

**Minutes approved as amended (item #13) at the 9-11-2024 RTM meeting.**



**RECEIVED**

2024 SEP 13 P 1:10

TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE  
BRANFORD, CONNECTICUT

**Representative Town Meeting**

**July 10, 2024**

**Amended Meeting Minutes (Item 13)**

<b>Moderator: Maryann Amore</b>	<b>Clerk: Frank Twohill</b>
<b>Majority Leader: Tracy Everson</b>	<b>Minority Leader: Victoria Verderame</b>

**The RTM convened on Wednesday, July 10, 2024, at 8:19 p.m.,  
at Branford Fire Headquarters, 45 North Main Street,  
to consider and act upon the following matters:**

**1. Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance**

Moderator Amore led the Body in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**2. Call of the Roll**

**Representatives Present:** Alfone, Amore, Anderson, Black, Bonenberger, Dahill, Everson, Greenburg, Hartwell, Hentschel, Hynes, Ingraham, Laich, Larsson, Loffredo, Maresca, McCall, McCormack, Neupane, Popolizio, Sharkey, Shrestha, Soomro, Twohill, Verderame, Waterman

**Representatives Absent:** Adams, Adelman, Brooks, Keefe

**Ex-Officios Present:** none

**3. Approval of the Minutes of the June 12, 2024, meeting:**

Motion to approve made by Rep. Amore, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Rep. Verderame. The minutes were approved unanimously in a voice vote.

**4. Receipt of Communications, Reports of Committees, and Citizen Petitions:**

Moderator Amore presented the following communications:

A. Michelle Gagliardi, a licensed day care provider, seeks protection from restrictive HOA rules. Moderator Amore referred her request to the Rules & Ordinances Committee.

B. Evgenia Pekarskaya, Supercool Metals, requested a property tax exemption on manufacturing equipment. Moderator Amore referred her request to the Administrative Services Committee.

C. Human Services Director Margaret Luberda requested the United Public Services, Local #424, Water Treatment Employees Contract be heard tonight. Rep. Hentschel moved, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Rep. Verderame, to add the item to the RTM Call as new item #5. The full RTM voted unanimously in a voice vote to approve.

D. First Selectman Cosgrove requested the proposed solar array installation at 10 Tabor Drive be heard. Rep. Waterman moved, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Rep. Loffredo, to add the item to the RTM Call as new item #6. The full RTM voted unanimously in a voice vote to approve.

5. **To consider and if appropriate, approve a Tentative Agreement between the Town of Branford and the United Public Services Representatives, Local #424, Water Treatment Employees, July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2027.**

This item was not heard in Committee. A motion to waive RTM Rule 4.4.1 was made by Rep. Hentschel, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Rep. Verderame. The motion passed unanimously by the full RTM. Human Services Director Margaret Luberda stated this is a 4 year contract, 2.5% salary increase each year. A motion to approve was made by Rep. Waterman, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Rep. Verderame. The item passed unanimously in a voice vote by the full RTM.

6. **To consider and if appropriate, per Section 73-3 of the Town Code, approve a proposed solar array on top of the former landfill located at 100 Tabor Drive, in the area identified in the previously approved Landfill Closure Plan.**

Rep. McCormack stated this item was heard by the Administrative Services Committee and it passed unanimously. She put the matter to the full RTM in the form of a motion. There was discussion by several RTM Representatives. The matter passed the full RTM by voice vote.

7. **To consider and if appropriate, approve the following transfer request from the Town Planner for the Planning & Zoning budget for FY2024:**

<b>From:</b>		
10141130-533280	Consulting	(\$12,500)
<b>To:</b>		
10150000-555110	Transfer to Capital Fund 700	\$12,500
<u>Capital Fund - Appropriation Increase</u>		
<b>Increase:</b>		
70090000-490010	Transfer in	\$12,500
<b>Increase:</b>		
70041130-533280-xxxxx	Consulting-Zoning Regulations Update	\$12,500

Rep. Hentschel stated the Rules & Ordinances Committee heard this item. The Committee passed the item unanimously and he put the matter forward to the full RTM as a motion. The RTM voted unanimously to approve the transfers in a voice vote.

8. **To consider, and if appropriate, approve a transfer for General Government Buildings (GGB) for FY2024 as follows:**

<b>From:</b>		
10149040-588802	Contingency	(\$48,000)
<b>To:</b>		
10141170-544300	Purchased Service Repair & Maint.	\$48,000

This item was not heard by any RTM Committee. A motion to waive RTM Rule 4.4.1 was made by Rep. Verderame, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Rep. Laich. The motion was approved unanimously by voice vote. Rep. Bonenberger stated the air conditioning system in the Police Station server room broke down and had to be repaired. Also, a similar problem occurred at the Joe Trapasso Community House. A motion to approve the transfer was made by Rep. Bonenberger, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Rep. Verderame. Passed unanimously in a voice vote by the full RTM.

**9. To consider and if appropriate, approve the following transfer request from the Tax Collector for FY2024:**

**From:**

10141070-588720                      Tax Refunds                                      (\$21,000)

**To:**

10141070-518000                      Overtime    \$21,000

Rep. McCormack stated that the Administrative Services Committee heard this request and voted unanimously to approve. She put the matter forward to the full RTM as a motion. The full RTM voted unanimously to approve the transfer in a voice vote.

**10. To consider and, if appropriate, create an ordinance to establish a harbor management commission, pursuant to CGS 22a-113k.**

Rep. Hentschel stated this matter was heard by the Rules & Ordinances Committee. There is a working group making progress on the proposal. The Committee voted unanimously to ask for a rereferral. He put that request forward to the full RTM in the form of a motion. The full RTM voted unanimously to rerefer the matter.

**11. To consider, and if appropriate, create an ordinance which will encode reasonable restrictions on short-term rentals in Branford.**

Rep. Hentschel stated there is a working group on this subject at the Rules & Ordinances Committee to pursue the possibility of drafting an Ordinance. The Committee voted unanimously to rerefer the item. He put that forward to the full RTM in the form of a motion. The RTM approved the rereferral unanimously by voice vote.

**12. To consider, and if appropriate, create an ordinance to change the position of Town Clerk from an elected position to an appointed one.**

Rep. Hentschel stated this proposed Ordinance was heard and approved in June by the Rules & Ordinances Committee. The Town Attorney made suggested changes. The final draft was approved. It cannot be voted on tonight because it was not published 5 days before the RTM meeting. Rep. Hentschel moved to hold the matter over to the next RTM meeting and put that forward to the full RTM in the form of a motion. The motion passed unanimously in a voice vote.

**13. To hear the Parliamentarian's review of Gregg Jerolman's correspondence to the RTM dated June 6, 2024.**

Parliamentarian Hentschel stated that citizen Gregg Jerolman asked for a Parliamentarian review. Mr. Jerolman was concerned that members of the public were not given an opportunity to be heard on the proposed FY '25 Town budget at the May RTM Budget meeting. Parliamentarian Hentschel stated that he reviewed the meeting, and the RTM actions were properly taken and legally binding. Rep. Hentschel stated that the Rules & Ordinances Committee recommended the RTM Moderator and Committee Chairs make clear at each meeting the time and the procedure used for the members of the public wishing to speak.

**14. Any other business to come before the RTM:**

A. Moderator Amore read a letter from the Society of Nepalese in America inviting all to the Nepalese Festivities and parade in Branford on Saturday, July 13<sup>th</sup>.

B. Clerk Twohill remembered Charles Shelton, a Board of Finance member for many years and asked for a moment of silence in his memory.

C. Rep. Neupane reminded everyone to attend the Nepalese Festival on the Branford Green on Saturday, July 13<sup>th</sup>.

D. Evgenia Pekarskaya of Cool Metals stated that her company was seeking a Branford tax exemption for their manufacturing equipment. Moderator Amore stated that the matter had been referred to the Administrative Services Committee,

**15. Adjournment at 9:17 p.m.**

Rep. Everson made a motion to adjourn, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Rep. Verderame.

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

**Frank Twohill, RTM Clerk**

**Dated this 11<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2024**

**(Item #13 Minutes Amended on September 11, 2024)**