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BRANFORD TOWN CLERK



<b>Representative Town Meeting</b>
<b>Meeting Minutes ~ 5-19-2020</b>

Moderator: Dennis T. Flanigan	Clerk: Donna Laich
Majority Leader: Ray Ingraham	Minority Leader: Tom Brockett

A remote meeting of the RTM was convened on Tuesday May 19, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. to consider and act on the following matters:

Rep. Brockett requested the Pledge of Allegiance at this time (he provided the American Flag in his background)

**1. Roll Call:**

**Members Present:** Rep. Adelman, Rep. Alfone, Rep. Anderson, Rep. Austin, Rep. Black, Rep. Brockett, Rep. Conklin, Rep. Everson, Rep. Erlanger, Rep. Flanigan, Rep. Greenberg, Rep. Hakun, Rep. Healy (joined @ 8:50), Rep. Hentschel, Rep. Hynes, Rep. Ingraham, Rep. Jackson, Rep. Kelly, Rep. Laich, Rep. Lombardi, Rep. Prete, Rep. Riccio, Rep. Sember, Rep. Sires, Rep. Soomro, Rep. Stepank, Rep. Sullivan, Rep. Torelli, Rep. Twohill, Rep. Wells

**Ex Officios Present:** 1st Selectman Cosgrove, Town Clerk: Arpin, 2nd Selectman Dunbar, Finance Director Finch

**Ex Officios Not Present:** Selectman Higgins, Treasurer Schwanfelder, Town Attorney Aniskovich  
(See Attachment)

**2. The Board of Finance approved the following budget for fiscal year 2020-2021:**

<b>Board of Education: Operating Budget</b>	<b>\$58,828,962</b>
<b>Board of Education Capital &amp; Leases</b>	<b>455,000</b>
<b>Subtotal Board of Education</b>	----- <b>\$59,283,962</b>
 <b>Town Departments:</b>	 <b>\$58,954,481</b>
<b>Total</b>	----- <b>\$118,283,443</b>

Finance director Finch confirmed that the above figures are correct. Rep. Ingraham made a motion to approve as presented, the motion was seconded by Rep. Anderson.

**3. To consider and, if appropriate, approve the recommendation of the Board of Finance of an appropriation of \$59,283,962 to the Board of Education (Operating Budget + Capital) for fiscal year 2020-2021.**

Rep. Twohill presented a brief report of the Education Committee meeting where this item was heard. The Education Committee by a vote of 7-0 reduced the recommended BOE Capital budget by 101,084.00. The adjusted BOE budget was 58,828,962. A brief discussion ensued with questions from the RTM presented to Superintendent Hernandez, which he answered, followed by a question from a resident. Rep. Twohill made a motion to approve the budget as presented, followed by a roll call vote (see attached). The Board of Education budget passed 15 yes, 13 no.

**4. To consider and, if appropriate, approve the recommendation of the Board of Finance of an appropriation of \$58,954,481 for all other Town Departments (Operating Budget + Capital) for fiscal year 2020-2021. The committee reports follow:**

- a. Rep. Twohill presented the report of the Education Committee. Rep. Twohill made a motion to amend the recommended Bd. of Finance budget for the Blackstone Library. The motion reduced the library's budget from 1,488,962.00 to 1,443,962.00. The motion passed the Education Committee 4-3.
- b. Rep. Jackson moved to amend Rep. Twohill's motion, and to restore the library budget to 1,488,962.00 as previously recommended by the Board of Finance. The motion was seconded by Rep. Hentschel. A robust discussion ensued. The discussion included many comments from RTM members. There were statements and comments made by the vice president of the Blackstone Board of Trustees, the Library Director and the Treasurer, as well as comments from Branford residents. The full discussion was recorded and is available for public review. Rep. Jackson's amendment was voted down in a roll call vote of 15- 13 (see attached).
- c. Rep. Twohill's motion to amend the Blackstone Library budget as set forth in (4a above) was voted on. That motion passed 15 - 13 (see attached). Thereby reducing the Blackstone Libraries operating budget to 1,443,962.00.

**To facilitate the process, majority leader Ingraham suggested that the balance of committee reports be treated as one amendment, minority leader, Rep. Brockett agreed.**

- d. Rep. Twohill reported on the capital budget request for the library. The committee voted (7-0) to reduce the capital request by 17,000.00 concerning cameras. The recommendation was to transfer that amount to contingency.

- e. Rep. Alfone reported that the Administrative Services Committee amended the budget by eliminating the position of special projects manager in the amount of 104,170.00 of which 85,000.00 be transferred to contingency with the balance being eliminated. This passed in committee with a 6-1 vote. In addition the East Shore Health district budget was increased by 1,054.00 as a result of a rate adjustment. This vote was unanimous.
- f. Rep. Conklin reported that the public services committee accepted the Bd. of Finance recommended budget with two exceptions. The exceptions included one vehicle as well as the set up for that vehicle in the amount of 57,000.00 from their capital budget. The committee vote was unanimous.
- g. Rep. Black reported on Rules and Ordinances and noted there were no budget changes to the recommendations of the Bd. of Finance.
- h. Rep. Black reported that Ways and Means increased the contingency fund by 102,000.00. This was 85,000.00 from the Administrative Services recommendation regarding the elimination of the Special Projects Coordinator and 17,000.00 as recommended by the Education Committee concerning the capital account for cameras at the Blackstone Library. This passed in a 3-2 committee vote.

The RTM after a lengthy discussion voted on the amendments. In a roll call vote the motion to accept the amendments passed 15-13.

After a brief recess (to allow the finance director to finalize the budget) the meeting resumed.

After a lengthy and robust discussion from RTM members, the administration, and the public, a vote was taken to approve an overall budget of 58,834,365.00. The motion to approve the budget passed 16 - 13 in a roll call vote (see attached).

- 5. To consider and, if appropriate, approve the recommendation of the Board of Finance of an appropriation of \$60,842 to the Open Space Fund Budget for fiscal year 2020-2021.**
  - a. This item was heard and approved by the Ways and Means Committee as reported by Rep. Black who put this forward for approval in the form of a motion. In a roll call vote, the item passed unanimously (see attached).
- 6. To consider and if appropriate, approve the recommendation of the Board of Finance of an appropriation of \$14,926 to the Sewer Assessment Fund Budget for fiscal 2020-2021.**
  - a. Ways and Means recommended approval of this item and Rep. Black put this in the form of a motion to the full RTM. The item passed 28 to 1 (see attached).
- 7. To consider and if appropriate, approve the recommendation of the Board of Finance of an appropriation of \$68,500 to the Board of Education Special Fund Budget for fiscal year 2020-2021.**

- a. Rep. Twohill stated this item was heard by the Education Committee and passed unanimously with a 7-0 vote. Rep. Twohill put this item forward to the full RTM in the form of a motion. The item passed unanimously in a roll call vote (see attached).
- 8. To consider and if appropriate, approve the recommendation of the Board of Finance of an appropriation of \$522,053 to the Board of Education Daycare Fund Budget for fiscal 2020-2021.**
  - a. Rep. Twohill reported that this item passed the Education Committee 7-0 and put it forward to the full RTM in the form of a motion. The item passed unanimously in a roll call vote (see attached).
- 9. To consider and if appropriate, approve the recommendation of the Board of Finance of appropriation of \$4,607,967 to the Wastewater Treatment Plant Budget for fiscal year 2020-2021.**
  - a. Rep. Black reported that this item was heard and passed by Rules and Ordinances. Rep. Black put this forward to the full RTM in the form of a motion. The item passed unanimously in a roll call vote (see attached).
- 10. To consider and if appropriate, approve the recommendation of the Board of Finance of an appropriation of \$367,026 to the Animal Control Fund Budget for fiscal year 2020-2021.**
  - a. Rep. Conklin reported that this item passed unanimously in the Public Services Committee meeting, he put it forward to the full RTM in the form of a motion. The item passed unanimously in a roll call vote (see attached).
- 11. To consider and if appropriate, approve the recommendation of the Board of Finance of an appropriation of \$1,643,346 Human Services Special Revenue Fund Budget for fiscal year 2020-2021.**
  - a. Rep. Alfone explained that this item is part of the Admin Services budget that was previously approved this evening. This is a transfer of the approved fund into the Human Services Special Revenue Fund. Rep. Alfone made a motion to the full RTM for approval of this item. The item passed unanimously in a roll call vote after a brief discussion with RTM members (see attached).
- 12. To consider and if appropriate, approve the recommendation of the Board of Finance of an appropriation of \$328,000 Lease Fund Budget for fiscal year 2020-2021.**
  - a. Rep. Black reported this item was heard by Ways and Means Committee and he put it forward for approval to the full RTM in the form of a motion. The item passed 28 - 1 (see attached).

**13. To consider and if appropriate, approve the recommendation of the Board of Finance to the RTM, with the exception of the First Selectman who has elected to take a 0% increase, salaries for the following elected officials increase by 2% for each of their two year term of office: Second Selectman, Third Selectman, Treasurer, Board of Assessment Appeals, RTM Moderator, Finance Clerk and RTM Clerk.**

- a. This item was not addressed in tonight's meeting because it was already voted on in the last budget cycle and doesn't need to be voted on until next year.

**14. To consider and if appropriate, approve the recommendation of the Board of Finance to the RTM that salaries for Registrar of Voters increase by 2.5% for each year of their two year term of office.**

- a. Rep. Alfone reported that this was part of the Administrative Services budget previously passed this evening and it passed committee unanimously with a 7-0 vote. He put this forward to the full RTM in the form of a motion. The item passed unanimously in a roll call vote (see attached).

**15. Adjournment ~ 10:00 PM**

- a. Rep. Torelli made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Rep. Sember.

Dated this 27th day of May 2020  
Respectfully submitted,

Donna Laich  
Clerk-Branford RTM

RTM Roll Call List ~ Date: 5-19-2020

	ATTENDANCE	ITEM 3	4 amendment	4 am. to am.	4 amendments	ITEM 4	ITEM 5	ITEM 6	ITEM 7	ITEM 8	ITEM 9	ITEM 10	ITEM 11	ITEM 12	ITEM 14	
1	present	no	yes	no	no	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	
2	present	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	
3	present	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	
4	present	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	
5	present	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	
6	present	no	yes	no	no	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	
7	present	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	
8	present	no	yes	no	no	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	
9	present	no	yes	no	no	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	
10	present	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
11	present	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	
12	present	no	yes	no	no	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	
13	@ 8:50	-	-	-	-	-	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	
14	present	no	yes	no	no	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	
15	present	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	
16	present	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	
17	present	no	yes	no	no	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	
18	present	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	
19	present	no	yes	no	no	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	
20	present	no	yes	no	no	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	
21	present	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	
22	present	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	
23	present	no	yes	no	no	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	
24	present	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	
25	present	no	yes	no	no	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	
26	present	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	
27	present	no	yes	no	no	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	
28	present	no	yes	no	no	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	
29	present	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	
30	present	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	
<b>Total</b>							<b>15y-13n</b>	<b>15n-13y</b>	<b>15y-13n</b>	<b>15y-13n</b>	<b>15y-13n</b>	<b>16y-13n</b>	<b>28y-1n</b>	<b>29y</b>	<b>29y</b>	<b>29y</b>
	Ex Officio															
	1st Selectman Cosgrove	present														
	Selectman Dunbar	present														
	Town Clerk Arpin	present														
	Treasurer Schwamfelder															
	Attorney Aniskovich															
	Selectman Higgins															
	Finance Director Finch	present														

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