

TOWN OF VOLUNTOWN
SPECIAL TOWN BUDGET MEETING

December 20, 2017

The Special Town Budget Meeting of the Town of Voluntown was held at the Voluntown Elementary School, Route 138, Voluntown, Connecticut on Wednesday, December 20, 2017 for the following purposes wit:

The meeting was called to order by Tracey Hanson at 7:00pm.

First Selectman Tracy Hanson read a Statement explaining the consequences of not passing a budget this evening and explaining why the town is in this situation. Selectman Skip Oulton explained the budget process and all that goes into creating a budget.

Tracy Hanson read the Notice of Special Town Budget Meeting.

Pamela E. Theroux, Town Clerk served as clerk for the meeting.

Call for the moderator by the Clerk. A motion was made by Deborah Maynard to nominate Tracy Hanson as moderator, which was seconded by Judith Allik. Another motion was made by Richard Osga to nominate Mark "Skip" Oulton as moderator, which was seconded by Louis Gardella. Richard Osga made a motion to close nominations and call for a vote Louis Gardella seconded it. The majority were in favor of Tracey Hanson serving as moderator.

Tracy Hanson read Item #1.

Item#1: To appropriate the funds necessary for the Board of Selectmen's Budget for the Fiscal Year 2017-2018 in the amount of \$1,617,884 (one million, six hundred seventeen thousand, eight hundred eighty four dollars).

Louis Gardella made a motion to approve Item #1 and Richard Osga seconded it. Item #1 was opened for discussion. There was discussion by several citizens questioning why certain income does not show on the budget. It was explained that grants are not budgeted items and are for specific projects. There were also questions and statements regarding different town employee's rates of pay and benefits. It was also asked if this budget vote could be moved to referendum. It was explained that this was something that needs to be done at least 24 hours before the Town meeting takes place and should have been brought up at earlier budget hearings. Deborah Maynard made a motion to close discussion and Jack Wesa seconded it. All were in favor. A motion was made by Deborah Maynard to vote by paper ballot. Belinda Wiese seconded it and all were in favor.

The ballots were counted by Walter Mitchell and Belinda Wiese.

YES
72

NO
32

Item #1: The Board of Selectmen's budget for the Fiscal Year 2017-2018 in the amount of \$1,617,884.00 **Passed.**

Tracy Hanson read Item #2.

Item#2: To appropriate the funds necessary for the Board of Education Budget for the fiscal year 2017-2018 in the amount of \$6,785,654 (six million, seven hundred eighty five thousand, six hundred fifty four dollars).

Lorraine Magario made a motion to accept Item #2 and Deborah Maynard seconded it. All were in favor. Item #2 was opened for discussion. There was no discussion. A motion was made by Walter Mitchell to close discussion and seconded by David Blanchette. All were in favor, so carried. Deborah Maynard made a motion to vote by paper ballot Belinda Wiese seconded the motion and all were in favor.

The ballots were counted by Walter Mitchell and Belinda Wiese.

YES
70

NO
36

Item #2 The Board of Education budget for the Fiscal Year 2017-2018 in the amount of \$6,785,654.00 **Passed.**

Tracy Hanson read Item #3.

Item #3: To set a tax rate and collection period for Fiscal Year 2017-2018.

Louie Gardella made a motion to set the mil rate at 29.45 with a collection period of February 1st to 28th 2017. Richard Osga seconded it and item #3 was opened for discussion. The only discussion was in regards to what happens if the mil rate is voted down after the budgets both passed. Louis Gardella made a motion to close discussion and Walter Mitchell seconded it. All were in favor. The moderator called for a vote. The majority were favor with one nay. Item #3 **Passed.**

Tracy Hanson read Item #4.

Item #4: To appoint the audit firm of Sandra E. Wellwood, LLC Certified Public Accountants to be the auditor of Town records for Fiscal Year 2017-2018.

Louis Gardella made a motion to accept Item #4 and open for discussion. Richard Osga seconded it. It was asked if the auditor had been put out to bid and Tracey Hanson explained that this is our current auditor and they have been very helpful so far. Louis Gardella made a motion to close discussion and Deborah Maynard seconded it. The moderator called for a vote on the motion. All were in favor Item #4 **Passed.**

Richard Osga made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Louie Gardella seconded it and all were in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:10 P.M.

Attest:
Pamela E. Theroux, Town Clerk