

*Town of*  
*North Stonington*  
ANNUAL TOWN/BUDGET MEETING  
MINUTES  
May 10, 2021

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 Wheeler School Gymnasium, 297 Norwich-Westerly Road, North Stonington, Connecticut on Monday, May 10, 2021 at 6:00 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, Board of Education Chairman Christine Wagner, Superintendent of Schools Peter Nero, Schools Business Manager Deborah Martin, Planning, Development & Zoning Official Juliet Hodge, Administration & Finance Officer Christine Dias, IT Manager Jim Russell, and Registrar of Voters Constance Berardi.

First Selectman Urgo called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. and then asked for a **MOTION** from the floor to elect a Moderator. A **MOTION** made by Bill Ricker, seconded by Mary Ann Ricker to elect Lisa Mazzella as the Moderator. A **MOTION** made by Shawn Murphy, seconded by Nick Mullane 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 Wheeler School Gymnasium, 297 Norwich Westerly Road &  
via Zoom: [https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_Icn68c3qRg2GfPu4vaMX8A](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Icn68c3qRg2GfPu4vaMX8A)  
Webinar ID: 850 8937 0811

Date: May 10, 2021

Time: 6 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 May 10. Those who have the capability for online access are encouraged to attend virtually. In person attendance will be available following COVID-19 guidelines.

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: \$5,178,341; Redemption of Debt: \$1,382,949; and Capital: \$252,253; for fiscal year July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022, in the total amount of \$6,813,543?
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, 2021 through June 30, 2022 in the amount of \$14,371,465?

### 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 10, 2021 Annual Town Meeting cited in the prior resolution, to a referendum to be held on May 17, 2021, the hours for voting at said referendum shall be established by vote at the May 10, 2021 Town Meeting, said hours are recommended by the Board of Selectmen to be 6:00 am-8:00 pm.

Board of Finance Chairman Dan Spring thanked the Board of Finance members for the long hours and hard work regarding the proposed budget. He gave a PowerPoint presentation reviewing the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Budget and the proposed Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Budget. Chairman Spring indicated that the proposed budget is a 2.08% increase from the current fiscal year budget, with a proposed mill rate of 28.8 mills. Board of Education Chairman Christine Wagner gave a PowerPoint presentation regarding the 2020-2021 year in review, the 2021-2022 budget process, and the budget progression. She indicated that the Board of Education proposed budget is a 1.78% increase from the current fiscal year budget. First Selectman Michael Urgo gave a PowerPoint presentation about the General Government budget. He discussed many of the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 accomplishments, as well as new capital project funding, grants awarded to North Stonington, COVID-19 relief funding, and redemption of debt.

A **MOTION** made by Bill Ricker, seconded by Shawn Murphy to discuss the call. **MOTION carried.** Discussion and questions followed regarding different parts of the Town budget.

A **MOTION** made by Mike Anderson, seconded by Anne Nalwalk to accept the hours of voting at the May 17, 2021 Referendum as recommended by the Board of Selectmen to be 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Registrar of Voters Constance Berardi indicated that she would like the voting hours changed from 12:00 Noon to 8:00 p.m. because the hours are long on voting day and it is difficult to get poll workers. Discussion followed. **MOTION carried.**

A **MOTION** made by Anne Nalwalk, seconded by Mary Ann Ricker to move the budget questions to a Referendum on May 17. **MOTION carried.**

A **MOTION** made by Mike Anderson, seconded by Joe Gross to adjourn the meeting. **MOTION carried.** Moderator Lisa Mazzella adjourned the Town Meeting at 7:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Antoinette Pancaro  
Town Clerk  
Town of North Stonington

May 17, 2021  
Referendum Results

The May 10, 2021 Annual Town/Budget Meeting reconvened at 8:07 p.m. on Monday, May 17, 2021 by Town Meeting Moderator Lisa Mazzella following the Referendum. The results were read by the Referendum Moderator Pat Turner:

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: \$5,178,341; Redemption of Debt: \$1,382,949; and Capital: \$252,253; for fiscal year July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022, in the total amount of \$6,813,543?

217 Yes

276 No

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, 2021 through June 30, 2022 in the amount of \$14,371,465?

242 Yes

254 No

A **MOTION** was made by Michael Uργο, seconded by Connie Berardi to adjourn the meeting.  
**MOTION CARRIED.**

***Town Meeting Moderator Lisa Mazzella adjourned the meeting at 8:09 p.m.***