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2023 JUN 21 A 11:19

Neil Arpin
BRANFORD TOWN CLERK

**Representative Town Meeting
June 14, 2023
Meeting Minutes**

Moderator: Dennis Flanigan	Clerk: Donna Laich
Majority Leader: Ray Ingraham	Minority Leader: Tracy Everson

The RTM convened on Wednesday, June 14, 2023, at 8:00 p.m. at Fire Headquarters, 45 North Main Street, to consider and act upon the following matters:

Moderator Flanigan welcomed a new member to the RTM from the 4th district, Chiran Neupane. He is assigned to Public Service Committee.

1. Roll Call:

Representatives present: Amore, Anderson, Barron, Black, Bonenberger, Conklin, Erlanger, Everson, Flanigan, Healy, Hentschel, Hesse, Ingraham, Laich, Maresca, Neupane, Prete, Sires, Shrestha, Sullivan, Twohill, Verderame.

Representatives absent: Alfone, Brooks, Greenberg, Hynes, Riccio, Stepanek, Torelli, Wells,

Ex Officios present: 1st Selectman Cosgrove, Town Clerk Arpin

2. Approval of minutes of previous meetings:

Rep. Ingraham made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 2023 RTM meeting, 2nd by Rep. Everson. The minutes were unanimously approved in a voice vote.

3. Reception of communications, reports of committees, and citizen petitions:

Moderator Flanigan read the following communications (see attached):

- a. Letter from J. Mooney (Chairman of Board of Finance) re: resolution of reallocation of bond proceeds... (see attached).
- b. A Letter from Tyler Bowne (sustainability and compliance manager) re: changes to the Solid Waste ordinance. Moderator Flanigan referred this to the Rules and Ordinances committee (see attached).

4. To consider, and if appropriate, approve participating in the Neighborhood Assistance Tax Credit Program:

Rep. Verderame reported this item passed unanimously at the Administrative Services committee meeting. She listed the applications separately and moved this item forward for approval. The item passed unanimously in a voice vote.

5. To consider, and if appropriate, establish a harbor management commission as set forth in GCS Sec 22a-113k:

Rep. Black reported this item was heard at the Rules and Ordinances committee meeting. The committee unanimously voted to re-refer the item and he moved for approval of the re-referral. The item was re-referred unanimously in a voice vote.

6. To consider, and if appropriate, approve a Leaf Blower Ordinance:

Rep. Black reported this item was heard at the Rules and Ordinances committee meeting. The committee voted to take no action (3-2). Rep. Black motioned for approval. Rep. Hentschel gave a minority report stating his concerns, which were echoed by Rep. Sullivan. Resident Kate Galambos spoke regarding the letter she sent to Moderator Flanigan last night. Resident Galambos read her (revised) letter to the RTM (see attached). Her letter was not received in time to be included in communications, which were read by the moderator earlier in the meeting. The committee recommendation to take no action was approved in a voice vote.

7. To consider and if appropriate, approve a transfer request from the Board of Fire Commissioners for FY2023 as follows:

From: 10142040-517000 Regular Wages & Salaries	(\$80,000)
10142040-533530 Employment & Testing	(\$6,000)
<u>10142040-555300 Communications</u>	<u>(\$6,000)</u>
Total	(\$92,000)
To: 10142040-518000 Overtime	\$80,000
10142040-566900 Other Supplies	\$6,000
<u>10142040-544300 Purchased Services, R&M</u>	<u>\$6,000</u>
Total	\$92,000

Rep. Conklin moved to waive rule 4.4 (1) for items 7,8, & 9. The motion was 2nd by Rep. Sullivan. The motion passed unanimously in a voice vote. After providing comments regarding this item, Rep. Conklin made a motion for approval, 2nd by Rep. Sullivan. The item passed unanimously in a voice vote.

8. To consider and if appropriate, approve a transfer request from the Board of Police Commissioners for FY2023 as follows:

From: 70042010-579250-22239 Vehicle Set-up	(\$25,000)
To: 70042010-579350-23221 Police Vehicles	\$25,000

Rep. Conklin summarized and made a motion for approval of this item, 2nd by Rep. Black. The item passed unanimously in a voice vote.

9. To consider and if appropriate, approve a transfer request from the Highway Supervisor for FY2023 as follows:

From: 10143040-517000 Regular Wages & Salaries	(\$10,009)
To: 10143040-544130 Other Fuel	\$9,124
<u>10143040-526100 Uniforms/Clothing</u>	<u>\$885</u>
Total	\$10,009

From: 10143010-533300 Professional Development (\$49)
To: 10143010-579300 Furniture/Fixtures \$49

Rep. Conklin provided a summary of this item and moved for approval, 2nd by Rep. Ingraham. After brief comments/questions, the item passed in a voice vote.

10. To consider, and if appropriate approve a transfer request for salary adjustments for FY2024 as follows:

Transfer-Animal Control General Fund
From: 10149040-588802 Contingency (\$14,315)
To: 10142060-599104 Transfer Out – Animal Shelter Fund-206 \$14,315
Corresponding Transfer in Fund 206
Increase: 20690000-490010 Operating Transfer In \$14,315
Increase: 20642060-517000 Regular Wages and Salaries \$14,315

RESOLVED: That the RTM approves an increase in the Animal Control Fund Budget for FY2024 from \$450,106 to \$464,421. The increase will be funded through an appropriation from the general fund contingency account.

Rep. Healy provided a summary of this item stating it passed 5-0 in committee. He made a motion for approval. The item was unanimously approved in a voice vote.

11. Transfer-Police Department

From: 10149040-588802 Contingency (\$ 17,354)
To: 10142010-517000 Regular Wages and Salaries \$17,354

Rep. Healy made a motion to approve this transfer, which passed at the Ways and Means committee meeting 5-0. The item passed unanimously in a voice vote.

12. To consider and if appropriate, approve a transfer request from the Director of Parks & Recreation for FY2023 as follows:

From: 10145010-517000 Regular Wages & Salaries (\$35,000)
To: 10145010-544300 Purchased Services R&M \$15,000
10145010-544320 Grounds R&M \$20,000

Rep. Healy provided a summary, stating this request passed through the Ways and Means committee meeting 5-0. He made a motion for approval. The item passed unanimously in a voice vote.

13. To consider a transfer request from the Finance director for FY2024 to enter into a new lease agreement for the Town Hall postage meter.

From :10149040-588802 Contingency (\$5460)
To: 10141040-554425 Leased Equipment \$5460

Rep. Healy provided a summary of this item stating it passed at the Ways and Means committee meeting 5-0. He made a motion for approval. The item passed unanimously in a voice vote.

14. To consider and if appropriate, approve a transfer request from the Human Services Director for FY2023 as follows:

From: 21844010-588915 Relocation Services (\$3,000)

To: 21844010-544300 Purchased Services	\$2,500
21844010-544420 Equipment Rental	\$500
Total	\$3,000

Rep. Verderame stated this simple transfer passed at the Administrative Services committee meeting 5 yes, 1 abstention. Rep. Verderame moved for approval. The item passed unanimously in a voice vote.

15. To consider and if appropriate, approve a budget transfer increase for FY2024 from the Human Services Director as follows:

Increase: 21890000-480296 Fund Balance Human Services Fund	(\$26,000)
Increase: 21844010-544300 Purchased Services	\$26,000

RESOLVED: That the RTM approves an increase in the Human Services Fund Budget for FY2024 from \$1,913,499 to \$1,939,499. The increase will be funded through an appropriation from fund balance.

Rep. Verderame provided a summary of this item stating it passed at the Administrative Services committee 5 in favor with 1 abstention. Rep. Everson stated her reasons for abstaining. After a brief discussion the item passed unanimously in a voice vote.

16. To consider and if appropriate, approve a transfer request from the Director of I.T. for FY2023 as follows:

From: 10141190-544375 Hardware	(\$7,524)
10141190-588090 Travel	(\$746)
10141190-533300 Professional Development	(\$3,580)
Total	(\$11,850)
To: 10141190-518000 Overtime Pay	\$8,270
10141190-519030 Accumulated Sick Pay	\$3,580
Total:	\$11,850

Rep. Verderame provided a summary of this item stating it passed at the Administrative Services committee meeting 6-0. Rep. Verderame motioned for approval. The item passed unanimously in a voice vote.

17. To consider, and if appropriate approve a transfer request for salary adjustments for FY2024 as follows:

Transfer-Information Technology	
From: 10141190-518000 Overtime	(\$9,937)
To: 10141190-517000 Regular Wages & Salaries	\$9,937
Total:	\$11,850

Rep. Verderame stated this item passed 6-0 at the Administrative Services committee and put it forward for approval. After a brief discussion the item passed unanimously in a voice vote.

18. To consider and act on the following proposed resolution:

RESOLUTION REALLOCATING BOND PROCEEDS DERIVED FROM THE ISSUANCE OF TOWN OF BRANFORD, CONNECTICUT GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS, ISSUE OF 2020, ISSUED AND DATED JULY 2, 2020.

Rep. Healy made a motion to waive the reading of the full resolution, 2nd by Rep. Ingraham. The motion passed unanimously in a voice vote. Rep. Healy provided a summary of the item stating it passed unanimously at the Ways and Means committee meeting. A brief discussion followed with clarification provided by First

Selectman Cosgrove and comments/questions from RTM representatives. A motion to approve passed unanimously in a voice vote.

19. Any other business to come before the RTM:

- a. Rep. Shrestha invited everyone to attend an upcoming festival to celebrate the US-Nepal Day. The event will be held on July 15, 2023, from 9:30 AM to 8:30 PM on the Branford Green (see attached flyer).
- b. Rep. Everson shared (with permission from Rep. Torelli) that Rep. Torelli is retiring this year from the Branford School System and from the RTM due to her declining health. She is suffering from kidney disease and is on the transplant recipient list. Rep. Hentschel stated one does not need to be an exact match to provide a kidney. Rep. Everson thanked Rep. Torelli for her service to Branford.
- c. Resident Gregg Jerolmann brought attention to an incident that allegedly occurred at our last RTM meeting. He wanted an apology for the incident. A brief discussion ensued, without resolution.

20. Adjournment: 9:07 pm

Motion to adjourn by Rep. Hentschel, 2nd by Rep. Ingraham. Unanimously approved in a voice vote.

See the BCTV recording of this meeting for details of the conversations.

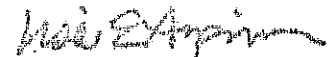
Donna Laich, RTM Clerk

Dated this 21st day of June 2023

BRANFORD RTM RECORDED VOTES

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2023 JUN 21 (A 11:19)


 BRANFORD TOWN CLERK

RTM Roll Call List ~ Date: 6-14-2023		
	NAME	ATTENDANCE
1	ALFONE	A
2	AMORE	Present
3	ANDERSON	Present
4	BARRON	Present
5	BLACK	Present
6	BONENBERGER	Present
7	BROOKS	A
8	CONKLIN	Present
9	ERLANGER	Present
10	EVERSON	Present
11	FLANIGAN	Present
12	GREENBERG	A
13	HEALY	Present
14	HENTSCHEL	Present
15	HESSE	Present
16	HYNES	A
17	INGRAHAM	Present
18	LAICH	Present
19	MARESCA	Present
20	NEUPANE	Present
21	PRETE	Present
22	RICCIO	A
23	SHRESTHA	Present
24	SIRES	Present
25	STEPANEK	A
26	SULLIVAN	Present
27	TORELLI	A
28	TWOHILL	Present
29	VERDERAME	Present
30	WELLS	A
	Total	22 present, 8 A
	Ex Officios	
	1st Selectman Cosgrove	Present
	Selectman Higgins	
	Selectman Dunbar	
	Town Clerk Arpin	Present
	Treasurer Conklin	
	Attorney Aniskovich	

BOARD OF FINANCE

TOWN OF BRANFORD

1019 MAIN STREET; P.O. BOX 150, BRANFORD, CONNECTICUT 06405

JOSEPH W. MOONEY, CHAIRMAN
PAMELA DeLISE
HARRY DIADAMO, JR.
VICTOR J. CASSELLA
ROBERT IMPERATO
CHARLES F. SHELTON, JR.
JEFFREY E. VALETTE



EX-OFFICIO
JAMES B. COSGROVE, First Selectman

CLERK
LISA E. ARPIN, Town Clerk, MCTC CMC

May 23, 2023

To the Representative Town Meeting of
The Town of Branford

Attention: Dennis Flanigan, Moderator

At a meeting of the Board of Finance held May 22, 2023, the following resolution was adopted:

RESOLVED: That the resolution entitled: "RESOLUTION REALLOCATING BOND PROCEEDS DERIVED FROM THE ISSUANCE OF TOWN OF BRANFORD, CONNECTICUT GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS, ISSUE OF 2020, ISSUED AND DATED JULY 2, 2020" is hereby adopted and recommended for approval by the Representative Town Meeting.

Very truly yours,

Joseph W. Mooney
Chairman, Board of Finance

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2023 MAY 31 P 2:22
Lisa E. Arpin
BRANFORD TOWN CLERK

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2023 JUN 19 A 9:26

Statement to the RTM on the Proposed Leaf Blowing Ordinance

Kate Galambos, resident of Branford

June 14, 2023


BRANFORD TOWN CLERK

The proposed ordinance is similar to one that was passed in Westport CT in January of this year. The ordinance includes mild limits on when leaf blowers can be used, and phases out gas-powered blowers over a two-year period. There is nothing radical or overly-prescriptive in this ordinance. In fact, cities and states across the country are limiting the use of gas-powered leaf blowers. The city of White Plains NY, outlawed leaf blowers 20 years ago, and they seem to be doing fine.

Why do we need limits on gas-powered leaf blowers? Because the data on the harm they cause is extensive. Gas-powered leaf blowers use outdated, highly polluting two-stroke engine technology. They actually damage the ecosystems to which they are applied; they emit toxic gases well beyond any acceptable level; they blow poisonous particulate matter into the air we breathe; and they produce high-decibel noise that damages the hearing of workers and creates a nuisance to anyone nearby. The American Automobile Association tested a gas-powered leaf blower against a Ford truck, and found that driving the truck 3900 miles from Texas to Alaska was less polluting than using the leaf blower for 30 minutes. That's why the Environmental Protection Agency says, "Communities and ... government agencies should create policies and programs to protect the public from gasoline-powered lawn equipment air pollutants".

The problem today is that when a person uses a gas-powered leaf blower on their property, the harmful effects of their action extend well beyond their property line. The noise, toxic gases and particulate matter, and damage to the ecosystem –all invade into the neighborhood where other individuals have no recourse to protect themselves. Unfortunately, the R&O committee's Take No Action stance endorses the rights of the individual who is causing the noise and pollution over the rights of everyone living on the other side of the property line.

So what is the role of the RTM in this situation? Well, the mandate is clear: the RTM's job is to balance the needs of the individual with the needs and best interests of the community as a whole. It's nothing new: this has been part of the governance of the Town of Branford since it was incorporated in 1685. The legislative body has always accepted the challenge of creating rules and policies that balance the needs of individuals and businesses with the needs and best interests of the community. For example, we balance the competing needs of motorists and pedestrians, by having rules about crosswalks and stop signs. We balance the competing needs of businesses and neighborhoods by regulating things like signage and curb cuts. We have leash laws and licensing rules to manage the potential nuisances caused by dogs. We have a noise ordinance that limits the times and types of noise that people can generate. Now, it is time to balance the needs of people who use gas-powered leaf blowers, with the needs and best interests of the neighboring community. The only thing new is that the gas-powered leaf blower has been shown to be a danger to the public. Times have changed: new data has been

obtained, two-stroke engine technology is outdated, but the RTM's mandate to balance competing interests remains the same.

Our town has a long history of successfully balancing the use of technology with the protection and quality of life of its citizens. This proposed ordinance offers another opportunity to again accomplish that goal. Its effectiveness will be greatly enhanced when the RTM has the opportunity to fully evaluate its safety, noise, and environmental impacts, and to consider alternative options. I urge you to re-refer the proposed ordinance.

Item #18

RESOLUTION REALLOCATING BOND PROCEEDS DERIVED FROM THE ISSUANCE OF TOWN OF BRANFORD, CONNECTICUT GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS, ISSUE OF 2020, ISSUED AND DATED JULY 2, 2020

WHEREAS, the Town of Branford, Connecticut (the "Town") issued its \$13,105,000 General Obligation Bonds, Issue of 2020, issued and dated July 2, 2020 (the "Bonds") of which \$9,002,327 of such bonds were allocated to new money projects;

WHEREAS, \$2,710,000 of the Bonds were issued for the Sewer System Improvements (2019) Project, and \$845,000 of such proceeds from the Bonds will better meet the capital cash flow needs of the Town if allocated to and expended for the Animal Shelter Project;

WHEREAS, \$1,750,000 of the Bonds were issued for the East Industrial Road Reconstruction Project, and \$1,750,000 of such proceeds from the Bonds will better meet the capital cash flow needs of the Town if (i) \$1,550,000 is allocated to and expended for the Animal Shelter Project and (ii) \$200,000 is allocated to and expended for the Police Headquarters Renovation Project;

WHEREAS, the Town authorized \$4,595,000 bonds of the Town to be issued to finance Animal Shelter Project which is progressing and expending funds; and

WHEREAS, the Town authorized \$325,000 bonds of the Town to be issued to finance the Police Headquarters Renovation Project which is progressing and expending funds.

NOW THEREFORE, the Town hereby resolves that \$845,000 of the Bonds issued to finance the Sewer System Improvements (2019) Project is hereby reallocated to the Animal Shelter Project, and \$1,750,000 of the Bonds issued to finance the East Industrial Road Reconstruction Project is hereby reallocated as follows: (i) \$1,550,000 to the Animal Shelter Project and (ii) \$200,000 to the Police Headquarters Renovation Project.

M. J. S. [Signature]
BRANFORD TOWN CLERK

2023 MAY 19 A 10:52

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