TOWN OF VOLUNTOWN

TOWN BUDGET MEETING

# May 21, 2019

The electors and citizens qualified to vote in the annual budget meeting of the Town of Voluntown are hereby warned that the annual budget meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 21, 2019 at the Voluntown Elementary School, 195 Main St, in Voluntown, Connecticut, at 7:00 pm. The electors and citizens qualified to vote in the Town of Voluntown are further warned that in accordance with section 7-7 of the CGS, the Selectmen have elected to move items 1-3 to a referendum vote to be held on Tuesday June 4, 2019 at the Voluntown Town Hall, 115 Main St, in Voluntown, Connecticut, between the hours of 12:00 p.m. and 8:00 pm no vote will take place on items 1-3 tonight. Item # 4 was placed on the agenda in error and will be voted on at a future Selectman’s meeting.

1. To appropriate the funds necessary for the Board of Selectmen’s Budget for the Fiscal Year 2019-2020 in the amount of $1,964,077 (one million, nine hundred sixty-four thousand, seventy-seven dollars).
2. To appropriate the funds necessary for the Board of Education Budget for the fiscal year 2019-2020 in the amount of $6,785,196 (six million, seven hundred eighty-five thousand, one hundred ninety-six dollars).
3. To appropriate the funds necessary for the Capital Projects Budget for the Fiscal Year 2019-2020 in the amount of $200,000 (two hundred thousand dollars) from the unassigned fund.
4. To set a tax rate and collection period for Fiscal Year 2019-2020.

The meeting was called to order by Tracey Hanson 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 Joseph Miller to nominate Tracey Hanson as moderator, which was seconded by Julie Zelinsky. No other nominations were made. All were in favor of Tracey Hanson serving as moderator.

The moderator asked for a motion to dispense with reading the call of the meeting again. Judith Allik made a motion to dispense with the reading of the call of the meeting again. Joseph Miller 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 2019-2020 in the amount of $1,964,077 (one million, nine hundred sixty-four thousand, seventy-seven dollars).

Ronald Millovitsch made a motion to accept Item #1 and Julie Zelinsky seconded it. Item #1 was opened for discussion. First Selectman Tracey Hanson showed a power point presentation with the changes in this year’s budget. A question was asked as to why the budget is going to referendum this year. First Selectman, Tracey Hanson, explained that with the interest last year in going to referendum she felt that even with a small increase we should go to referendum. The expected mil rate increase is .29 mil. Another citizen thanked the selectman for working so hard to make the budget more transparent and making steps to mover the town in the right direction. One more question was asked regarding adding a part time public works employee as to how it would work and if it would be enough. Tracey Hanson explained that she has spoken to several other towns that employee part time public works employees and found that they have no problem filling the position and that it has worked well for them. Jennifer Panko made a motion to close discussion and Scott Davidson seconded it. All were in favor.

In accordance with section 7-7 of the CGS, the Selectmen have elected to move item #1 to a referendum vote, and the question will read, “SHALL THE TOWN OF VOLUNTOWN APPROVE A FY 2019-2020 BOARD OF SELECTMEN’S BUDGET IN THE AMOUNT OF $1,964,077.00.”

Item#2: To appropriate the funds necessary for the Board of Education Budget for the fiscal year 2019-2020 in the amount of $6,785,196 (six million, seven hundred eighty-five thousand, one hundred ninety-six dollars).

Judith Allik made a motion to accept Item #2 and Suzann Miller seconded it. Item #2 was opened for discussion. Adam Burrows, Superintendent of Schools) explained that this is the second year in a row the school has decreased its budget due to State budget cuts. Questions were asked regarding the solar panels and it was explained that at this point they are costing the town money; however, the town has a lawyer researching our contract and leasing agreement to try to remedy this problem. It was further explained that the large cut in the library line item is actually a restructuring not a reduction in services. A motion was made by Jennifer Panko to close discussion seconded by Victoria Schwery. All were in favor, so carried.

In accordance with section 7-7 of the CGS, the Selectmen have elected to move item #2 to a referendum vote, and the question will read, “SHALL THE TOWN OF VOLUNTOWN APPROVE A FY 2019-2020 BOARD OF EDUCATION BUDGET IN THE AMOUNT OF $6,785,196.00.”

Item #3: To appropriate the funds necessary for the Capital Projects Budget for the Fiscal Year 2019-2020 in the amount of $200,000 (two hundred thousand dollars) from the unassigned fund.

Ronald Millovitsch made a motion to accept Item #3 and Timothy Adams seconded it. Item #3 was opened for discussion. There was no discussion. Ronald Millovitsch made a motion to close discussion seconded by Mark “Skipp” Oulton. All were in favor, so carried.

In accordance with section 7-7 of the CGS, the Selectmen have elected to move item #3 to a referendum vote, and the question will read, “SHALL THE TOWN OF VOLUNTOWN APPROVE A FY 2019-2020 CAPITAL PROJECTS BUDGET in the amount of $200,000.00.”

Item #4: To set a tax rate and collection period for Fiscal Year 2019-2020.

Removed from agenda, and will be voted on at a future Selectman’s Meeting.

Christopher Wilson made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Tim Adams seconded it, and all were in favor. Meeting adjourned at 7:45 P.M.

 Attest:

 Pamela E. Theroux, Town Clerk