TOWN OF VOLUNTOWN

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

May 22, 2018

The Special Town Meeting of the Town of Voluntown was held at the Voluntown Elementary School, 195 Main Street, Voluntown, Connecticut on Tuesday, May 22, 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. Jack Wesa made a motion to nominate Tracey Hanson as moderator, which was seconded by Joe Miller. 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.

Item 1. To consider and act on the following resolution:

**BE IT ORDAINED THAT** the Town of Voluntown Town Roads Infrastructure Maintenance Fund Ordinance adopted by the Town Meeting on February 22, 2001 is repealed and the Town Treasurer shall close any bank accounts opened under the Town Roads Infrastructure Maintenance Fund Ordinance and shall put any funds therein into the Undesignated Fund.Thisrepeal ordinance shall beeffective as of the fifteenth day after its publication in a newspaper having a circulation in the Town.

The Moderator called for the approval of item 1. Diana Ingraham moved item #1 for approval, the motion was seconded by Julie Zelinsky. All were in favor.

Item 1 was opened for discussion. There were questions and concerns regarding the need to keep these funds separate and that the reason they were established was to keep the roads in good condition. If we repeal this ordinance how does the town know that the roads will be maintained? It was explained that the roads will now have a line item in the budget instead of a fund. That by state statute we have more funds then we are allowed and this is primarily for accounting purposes. There is no plan to use the money for other items. A question was asked regarding the balance in these funds that will be rolled into the general fund and it was explained that these funds will be near zero by the fiscal year end. The plans are already in the works for the roads being repaired this year. It was also stated that this will lead to much more transparency being shown as a line item on the budget.

Joe Miller made a motion to close discussion. The motion was seconded by Jack Wesa. All were in favor discussion was closed.

David Blanchette made a motion to vote by paper ballot and it was seconded by Wendy Gauthier.

The votes were counted by Diana Ingraham and Belinda Wiese.

YES 15 No 8

The motion passes.

Item 2. To consider and act on the following resolution:

**BE IT ORDAINED THAT** the Town of Voluntown Snow Removal Fund Ordinance adopted by the Town Meeting on February 22, 2001 is repealed and the Town Treasurer shall close any bank accounts opened under the Snow Removal Fund Ordinance and shall put any funds therein into the Undesignated Fund. This repeal ordinance shall be effective as of the fifteenth day after its publication in a newspaper having a circulation in the Town.

The Moderator called for the approval of item 2. Diana Ingraham moved item #2 for approval, the motion was seconded by Cathy Rubin. All were in favor.

Item 2 was opened for discussion. No Discussion.

Michael Magario made a motion to close discussion. The motion was seconded by Joe Miller. All were in favor and discussion was closed.

Joe Miller made a motion to vote by hand and it was seconded by Cathy Rubin. All but one person in favor. Votes will be a hand count.

YES 16 No 4

The motion passes.

Item 3. To consider and act on the following resolution:

**BE IT ORDAINED THAT** the Amendment to the Town Snow Removal adopted by the Town Meeting on April 6, 2006 is repealed and the Town Treasurer shall close any bank accounts opened under the Amended Snow Removal Fund Ordinance and shall put any funds therein into the Undesignated Fund. This repeal ordinance shall be effective as of the fifteenth day after its publication in a newspaper having a circulation in the Town.

The Moderator called for the approval of item 3. Joe Miller moved item #3 for approval, the motion was seconded by Diana Ingraham. All were in favor.

Item 3 was opened for discussion. No Discussion.

Joe Miller made a motion to close discussion. The motion was seconded by Jack Wesa. All were in favor and discussion was closed.

Joe Miller made a motion to vote by hand and it was seconded by Ron Millovitsch. All but one person in favor. Votes will be a hand count.

YES 14 No 5

The motion passes.

Item 4. To consider the following resolution to:

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE TOWN OF VOLUNTOWN** shall appropriate $530,000 from the Undesignated Fund for the completion of the Voluntown Public Works Garage.

(a) As required by the Town’s “Supplemental Appropriation Ordinance” of 1998, Item 4(a) of this Notice will **NOT** be voted on at the Special Town Meeting on May 22, 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, May 29, 2018 between the hours of 12:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. on the following question: **“SHALL THE TOWN OF VOLUNTOWN APPROPRIATE $530,000 FROM THE UNDESIGNATED FUND FOR THE COMPLETION OF THE VOLUNTOWN PUBLIC WORKS GARAGE?”** 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.

Winona Berdine made a motion to approve item 2, the motion was seconded by Kim Arsenault. All were in favor.

Item 4 was opened for discussion. First Selectman Tracey Hanson explained that this project has been going on for 10 years, we need a garage whether this passes or not and it will likely cost more if it is not passed. This money will come from the undesignated fund and will not result in an increase in the mil rate. Currently the undesignated fund is too high and should be lowered. In order to start the project the funds must be allocated. We will be applying for another grant, but there is no assurance of receiving that. It was stated that the public works department line item should be used only for the roads, but it was explained that the line item is for anything public works needs. The current building is little more than a shack. It was asked if the town would be coming back and asking for more money for this garage or is this the final amount needed. It was explained that this is a lump sum bid and should cover everything needed for the completion of the garage. At this time there are no estimates as to the monthly utility change.

Jack Wesa made a motion to close discussion seconded by Arthur Nieminen. All were in favor and discussion was closed.

The town meeting adjourned at 8:00P.M. for a referendum vote on the resolutions presented under item 4 of the Notice.

The referendum was held on Tuesday, May 29, between the hours of 12:00 P.M. and 8:00 P.M. and the Moderator announced that the questions had been approved/rejected by the following votes:

**“SHALL THE TOWN OF VOLUNTOWN APPROPRIATE $530,000 FROM THE UNDESIGNATED FUND FOR THE COMPLETION OF THE VOLUNTOWN PUBLIC WORKS GARAGE?”**

Number of “Yes” votes 149

Number of “No” votes 73

Mark “Skipp” Oulton made a motion to adjourn which was seconded by Pamela Theroux. The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 P.M.

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|  | Pamela E. Theroux  Voluntown Town Clerk |