post and publish notice of said Public Hearing.



May 5, 2025

13) RESIGNATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS-

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Klase, seconded by Councilor Pelkey to accept the resignation of Kathryn Grimshaw Parker from the Windsor Arts Commission.

Motion Passed 9-0-0

14) MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETINGS

MOVED BY Deputy Mayor Klase, seconded by Councilor Armstrong to approve the minutes of:

- April 7, 2025 Public Hearing (FY 26 budget)
- April 7, 2025 Public Hearing (Line of Duty Death ordinance)
- April 7, 2025 Regular Town Council Meeting
- April 9, 2025 Special Town Council Meeting
- April 21, 2025 Special Town Council Meeting
- April 22, 2025 Special Town Council Meeting
- April 23, 2025 Special Town Council Meeting
- April 28, 2025 Special Town Council Meeting

Motion Passed 9-0-0

15) PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS

16) EXECUTIVE SESSION – None

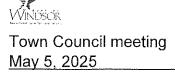
17) ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Black-Burke wished all of the mothers here on the dais and in the community a Happy Mother's Day. It's warming up so please slow down. There are many kids that are out and about. If you're in need of a helmet, please contact our Health Department and they will be able to help you out at 860-285-1823.

MOVED by Councilor Armstrong seconded by Councilor Eleveld to adjourn the meeting at 8:47 p.m.

Motion Passed 9-0-0

Respectfully Submitted,



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Recording Secretary