

*Town of  
North Stonington*  
ANNUAL TOWN/BUDGET MEETING  
MINUTES  
May 2, 2022

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 the North Stonington Education Center Media Center, 298 Norwich-Westerly Road, North Stonington, Connecticut on Monday, May 2, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. and online through Zoom.

Present: First Selectman Robert Carlson, Selectman Brett Mastroianni, and Selectwoman Nicole Porter. Also present at the meeting were Board of Finance Chairman Paul Simonds, Board of Education Chairman Christine Wagner, Superintendent of Schools Peter Nero, Planning, Development & Zoning Official Nathan Reichert, Administration & Finance Officer Christine Dias, IT Manager Jim Russell, and Registrars of Voters Constance Berardi and Emily Lewis.

First Selectman Carlson called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. and gave a brief overview of the items to be discussed at the meeting. He then asked for a **MOTION** from the floor to elect a Moderator. A **MOTION** made by Carl Johnston, seconded by Salvatore Cherenzia to elect Lisa Mazzella as the Moderator. A **MOTION** made by Salvatore Cherenzia, seconded by Carl Johnston 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 of the 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 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: North Stonington Education Center Media Center, 298 Norwich Westerly Road &  
via Zoom: [https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_1JJyYaTfT1SICdzBirMDwA](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_1JJyYaTfT1SICdzBirMDwA)  
Webinar ID: 840 1112 8684

Date: May 2, 2022

Time: 6 PM

1. Shall the Town of North Stonington approve the estimates and recommendations of the Board of Finance with respect to the Annual Budget including General Government Operating: \$5,319,361; Redemption of Debt: \$1,382,949; and Capital: \$408,655; for fiscal year July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023, in the total amount of \$7,110,965?
2. Shall the Town of North Stonington approve the estimates and recommendations of the Board of Finance with respect to the annual Board of Education budget for fiscal year July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023 in the amount of \$14,527,467?
3. Shall the Town of North Stonington approve \$1,000,000 in American Rescue Plan Act funds to replace lost public sector revenue and fund a portion of the demolition of the one story wing of 298 Norwich Westerly Road?

4. Shall the Town of North Stonington approve an ordinance creating a municipal park and recreation capital and non-recurring expense fund and amend the existing ordinance Recreation Commission Section 14-1 (c) and for the Town Clerk to be allowed to publish an abbreviated version of the legal ad regarding the Notice of Passage of these ordinances? Copies of both are available on the Town's website and at the Town Clerk's office.

#### Notice of Referendum

Resolved, the Board of Selectmen, pursuant to its authority under Connecticut General Statutes, Section 7-7, hereby removes the questions to be considered at the May 2, 2022 Annual Town Meeting cited in the prior resolution, to a referendum to be held on May 16, 2022, the hours for voting at said referendum shall be established by vote at the May 2, 2022 Town Meeting, said hours are recommended by the Board of Selectmen to be 6:00 am-8:00 pm.

A **MOTION** made by Charlie Smith, seconded by Anne Nalwalk to discuss the call. **MOTION carried.**

Board of Finance Chairman Paul Simonds gave a PowerPoint presentation reviewing the budget considerations and objectives and the proposed Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Budget. He discussed the current economy and inflation pressures, the operational needs of the Town government and education, and the Town's capital projects and investments. First Selectman Robert Carlson gave a PowerPoint presentation regarding the proposed General Government budget, which contains a 2.74% increase from the current fiscal year budget. He emphasized the importance of having a fiscally responsible and transparent budget. First Selectman Carlson emphasized the importance of funding everything in the budget and without the need for additional appropriations during the year. He gave an overview of individual department accounts and other detailed expenses.

Board of Education Chairman Christine Wagner gave a detailed PowerPoint presentation regarding the 2021-2022 year in review, the 2022-2023 budget process, the budget progression, and historical budget data. She indicated that the Board of Education proposed budget is a 1.74% increase from the current fiscal year budget.

First Selectman Carlson gave a detailed presentation regarding the American Rescue Plan Act funds and how those funds could be used to help fund the demolition costs of the one-story wing of 298 Norwich-Westerly Road. He discussed the deteriorating condition of that section of the building regarding asbestos, PCBs, leaky roof, faulty windows, and other problems. First Selectman Carlson gave information regarding the costs of demolition and the costs of maintaining that wing of the building. He explained that there will be a future Town Meeting to discuss this issue in more detail. He emphasized that the people will ultimately make the decision regarding this issue.

Selectman Brett Mastroianni gave information and clarification regarding the ordinance to create a municipal park and recreation capital and non-recurring expense fund. He indicated that this fund is for donations to Parks and Recreation and the fund will be under the custody of the Town Treasurer.

Discussion and questions followed regarding all of the items, with questions answered and clarification given by First Selectman Robert Carlson, Board of Education Chairman Christine Wagner, Board of Finance Chairman Paul Simonds, and Selectman Brett Mastroianni.

A **MOTION** made by Gary Annino, seconded by Carl Johnston to close discussion. **MOTION carried.**

A **MOTION** made by Jennifer Dayton, seconded by Mike Anderson to accept the hours of voting at the May 16, 2022 Referendum as recommended by the Board of Selectmen to be 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. **MOTION carried.**

A **MOTION** made by Anne Nalwalk, seconded by Chet Stefanowicz to move all of the questions to a Referendum on May 16. Vote by a show of hands: **MOTION carried.**

Moderator Lisa Mazzella adjourned the Town Meeting at 7:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Antoinette Pancaro  
Town Clerk  
Town of North Stonington