

RECEIVED

2021 SEP 16 P 4: 50

Donna Laich
BRANFORD TOWN CLERK



Representative Town Meeting
Meeting Minutes
September 8, 2021 8:00 p.m.

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

1. Roll Call

Representatives Present: Adelman, Aitro, Alfone, Anderson, Black, Brockett, Conklin, Erlanger, Everson, Flanigan, Greenberg, Hakun (zoom), Healy, Hentschel, Hynes (zoom), Ingraham, Jackson, Laich, Prete, Riccio, Sember (zoom), Shrestha, Sires, Stepanek, Sullivan (zoom), Torelli (zoom), Twohill, Verderame, Wells

Representatives Absent: Soomro

Ex Officios Present: 1st Selectman Cosgrove, Selectman Higgins, Town Clerk Arpin

Moderator Flanigan presented well wishes on behalf of all to Representative Torelli who is awaiting a kidney transplant.

2. Approval of minutes of the June 9th and July 21st meetings:

Motion to approve by Rep. Ingraham, 2nd by Rep. Brockett. Minutes unanimously approved.

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

- a. Moderator Flanigan read an email request from Mr. Gregg Jerolman.
- b. The moderator read a series of emails from Mr. J Shaw and the fire chief.
- c. The moderator read several letters presented by Mr. W. Cooke. *

* The correspondence is attached regarding a, b, & c above

4. Letters and Petitions: Rules & Ordinances Letter-Request to review Code of Ethics.

Rep. Black stated that Rules and Ordinances met on June 2nd and voted to re-refer this matter. After discussion the RTM approved the re-referral

5. To consider, and if appropriate, create an Ordinance pertaining to Unused Capital Funds.

Rep. Black stated that Rules and Ordinances met on June 2nd and voted to re-refer this matter. After discussion the RTM approved the re-referral.

6. To consider, and if appropriate, approve a request from the Town Planner for the following budget transfer for FY21:

- a. Rep. Black stated that this was recommended by the Board of Finance. Because this was not heard in committee Rep. Black made a motion to waive rule 4.41. The motion was 2nd by Rep. Ingraham and approved by the RTM.
- b. Rep. Black gave a brief explanation and made a motion to approve the transfer. The motion was 2nd by Rep. Hentschel and approved by the RTM.

<u>From:</u>			
10141130-517000	Regular Wages & Salaries		(\$11,560)
<u>To:</u>			
10141130-518250	Seasonal & Part-Time Help		4,560
10141130-533280	Consulting Services		<u>7,000</u>
		Total	\$11,560

7. To consider, and if appropriate, approve a request from the Town Planner for the following budget transfer for FY22:

- a. Rep. Black stated that this transfer was recommended by the Board of Finance. Because this was not heard in committee Rep. Black made a motion to waive rule 4.41. The motion was 2nd by Rep. Ingraham and approved by the RTM.
- b. Rep. Black gave a brief explanation and made a motion to approve the transfer. The motion was 2nd by Rep. Brockett and approved by the RTM.

<u>From:</u>			
10141130-533280	Consulting Services		(\$30,000)
<u>To:</u>			
10141130-518250	Seasonal & Part-Time Help		30,000

8. To consider, and if appropriate, approve a request from the Lead Tradesman for the following budget transfer for General Government Buildings (GGB) for FY21:

Rep. Conklin spoke on this item stating that Public Services addressed this at their meeting on Sept. 2nd. It was approved in committee 5-0 and was put forward for approval. After discussion, the motion was unanimously approved.

<u>From:</u>			
10141170-517000	Regular Wages & Salaries		(\$16,120)
10141170-526100	Uniform & Clothing		(2,800)
10141170-544300	Purchased Services-R&M		(25,000)
10141170-579250	Equipment		(2,000)
10141170-588200	Memberships & Conferences		<u>(1,142)</u>

	Total	(\$47,062)
<u>To:</u>		
10141170-544100	Utilities-Water, Gas, Electric	\$47,062

9. To consider, and if appropriate, approve a request from the Board of Fire Commissioners for the following budget transfer for FY21:

- a. Rep. Conklin said Public Services heard this on Sept. 2. He gave a brief overview of this item. He commended the department for a job well done. It passed in committee 5-0.
- b. Rep. Brockett said that Ways and Means did not meet to approve the contingency and therefore we cannot vote on this tonight. Rep. Black said that because this was heard by a committee (Public Works), we can vote on the item. The transfer was approved.

<u>From:</u>		
10142040-517000	Regular Wages & Salaries	(\$97,044)
10142040-518010	O/T Public Events	(11,600)
10142040-588050	CMED	(500)
10142040-533300	Professional Development	(10,700)
10142040-533530	Employment/Testing	(18,100)
10142040-544170	Hydrants	(15,000)
10142040-544130	Other Fuel	(1,461)
10142040-544300	Purchased Services R & M	(9,137)
10142040-566900	Other Supplies	(3,000)
10142040-518500	Special Detail	(756)
10142040-517600	Fire Marshal Stipend	(6,600)
10142040-518050	Vacation	(6,200)
10142040-518150	Holiday	(7,400)
10142040-519000	Volunteer Stipend	(4,950)
10142040-519020	Longevity	(1,500)
10142040-519040	Accrued Payroll Expense	(3,700)
10142040-519050	Stipends	(4,999)
10142040-526100	Uniform Allowance	(1,300)
10142040-533520	Ambulance Billing	(15,000)
10142040-533600	Fire Prevention	(2,800)
10142040-533970	Administrative Costs	(1,000)
10142040-555300	Communications	(1,900)
10142040-578010	Vol Equipment Replacement	(6,000)
10142040-588200	Membership & Meetings	(1,300)
10149040-588802	Contingency	(11,815)
	Total	(\$243,762)

<u>To:</u>		
10142040-518000	Overtime	\$82,258
10142040-517670	Medic Shift/Part-Time	17,186
10142040-519025	Educational Incentive	43,800
10142040-566600	Medical Supplies	6,759
10142040-519010	Stewards	756
10142040-518200	Replace Sick	<u>93,003</u>
	Total	\$243,762

10. To consider, and if appropriate, approve a request from Public Works for the following budget transfer for FY21:

- a. Rep. Conklin stated Public Services heard this on Sept. 2 and they voted 5-0 to approve the transfer. He put this forward for approval.
- b. Rep. Sullivan explained his reasons for opposing this transfer.
- c. The motion passed.

<u>From:</u>		
10143010-517000	Regular Wages & Salaries	(\$24,563)
10143010-545000	Road Materials	<u>(243)</u>
	Total	(\$24,806)

<u>To:</u>		
10143010-518000	Overtime	\$18,831
10143010-545010	Road Painting & Signs	243
10143010-519030	Accumulated Sick	<u>5,732</u>
	Total	\$24,806

11. To consider, and if appropriate, approve a request from the Recreation Department for the following budget transfer for FY21:

- a. Rep. Black reported Ways and Means did not meet on this and made a motion to waive rule 4.41, 2nd by Rep. Brockett. Rule 4.41 was unanimously waived.
- b. Rep Black briefly described the item and put it forward for approval, 2nd by Rep. Ingraham. The transfer was unanimously approved.

<u>From:</u>		
10145010-518250	Seasonal & Part-Time Help	(\$19,000)

<u>To:</u>		
10145010-517690	Security Officers	\$5,000
10145010-544100	Utilities-Water, Gas, Electric	<u>14,000</u>
	Total	\$19,000

12. To consider, and if appropriate, approve a request from the Human Resources Department for the following budget transfer for FY21:

Rep. Alfone reported Administrative Services met on this item on 9/7/21 and unanimously approved the transfer (6-0). He put the item forward for approval; it was unanimously approved.

<u>From:</u>		
10141200-533300	Professional Development	(\$2,085)
<u>To:</u>		
10141200-533530	Employment Testing	\$1,402
10141200-555400	Advertising, Printing	433
10141200-519020	Longevity	<u>250</u>
	Total	\$2,085

13. To consider, and if appropriate, approve a request from the Human Resources Department for budget transfers for FY21 and FY22 to account for salary changes pursuant to the collective bargaining agreements for the Branford Employees union contract and Water Treatment union contracts as follows:

- a. Rep. Alfone reported that Admin Services heard the part of this item related to the Branford employees' section (wages / salaries), reporting that it passed unanimously in committee (6-0). He put it forward for approval; it was unanimously approved.
- b. Rep. Black stated Rules and Ordinances did not meet on this item and he made a motion to waive rule 4.41, 2nd by Rep. Ingraham. Rep. Black said these are contractual obligations that we are legally obligated to pay. Rule 4.41 was unanimously waived.
- c. Rep. Black put forth the remaining portion of item 13 for approval, 2nd by Rep. Brockett. Item 13 passed unanimously.

Water Treatment 2020-21 Fiscal Year (2.5% wage increase)

General Fund Transfer

From:			
10149040	588802	Contingency	(\$24,341)
To:			
10143030	599105	Transfer Out - Sewer Utility Fund	24,341

Corresponding Sewer Utility Fund Transfer & Resolution

Appropriation Increase:

21090000	490010	Operating Transfer In	\$24,341
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Appropriation Increase:

21043030	517000	Wages & Salaries	\$20,366
21043030	518000	Overtime	3,897
21043030	519040	Accrued Payroll Expense	78

Resolved: That the Board of Finance recommends to the RTM a transfer out of \$24,341 to the Sewer Utility Fund to fund salary changes pursuant to the collective bargaining agreement for the Water Treatment Employees Union. This transfer will increase the Fiscal Year 2021 budget in the Sewer Utility Fund from \$4,608,288 to \$4,632,629.

Water Treatment 2021-22 Fiscal Year (2.0% wage increase)

General Fund Transfer

From:

10149040	588802	Contingency	\$44,869
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To:

10143030	599105	Transfer Out - Sewer Utility Fund	44,869
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Corresponding Sewer Utility Fund Transfer & Resolution:

Appropriation Increase:

21090000	490010	Operating Transfer In	44,869
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Appropriation Increase:

21043030	517000	Wages & Salaries	37,632
21043030	518000	Overtime	7,092
21043030	519040	Accrued Payroll Expense	145

Resolved: That the Board of Finance recommends to the RTM a transfer out of \$44,869 to the Sewer Utility Fund to fund salary changes pursuant to the collective bargaining agreement for the Water Treatment Employees Union. This transfer will increase the Fiscal Year 2022 budget in the Sewer Utility Fund

from \$4,574,073 to \$4,618,942.

Town of Branford Employees 2020-21 Fiscal Year (2% wage increase)

General Fund Transfer

From:

10149040	588802	Contingency	\$25,996
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To:

10141130	517000	Wages & Salaries - Planning & Zoning	\$2,018
10141190	517000	Wages & Salaries – Info. Technology	1,915
10141200	517000	Wages & Salaries - Human Resources	2,987
10142010	517000	Wages & Salaries - Police	1,129
10142050	517000	Wages & Salaries - Building	6,823
10143050	517000	Wages & Salaries - Engineering	1,999
10144020	517000	Wages & Salaries - Senior Center	4,023
10146020	517000	Wages & Salaries - WWML	522
10141130	519040	Accrued Payroll Expense	8
10141190	519040	Accrued Payroll Expense	7
10141200	519040	Accrued Payroll Expense	11
10142010	519040	Accrued Payroll Expense	4
10142050	519040	Accrued Payroll Expense	21
10143050	519040	Accrued Payroll Expense	25
10144020	519040	Accrued Payroll Expense	15
10146020	519040	Accrued Payroll Expense	2
10142060	599104	Transfer Out - Animal Control Fund	1,807
10144010	599130	Transfer Out - Human Services Fund	2,680

Corresponding Animal Control Fund Transfer & Resolution:

Appropriation Increase:

20690000	490010	Operating Transfer In	\$1,807
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Appropriation Increase:

20642060	517000	Wages & Salaries	\$1,800
20642060	519040	Accrued Payroll Expense	7

Resolved: That the Board of Finance recommends to the RTM a transfer out of \$1,807 to the Animal Control Fund to fund salary changes pursuant to the collective bargaining agreement for the Town of Branford Employees Union. This transfer will increase the Fiscal Year 2021 budget in the Animal Control Fund from \$468,658 to \$470,465

Corresponding Human Services Fund Transfer & Resolution:

Appropriation Increase:

21890000 490010 Operating Transfer In \$2,680

Appropriation Increase:

21844010 517000 Wages & Salaries \$2,629

21844010 519040 Accrued Payroll Expense 51

Resolved: That the Board of Finance recommends to the RTM a transfer out of \$2,680 to the Human Services Fund to fund salary changes pursuant to the collective bargaining agreement for the Town of Branford Employees Union. This transfer will increase the Fiscal Year 2021 budget in the Human Services Fund from \$1,656,253 to \$1,658,933.

14. To consider, and if appropriate, approve various budget transfer requests for FY21:

- a. Rep. Alfone reported the portions of this item related to Admin. Services were heard at the last meeting and the transfer was approved unanimously in committee (6-0). He put those portions forward in the form of a motion.
- b. Rep. Brockett asked about the legal fees and the last quarterly report. He asked if an explanation was provided for why the legal fees were higher in the 4th quarter. Rep. Alfone summarized the items that were discussed in committee and said he will find the last quarter report and forward it. After a lengthy discussion by citizens, RTM members, and the first selectman, the transfers related to the Administrative Services portion of this item were unanimously approved.
- c. Rep. Black stated that this item was not heard in his committee. He briefly summarized the items related to Rules and Ordinances and Ways and Means and motioned to waive rule 4.4I, 2nd by Rep. Ingraham. Rule 4.4I was unanimously waived. Rep. Black made a motion to approve the items (under item 14), 2nd by Rep. Brockett. The transfers were unanimously passed.
- d. Rep. Conklin recused himself from discussions regarding election items.

Tax Appeals and Other Legal

From:

10149040-588802 Contingency (\$69,000)

To:

10141090-533550 Legal 50,000

10141090-529420	Expenses and Claims	<u>19,000</u>
	Total	

Municipal Insurance

<u>From:</u>		
10149030-555200	Property Insurance	(\$35,000)
<u>To:</u>		
10149030-588140	Insurance Damage	\$35,000

Police Special Detail

<u>Increase:</u>		
10142010-420450	Special Wages Police	\$160,000
<u>Increase:</u>		
10142020-518500	Police Special Detail	\$160,000

Resolved: That the Board of Finance recommends to the RTM an increase in appropriations for the Fiscal Year 2021 General Fund Budget from \$119,517,730 to \$119,677,730. This increase will be funded through increased estimated revenue resulting from special detail receipts.

Emergency Management

<u>From:</u>		
10149040-588802	Contingency	(\$13,000)
<u>To:</u>		
10142030-519050	Stipends	13,000

Tax Refunds (Tax Office)

<u>From:</u>		
10149040-588802	Contingency	(\$10,000)
<u>To:</u>		
10141070-588620	Tax Refunds	10,000

Elections

<u>From:</u>		
10141120-518000	Overtime	(\$2,000)
10141120-518250	Seasonal and Part Time	(11,760)

10141120-533300	Professional Development	(1,960)
10141120-533900	Other Purchased Services	(4,500)
10141120-533590	Moving and Storage	(1,280)
10149040-588802	Contingency	<u>(52,497)</u>
	Total	(\$73,997)
<u>To:</u>		
10141120-517100	Part Time Clerical	\$7,644
10141120-517630	Election Workers	52,146
10141120-544410	Building Rental	500
10141120-544420	Equipment Rental	3,000
10141120-555320	Postage	1,140
10141120-555400	Advertising	1,045
10141120-566920	Meal Supplies	2,201
10141120-579300	Furniture and Fixtures	5,680
10141120-544300	Purchased Services and Repair	<u>641</u>
	Total	\$73,997

Transfers for Miscellaneous Items

<u>From:</u>		
10141110-566100	Office Supplies (Probate)	(\$600)
10141020-588270	CCM (Executive)	(1,150)
10142050-533280	Consulting (Building Inspection)	(800)
10145100-566900	Other Supplies (Conservation)	(260)
10141070-533320	Postage (Tax)	<u>(1,120)</u>
		(\$3,930)
<u>To:</u>		
10141110-533580	Microfilming (Probate)	600
10141020-517850	Board Clerks (Executive)	900
10141020-588220	CT Council of Small Towns (Executive)	250
10142050-555305	Online Services (Building Inspection)	800
10145100-517580	Board Clerks (Conservation)	260
10141070-533285	Tax Bill Processing (Tax)	<u>1,120</u>
		\$3,930

15. To consider, and if appropriate, approve a request from the Town Clerk for the following budget transfer for FY21:

Rep. Alfone reported that this is an interdepartmental transfer, this passed in committee 6-0 and put it forward for approval. It passed unanimously

<u>From:</u>		
10141080-533570	Computer Indexing	(\$3,477)
<u>To:</u>		
10141080-518100	Expanded Hours	748
10141080-519030	Accumulated Sick Pay	1,916
10141080-566100	Office Supplies	<u>813</u>
	Total	\$3,477

16. Any other business to come before the RTM:

- a. Rep. Prete reminded everyone that the 9/11 memorial service will be held at 8:30 Saturday morning on the Town Green. He encouraged everyone to attend.
- b. Mr. Cooke was given 5 minutes to speak, which he felt was unfair. Mr. Cooke criticized the moderator for not abiding by the constitution. He continued to criticize the 1st Selectman, the RTM, and the press for not holding the administration accountable. Mr. Cooke proceeded to list the items he believes the RTM did not deal with over this past year.
- c. Mr. Petrowski followed with brief comments
- d. Gregg Jerolman spoke regarding an email he sent in August to the moderator. He said he sent another email that was not read tonight (it was sent today). Mr. Jerolman disagreed with the moderator's interpretation of what is appropriate to discuss at an RTM meeting. He feels that more discussion should be allowed at RTM meetings. Rep. Brockett responded by explaining that RTM meetings are not the proper forum for the type of discussion mentioned by Mr. Jerolman. Rep. Brockett suggested a different forum, a bipartisan type of meeting where general discussion can occur.
- e. Rep. Riccio spoke on behalf of the RTM. Rep. Riccio defended the work of the RTM, taking exception to the criticism of the RTM made by Mr. Cooke.
- f. Mr. Cooke responded to Rep. Riccio's comments. Mr. Cooke proceeded to read a letter he did not have permission to read earlier.

17. Adjournment: 9:32

- a. Motion to adjourn by Rep Ingraham, 2nd by Rep. Jackson

Dated this 16th day of September, 2021
Donna Laich
RTM Clerk

From: **Jerry Shaw** <slowtoaccept@yahoo.com>
Date: Fri, Sep 3, 2021 at 1:57 PM
Subject: To the Branford RTM: Problems with Branford's CT-ALERT system
To: dflanagan1215@gmail.com <dflanagan1215@gmail.com>
Cc: everson5rtm@gmail.com <everson5rtm@gmail.com>, donaldconklin@sbcglobal.net <donaldconklin@sbcglobal.net>

To the Branford RTM

Recent events have emphasized the need for efficient and reliable early warning systems, particularly along the shore. Many, if not all, shoreline towns use the CT-ALERT system implemented by Everbridge and managed by the Connecticut Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security. If you've enrolled in this emergency alert system, you may have encountered some annoying issues.

Some event alarms, such as the recent Ida Tropical Storm rains, were not broadcast in a timely fashion, well after the notification by the National Weather Service and the Branford Patch. Some Branford neighborhoods were isolated by flash flooding. Early Thursday morning, a driver was rescued from the Stony Creek Amtrak underpass .

Land-line and text notifications are misidentified or not properly identified at all. No one knows who is associated with 860-920-3337, the CT-Alert phone number. Our system identifies it as "potential spam". Other times, caller ID identifies it as " CT DEMHS EOC". Text/SMS numbers are varied and not associated with a sender or subject. And to make matters worse, cell signal strength is variable and sometimes inadequate in some regions for those who have no land lines.

It may be appropriate to consider a broader incorporation of citizen representatives into the emergency planning process and the determination and execution of alerts.

Connecticut has promoted such a mechanism through Local Emergency Planning Committees, which Branford has apparently abandoned. See <https://portal.ct.gov/SERC/LEPC/Local-Emergency-Planning-Committees>

There are over 90 cloud-based alert companies that compete with Everbridge.

It is time for a local and state-level review of our alert system architecture and implementation.

Respectively submitted,

Jerry Shaw
188 Thimble Islands Road
Stony Creek, CT 06405

SEP 03 2021 1:57 PM

ITEM # 2a.

Lisa Arpin

From: Dennis Flanigan <dflanigan1215@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, September 17, 2021 11:02 AM
To: Donna Laich; Lisa Arpin
Subject: Fwd: FW: Upcoming Elections: Information and Forum Suggestions

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Gregg Jerolman** <gjerolman@outlook.com>
Date: Wed, Sep 8, 2021 at 2:45 PM
Subject: RE: FW: Upcoming Elections: Information and Forum Suggestions
To: Dennis Flanigan <dflanigan1215@gmail.com>
Cc: Ray Ingraham <ingradad@gmail.com>, thomas brockett <thomasbrockett0147@att.net>

RECEIVED
2021 SEP 17 P 1:40
Lisa Arpin
BRANFORD TOWN CLERK

Mr. Moderator,

The central point to my 8/5 email is, in reference to getting important information to the taxpayers, to explore ways, "to bring this information to the public in a somewhat different, well-planned and more objective manner- and optimally one that is supported by both political parties. Hence this email which I hope will lead to further productive thoughts and discussion." This quote is from the last paragraph of my previous email.

As the RTM is the entity that discusses and evaluates matters that come before it, and is comprised of some of the leaders of each political party, wouldn't that seem to be the entity to bring necessary discussion and evaluation to this suggestion? And, if not, what is that entity? Thank you.

Respectfully,

Gregg

Gregg Jerolman

President

G.M. Jerolman and Associates, LLC.

15 Hosley Avenue, Suite 3,

Branford, CT 06405

Tel: 203-483-4342

gregg@retailithunter.com

www.linkedin.com/in/greggjerolman/

From: Dennis Flanigan <dflanigan1215@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, September 8, 2021 1:42 PM

To: Gregg Jerolman <gjerolman@outlook.com>

Cc: Ray Ingraham <ingradad@gmail.com>; thomas brockett <thomasbrockett0147@att.net>

Subject: Re: FW: Upcoming Elections: Information and Forum Suggestions

Mr Jerolmam as I indicated this is not RTM business therefore will not be discussed

On Wed, Sep 8, 2021, 12:32 PM Gregg Jerolman <gjerolman@outlook.com> wrote:

Mr. Moderator,

I've just looked at the agenda for this evenings RTM meeting. It's an important topic for the upcoming election, and thus would like to briefly discuss this matter under #3 "Reception of communications".

See you tonight, and thank you.

Respectfully,

Gregg

Gregg Jerolman

President

G.M. Jerolman and Associates, LLC.

15 Hosley Avenue, Suite 3,

Branford, CT 06405

Tel: 203-483-4342

gregg@retailithunter.com

www.linkedin.com/in/greggjerolman/

From: Dennis Flanigan <dflanigan1215@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 7, 2021 2:14 PM
To: Gregg Jerolman <gjerolman@outlook.com>
Subject: Re: FW: Upcoming Elections: Information and Forum Suggestions

Mr. Jerolman, here is my reply to your e-mail, The RTM does not handle candidates profile, it comes from Election committees from each party, the Sound has in the past done article on this, on the BOE in the past League of Women Voters has scheduled a debate on this, the Sound has also done article on this, again this nothing that comes from the RTM

On Thu, Sep 2, 2021 at 3:26 PM Gregg Jerolman <gjerolman@outlook.com> wrote:

Dennis,

Thanks for your time on the phone a few moments ago.

Forwarded, please find my 8/5 email on “Upcoming Elections: Information and Forum Suggestions”. With so many candidates running for different spots in the upcoming election, a more unified approach to getting candidate messages out to the public will make it easier for taxpayers to make informed voting decisions. As such, this is an RTM matter, and one that can provide great benefit to our town. Thank you.

Respectfully,

Gregg

Gregg Jerolman

President

G.M. Jerolman and Associates, LLC.

15 Hosley Avenue, Suite 3,

Branford, CT 06405

Tel: 203-483-4342

gregg@retailithunter.com

www.linkedin.com/in/greggjerolman/

From: Gregg Jerolman

Sent: Thursday, August 5, 2021 5:15 PM

To: Jamie Cosgrove <jcosgrove@branford-ct.gov>; rdunbar@branford-ct.gov; ahiggins@branford-ct.gov; dflanagan1215@gmail.com; Ray Ingraham <ingradad@gmail.com>; thomas brockett <thomasbrockett0147@att.net>; baniskovich@gmail.com; Lisa Arpin <larpin@branford-ct.gov>

Cc: Michele Sember <rtmsembler@gmail.com>; LindsayGreenbergRTM1@gmail.com; cat13@att.net; Frank Twohill <franktwohill@hotmail.com>; GdavidwellsRTM@mail.com; Tricia Anderson <tricia60rtm@gmail.com>; ddhakun@gmail.com; peterh@tectonpc.com; chynes220@gmail.com; black@aya.yale.edu; erlanger.rtm3@gmail.com; peterjacksonaia@mac.com; adelaw@aol.com; Shahida Soomro <shahida.soomro@gmail.com>; ramrtm4@gmail.com; raitro@snet.net; Vverderame@albertus.edu; james.b.stepanek@gmail.com; donaldconklin@sbcglobal.net; Everson5rtm@gmail.com; cas4america@gmail.com; alfonertm@yahoo.com; Eddie Prete <preteedward@sbcglobal.net>; Marc Riccio <mriccio@specializeddata.com>; sulldaddy@yahoo.com; drkevinhealy@gmail.com; dlaichrtm@gmail.com; steve@smconsultinggroup.com

Subject: Upcoming Elections: Information and Forum Suggestions

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I hope this note finds each of you well and enjoying the wonderful warm weather. As summer starts turning to early Fall, election season will soon be heating up. And for the many taxpayers that undoubtedly wish to make informed voting decisions, knowing and understanding each candidate's position on current key issues in our town is of critical importance. Almost as important as knowing these facts before voting is *how* a taxpayer gets the information needed to compare and contrast candidates in a meaningful way.

Historically, it seems that one party tends to send out its candidate and campaign information through one media source, and the other party through another media entity. This past approach doesn't seem to be the most unified, and thus may not be the best process for the voting public going forward. Perhaps it's worth considering one resource for live Democrat and Republican candidate interviews that is endorsed by both political parties? And with a moderator that is endorsed by both parties? From what I recall of previous elections, the ideal interviewer in this type of scenario is typically a media entity/person, well-informed, has a background as a journalist or retired politician, is neutral and unbiased, a supporter of free speech, legitimately open to alternate points of view, not a basher of alternate media sources and not a lightning rod for drama and controversy.

I've recently heard talk and seen social media postings about BranfordSeven possibly hosting some candidate forums. Given that the leader of BranfordSeven (copied on this email) doesn't necessarily exceed expectations in one or more of the previously mentioned criteria, it wouldn't seem to be in the best interests of our town to have this gentleman as some sort of master of ceremonies doing candidate interviews- should that be the forum that is agreed upon by current elected officials. As such, I respectfully ask that discussion take place among leaders of both political parties so as to agree on the best forum for information to flow to voters, and a moderator for same. And that the moderator be someone other than the leader of BranfordSeven.

I believe it's important to bring this information to the public in a somewhat different, well-planned and more objective manner- and optimally one that is supported by both political parties. Hence this email which I hope will lead to further productive thoughts and discussion. If desired, I also have a couple of suggestions about who could be an effective moderator as well as a more objective and effective media platform- if and when you decide that a more unified approach is the best path to take. Happy to share those suggestions if you wish, but I believe agreeing on the best process is the first and most important current order of business.

Thank you in advance for considering my suggestions, and please don't hesitate to reach out should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Gregg

Gregg Jerolman

President

G.M. Jerolman and Associates, LLC.

15 Hosley Avenue, Suite 3,

Branford, CT 06405

Tel: 203-483-4342

gregg@retailithunter.com

www.linkedin.com/in/greggjerolman/

ITEM # 2b.

Lisa Arpin

From: Dennis Flanigan <dflanigan1215@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, September 17, 2021 11:06 AM
To: Donna Laich; Lisa Arpin
Subject: Fwd: To the Branford RTM: Problems with Branford's CT-ALERT system

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Tom Mahoney <tmahoney@branfordfire.com>
Date: Wed, Sep 8, 2021 at 11:19 AM
Subject: RE: To the Branford RTM: Problems with Branford's CT-ALERT system
To: Dennis Flanigan <dflanigan1215@gmail.com>

Is this what you are looking for?

From: Tom Mahoney
Sent: Tuesday, September 7, 2021 4:29 PM
To: 'Dennis Flanigan' <dflanigan1215@gmail.com>
Cc: Tracy Everson <everson5rtm@gmail.com>; Donald Conklin <donaaldconklin@sbcglobal.net>; Stony Creek Association Board <sca06405@gmail.com>; Jamie Cosgrove <jcosgrove@branford-ct.gov>; 'Jerry Shaw' <slowtoaccept@yahoo.com>
Subject: RE: To the Branford RTM: Problems with Branford's CT-ALERT system

RECEIVED
2021 SEP 17 P 1:41
Lisa Arpin
BRANFORD TOWN CLERK

Dear Mr. Moderator,

Thank you for forwarding.

I will follow up again with Everbridge regarding Mr. Shaw's latest concerns however, multiple warnings were sent out on many different platforms.

These included, Social Media, Branford Community Messages and CT-Alert (Everbridge)

Our messages started the day before the storm and continued throughout. Branford was one of only four towns to use the CT-Alert system during this storm. All of these systems rely upon people to sign up and maintain their contact information.

Unless you were living under a rock you knew about this storm and it's potential for flash flooding. As Mr. Shaw stated, the NWS used the IPAWS system to send out immediate and urgent warnings. IPAWS is the only system able to take

over a person's device to send such warnings. IPAWS is not available to us as a local municipality without a per message approval from the Governor.

The CT-Alert message was broadcast immediately after we sent it, We sent the message via CT-Alert at 20:13 warning that roads could be blocked. We purposely use CT-Alert sparingly as it is a documented fact that people will simply opt out or ignore these messages if they receive too many. We waited to send it out to add urgency to the many messages and weather reports people were already receiving.

Transcript here:

"Branford Ida Message

• This is an urgent advisory from the Town of Branford Emergency Operations Center. • Remnants of Hurricane Ida will bring heavy rain to Branford, tonight into tomorrow. The heaviest rainfall is expected between 9:00 PM and 3:00 AM with rainfall rates of 1" – 2" at times. Brief periods of extremely heavy rain with rates up to 4 inches per hour is possible in our area. • Flooding is likely in flood prone areas, basement flooding is also likely. • Flooding from this storm has the potential to block roads under the railroad overpasses located on Thimble Island Road, Totoket Rd, Montowese Street and Indian Neck Ave at Meadow Street. • Do not walk, swim or drive through flood waters. Never drive around barricades. • Public Safety will be closely monitoring known flood prone areas overnight. • Call 911 if you have a true emergency. Non-emergency public safety phone numbers may be found at www.branford-ct.gov under the heading of Public Safety. • Additional information will follow as necessary."

As Mr. Shaw reported a vehicle stalled after driving into water pooled under the Thimble Island Road Railroad Bridge.

This incident occurred at 01:10 in the morning, four hours after warnings were sent out and at the height of the storm.

Even when signage and road blocks are deployed people still ignore them.

Many of the problems experienced by Everbridge users are common to all of the 90 cloud based providers Mr. Shaw found during his Google search.

If several people flag a number as Spam this tells the major carriers it's "validated" and it gets marked as such. Everbridge is working on that problem with the State but it is not a simple solution.

It is recommended that the individual add the number into their contacts so it is always recognized.

I've welcomed Mr. Shaw's input from the beginning of my involvement and will continue to do so.

I also recently met with members of the Stony Creek Board and Jamie in his office, I am interested in any additional concerns they have along with any potential solutions.

If there is a better system, I'm all ears. In the mean time we will continue to improve what we have.

Respectfully,

Thomas F. Mahoney, Jr.

Fire Chief/ Emergency Management Director

Branford Fire Department

45 North Main Street

Branford, CT 06405

(203) 488-7266 Business

(203) 315-3349 FAX



From: Dennis Flanigan <dflanigan1215@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 7, 2021 2:28 PM
To: Tom Mahoney <tmahoney@branfordfire.com>
Subject: Fwd: To the Branford RTM: Problems with Branford's CT-ALERT system

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Dennis Flanigan** <dflanigan1215@gmail.com>
Date: Tue, Sep 7, 2021 at 2:20 PM
Subject: Fwd: To the Branford RTM: Problems with Branford's CT-ALERT system
To: Jamie Cosgrove <jcosgrove@branford-ct.gov>

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Jerry Shaw** <slowtoaccept@yahoo.com>

Date: Fri, Sep 3, 2021 at 1:57 PM

Subject: To the Branford RTM: Problems with Branford's CT-ALERT system

To: dflanigan1215@gmail.com <dflanigan1215@gmail.com>

Cc: everson5rtm@gmail.com <everson5rtm@gmail.com>, donaldconklin@sbcglobal.net <donaldconklin@sbcglobal.net>

To the Branford RTM

Recent events have emphasized the need for efficient and reliable early warning systems, particularly along the shore. Many, if not all, shoreline towns use the CT-ALERT system implemented by Everbridge and managed by the Connecticut Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security. If you've enrolled in this emergency alert system, you may have encountered some annoying issues.

Some event alarms, such as the recent Ida Tropical Storm rains, were not broadcast in a timely fashion, well after the notification by the National Weather Service and the Branford Patch. Some Branford neighborhoods were isolated by flash flooding. Early Thursday morning, a driver was rescued from the Stony Creek Amtrak underpass .

Land-line and text notifications are misidentified or not properly identified at all. No one knows who is associated with 860-920-3337, the CT-Alert phone number. Our system identifies it as "potential spam". Other times, caller ID identifies it as " CT DEMHS EOC". Text/SMS numbers are varied and not associated with a sender or subject. And to make matters worse, cell signal strength is variable and sometimes inadequate in some regions for those who have no land lines.

It may be appropriate to consider a broader incorporation of citizen representatives into the emergency planning process and the determination and execution of alerts.

Connecticut has promoted such a mechanism through Local Emergency Planning Committees, which Branford has apparently abandoned. See <https://portal.ct.gov/SERC/LEPC/Local-Emergency-Planning-Committees>

There are over 90 cloud-based alert companies that compete with Everbridge.

It is time for a local and state-level review of our alert system architecture and implementation.

Respectively submitted,

Jerry Shaw

188 Thimble Islands Road

Stony Creek, CT 06405

Lisa Arpin

From: Peter Black <black@aya.yale.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, September 7, 2021 10:27 AM
To: Wayne Cooke
Cc: Dennis Flanigan; Donna Laich; Raymond Ingraham; Tom Brockett; Lisa Arpin
Subject: Re: Personal Attacks

The RTM has adopted Robert's Rules of Order. From Section 42:

"In debate a member must confine himself to the question before the assembly, and avoid personalities. ... It is not allowable to arraign the motives of a member, but the nature or consequences of a measure may be condemned in strong terms. It is not the man, but the measure, that is the subject of debate."

Peter L Black

On Mon, Sep 6, 2021 at 12:34 PM Wayne Cooke <wncooke@yahoo.com> wrote:

September 5, 2021

Branford RTM
1019 Main Street
Branford, CT 06405

Dear Branford RTM:

In regard to your policy of removing a citizen for--in your words--"personally attacking" someone during public comment, would you please explain to the citizens of Branford exactly what a "personal attack" is and why it is grounds for denying an individual his/her constitutionally-guaranteed right to speak freely?

In regard to myself, I have been electronically removed from a number of meetings by your body's unauthorized censor-- Majority Leader "Signature Ray" Ingraham (official photo below)--simply for presenting clear and accurate evidence of corrupt behavior and repeated lying by the first selectman.

Not only does this represent a gross conflict of interest and flagrant abuse of power in providing Ingraham this type of discretion and authority, it further evidences the measures the first selectman and his loyalists with go to silence citizens and conceal this administration's corruption.

Again, it is asked that the moderator provide a clear explanation of what a "personal attack" includes and why it should require Branford citizens being denied their constitutional right to free speech.

Sincerely,

Wayne Cooke

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Wayne Cooke** <wncooke@yahoo.com>

Date: Mon, Sep 6, 2021 at 3:55 PM

Subject: Why Branford Is Corrupt and the RTM Just Sits There

To: Dennis Flanigan <dflanigan1215@gmail.com>, Donna Laich <dlaich39@gmail.com>, Ray Ingraham <ingradad@gmail.com>, Thomas Brockett <thomasbrockett0147@att.net>, Lisa Arpin <larpin@branford-ct.gov>, Trista Milici <tmilici@branford-ct.gov>

September 5, 2021

Branford RTM
1019 Main Street
Branford, CT 06405

Dear Branford RTM:

In regard to the concern that Branford government is growing increasing dishonest and corrupt, it is asked that the following five contributing factors be read aloud at your next RTM meeting in order to bring much-needed awareness to the situation and possible ways it may be remedied.

Although the RTM is expected to not only remain disinterested and apathetic to the current state of affairs, but continue to contribute to it, should any member--by some small chance--have a concern or thought regarding Branford's dishonesty and corruption it would be appreciated.

Why Branford Is Corrupt and the RTM Just Sits There:

Dishonest and Unaccountable First Selectman.

Lazy and Apathetic RTM & Board of Finance..

Weak and Complacent Opposition Party.

Disinterested and Preoccupied Public.

Lack of Involved and Investigatory Press.

Sincerely,

Wayne Cooke