

Town of
North Stonington
SPECIAL TOWN MEETING
MINUTES
June 29, 2019

A Special Town 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 Saturday, June 29, 2019 at 9:00 a.m.

Present: First Selectman Michael Urgo 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, and Administration & Finance Officer Christine Dias. Absent: Selectman Robert Carlson (due to work obligations).

First Selectman Urgo called the meeting to order and then asked for a **MOTION** from the floor to elect a Moderator. A **MOTION** made by Nita Kincaid, seconded by Carolyn Howell to elect Bill Ricker as the Moderator. A **MOTION** made by Anne Nalwalk, seconded by Candis Banks to close all nominations. **MOTION TO CLOSE ALL NOMINATIONS CARRIED. MOTION TO ELECT BILL RICKER AS THE MODERATOR CARRIED WITH 1 ABSENTION (Craig Mateyov).**

Moderator Bill Ricker officially called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m. He stated the rules of the meeting. Moderator Ricker 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: Wheeler Library, 101 Main Street

Date: June 29, 2019

Time: 9 AM

1. Shall the Town of North Stonington approve the estimates and recommendations of the Board of Finance with respect to the annual General Government Operating, \$5,008,099 and Redemption of Debt, \$1,065,184 for fiscal year July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020, in the total amount of \$6,073,283, and make specific appropriations and authorize expenditures in connection therewith as appear advisable?
2. Shall the Town of North Stonington approve the estimates and recommendations of the Board of Finance with respect to the Capital budget for fiscal year July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020, in the total amount of \$427,826 and make specific appropriations and authorize expenditures in connection therewith as appear advisable?
3. 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, 2019 through June 30, 2020, in the amount of \$13,775,463 and make specific appropriations and authorize expenditures in connection therewith as appear advisable?

Notice of Referendum

Pursuant to Section 7-7 of the General Statutes of Connecticut, Revision of 1958, as amended, to adjourn said town meeting questions 1, 2 & 3 at its conclusion and to submit the said resolution to vote upon voting machines or paper ballots between the hours of 6:00 A.M. and 8:00 P.M. on 9th day, July, 2019. Electors and persons qualified to vote in town meetings who are not electors shall vote at the following polling place:

Town of North Stonington
New Town Hall
40 Main Street, North Stonington, Connecticut

Voting tabulators shall be used. Absentee ballots will be available from the Town Clerk's office. The resolutions will be placed on the ballots under the following heading, with the wording of the questions already read as noted into the record.

First Selectman Michael Urgo indicated that presentations will be given regarding different parts of the Town budget by himself, Board of Education Chairman Christine Wagner, and Board of Finance Chairman Dan Spring. He also noted that due to this being a busy time for vacations Town Clerk Antoinette Pancaro will be going to her office at Town Hall for one hour after the meeting to issue absentee ballots for the July 9 Budget Referendum.

First Selectman Urgo gave a detailed PowerPoint presentation about the General Government budget. He discussed project updates regarding the Recreation Center, Wheeler Middle High School, Dollar General, sale of the church at Clarks Falls, sale of the condominium at Holly Green, and the demolition of Greene Gables, Gary's Restaurant, and the 95 House. Board of Education Chairman Christine Wagner gave a PowerPoint presentation regarding the Board of Education budget with budget details and an explanation of items cut from the budget. Board of Finance Chairman Dan Spring indicated that the overall budget increase is 1.73%, with an increase of \$345,464. He stated that the current mill rate is 28.2 mills and the proposed mill rate will be 29 mills, which is a .8 mill increase to support the 1.73% budget increase. Chairman Spring gave a PowerPoint presentation that showed the impact on the taxpayer. He also discussed the mill rate in comparison to other towns, review of the Grand List, and current debt status. Questions and discussion followed regarding the different parts of the Town budget, which were answered by First Selectman Urgo, Board of Education Chairman Wagner, Board of Finance Chairman Spring, Superintendent of Schools Peter Nero, and Administration & Finance Officer Christine Dias. A **MOTION** made by Joe Gross, seconded by Brett Mastroianni to move the question to a Referendum on July 9. **MOTION carried with 2 abstentions.**

First Selectman Urgo reminded everyone that Town Clerk Antoinette Pancaro would be in her office for one hour after the meeting to issue absentee ballots.

Moderator Bill Ricker adjourned this portion of the Town meeting at 10:35 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Antoinette Pancaro
Town Clerk
Town of North Stonington

July 9, 2019
Referendum Results

The June 29, 2019 Special Town Meeting reconvened at 8:10 p.m. on Tuesday, July 9, 2019 by First Selectman Michael Uργο following the Referendum. A **MOTION** made by Laura Tillinghast, seconded by Shawn Murphy to elect Lisa Mazzella as the Moderator. A **MOTION** made by Toula Balestracci, seconded by Nita Kincaid to close all nominations. **MOTIONS CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.** The results were read by the Referendum Moderator Julie Armstrong:

1. Shall the Town of North Stonington approve the estimates and recommendations of the Board of Finance with respect to the annual General Government Operating, \$5,008,099 and Redemption of Debt, \$1,065,184 for fiscal year July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020, in the total amount of \$6,073,283, and make specific appropriations and authorize expenditures in connection therewith as appear advisable?

474 Yes 378 No

2. Shall the Town of North Stonington approve the estimates and recommendations of the Board of Finance with respect to the Capital budget for fiscal year July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020, in the total amount of \$427,826 and make specific appropriations and authorize expenditures in connection therewith as appear advisable?

471 Yes 379 No

3. 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, 2019 through June 30, 2020, in the amount of \$13,775,463 and make specific appropriations and authorize expenditures in connection therewith as appear advisable?

462 Yes 389 No

Special Town Meeting Moderator Lisa Mazzella adjourned the meeting at 8:15 p.m.