

TOWN OF VOLUNTOWN
ANNUAL BUDGET MEETING
MAY 21, 2014

The Annual Budget Meeting of the Town of Voluntown was held at the Voluntown Elementary School, Route 138, Voluntown, Connecticut on Wednesday, May 21, 2014 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. Motion to close nominations by Richard Osga and seconded by Louis Gardella. All were in favor. 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. Richard Osga seconded it and all were in favor.

Item #1: To authorize the Board of Selectmen to pay off the Town's outstanding debt in the amount of \$195,000 (one hundred ninety-five thousand dollars) and any accrued interest date related to the School addition bonds issued on February 15, 2002. The sum of \$148,500 (one hundred forty-eight thousand, five hundred dollars) shall be appropriated from the Town's Bond Fund and the sum of \$46,500 (forty-six thousand, five hundred dollars) plus an amount equal to the accrued interest up to the payoff date shall be appropriated from the Town's undesignated fund for the purpose of paying off the outstanding bond issue plus accrued interest.

Louis Gardella made a motion to approve Item #1. Richard Osga seconded it. Item #1 was opened for discussion. Robert Sirpenski explained that there were three years left and that as of April 13th it could be paid off with no penalty. There was \$148,500 already set aside in a bond fund specifically for this and that \$46,500 would be needed from the Undesignated Fund to pay the bond off in full and be debt free. The savings would be \$17,000 to \$18,000 in interest. No monies would be left over, this is a debt on the Town side and the current Undesignated Fund has approximately 1.4 million dollars, which answered a couple questions. With no other discussion, Louis Gardella made a motion to close discussion. Jennifer Panko 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 establish a Town fund entitled Recreation Commission Gate's Street Basketball Fund to be used for the purpose of the Gate Street Basketball Court Project.

Richard Osga made a motion to accept Item #2. Beth Taylor seconded it. Item #2 was opened for discussion. Robert Sirpenski stated that this is mainly an accounting process. It will enable the

Recreation Commission to have events and raise money. 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.

Item #3: To appropriate the sum of \$41,028 from the Town's undesignated fund for the purpose of completing and constructing the Gates Street Basketball Court project, in accordance with the plans and design specifications submitted to and approved by the State of Connecticut and the Board of Selectmen by the Voluntown Recreation Commission.

Louis Gardella made a motion to accept Item #3. Richard Osga seconded it. With no discussion, the moderator called for a vote on Item #3. All were in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

Item #4: To appropriate funds necessary for the Board of Selectmen's Budget for the Fiscal Year 2014-2015 in the amount of \$1,518,054 (one million, five hundred eighteen thousand, and fifty-four dollars).

Louis Gardella made a motion to accept Item #4. Richard Osga seconded it. Item #4 was opened for discussion. Robert Sirpenski stated this will be the fourth year in a row that there is no tax increase. There is great cooperation between the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Education. Mr. Sirpenski congratulated the Fire Department and all the Boards and Commissions in town for doing a great job. There will be \$128,800 taken out of the Undesignated Fund to offset taxes. The Town has a healthy fund balance, since in 2012 the \$65,000 from the Undesignated Fund to offset taxes was not used, due to more revenue. Last year's amount of \$144,000 may not be all used this year. The Board of Selectmen's budget is in a different format, compared to previous years, this is to meet some new requirements by the State. Louis Gardella made a motion to close discussion. Richard Osga seconded it and all were in favor. Moderator called for a vote on Item #4. All were in favor, none opposed. So carried.

The Selectmen's Budget for the Fiscal Year 2014-2015 in the amount of \$1,518,054.00 – **PASSED.**

Item #5: To appropriate funds necessary for the Board of Education for the Fiscal Year 2014-2015 in the amount of \$6,494,648 (six million, four hundred ninety-four thousand, and six hundred forty-eight dollars).

Richard Osga made a motion to approve Item #5. Louis Gardella seconded it. Item #5 was opened for discussion. Diana Ingraham, Chairman gave a short overview of the Board of Education budget. She also touched on the Solar Panel Project, which was discussed. Mr. Burrows, Superintendent, answered a question concerning the security system improvement, which is being done with a Security Grant and the Town will be reimbursed by the State. With no further discussion, Jennifer Panko made a motion to close discussion. Paul Whitehead seconded it and all were in favor. Moderator called for a vote on Item #5. All were in favor, none opposed. So carried.

The Board of Education Budget for the Fiscal Year 2014-2015 in the amount of \$6,494,648.00 – **PASSED.**

Item #6: To set a tax rate and collection period for Fiscal Year 2014-2015.

Richard Osga made a motion to set the mil rate at 24.25 for Fiscal Year 2014-2015 with \$128,367 to be taken from the Undesignated Fund to offset taxes. Collection dates to be July 1st-31st, 2014 and January 1st-31st, 2015. Louis Gardella seconded it. With no discussion, call for the vote on the motion by the moderator. All were in favor, none opposed. So carried.

Item #7: To appoint the audit firm of Baude & Rolfe, P.C. Certified Public Accountants, to be the auditor of Town Records for Fiscal Year 2013-2014.

Richard Osga made a motion to accept Item #7 as read. Marc Pelletier seconded it. Item #7 was opened for discussion. Question if this went out to bid. Robert Sirpenski stated this firm has been used for many years, with the Town and School being very happy with them. Louis Gardella made a motion to close discussion. Lloyd Vanlanen seconded it and all were in favor. Call for the vote on Item #7 by the moderator. All were in favor, none opposed. So carried.

Item #8: 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, 2014.

Richard Osga made a motion to accept Item #8. Louis Gardella seconded it. Opened for discussion. No discussion. Mike Magario made a motion to close discussion. Judith Allik seconded it and all were in favor. Call for the vote on Item #8 by the moderator. Majority in favor, one opposed. So carried.

Richard Osga made a motion to close the meeting. Louis Gardella seconded it and all were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 7:36 P.M.

Attest:

Cheryl A. Sadowski, Town Clerk