

**MINUTES OF THE BUDGET MEETING OF THE TOWN OF FAIRFIELD  
MAY 2, 2016**

The annual budget meeting of the Town of Fairfield was held on Monday, May 2, 2016 at 8 PM at the Fairfield Ludlowe High School, 785 Unquowa Road, Fairfield, CT.

The meeting was called to order at 8:01 PM by Moderator Pamela Iacono.

PRESENT: 38    ABSENT: 2    VACANCY: 0

PRESENT: P. Ambrose, Bateson, McCullough, Varian, Gerber, Lynch, Newman, Perham, Dean, Durrell, Harrison, Orriss, Gottlieb, Hochberg, Pires, Zezima, Garskof, Wolk, M.Ambrose, Gale, Neuburger, Solomon, McCarthy, McDermott, Vergara, Wackerman, Ference, Iacono, Messina, Tallman, Farnen, Georgiadis, Lee, Perugini, Cargill, Herley, Sundman

ABSENT: Way, Fattibene

**ITEM NO. 1 ON CALL: PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE & MOMENT OF SILENCE**

Moderator Iacono led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ITEM NO. 2 ON CALL: TO CONSIDER AND ACT UPON THE SELF SUPPORTING FUNDS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$5,533,330 FOR THE WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY FOR THE FISCAL YEAR OF JULY 1, 2016 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2017.**

Heather Dean, District 3 moved this item as distributed with the Call, duly seconded.

There was no discussion of this item.

**VOTE:** The WPCA budget in the amount of \$5,533,330 passed by unanimous voice vote.

**ITEM NO. 3 ON CALL: TO CONSIDER AND ACT UPON PROPOSED APPROPRIATIONS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$293,510,143 FOR THE FISCAL YEAR OF JULY 1, 2016 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2017 AS RECOMMENDED BY THE BOARD OF FINANCE, FOR ANY LAWFUL PURPOSE. THE TOTAL BUDGET AS PROPOSED BY THE BOARD OF FINANCE IS AS FOLLOWS:**

Board of Finance Recommended Budget	<u>\$293,510,143</u>
Less: Non-Current Tax Year Revenue	<u>(26,696,420)</u>
Net Revenue to be raised by Current Year Taxation	266,813,723
Plus: Senior Tax Relief	4,183,144
Plus: Reserve for Uncollected Taxes/Other Credits	<u>4,726,935</u>
Gross Amount to be raised by Taxation	\$275,723,802

Philip Pires, District 4 moved this item as distributed with the Call, duly seconded.

## **REPRESENTATIVE TOWN MEETING**

May 2, 2016

**MOTION:** Phil Pires, District 4 moved to suspend Rule 26 to hold unlimited political caucuses, duly seconded by Tom McCarthy, District 7 and carried unanimously.

Michael Herley, District 10 advised that there are no easy answers to the budget problems caused by the actions in Hartford. He stated that the RTM majority feel that Hartford should restore the ECS grant because it is not only the right thing for our schools but begs the question of fairness. We have many blessing in our town and we each pay our fair share of taxes.

Mr. Herley asked the Body to come together tonight as a whole, set aside politics and send a clear message to Hartford that the State's problems should not be resolved on the backs of our taxpayers and pass the budget in its entirety. He further stated that he was confident that the First Selectman and the Chair of the BOE would both work with their department heads to keep costs down.

Brian Farnen, District 9 stated that originally he was behind the idea of delaying the vote on the budget in the hope that there would be some guidance from Hartford; however since the BOF has said there will be no increase in the mill rate he feels that a vote for delay would be a vote against education.

Phil Pires, District 4 stated that the Democrat caucus had not supported either a cut in education or a vote to postpone passing this budget based on incomplete information from Hartford on the amount of State aid to the Town. He stated that if we locked ourselves into a budget tonight it would mean a loss of services to the Town. He believes that the current budget cannot be resolved until Hartford has clearly stated what it is giving to the Town in aid.

**MOTION:** Mr. Pires moved that the Body fix a time to which to adjourn the meeting until the state budget is resolved being May 23 at 8 PM.

Moderator Iacono asked if Mr. Pires was making a motion to suspend Rule 36 of the RTM Rules to Regulate, and noted that in accordance with Roberts Rules, if Mr. Pires intended to fix a time to which to adjourn the budget vote he was required to first amend the rules, "if not waived...any item not completed or voted upon at any scheduled meeting shall be continued to the next day at the same place and starting time". The Moderator further cited Article 12 of the Town Charter that the "RTM shall hold the annual budget meeting on the first Monday in May of each year" and Chapter 7 Section 22 of Robert's Rule of Order regarding fixing the time to which to adjourn.

Mr. Pires asked for an opinion from the Town Attorney as to it being a legal requirement to make a motion to suspend the rules. Attorney Lesser said this was not needed. In reply, the Moderator again read from Chapter 7 Section 22 and ruled that a motion is needed. The Town Attorney stated that a majority vote would be needed to overturn the ruling of the Moderator.

Mr. Pires appealed the ruling of the Moderator requiring a motion to suspend the rules so as to fix the time to which to adjourn. There being no debate, the Body voted upon the ruling of the Moderator based on the Town Charter, the RTM Rules to regulate and Roberts Rules of Order.

**APPEAL TO THE BODY:** The appeal to overrule the ruling of the Moderator requiring a motion to suspend the rules failed in a tie vote 19-19.

**IN FAVOR:** Gerber, Newman, Perham, Dean, Gottlieb, Hochberg, Pires, Zezima, Garskoff, Smey, Wolk, M. Ambrose, Gale, Solomon, McDermott, Vergara, Wackerman, Georgiadis, Lee

## **REPRESENTATIVE TOWN MEETING**

May 2, 2016

**OPPOSED:** P. Ambrose, Bateson, McCullough, Varian, Lynch, Durrell, Harrison, Orriss, Neuberger, McCarthy, Ference, Iacono, Messina, Tallman, Farnen, Perugini, Cargill, Herley, Sundman

**MOTION:** Phil Pires, District 4 moved to suspend Rule 36 in order to adjourn to the May 23, 2016 meeting, duly seconded.

**VOTE:** The motion to suspend Rule 36 failed in a tie vote 19-19.

**IN FAVOR:** Gerber, Newman, Perham, Dean, Gottlieb, Hochberg, Pires, Zezima, Garskoff, Smey, Wolk, M. Ambrose, Gale, Solomon, McDermott, Vergara, Wackerman, Georgiadis, Lee

**OPPOSED:** P. Ambrose, Bateson, McCullough, Varian, Lynch, Durrell, Harrison, Orriss, Neuberger, McCarthy, Ference, Iacono, Messina, Tallman, Farnen, Perugini, Cargill, Herley, Sundman

**VOTE:** The motion to approve the budget in the amount of \$293,510,143 for the Fiscal Year of July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017 as recommended by the Board of Finance was passed by unanimous voice vote.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth P. Browne, CMC, MCTC  
Town Clerk

Recorded by: Frances Daly