

TOWN OF VOLUNTOWN  
SPECIAL TOWN MEETING  
February 19, 2014

The Special Town Meeting of the Town of Voluntown was held at the Voluntown Town Hall, 115 Main Street, Voluntown, Connecticut on Wednesday, February 19, 2014 at 6:00 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 Special Town 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 Arthur Nieminen. Motion to close nominations by Louis Gardella and seconded by David Nieminen. All were in favor. Call for vote for moderator. All were in favor of Robert Sirpenski serving as moderator. So carried. Robert Sirpenski will serve as moderator.

Item #1: To authorize the Board of Selectmen to approve an Ordinance to withdraw from Southeastern Connecticut Council of Governments and join Northeast Connecticut Council of Governments.

Louis Gardella made a motion to accept Item #1. Ronald Millovitsch seconded it. Item #1 was opened for discussion. A copy of the ordinance was available to look at, along with information on NECCOG. . The Board of Selectmen was in consensus that SECCOG did an excellent job, but they felt Voluntown would fit better with NECCOG, being a smaller town and rural. The Board has been considering this for over a year. Mr. John Filchak, Director of NECCOG, had handouts and did a short presentation, answering many questions. They offer various regionalized programs, such as Animal Control, which Voluntown uses now. NECCOG also offers a regional reevaluation program, commission training, engineer services, planning services, etc. There was discussion as to the cost to the Town. SECCOG's fee (dues) for the year is approximately \$1400, which is charged per capita. NECCOG is ninety-five cents per capita and it would cost approximately \$1000 more. The Town pays to use the Animal Control service, which if the Town became a NECCOG member that charge would drop fifty cents per capita, which would be approximately a \$1300 savings a year, resulting in no additional cost for the yearly fee. Planning and Zoning Commission members were present and had concerns with the planning aspect of NECCOG. There are people on staff available to work with P&Z. Cost was a concern with various members of the audience and they wanted to see something in writing. There is the fee to be a member, just as there is to belong to SECCOG. If services were used, a cost would be figured at the time of the project/service, as it was with SECCOG. The P & Z Commission could always go out to bid and compare figures. The First Selectman stated that the "COG's" are not private businesses, but a service for the Towns. The Town has received the O.K. from Office of Policy and Management to switch, during this window of opportunity. The Town does have to belong to one or the other Council of Governments. Joe Miller made a motion to close discussion. Arthur Nieminen seconded it. Call for the vote by a show of hands. Majority was in favor, three were opposed. Arthur Nieminen made a motion to take action on the motion. Ron Millovitsch seconded it. It was requested of the First Selectman to re-read the call of the meeting and the ordinance. Call for the vote by the moderator on Item #1 with a show of hands. Thirteen were in favor and four were opposed. Motion carried.

February 19, 2014 Special Town Meeting continued

Ronald Millovitsch made a motion to close the meeting. Joe Miller seconded it and all were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 7:04 P.M.

Attest:

Cheryl A. Sadowski, Town Clerk