TOWN OF VOLUNTOWN

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

September 5, 2018

The Special Town Meeting of the Town of Voluntown was held at the Voluntown Elementary School, 195 Main Street, Voluntown, Connecticut on Tuesday, September 5, 2018 at 7:00 P.M. for the following purposes to wit:

The meeting was called to order by Tracey Hanson, First Selectman with the reading of the Notice of Special Town Meeting.

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

Call for the moderator by the Clerk. Judith Allik made a motion to nominate Tracey Hanson as moderator, which was seconded by Julie Zelinsky. There were no other nominations.

Call for the vote. All were in favor of Tracey Hanson serving as moderator. So carried. Tracey Hanson will serve as moderator. Tracey Hanson asked for a motion to dispense with reading the call again. Ronald Millovitsch made the motion and it was seconded by Troy Jones.

Item 1. To consider the following resolution to:

(a) **BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE TOWN OF VOLUNTOWN** shall appropriate $200,000 from the Undesignated Fund for the removal and replacement of the Voluntown Elementary School fuel oil tank.

(b) As required by the Town’s “Supplemental Appropriation Ordinance” of 1998, Item 1(a) of this Notice will **NOT** be voted on at the Special Town Meeting on September 5, 2018, and instead shall be submitted to a referendum vote to be held at the Voluntown Town Hall, 115 Main Street, Voluntown, Connecticut on Tuesday, September 18, 2018 between the hours of 12:00 p.m. and 8:00p.m. on the following question: **“SHALL THE TOWN OF VOLUNTOWN APPROPRIATE $200,000 FROM THE UNDESIGNATED FUND FOR THE REMOVAL AND REPLACEMENT OF THE VOLUNTOWN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL FUEL OIL TANK?”** Voters who favor the passage of the resolution will vote “Yes,” and those opposed will vote “No.” Absentee ballots will be available from the Town Clerk’s office.

Julie Zelinsky made a motion to approve item 1, the motion was seconded by Ronald Millovitsch. Item 1 was opened for discussion. Tracey Hanson opened discussion with an explanation of why the tank needs to be replaced. By state statute the tanks are supposed to be replaced every 30 years and the current tank is 29 years old. The town is required to pay for the replacement up front and then the state will reimburse around 65% making the cost just under $67,000 after the grant. The funds are needed now so that the bid can go out in January and the project started as soon as school is out next June. Questions were asked regarding what other options had been looked into rather than replacing the tank with the same tank (i.e. could we look into a heating cooling system, propane, etc.). It was explained that this committee was only charged with looking into tank replacement. These funds will cover replacement of the tanks and pipes as well as environmental studies and consultant fees. Replacing the heating system would be another project and far more expensive. Paul Ricard also explained that the current system is fairly new and quite efficient. There is no need to replace it at this time. There were also questions as to why this item was not included in the budget in June. Tracey Hanson explained that the Selectman had planned to ask at a town meeting to use the undesignated fund for this item rather than including it in the budget and raising taxes. She explained that in the past capital project expenses were not in the budget because there was enough saved in the undesignated fund to cover these expenses. The Town must approve this spending before it can come out of the undesignated fund. The Selectmen are updating a capital improvements plan that will show the upcoming projects along with projected costs and timelines. The plan is to have it ready for the next budget meeting. The goal is to be much more transparent in the future. Winona Berdine made a motion to close discussion and Kimberly Arsenault seconded the motion. All were in favor

Ronald Millovitsch made a motion to adjourn the meeting to the referendum. Mark “Skipp” Oulton seconded the motion. The town meeting adjourned at 7:50 P.M. for a referendum vote on the resolutions presented under item 1 of the Notice.

The referendum was held on Tuesday, September 18, between the hours of 12:00 P.M. and 8:00 P.M. and the Moderator announced that the questions had been approved by the following votes:

**“SHALL THE TOWN OF VOLUNTOWN APPROPRIATE $200,000 FROM THE UNDESIGNATED FUND FOR THE REMOVAL AND REPLACEMENT OF THE VOLUNTOWN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL FUEL OIL TANK?”**

Number of “Yes” votes \_\_89 \_\_

Number of “No” votes \_ 32 \_\_

Tracey Hanson made a motion to adjourn which was seconded by Pamela Theroux. The meeting was adjourned at 8:04 P.M., September 18, 2018.

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|  | Pamela E. Theroux  Voluntown Town Clerk |