A Special Town Meeting of electors and citizens qualified to vote in Town Meetings of the Town of North Stonington, Connecticut was held at the North Stonington Education Center Media Center, 298 Norwich-Westerly Road, North Stonington, Connecticut on Tuesday, October 5, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. and online through Zoom.

Present: First Selectman Michael Urgo, Selectman Robert Carlson, and Selectwoman Nita Kincaid. Also present at the meeting were Board of Finance Chairman Dan Spring, Administration & Finance Officer Christine Dias, Highway Foreman Don Hill, IT Manager Jim Russell, Assessor Darryl DelGrosso, Democratic Registrar of Voters Constance Berardi, and Republican Registrar of Voters Amy French.

First Selectman Michael Urgo called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and then asked for a MOTION from the floor to elect a Moderator. A MOTION made by Bill Ricker, seconded by Dan Spring to elect Lisa Mazzella as the Moderator. A MOTION made by Joe Gross, seconded by Bill Ricker to close all nominations. MOTION TO CLOSE ALL NOMINATIONS CARRIED. MOTION TO ELECT LISA MAZZELLA AS THE MODERATOR CARRIED.

Moderator Lisa Mazzella stated the rules and protocols of the meeting and voter eligibility requirements. She noted that paper ballots would be used for voting at this meeting. Moderator Mazzella asked Town Clerk Antoinette Pancaro to read the call of the meeting.

Warning is hereby given to the electors and those entitled to vote at town meetings of the Town of North Stonington that a Special Town Meeting shall be held at the following location on the date and time indicated for the purposes of transacting the business set forth below:

Location: North Stonington Education Center Media Center, 298 Norwich Westerly Road & via Zoom: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_sh1aMcHGHS6jAZWolBhAw
Webinar ID: 817 0216 5317
Date: October 5, 2021
Time: 7 PM

For the purpose of verifying registered voters, those wishing to attend the meeting online and vote online will need to pre-register through the link provided by 12 pm on October 5. In person attendance will be available following COVID-19 guidelines.

1. Shall the Town approve an additional appropriation in the amount of $60,325 for financial software as recommended by the Board of Finance?

First Selectman Michael Urgo gave background information regarding the financial software and the benefits to the town. He introduced Software Consultant/Senior Account Executive Nick Haas from Tyler Technologies, who gave an online presentation about the “Infinite Visions” financial software. He spoke about the benefits to the town, such as increased efficiency, implementation methodology, and support process and options. He presented screenshots of the software showing
the dashboard, charts, graphs, reports, and search features. Superintendent of Schools Peter Nero spoke online describing his experience with this software, which is currently being used in the North Stonington school system, and he indicated that he was very pleased with the software. Schools Business Manager Deborah Martin spoke online and stated that she was also very pleased with this software being utilized in the school system.

A MOTION made by Dan Spring, seconded by Bill Ricker to approve the question for discussion. MOTION carried. Discussion and questions followed. Board of Finance Chairman Dan Spring stated that the Board of Finance was strongly in support of this financial software and he urged support for approval. More discussion and questions followed. A MOTION made by Dan Spring, seconded by Brett Mastroianni to move the question to a vote. MOTION carried.

Vote by paper ballot and online to approve the question was 22 YES, 2 NO. MOTION carried.

Shall the Town approve an additional appropriation in the amount of $48,881 for use of reimbursable state LoCIP grant funds for road work as recommended by the Board of Finance?

Information was given by Administration & Finance Officer Christine Dias regarding the Local Capital Improvement Plan (LoCIP) money. A MOTION made by Joe Gross, seconded by Dan Spring to move the call. MOTION carried. Discussion and questions followed. A MOTION made by Bill Ricker, seconded by Dan Spring to move the question to a vote. MOTION carried.

Vote by paper ballot and online to approve the question was 23 YES, 1 NO. MOTION carried.

Shall the Town approve the amended Five (5) Year Local Capital Improvement Plan as presented for fiscal years 2022-2026?

A brief explanation was given by First Selectman Urgo regarding the Local Capital Improvement Plan (LoCIP) money. He explained that every year the Town gets money from the State for road improvements. A MOTION made by Brett Mastroianni, seconded by Dan Spring to approve the question for discussion. MOTION carried. Discussion and questions followed, with Highway Foreman Don Hill answering questions and clarifying information. A MOTION made by Joe Gross, seconded by Connie Berardi to move the question to a vote. MOTION carried.

Vote by paper ballot and online to approve the question was 23 YES, 1 NO. MOTION carried.

Shall the Town approve the Town of North Stonington Code of Ethics ordinance to establish suitable ethical standards for all such officials, officers and employees by prohibiting acts related to financial gain or financial interests that are not in the best interests of the Town and for the Town Clerk to be allowed to publish an abbreviated version of the legal ad regarding the Notice of Passage of the ordinance?

A MOTION made by Joe Gross, seconded by Bill Ricker to approve the question for discussion. MOTION carried. First Selectman Urgo gave background information regarding the Code of Ethics. He explained that the town currently has a one-page Code of Ethics and this ordinance is a more substantive Code of Ethics for the town. First Selectman Urgo stated that Selectman Carlson and Administration & Finance Officer Christine Dias took the lead on doing the research regarding the Code of Ethics. He explained that this Code of Ethics was discussed with the Board
of Selectmen and with the Town’s labor attorneys, who advised that it go to a Town Meeting for approval. Discussion and questions followed, with Selectman Carlson and Administration & Finance Officer Christine Dias answering questions and clarifying information. A MOTION made by Nicole Porter, seconded by Joe Gross to move the question to a vote. MOTION carried.

Vote by paper ballot and online to approve the question was 18 YES, 6 NO. MOTION carried.

A MOTION made by Bill Ricker, seconded by Brett Mastroianni to adjourn the meeting. MOTION carried. Moderator Lisa Mazzella adjourned the Special Town Meeting at 8:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Antoinette Pancaro
Town Clerk
Town of North Stonington