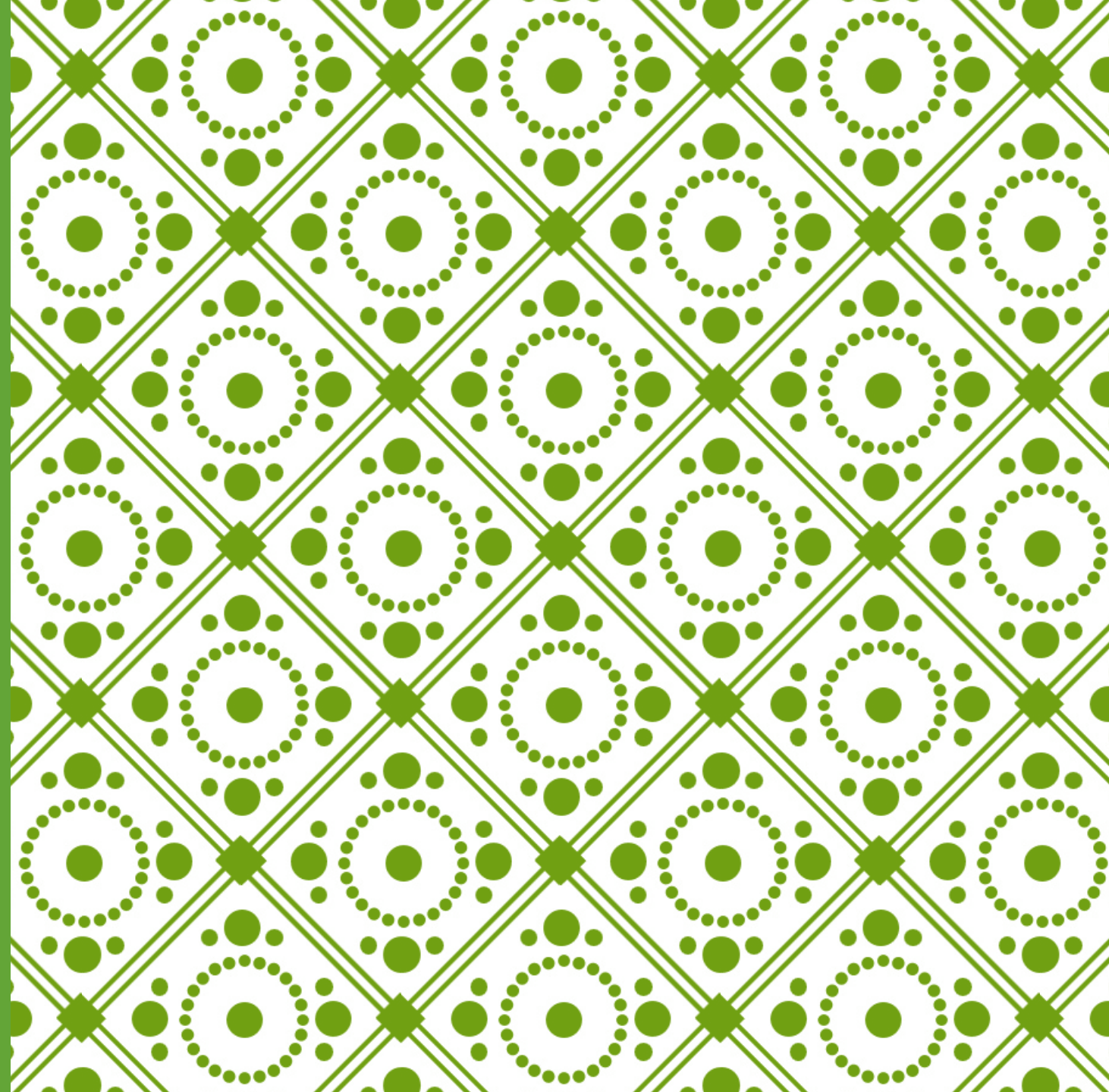


# ANNUAL TOWN BUDGET MEETING

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2020-2021



# ANNUAL TOWN MEETING DATES



**Public Hearing May 26, 2020 at 7pm  
livestreamed on**

**[https://www.youtube.com/channel/  
UCXdF6kZQMhDVNetgjDX2MAQ](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCXdF6kZQMhDVNetgjDX2MAQ)**



**Town Meeting Vote by Selectmen  
June 9, 2020 at 7pm via Zoom  
Livestreamed on**

**[https://www.youtube.com/channel/  
UCXdF6kZQMhDVNetgjDX2MAQ](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCXdF6kZQMhDVNetgjDX2MAQ)**

# OFFICE OF THE SELECTMAN



May 2, 2020

Voluntown Residents,

Last night, in Executive Order No. HH, Governor Lamont announced the mandatory suspension of in person voting requirements by members of the public on municipal budgets.

The Board of Selectmen has tried to make every effort possible to hold the Annual Town Meeting so that the public can vote on the proposed budget and appropriations. We were originally going to schedule the Annual Meeting in September or October, hoping that there would be less restriction on public gatherings then. We were advised by the state that if that happened, our residents would not be able to participate in the Tax Deferment Program.

Participation required tax bills to be out by July 1st. At the Board of Selectmen's meeting on Tuesday, April 28, the Board decided to schedule the Annual Town Meeting for June 9th, with plans in place to comply with the 6 foot distancing rules and mask wearing. Since the current State restrictions are only in place until May 20th, we thought this was a possibility. Other towns were planning this too.

The suspension of the Annual Town Meeting does not mean that residents will not have a say in the proposed government and BOE budgets. There will still be public hearings, held remotely, and residents will be able to submit comments. Details will be forthcoming on Monday after a new timeline and plan is reviewed with the town attorney.

I want residents to know that I do not agree with the Governor's order. I believe that a resident's vote on how their tax money is spent should be a right not so easily taken away. However, I am learning that what we think we have guaranteed under our state and local constitutions, is a perception.

Sincerely,

Tracey Hanson  
First Selectman



**CCCM Commission on  
Property Tax Reform**



**Eastern CT Tourism  
District Executive  
Committee**



**Beach Pond –Working  
with residents, CT DEEP,  
RI DEM for Beach Pond  
Management Plan**



**NECCOG Executive  
Committee**



**Public Works Projects**

**FROM THE SELECTMAN'S OFFICE**

# YEAR IN REVIEW 2019-2020 FOR BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS



**Voluntown Public Library – Upgraded Computers, Increased Program Offerings, Replaced Damaged Window, Re-organized Computer Stations using study carols, Reinstated museum passes**



**Recreation Commission – Finished Pavilion, Added Picnic Table, New Disc Golf Course, Community events include Gingerbread Contest, Recreational Basketball, Trunk or Treat, Yoga, Car Show. Drive-In movies for Constriction Field.**



**Planning and Zoning – Completed the Plan of Conservation for the Town, Working on Adding a Town Planner**



**Tri-centennial Committee- Held a Pasta dinner fundraiser, Selling t-shirts, Working on events for 2021, Tricentennial Coins for sale donated by Recreation Commission.**



**Economic Development Commission – Farmers Market, Maps of Voluntown, Focus on Business Engagement**



**Elderly Commission – Newly created Commission to support Elderly services for the own, Working with Griswold to obtain a Seniors Van to help Seniors get to appointments.**



**Public Safety – New Website [voluntownfire.org](http://voluntownfire.org), Community Fund**



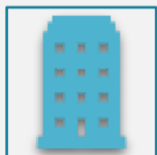
Town Clerks Office – All maps are now printable, digitalizing land records, ordinances are being codified and updated, vault cleaned and re-organized.



Tax Collector – Processing online payments, Completed certification in Tax II and III, has one class left to be a certified Tax Collector, Upgrading equipment such as check scanners to modernize office.



Tax Assessor – Assistant Assessor working on training to become certified Tax Assessor, Revaluation will be completed in 2020.



Building Department – Looking into e-permitting so residents can apply and pay for building permits online.

# YEAR IN REVIEW 2019-2020 FOR TOWN HALL DEPARTMENTS

# PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

**Public Works Garage Final Phase**

**Received an Award for Paving on Sand Hill Road**

**Purchased a New Plow Truck**

**Completed Paving on Laurel Drive and Wilson Road**

**Drainage on Wylie School Road is being repaired/replaced before paving begins.**

**Turf Care Plan to upgrade/reseed Town Properties**

**Tree Removal Continues**

**Congdon Road drainage Improvements**

**Campbell Mill Road Repair Completed in preparation for paving.**

# CHANGES TO THE BUDGET

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Part Time Public Works position upgraded to Full Time

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Increase in Medical Insurance, Workers Compensation, Commercial Insurance

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No Cost of Living Increase for Town employees except for contracted employees

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Changes in Revenue – Loss in Investment Income, Cuts to ECS Fund, Loss of Farmers Market Grant



# FINANCIAL POLICY

The Board of Selectmen shall propose annual budgets that provide for an unrestricted (unassigned) general fund balance of not less than eight (8) percent nor more than twelve (12) percent of the total operating general fund expenditures.

In the event the unassigned fund balance is greater than twelve (12) percent at the end of any fiscal year, the excess may only be used in one or a combination of the following ways:

1. Transfer such excess to the Debt Service Fund for future debt payments.
2. Transfer such excess to the Capital or Nonrecurring Fund for future capital projects.
3. Use directly to reduce the tax rate in the subsequent year provided that care is taken to avoid a major fluctuation in the tax rate in succeeding years.

Unassigned Fund			
		Total Budget	
Audited Balance 6/30/2019	\$ 1,486,513.00	\$ 8,886,708.00	16.7%
Capital Projects Budget 2019/20	\$ (200,000.00)		
Projected Balance 6/30/2020	\$ 1,286,513.00	\$ 8,949,273.00	14.4%
Capital Projects Budget 2020/21	\$ (162,817.00)		
	\$ 1,123,696.00	\$ 8,964,406.00	12.5%

**Town of Voluntown  
Capital Improvement Program  
FY 2020-2021  
Board of Selectmen Recommendation  
26-May-20**

<b>Project</b>	<b>Appropriation</b>
<hr/>	
<b>Public Works Department</b>	
<hr/>	
<b>PW Plow Track</b>	<b>113,817.00</b>
<b>Voluntown Public Library</b>	
<hr/>	
<b>Library Roof Replacement</b>	<b>16,000.00</b>
<b>Voluntown Fire Department</b>	
<hr/>	
<b>Fire Department-SCBA Replacement</b>	<b>33,000.00</b>
<b>Total Recommended CIP Budget 2020-21</b>	<b>162,817.00</b>
	<hr/> <hr/>

**Capital Project Requests 5 Year Plan**  
**Approved by the Board of Selectmen May 12, 2020**

Public Works Equipment		Request by Department						
			Funds already	Budget				
		Request	Appropriated	2020-2021	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024
<b>Board of Selectmen</b>								
	<b>Tricentennial</b>		2,500	2,500		2,500		
	<b>Wylie School</b>		14,800			4,800		
	<b>Town Hall Renovations</b>	50,000	50,000					
<b>Public Works Department</b>								
	<b>Road Paving Additional Appropriation</b>		31,000			30,000	30,000	30,000
	<b>Public Works Equipment Fund</b>							
	<b>Plow Truck</b>				113,817			
	<b>Tree Removal</b>		20,000	15,000		20,000	20,000	20,000
	<b>Forge Hill Bridge</b>	1,000,000	20,000					
	<b>Bennet Circle</b>	1,200,000	20,000					
<b>Voluntown Public Library</b>								
	<b>Library Roof Replacement</b>	80,000	16,000		16,000	16,000	16,000	16,000
<b>Voluntown Recreation Commission</b>								
	<b>Municipal Center</b>	2,500,000	10,000					
<b>Voluntown Fire Department</b>								
	<b>Fire Department-SCBA Replacement</b>	133,500	68,483		33,000	33,000		

## 5 Year Plan for Paving

**Approved by the Board of Selectmen May 7, 2019**

				Town Aid Roads	Town Aid Roads	Town Aid Roads	Town Aid Roads	Town Aid Roads	Town Aid Roads
		Total Cost	Priority	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022*	2022-2023*	2023-2024*
<b>Public Works Department - Paving</b>									
	<b>Wilson Road</b>	35,000.00	high	35,000.00					
	<b>Brown Rd</b>	55,000.00	med				55,000.00		
	<b>Basset Mill</b>	45,000.00	med				45,000.00		
	<b>Laurel Drive</b>	80,000.00	high		80,000.00				
	<b>Campbell Mill Road</b>	95,000.00	high		10,000.00	85,000.00			
	<b>Gallup</b>	TBD	low/med						
	<b>Williams</b>	TBD	med						
	<b>Lakeside Terrace</b>	TBD	high						
	<b>Wylie School Rd South</b>	170,000.00	high		80,000.00	90,000.00			
	<b>Wylie School Rd North</b>	90,000.00	low/med						
		570,000.00	-	35,000.00	170,000.00	175,000.00	100,000.00	-	-

# TAX DECREASE OVER A 4 YEAR PERIOD

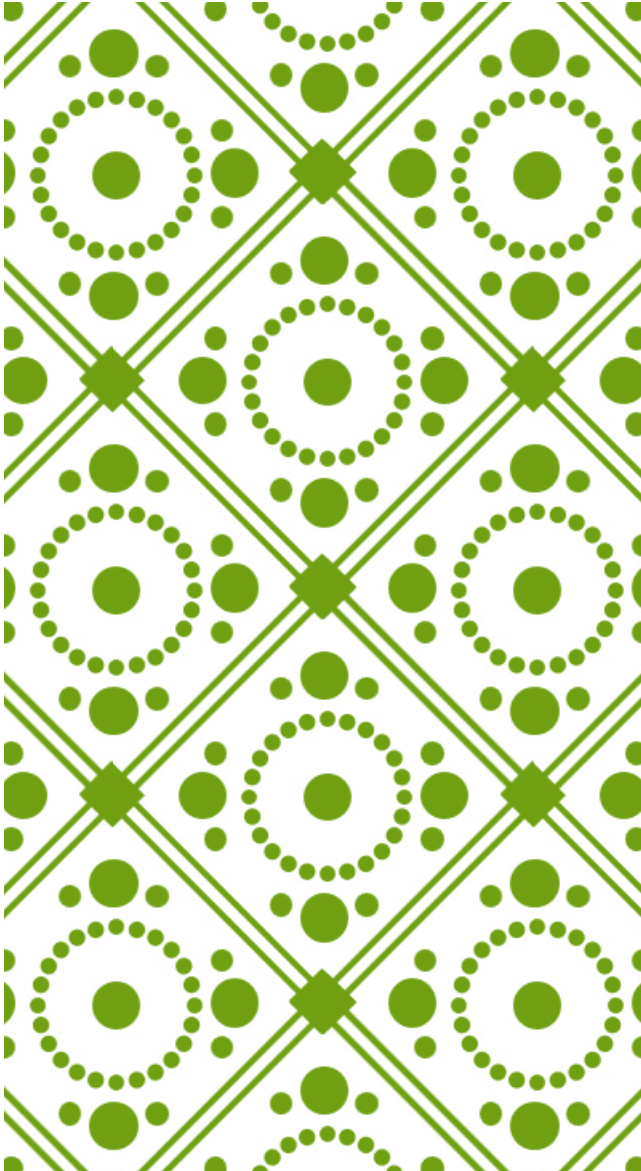
## 2017/2018 Mill Rate

Assessed Value	200,000
Mil Rate	29.45
Total Tax	5,890

## 2020/2021 Mill Rate

Assessed Value	200,000
Mil Rate	29.21
Total Tax	5,842

Total Mill Rate Decrease =  $-.24$   
Total Decrease in taxes:  $\$-48.00$



**Cut in State Funding - ECS**

**Choices need to be made on sharing services with neighboring towns**

**Lack of volunteers and commitment on Boards/Commissions/Committees**

**Aging conditions of Municipal Buildings**

**COVID-19 – Unanticipated expenses, Unfunded Mandates, potential cuts in state grants**

**Capital Projects on hold**

**Town Hall Needs – Town Planner, Part Time Town Hall Clerical Worker, E-permitting system, Technology upgrades**

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## **CHALLENGES AHEAD**