

Town of
North Stonington
SPECIAL TOWN MEETING
MINUTES
August 23, 2021

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 Monday, August 23, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. and online through Zoom.

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

In the absence of First Selectman Michael Urgo, Selectman Robert Carlson called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. and then asked for a **MOTION** from the floor to elect a Moderator. A **MOTION** made by Dan Spring, seconded by Dave McCord to elect Lisa Mazzella as the Moderator. A **MOTION** made by Anne Nalwalk, seconded by Dave McCord 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_T-0FYwLQTZSTaKLvJleX0w
Webinar ID: 853 5654 6851
Date: August 23, 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 August 23. In person attendance will be available following COVID-19 guidelines.

1. Shall the Town of North Stonington authorize the use of the funds from the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 for the North Stonington Volunteer Fire Company in the amount of \$165,000 to be distributed equally over 3 years?

Selectman Robert Carlson gave background information regarding the American Rescue Plan funds and the per diem firefighter position that would be supported by the funds. He urged support

for the funds to be used for this purpose. Fire Chief Charles Steinhart V gave a detailed PowerPoint presentation regarding the per diem firefighter position. He indicated that having this additional firefighter during the daytime would yield safer, faster response times to respond to calls. Fire Chief Steinhart strongly urged support for approval of the funds.

A **MOTION** made by Dan Spring, seconded by Anne Nalwalk to approve the call. **MOTION carried.** Board of Finance Chairman Dan Spring stated that the Board of Finance unanimously approved this expenditure and he asked for support for approval of the question. Discussion and questions followed. A **MOTION TO AMEND** the question to read: "Shall the Town of North Stonington authorize the use of the funds from the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 for the North Stonington Volunteer Fire Company for the purpose of hiring a second weekday firefighter in the amount of \$165,000 to be distributed equally over 3 years?" made by Shawn Murphy, seconded by Jim Holdridge. A **MOTION TO AMEND THE AMENDED MOTION** to discuss the question as worded and to amend the question to read: "Shall the Town of North Stonington authorize the use of the funds from the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 for the North Stonington Volunteer Fire Company for the purpose of hiring a second weekday firefighter in the amount of \$165,000 to be distributed equally over 3 years?" made by Shawn Murphy, seconded by Charlie Steinhart IV. Discussion and questions followed. Administration & Finance Officer Christine Dias stated that the wording of the call and original question was approved by the Town Attorney and the new wording has not been approved. Vote in person and via computer: **MOTION TO AMEND THE AMENDED MOTION failed.** A **MOTION** made by Anne Nalwalk, seconded by Charlie Steinhart IV to end debate on the question and vote. Vote by a show of hands and via computer: **MOTION carried.**

Before voting on the question, Moderator Mazzella asked Town Clerk Antoinette Pancaro to again read Question 1:

1. Shall the Town of North Stonington authorize the use of the funds from the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 for the North Stonington Volunteer Fire Company in the amount of \$165,000 to be distributed equally over 3 years?

Vote by paper ballot and online to approve the question was 30 YES, 10 NO. **MOTION carried.**

A **MOTION** made by Kathy Bond, seconded by Charlie Steinhart V to adjourn the meeting. **MOTION carried.** Moderator Lisa Mazzella adjourned the Special Town Meeting at 7:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Antoinette Pancaro
Town Clerk
Town of North Stonington