

**TOWN OF WILLINGTON
ANNUAL TOWN BUDGET MEETING
GENERAL GOVERNMENT AND EDUCATION
JUNE 1, 2021**

First Selectwoman Erika Wiczenski called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM with 5 people in attendance in person; 14 people via ZOOM platform. She then read the call of the meeting and asked for nominations for a moderator.

Laurie Semprebbon moved to nominate Suzanne Chapman as moderator.

Stef Summers seconded the motion.

Vote: All in favor (in person/ via zoom)

Motion carries.

Moderator read the call:

ITEM I

To discuss the proposed General Government and Education budgets for the fiscal year July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022. A summary of the Town budget is:

Estimated	
General Government Budget	
Operating	\$4,661,496
Capital:	
School Bond	0
General Purpose Bonds	\$183,000
Reserve Fund	\$91,700
Capital Expenditures	\$228,864
Capital Projects	<u>\$1,000</u>
TOTAL GENERAL GOVERNMENT	\$5,166,060
Estimated	
EDUCATION BUDGET K-8	\$ 8,962,009
REGION 19	\$ 4,379,900
TOTAL TOWN BUDGET	\$18,507,969
TOTAL ESTIMATED REVENUES	\$ 4,009,265
 To Be Raised by Taxation	 \$14,498,704
Less Applied Fund Balance	<u>\$700,230</u>
 NET AMOUNT TO BE RAISED BY TAXATION	 \$ 13,798,474
Discussion followed:	

Laurie Semprebson stated that we should get this budget passed, otherwise it will be difficult for the tax collector to get the bills out. She added that she feels it is a good budget.

Michael Makuch stated that the Board of Finance did their due diligence with extra challenges during a pandemic. They worked carefully with the budget writers and received public input. The BOF made prudent decisions and funded things that the town felt was important to fund. He added that he feels that things are looking positive and they are putting forth the right budget for Willington. He is in support of it.

Jim Bulick appreciates the effort everyone has taken but the facts are that spending is higher than revenue at this time and he is opposed to this budget.

Elisabeth Woolf stated she is for the budget to be passed and added that money from previous tax cycles are included in this budget. If we don't use it, we would be considered as over-taxing our residents.

Stef Summers clarified that the town has already held a vote on the Region 19 budget which passed. Many may miss that point otherwise.

Donna Cook stated that she is concerned about the budget because we are in very difficult times. She asks everyone to be as prudent as possible.

Selectman John Blessington noted a member of the Board of Finance stated at a meeting that he already spends \$6,000 in taxes so an additional \$500 is also affordable; but there are others who otherwise may not be able to bear that burden.

Elisabeth Woolf pointed out that is why we take this to vote to see if the people support it.

ITEM II

To set a date, not less than seven nor more than fourteen days thereafter, for a vote on the annual general government and education budgets by a separate "YES" or "NO" vote on the voting machines.

First Selectwoman Erika Wiecenski moved to set Tuesday, June 8, 2021 for the Referendum.

Stef Summers seconded the motion.

No discussion was held.

Vote: All in favor.

Motion carried.

ITEM III

To set the Town Office Building as the polling place and to set the hours, of the referendum, during which votes may be cast, not less than between the hours of twelve o'clock noon and eight o'clock P.M. and not more than between the hours of six o'clock A.M. and eight o'clock P.M.

First Selectwoman Erika Wiecenski moved to set the polling place and time.

Laurie Semprebon seconded the motion.

No discussion was held.

Vote: All in favor.

Motion carried.

ITEM IV

To see if the townspeople, on the recommendation of the Board of Selectmen, will adopt the Capital Improvement Program for fiscal years 2022 to 2026.

Selectman John Blessington moved to adopt the CIP Plan for years 2022 – 2026

Phil Monty seconded the motion.

First Selectwoman Erika Wiecenski presented the plan as submitted from the CIP Committee. Jim Bulick asked for the CIP Plan to be added to the Town's website as always done in the past.

Vote: All in favor.

Motion carried.

ITEM V

To see if the townspeople, on the recommendation of the Board of Finance, will authorize the appropriation of \$50,000 from Capital Projects Fund- LoCIP for the WFD#1 Underground Oil Tank Replacement to be reimbursed by the State of Connecticut Local Capital Improvement Program.

First Selectwoman Erika Wiecenski moved to authorize the appropriation of funds.

Michael Makuch seconded the motion.

No discussion was held.

Vote: All in favor

Motion carried.

Moderator adjourned meeting to referendum at 7:31 PM

Dated at Willington this 2nd day of June, 2021

Respectfully submitted

Robin H. Campbell
Town Clerk

TOWN OF WILLINGTON, CT
Received for record June 3 2021
At 9:35am RLM
ATC