

TOWN OF VOLUNTOWN
ANNUAL BUDGET MEETING
JUNE 4, 2015

The Annual Budget Meeting of the Town of Voluntown was held at the Voluntown Elementary School, Route 138, Voluntown, Connecticut on Thursday, June 4, 2015 at 7:00 P.M. for the following purposes wit:

The meeting was called to order by Robert Sirpenski, First Selectman with the reading of the Notice of Annual Town Budget Meeting.

Cheryl A. Sadowski, Town Clerk served as clerk for the meeting.

Call for the moderator by the Clerk. Louis Gardella made a motion to nominate Robert Sirpenski as moderator, which was seconded by Richard Osga. There were no other nominations. Call for the vote for moderator. All were in favor of Robert Sirpenski serving as moderator. So carried. Robert Sirpenski will serve as moderator.

Louis Gardella made a motion to dispense with reading the call of meeting again. Judith Allik seconded it and all were in favor.

Item #1: To establish a fund entitled the Wylie School Historical Building Fund to be used for the ongoing maintenance and preservation of the Wylie School.

Louis Gardella made a motion to approve Item #1. Jennifer Panko seconded it. Item #1 was opened for discussion. Robert Sirpenski explained that the account was being set up to be an ongoing fund solely used for the Wylie School House. There will be no dollar amount at this time. With no other discussion, Jennifer Panko made a motion to close discussion. Louis Gardella seconded it and all were in favor. Call for the vote by the moderator on Item #1. All were in favor and none opposed. Motion carried.

Item #2: To appropriate the funds necessary for the Board of Selectmen's Budget for the Fiscal Year 2015-2016 in the amount of \$1,520,692 (one million, five hundred twenty thousand, six hundred ninety-two dollars).

Louis Gardella made a motion to accept Item #2. Richard Osga seconded it. Before Item #2 was opened for discussion Robert Sirpenski had a power point presentation that went over the State of Connecticut tax increases, car tax reform and the PILOT program changes, the formula and how all of it impacted Voluntown. He discussed mil rates, Town operations, recent Grant and Capital Projects, Capital needs in the next five years and the Selectmen's Budget. There would be a 2.36 mil increase to 26.61 if the budgets pass. There was discussion on the motor vehicle tax, which Voluntown still would be below the 32 mil cap. This legislature is so new, still trying to interpret. How the formula would work for the PILOT program was discussed, being over 25 mils will bring a higher reimbursement. With no further discussion, Louis Gardella made a motion to close discussion. Richard Osga seconded it and all were in favor. Call for the vote by the moderator on Item #2. All were in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

The Selectmen's Budget for the Fiscal Year 2015-2016 in the amount of \$1,520,692.00 – **PASSED.**

Item #3: To appropriate the funds necessary for the Board of Education Budget for the fiscal year 2015-2016 in the amount of \$6,747,717 (six million, seven hundred forty-seven thousand, seven hundred seventeen dollars).

Louis Gardella made a motion to accept Item #3. Marilyn Abbazia seconded it. It was opened for discussion. Diana Ingraham, Board of Education Chairman, explained the proposal paragraph on the cover page of the school's budget. There was one question concerning hiring a Vice Principal, one is not being hired. Ken Weseman made a motion to vote on Item #3 by paper ballot. Tom Wilber seconded it. The moderator called for a vote by hands. There was a discrepancy in the count between counters. A second show of hands was asked for. In Favor – 31. Opposed – 34. Motion failed. Louis Gardella made a motion to close discussion. Gail Sirpenski seconded it. All were in favor. The moderator called for a vote on Item #3. The majority was in favor, a few opposed. Motion carried.

The Board of Education Budget for the Fiscal Year 2015-2016 in the amount of \$6,747,717.00 – **PASSED.**

Item #4: To authorize the Board of Selectmen to exempt horses and ponies from property taxation, effective October 1, 2015, as per State Statute PA-14-33 section 12-81gg.

Louis Gardella made a motion to accept Item #4. Richard Osga seconded it. Item #4 was opened for discussion. Question was why eliminate it. The First Selectman stated the Town receives \$300 in taxes. This was legislation that was passed to make towns attractive and keep them rural. Louis Gardella made motion to close discussion. Jennifer Panko seconded it and all were in favor. Moderator called for a vote on Item #4. Majority in favor, one opposed. So carried.

Item #5: To set a tax rate and collection period for Fiscal Year 2015-2016.

Louis Gardella made a motion to set the mil rate at 26.61 for Fiscal Year 2015-2016 and collection dates to be July 1st-31st, 2015 and January 1st-31st, 2016. Richard Osga seconded it. The combination of state revenues and tax payer's portion needed to meet budget costs was discussed. Marilyn Abbazia made a motion to close discussion. Louis Gardella seconded it. All were in favor. Call for the vote on the motion by the moderator. The majority was in favor, a few opposed. So carried.

Item #6: To appoint the audit firm of Baude & Rolfe, P.C. Certified Public Accountants to be the auditor of Town Records for Fiscal Year 2014-2015.

Tom Wilber made a motion to accept Item #6. Richard Osga seconded it. With no discussion, the moderator called for the vote. All were in favor, none opposed. So carried.

Item #7: To consider and act on a resolution to require payment of taxes on all motor vehicles and on real estate valued less than \$100.00 (one hundred dollars) be payable in one installment on July 1, 2015.

Richard Osga made a motion to accept Item #7. Louis Gardella seconded it. With no discussion, the moderator called for the vote. Call for the vote on Item #8 by the moderator. Majority in favor, none opposed. So carried.

Richard Osga made a motion to close the meeting. Suzanne Miller seconded it and all were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 P.M.

Attest:

Cheryl A. Sadowski, Town Clerk