TOWN OF VOLUNTOWN

TOWN BUDGET MEETING

# June 20, 2017

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

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

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

Call for the moderator by the Clerk. Motion by Louis Gardella to nominate Robert Sirpenski as moderator, which was seconded by Ronald Millovitsch. Kenneth Weseman made a motion to close nominations and call for a vote Louis Gardella seconded it. All were in favor of Robert Sirpenski serving as moderator.

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

Item#1: To appropriate the funds necessary for the Board of Selectmen’s Budget for the Fiscal Year 2017-2018 in the amount of $1,682,243 (one million, six hundred eighty two thousand two hundred forty three dollars).

Ronald Millovitsch made a motion to approve Item #1 and Louis Gardella seconded it. Item #1 was opened for discussion. Robert Sirpenski opened discussion with a presentation showing where the town stands with the lack of a state budget. He explained that if the budgets are voted down we can still pass a mil rate to keep the town functioning and that the current budget will remain in effect until a new budget is passed. If this happens only the real estate tax bills will go out in July and the motor vehicle tax bills will go out when the budget is passed. The only sizable cut that can be made in the Selectman’s budget would be to cut the road foreman position. This would come at a net savings of $70,000 for the town, but would also have some drawbacks. After several questions and answers Ronald Millovitsch made a motion to close discussion and vote by paper ballot Richard Osga seconded it. All were in favor. A motion was made by Deborah Maynard to vote by paper ballot. Wendy Gauthier seconded it and all were in favor.

The ballots were counted by Suzann Miller and Julie Zelinsky.

**YES** **NO**

11 84

The Board of Selectmen’s budget for the Fiscal Year 2017-2018 in the amount of $1,682,243.00 **Defeated.**

Item#2: To appropriate the funds necessary for the Board of Education Budget for the fiscal year 2017-2018 in the amount of $6,905,174 (six million, nine hundred five thousand, one hundred seventy four dollars).

Louis Gardella made a motion to accept Item #2 and Ronald Millovitsch seconded it. Item #2 was opened for discussion. Diana Ingraham opened discussion with an explanation of the budget increase and what it would mean to make further cuts. There was further discussion on areas that might be cut and there were questions regarding the solar panels and whether they are costing or saving the town money. That will be looked into further. A motion was made by Cliff Schwery to close discussion seconded by Ronald Millovitsch. All were in favor, so carried. Deborah Maynard made a motion to vote by paper ballot. James Williams seconded the motion and all were in favor.

The ballots were counted by Suzann Miller and Julie Zelinsky.

**YES NO**

**16 81**

The Board of Education budget for the Fiscal Year 2017-2018 in the amount of $6,905,174.00 **Defeated.**

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

Louis Gardella made a motion to accept a 0 increase and set the mil rate at 28.06, and to set the collection period for July 1, 2017 and January 1, 2018. David Blanchette seconded it. Item #3 was opened for discussion. There was no discussion and the moderator called for a vote on the motion. The majority was in favor 2 were opposed. So carried.

Item #4: To appropriate a sum not to exceed $50,000 for Town Hall repairs including but not limited to roof replacement, exterior wall repair, drainage system, parking lot sealing and line painting.

Louis Gardella made a motion to accept Item #4 and open for discussion. David Blanchette seconded it. There was no discussion. The moderator called for a vote on the motion. The majority was in favor 2 were opposed. So carried.

Item #5: To appropriate a sum not to exceed $12,000 for the Recreation Commission for the purpose of constructing an outdoor pavilion on Town owned property on Gates Street.

Ronald Millovitsch made a motion to approve Item #5 and open for discussion Richard Osga seconded it. There were question and answers regarding where the original materials for the project were and whether this might be paid for with a grant. Kenneth Weseman made a motion to close discussion and Suzann Miller seconded it. The majority were in favor with 10 opposed. So carried.

Kenneth Weseman made a motion to close the meeting. Ralph Lafrazza seconded it and all were in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:27 P.M.

Attest:

Pamela E. Theroux, Town Clerk