

Town of
North Stonington
ANNUAL TOWN/BUDGET MEETING
MINUTES
May 21, 2018

The Annual Town/Budget Meeting of electors and citizens qualified to vote in Town Meetings of the Town of North Stonington, Connecticut was held at Wheeler Library, 101 Main Street, North Stonington, Connecticut on Monday, May 21, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. Present: First Selectman Michael Uργο, Selectwoman Nita Kincaid, and Selectman Robert Carlson. Also present at the meeting were Board of Finance Chairman Dan Spring, Board of Education Chairman Christine Wagner, Superintendent of Schools Peter Nero, Planning, Development & Zoning Official Juliet Hodge, Town Attorney Robert Avena, Highway Foreman Don Hill, and Administration & Finance Officer Christine Dias. First Selectman Uργο called the meeting to order and then asked for a **MOTION** from the floor to elect a Moderator. A **MOTION** made by Nick Mullane, seconded by Dan Spring to elect Bill Ricker as the Moderator. A **MOTION** made by Nick Mullane, seconded by Anne Nalwalk to close all nominations. **MOTIONS CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.** Moderator Bill Ricker stated the rules of the meeting. First Selectman Michael Uργο gave a brief PowerPoint presentation and spoke regarding the work of the new Selectmen and major events that are occurring in the town. Moderator Bill Ricker asked Town Clerk Antoinette Pancaro to read item one of 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 the Annual Town/Budget 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: Wheeler Library

Date: May 21, 2018

Time: 7:00 PM

1. Shall the Town approve the Five (5) Year Local Capital Improvement Plan, as amended for fiscal year 2017-23?

A **MOTION** made by Dan Spring, seconded by Nita Kincaid to move the question. A brief explanation was given by First Selectman Uργο regarding the Local Capital Improvement Plan (LoCIP). Discussion followed, with Highway Foreman Don Hill answering questions and clarifying information. **MOTION approved unanimously.**

2. Shall the Town approve the amendments to Local Ordinances as presented?

Planning, Development & Zoning Official Juliet Hodge gave a presentation regarding the amendments to the Town ordinances. She explained that the intent of the amendments was to review the ordinances, to correct parties involved when needed, to correct typographical errors, and to update information. A **MOTION** made by Lou Steinbrecher, seconded by Joe Gross to move the question. Discussion followed. **MOTION approved unanimously.**

3. Shall the Town approve the fee schedules for the Building Department as presented?

A **MOTION** made by Joe Gross, seconded by Joe Gross to move the question.

Planning, Development & Zoning Official Juliet Hodge gave background information regarding the fee increase in the Building Department fee schedule. She explained that the fees have not increased since 1994 and that this was not an arbitrary increase. She indicated that the increase to the fees was to cover the cost of the department, but was also sensitive to the needs of the residents. First Selectman Uργο clarified the need to increase fees and that the Building Official's hours needed to be increased. Discussion followed regarding the fee changes. **MOTION** was defeated by a show of hands: 27 YES, 30 NO.

4. Shall the Town of North Stonington sell the condominium unit 2-H at the Holly Green complex as recommended by the Board of Selectmen and approved under Connecticut General Statute Section 8-24 by Planning and Zoning?

First Selectman Uργο explained that this condominium unit was used for Economic Development Commission meetings, for the office of the Town Recreation Director, and formerly for the Probate Court. The intent is to sell the unit and to put the revenue in the Town. A **MOTION** made by Daniel Malchman, seconded by Nick Mullane to move the question. First Selectman Uργο noted that this condominium unit is not utilized enough. Discussion followed. **MOTION approved unanimously.**

5. To hear and act upon the following Resolution: Resolved that the Town of North Stonington, subject to a referral under Connecticut General Statute Section 8-24 to the Town of North Stonington Planning and Zoning Commission and a favorable approval thereof, and approval of the Town of North Stonington Board of Selectmen at their May 9, 2018 Special Meeting, accept the attached conveyance, by Quit Claim Deed Statutory Form, of land and improvements at 123A Clarks Falls Road, North Stonington, Connecticut, from the North Stonington Baptist Church aka Unit Baptist Church, Inc. dated July 10, 2014?

First Selectman Uργο presented background information regarding this resolution. He explained that there is a reverter clause in the deed that indicates this property is only to be used for church purposes, and if it is no longer used for church purposes, then it becomes the property of the Town. A **MOTION** made by Joe Gross, seconded by Brad Currier to move the question. Discussion followed. Pastor Tim Gengarella, former Pastor of the church, gave a brief history of the church property and noted that it was only to be used for church purposes, and if not used for those purposes, then it must be given to the Town. Planning, Development & Zoning Official Juliet Hodge explained that the property will go through the Section 8-24 process through Planning and Zoning. **MOTION carried.**

6. To hear and act upon a request of the Board of Selectmen, as approved by the Board of Finance, for an additional appropriation in the amount of \$65,000, to line item B14.00 Permanent School Building Committee?

Board of Education Chairman Christine Wagner presented information regarding unanticipated PCB issues that occurred during the last 12-month cycle at Wheeler Middle School and also at the Elementary School. A **MOTION** made by Michael Anderson, seconded by Lou Steinbrecher to move the question. Discussion followed. First Selectman Uργο, Board of Education Chairman Wagner, and Superintendent of Schools Peter Nero explained the detailed costs involved regarding this PCB issue. **MOTION carried.**

7. To hear and act upon the following Resolution: Resolved: that the Board of Selectmen is hereby, authorized and empowered to obtain loans at current interest rates for loans to municipalities in anticipation of the receipt of tax collections and in anticipation of the receipt of federal and/or state grants with respect to a project or program on such terms and conditions as follows: (a) the amount borrowed shall not exceed \$1,000,000, at any one time; and (b) the Board of Finance shall receive, as early as possible, prior notification of any borrowing. The Board of Selectmen is further authorized and empowered to execute any and all documents necessary and required.

A **MOTION** made by Nick Mullane, seconded by Joe Gross to move the question. First Selectman Uργο gave background information regarding this resolution. He explained that the intent of this resolution is in the event of an unforeseen event or emergency, it gives the Board of Selectmen the ability to quickly borrow money. **MOTION carried.**

Planning, Development & Zoning Official Juliet Hodge gave an update on the Plan of Conservation and Development. She emphasized the points of growing the economy, gaining new businesses, enhancing the community, preserving the rural character, and increasing housing choice and affordability.

8. Shall the Town of North Stonington approve the estimates and recommendations of the Board of Finance with respect to the Annual Budget including Board of Education, \$13,514,959, General Government Operating, \$5,070,377, Redemption of Debt, \$1,026,180 and Capital, \$319,592, for fiscal year July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019, in the total amount of \$19,931,108 and make specific appropriations and authorize expenditures in connection therewith as appear advisable?

Pursuant to Section 7-7 of the General Statutes of Connecticut, the Board of Selectmen have voted to adjourn said town meeting at its conclusion and to submit the resolutions as presented on this notice number 8, to vote upon voting machines or paper ballots between the hours of 6:00 A.M. and 8:00 P.M. on the 4th day of June, 2018.

Dated at North Stonington this 9th day of May, 2018.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Michael A. Uργο

Robert A. Carlson

Nita B. Kincaid

A **MOTION** made by Brad Currier, seconded by Mustapha Ratib to move the call. Dan Spring, Chairman of the Board of Finance, gave a PowerPoint presentation regarding the upcoming fiscal year Town budget and the Town's budget priorities. He stated that due to additional money from the State of Connecticut the proposed mill rate increase to 28.7 mills has now been reduced to 28.2 mills. First Selectman Urgo gave a presentation about the General Government budget. Board of Education Chairman Christine Wagner gave a PowerPoint presentation regarding the Board of Education budget for the upcoming year and showed a short video highlighting Wheeler entitled "We Are Wheeler." Discussion and questions followed.

Moderator Bill Ricker adjourned the meeting to the Referendum on June 4, 2018 between the hours of 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the New Town Hall. A **MOTION** made by First Selectman Michael Urgo, seconded by John Bradshaw to move to adjourn this portion of the Town meeting at 9:20 p.m. **MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Respectfully submitted,

Antoinette Pancaro
Town Clerk
Town of North Stonington