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SEP 25 REC'D

BRANFORD TOWN CLERK



Representative Town Meeting
Meeting Minutes ~ 9-9-2020

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

The RTM held a **Zoom** meeting on Wednesday, September 9, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. to consider and act upon the following matters:

Review of remote meeting requirements & Roll Call

I. Roll Call:

Members present: Rep. Adelman, Rep. Alfone, Rep. Anderson, Rep. Austin, Rep. Black, Rep. Brockett, Rep. Conklin, Rep. Everson, Rep. Erlanger, Moderator Flanigan, Rep. Greenberg, Rep. Hakun, Rep. Healy, Rep. Hentschel, Rep. Hynes, Rep. Ingraham (left 9:00), Rep. Jackson, Rep. Laich, Rep. Prete, Rep. Riccio, Rep. Sember, Rep. Sires, Rep. Soomro, Rep. Stepank (joined 9:13), Rep. Sullivan, Rep. Torelli, Rep. Twohill, Rep. Wells

Members absent: Rep. Kelly

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

Moderator Flanigan reported the following committee changes:

- Rep. Twohill to Administrative Services Committee
- Rep. Greenberg to the Education Committee
- Rep. Prete will be the chair of the Education Committee
- Rep. Brockett will fill the vacancy on Public Services.

2. Approval of minutes of previous meetings:

- a. Motion to approve - Rep. Ingraham, 2nd by Rep. Riccio. The motion was unanimously approved.

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

- a. Moderator Flanigan read the report from Chairman of the Board of Finance from the chairman J. Mooney. The report relates to the adopted resolution for funds in the amount of \$2,895,000 to be used for the renovation and expansion of the Cosgrove Animal Shelter.

- b. Moderator Flanigan read a letter from citizen Cooke re: the Housing Authority and Parkside Village. The letter requests a full, independent, forensic audit (see attached). This item was referred to committee.
- c. Moderator Flanigan read a letter from citizen Cooke regarding the improper use of zoom meetings to censor citizen comments. Moderator Flanigan will take this under consideration and report back.
- d. Moderator Flanigan read a letter from citizen Cooke asking the RTM to monitor how the Clean Energy Committee introduces the first draft of their energy plan to the community (see attached).

4. To consider, and if appropriate, create a Blight Ordinance for the Town of Branford.

- a. Rep. Black made a motion to re-refer both this item and item 5, 2nd by Rep. Sullivan. The item was unanimously re-referred.

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

- a. Item re-referred (see above)

6. To consider, and if appropriate, approve a request from the Director of Finance for the following FY2021 Budget Transfer:

- a. Rep. Black made a motion to waive the reading of the bond resolution, 2nd by Rep. Ingraham. The motion was approved with no objections.
- b. Rep. Black gave a brief description of this item and asked to merge this item with item 8 since they are related. He reported that they passed Ways and Means 5-0 and made a motion to approve.
- c. After a brief discussion, items #6 and #8 were unanimously approved in a roll call vote (see attached)

<u>From:</u>		
10147020-588960	Bond Payments Interest	\$282,423
<u>To:</u>		
10147020-588960	Interest Payments General Purpose	45,248
10147020-588960	Interest Payments Schools	56,385
10147020-589540	Interest Payments Sewers	<u>180,790</u>
		282,423
<u>From:</u>		
10147020-589120	Principal Payments CWF	\$1,500,000
<u>To:</u>		
1015000-599121	Transfer Out Fund 720 – JBML Library	1,500,000

<u>Increase:</u>		
72090000-490010-19501	Operating Transfer In	1,500,000

<u>Decrease:</u>		
72090000-490040-19501	Bond Proceeds	1,500,000

7. Letters and petitions:

- a. The moderator read all of the items under “Letters & Petitions” into the record.

R&O

- Letter – Approval of 150K in legal fees not heard completely
- Letter – Request to review Code of Ethics
- Letter – Examination of POCD process
- Letter – Examination of State Statute 830G and its uses in Branford
- Petition -- An examination of the possible improprieties occurring during Costco’s Inland Wetlands application and independent peer review, along with an examination of the investigation into the matter promised by the First Selectman.
- Petition -- An examination of past and present living conditions at Parkside Village housing complex and its oversight by the Branford Housing Authority.

Public Services

- Letter – Examination of removal of signs on roadways.

Ways and Means

- Letter – Examination of the Town’s undesignated fund
- Letter -- Request to create a new RTM committee to review “Special Funds” – assigned by Leadership Caucus

Administrative Services

- Petition -- To consider the possibility of public health hazards emanating from the demolition debris piles at the former Atlantic Wire site.
- Petition -- An examination of the role of the Town of Branford in the removal of an earthen berm by the Branford Land Trust at Jarvis creek and the potential safety hazards from the resulting flooding of Route 146.
- Petition -- An examination of the 77-acre Tabor Property, its current use and the development of a master plan.

- Rep. Ingraham made a motion to re-refer these letters and petitions to the October RTM meeting, 2nd by Rep. Adleman. The motion passed unanimously.

Note: Resident Cooke asked that the letters be represented accurately in the future. (see original letters attached)

8. To receive communications with respect to and consider and act upon a resolution entitled “RESOLUTION REPEALING THE BLACKSTONE MEMORIAL LIBRARY AUTHORIZED AND UNISSUED BOND

AUTHORIZATION, HAVING BEEN REPLACED WITH OTHER NON-DEBT AVAILABLE FUNDING".

- a. This item was combined with item 6 in an earlier roll call vote and approved unanimously (see attached roll call roster).

9. To consider, and if appropriate, approve a request from the Human Services Director for the following budget transfer:

- a. Rep. Alfone explained the item, which passed the Administrative Services Committee unanimously. He put the item forward for approval in the form of a motion.
- b. The item was unanimously approved with no objections and no abstentions.

From:	21844010-533900	Other Purchased Services	(\$44,160)
To:	21844010-518250	Seasonal/Part-time	44,160

10. To consider, and if appropriate, approve a request from the Fire Chief for the following closeout budget transfers for FY2020:

- a. Rep. Conklin explained that this item is a housekeeping item, moving funds from one line item to another within the already approved budget from the 2019-2020 year. This item passed unanimously at the last Public Services Committee meeting. Rep. Conklin put the item forward in the form of a motion to the RTM for approval.
- b. After a brief discussion, the item was unanimously approved.

From:	10142040-517000	Regular Wages & Salaries	(\$44,000)
	10142040-518200	Sick	(32,932)
To:	10142040-518000	Overtime	\$76,932

From:	10142040-533530	Employment & Testing	(\$9,804)
To:	10142040-519025	Educational Incentive	9,804

From:	10142040-518150	Holiday	(\$17,268)
To:	10142040-519030	Accumulated Sick Pay	17,268

From:	10142040-519050	Stipends	(\$7,598)
To:	10142040-566600	Medical Supplies	7,598

From:	10142040-519000	Volunteer Stipend	(\$1,998)
To:	10142040-579300	Furniture and Fixtures	1,998

From:	10142040-518200	Replace Sick	(\$27,823)
To:	10142040-544170	Hydrants and Mains	27,823

From:	10142040-518010	Public Events	(\$14,155)
To:	2039000-490010-18508	Port Security Grant Cost Share	14,155

11. To consider, and if appropriate, approve a request from the Director of Parks & Recreation Department for the following budget transfers for FY2020:

- a. Rep. Black briefly described this item, reporting that it passed Ways & Means 5-0.
- b. He put the item forward in the form of a motion and the item was unanimously approved.

From:	10145010-544100	Utilities-Water, Gas, Electric	(\$7,000)
To:	10145010-526100	Uniform/Clothing Allowance	600
	10145010-544320	Grounds R & M	6,000
	10145010-579250	Equipment	400

12. To consider, and if appropriate, approve a request from the Tax Collector for the following budget transfer for FY2020:

- a. Rep. Alfone reported on this item, which passed the Administrative Services Committee unanimously (7-0) and put it forward in the form of a motion for approval.
- b. The item was unanimously approved.

From:	10141070-517000	Regular Wages & Salaries	(\$1,693)
To:	10141070-533300	Professional Development	743
	10141070-555305	Online Services	950

13. To continue discussions on the Dan Cosgrove Animal Shelter facility expansion appropriation, and consider, and if appropriate, approve the following transfer requests and resolution:

- a. Rep. Black reported on this item giving a brief description. This item passed both Ways and Means and Public Services unanimously in committee meetings. Rep. Black put the item forward for approval in the form of a motion.
- b. After a brief discussion, the item was unanimously approved.

Animal Control Fund

Increase:	20690000-480296	Fund Balance	\$100,000
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Increase:	20642060-599124	Transfer Out Municipal Facilities Fund	100,000
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Municipal Facilities Fund

Increase:	72090000-480296-xxxx	Transfer In	\$100,000
Increase:	72042060-533950-xxxx	Animal Shelter Renovation & Expansion	100,000

RESOLVED: That the Board of Finance recommends to the RTM a transfer out of \$100,000 to the Municipal Facilities Fund to fund a portion of the animal shelter renovation. This transfer out will be funded from the Animal Control Fund's undesignated fund balance and increase the fiscal year 2021 Animal Control Fund budget from \$367,026 to \$467,026.

14. To receive communications with respect to and consider and act upon a resolution entitled "RESOLUTION APPROPRIATING \$2,895,000 FOR THE RENOVATION AND EXPANSION OF THE BRANFORD ANIMAL SHELTER AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUE OF \$2,895,000 BONDS OF THE TOWN TO MEET SAID APPROPRIATION AND PENDING THE ISSUANCE THEREOF THE MAKING OF TEMPORARY BORROWINGS FOR SUCH PURPOSE". The full text of the Resolution is on file, open to public inspection in the office of the Town Clerk and posted on the Town website.

- a. Rep. Black made a motion to waive the reading of the Bond resolution, 2nd by Rep. Conklin. With no objections or abstentions, the motion passed unanimously.
- b. Rep. Black reported that this item was heard in a joint meeting of Ways and Means and Public Services. The item passed the Ways and Means committee meeting 3-2 and the Public Services Committee meeting 4-1. He put the item forward for approval in the form of a motion and stated that there would not be a minority report at this time.
- c. A lengthy discussion ensued (can be viewed on zoom recording @ https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/T28fHexseC_I7fayjfK-|I29eUuiTpW40YChopEpiPzZvG42E4lz_AAq4l4arfl8.t0rXv2vPeYC19WX0)
- d. Ist selectman Cosgrove spoke at length on this item.
- e. Further discussion ensued, including several questions and comments from RTM members, Branford citizens, Laura Burban (director of animal shelter), and Greg Ames from Branford's Clean Energy Committee. Many questions were raised.
- f. The Clean Energy Committee will be involved in discussions related to making this project as "green" as possible.
- g. Citizen Cooke raised several issues, including questions regarding 73-3 of the Town Charter (land transfers). Ist selectman Cosgrove responded stating that he believes 73-3 does not pertain to this situation.
- h. Many attendees complimented the workers that run and volunteer at the animal shelter in less than optimal circumstances.

- i. After the lengthy discussion period, this item passed unanimously with a roll call vote (see attached).

15. To consider, and if appropriate, approve a request from the Assistant Finance Director for the following FY2020 budget transfer for Information Technology:

- a. Rep. Alfone reported that this item includes intra departmental transfers and that it was approved 7-0 at the last Administrative Services Committee meeting.
- b. The item passed unanimously.

<u>From:</u>		
10141190 517000	Wages & Salaries	(\$721)
10141190 533300	Professional Development	(428)
10141190 544375	Hardware	(834)
10141190 555300	Communications	(443)
10141190 566900	Other Supplies	(1,196)
10141190 579200	Software	(8,070)
10141190 588090	Travel	(2,500)
10141190 588200	Memberships & Conferences	(231)
<u>To:</u>		
10141190 544300	Purchased Services	\$14,423

16. To consider, and if appropriate, approve various requests from the Finance Director for budget transfers.

- a. Rep. Black spoke briefly on item A (FEMA Fund) below, reporting that it passed the Ways & Means Committee meeting 5-0. He put the item forward for approval in the form of a motion to the full RTM.
- b. After a brief discussion, the item was unanimously approved.
- c. Rep. Black reported that Ways & Means looked at items B, C, D, E, and F and rolled them into one motion. Ways and Means agreed and unanimously passed this item in committee.
- d. Rep. Black put item 16 B, C, D, E, and F forward in the form of a motion for approval, 2nd by Rep. Everson.
- e. Item 16 B, C, D, E, and F passed unanimously.

A. FEMA Fund – FY2020

<u>From:</u>		
Contingency	10149040-588802	150,000

<u>To:</u>		
Operating Transfer Out FEMA	10150000-599122	150,000

General Fund

B. FY 2020 Dispatchers

<u>From:</u>		
10149040-588802	Contingency	83,586
<u>To:</u>		
10142010-517000	Wages & Salaries	38,719
10142010-519070	Retroactive Wages	44,493
10142010-519040	Accrued Payroll Expense	374

C. FY 2020 Town Hall Union

<u>From:</u>		
10149040-588802	Contingency	26,350
<u>To:</u>		
10142010-517000	Wages & Salaries (Police)	2,213
10141040-517000	Wages & Salaries (Finance)	4,005
10141050-517000	Wages & Salaries (Assessor)	4,980
10141070-517000	Wages & Salaries (Tax Collector)	2,576
10141080-517000	Wages & Salaries (Town Clerk)	3,780
10141130-517000	Wages & Salaries (P & Z)	1,186
10141160-517000	Wages & Salaries (Inland Wetlands)	1,309
10143030-599105	Transfer Out Sewer Utility	1,380
10143010-517000	Wages & Salaries (DPW)	1,355
10143040-517000	Wages & Salaries (Solid Waste)	1,174
10143050-517000	Wages & Salaries (Engineering)	2,239
10142010-519040	Accrued Payroll Expense	18
10141040-519040	Accrued Payroll Expense	31
10141050-519040	Accrued Payroll Expense	38
10141080-519040	Accrued Payroll Expense	29
10143010-519040	Accrued Payroll Expense	10
10143040-519040	Accrued Payroll Expense	9
10143050-519040	Accrued Payroll Expense	18

D. FY 2020 Recreation Union

<u>From:</u>		
10149040-588802	Contingency	11,107
<u>To:</u>		
10141170-517000	Wages & Salaries (GGB)	3,226
10145010-517000	Wages & Salaries (Recreation)	7,796
10141170-519040	Accrued Payroll Expense	25
10145010-519040	Accrued Payroll Expense	60

E. Sewer Utility Fund

<u>Increase:</u>		
21090000-490010	Operating Transfer In	1,380
<u>Increase:</u>		
21043030-517000	Wages & Salaries	1,355
21043030-519040	Accrued Payroll Expense	25

RESOLVED: That the RTM approves a transfer out of \$1,380 to the Sewer Utility Fund to fund salary changes pursuant to the collective bargaining agreement for the Town Hall Union. This transfer will increase the Fiscal Year 2020 budget in the Sewer Utility Fund from \$4,535,637 to \$4,537,017.

F. Transfers for Accumulated Sick Payouts (Contractual)

<u>From:</u>		
10149040-588802	Contingency	34,992
<u>To:</u>		
10141020-519030	Accumulated Sick (Executive)	4,808
10141070-519030	Accumulated Sick (Tax Collector)	1,263
10141170-519030	Accumulated Sick (GGB)	4,783
10143010-519030	Accumulated Sick (DPW)	24,138

G. Tax Appeals and Other Legal

- a. Rep. Black reported that this item was approved 5-0 at the last Ways and Means Committee meeting. He stated that there was some discussion regarding this item prior to the approval.

- b. Rep. Black put this item forward for approval to the RTM and the item (I6-G) passed unanimously.

<u>From:</u>		
10149040-588802	Contingency	59,000
10141090-533660	Tax Appeals	40,000
	Total	99,000
<u>To:</u>		
10141090-533550	Legal	85,000
10141090-529420	Expenses and Claims	14,000
	Total	99,000

H. Municipal Insurance

- a. Rep. Black briefly described this item, stating that it passed Ways and Means Committee 5-0 at the last meeting. He made a motion for approval of this item.
 b. Item I6-H passed unanimously.

<u>From:</u>		
10149040-588802	Contingency	20,000
<u>To:</u>		
10149030-588140	Insurance Damage	15,000
10149030-555200	Property Insurance	5,000

I. Special Detail

Please find below a resolution to increase the FY 2020 Budget to cover police special detail costs. Please note that these costs are ultimately offset through higher than budgeted revenues.

Resolved: That the Board of Finance recommends to the RTM an increase in appropriations for the Fiscal Year 2020 General Fund Budget from \$115,908,944 to \$116,119,944. This increase will be funded through increased estimated revenue resulting from special detail receipts.

- a. Rep. Conklin gave a brief summary of item I6-I, reporting that this passed at the Public Services Committee meeting 5-0. Rep. Conklin put this item forward for approval in the form of a motion.
 b. Item I6-I passed unanimously.

Increase		
Account	Description	Amount
10142010-420450	Special Wages Police	211,000
Increase:		
10142020-518500	Police Special Detail	211,000

J. General Government Buildings GGB

- a. Rep. Conklin gave a brief summary of item 16-J, reporting that this passed at the Public Services Committee meeting 5-0. Rep. Conklin put this item forward for approval in the form of a motion.
- b. After a brief discussion, Item 16-I passed unanimously.

<u>From:</u>	Description	Amount
10141170-517000	Regular Wages	17,400
10141170-518000	Overtime	11,000
10141170-544300	Purchased Services R&M	3,000
10141170-544110	Fuel Oil	27,000
		58,400
<u>To:</u>		
10141170-544100	Utilities	58,400

K. Human Resources

- a. Rep. Alfone briefly described this item stating that it passed 5-0 at the Administrative Services Committee meeting and he put it forward for approval in the form of a motion.
- b. Item 16-K passed unanimously.

<u>From:</u>	Description	Amount
10141070-517000	Regular Wages	1,800
<u>To:</u>		
10141200-518000	Overtime	1,800

L. Solid Waste

- a. Rep. Conklin briefly described this item. There were a few questions from RTM members that were discussed and answered by both Rep. Conklin and Ist

Selectman Cosgrove. Rep. Conklin stated that this item passed the Public Services Committee 5-0 and he put the item forward for approval in the form of a motion.

- b. Item 16-L passed unanimously.

<u>From:</u>	Description	Amount
10143040-517000	Regular Wages	31,305
<u>To:</u>		
10143040-544353	Material Handling	31,305

M. Legislative

- a. Rep. Alfone explained this item briefly and put it forward for approval in the form of a motion.
- b. Item 16-I passed unanimously.

<u>From:</u>	Description	Amount
10141020-517590	Elected Official Salaries	275
<u>To:</u>		
10141010-517590	Elected Official Salaries	275

N. Any other business to come before the RTM.

- a. 1st Selectman Cosgrove invited everyone to attend a pre-recorded 9/11 remembrance ceremony airing @ 8:30 a.m. on BCTV on 9/11. Branford was unable to hold an in-person ceremony due to COVID-19.

O. Adjournment.

- a. Rep. Torelli made a motion to adjourn, 2nd by Rep. Sember.
- b. Meeting adjourned @ 9:24 p.m.

Dated this 25 day of September 2020

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Laich

Clerk-Branford RTM

BRANFORD RTM RECORDED VOTES

RECEIVED

SEP 25 REC'D

BRANFORD TOWN CLERK

RTM Roll Call List ~ Date: 9-9-2020					
	NAME	ATTENDANCE	Item #6	Item #8	Item #14
1	ADELMAN	present	Yes	Yes	Yes
2	ALFONE	present	Yes	Yes	Yes
3	ANDERSON	present	Yes	Yes	Yes
4	AUSTIN	present	Yes	Yes	Yes
5	BLACK	present	Yes	Yes	Yes
6	BROCKETT	present	Yes	Yes	Yes
7	CONKLIN	present	Yes	Yes	Yes
8	EVERSON	present	Yes	Yes	Yes
9	ERLANGER	present	Yes	Yes	Yes
10	FLANIGAN	present			
11	GREENBERG	present	Yes	Yes	Yes
12	HAKUN	present	Yes	Yes	Yes
13	HEALY	present	Yes	Yes	Yes
14	HENTSCHEL	present	Yes	Yes	Yes
15	HYNES	present	Yes	Yes	Yes
16	INGRAHAM	Departed 9:00	Yes	Yes	Yes
17	JACKSON	present	Yes	Yes	Yes
18	KELLY	Abs.			
19	LAICH	present	Yes	Yes	Yes
20					
21	PRETE	present	Yes	Yes	Yes
22	RICCIO	present	Yes	Yes	Yes
23	SEMBER	present	Yes	Yes	Yes
24	SIRES	present	Yes	Yes	Yes
25	SOOMRO	present	Yes	Yes	Yes
26	STEPANEK	Arrived 9:13			
27	SULLIVAN	present	Yes	Yes	Yes
28	TORELLI	present	Yes	Yes	Yes
29	TWOHILL	present	Yes	Yes	Yes
30	WELLS	present	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Total		26	26	26
	Ex Officios				
	1st Selectman Cosgrove	present			
	Selectman Dunbar	present			
	Town Clerk Arpin	present			
	Treasurer Schwanfelder				
	Attorney Aniskovich				
	Selectman Higgins	present			
	Items 2, 4 (re-referral), 5 (re-referral), 7(re-referral), 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, 16 A 16 B-F, 16 G, 16 H, 16 I, 16 J, 16 K, 16 L, 16 M all passed unanimously "by roll call vote" No objections No abstentions. Rep. Ingraham left the meeting prior to the vote for items 16 H to 16 M. Rep. Stepanak arrived in time to vote for items 16 J - 16 M.				

Wayne N. Cooke

612 East Main Street
Branford, CT 06405
203-815-5796
wncooke@yahoo.com

September 6, 2020

Branford RTM
Branford Town Hall
1019 Main Street
Branford, CT 06405

Dear Branford RTM:

At a recent selectmen's meeting, both citizens and public officials alike raised serious concerns about the one-sided Clean Energy Committee's efforts to have only its views and agenda represented in a town-wide energy plan with no public input whatsoever.

As was clear from the meeting, until such objections were raised, it was both the committee's and first selectman's intent to have the biased plan pushed through and adopted with no community involvement or discussion.

In light of this, Branford citizens and RTM members are asked to take an active role in monitoring how the Clean Energy Committee intends to introduce what is now more correctly called the first draft of its skewed energy plan to the community for public consideration and input.

Sincerely,

Wayne N. Cooke

Wayne Cooke

Wayne N. Cooke

612 East Main Street
Branford, CT 06405
203-815-5796
wncooke@yahoo.com

September 6, 2020

Branford RTM
Branford Town Hall
1019 Main Street
Branford, CT 06405

Dear Branford RTM:

Please be advised that a number of Branford boards and commissions are utilizing Zoom technology to censor citizen comments and, in some cases, remove citizens from online town meetings.

These include the Board of Selectmen, Planning and Zoning Commission, the Economic Development Commission, the Clean Energy Commission, and the Branford Housing Authority, although other town bodies may also be engaging in such practices.

In adherence to the governor's Executive Order 7B and the provisions of the First Amendment to the United States Constitution, it is asked that the Branford RTM issue a policy and town-wide order that prohibits citizens from being muted by any means at a town meeting.

Sincerely,

Wayne N. Cooke

Wayne Cooke

Cc: Connecticut Freedom of Information Commission
Branford Board of Selectmen
Branford Ethics Commission

Wayne N. Cooke

612 East Main Street

Branford, CT 06405

203-815-5796

wncooke@yahoo.com

July 24, 2020

Branford Board of Finance
Branford Town Hall
1019 Main Street
Branford, CT 06405

Dear Branford Board of Finance,

Unlike all other Branford town meetings held during the current health crisis, for some unknown reason your July 21, 2020 meeting was not available by Zoom and only through in-person attendance.

Given that this was in direct violation of current accepted safety procedures and the governor's statewide directives, at your next meeting would you please explain to the community why this was done?

In addition, because agenda items of community interest were voted on at this meeting without your board providing a safe and open forum for public participation, the legality of this meeting is also being challenged with the Connecticut Freedom of Information Commission.

Sincerely,

Wayne Cooke

Wayne Cooke

Cc: Office of the Governor
Connecticut Freedom of Information Commission
Branford RTM
Branford Board of Selectmen
East Shore District Health Department

Wayne N. Cooke

612 East Main Street

Branford, CT 06405

203-815-5796

wncooke@yahoo.com

August 18, 2020

Branford RTM
Branford Town Hall
1019 Main Street
Branford, CT 06405

Dear Branford RTM

In light of recent actions undertaken by the Branford Housing Authority; the continued concerns of citizens regarding possible fraud, corruption, and embezzlement in the management of the Parkside Village complex; and the refusal of the current administration to investigate these concerns appropriately, the RTM is asked to immediately initiate a full and independent forensic audit into this matter.

Because of the nature of these circumstances and the unanswered questions surrounding them, it is emphasized that a full forensic audit and not a routine financial audit must be performed.

Sincerely,



Wayne Cooke

Cc: United States Attorney
State's Attorney Office
Connecticut Attorney General
Branford Ethics Commission
Branford Board of Selectmen
Branford Police Commission

As we look back to the events of September 11, 2001, we remember the bravery, courage, and sacrifices made that day and the days that have followed.



Due to the current COVID-19 pandemic the annual Town of Branford September 11th Remembrance ceremony was pre-recorded in accordance with proper safety protocols.

Please tune into BCTV or [Facebook.com/MyBCTV](https://www.facebook.com/MyBCTV) at 8:30 a.m. and throughout the day on September 11, 2020 as we honor those we lost and the lives that have been forever changed.

(The video will also be available on the Town of Branford and BCTV Facebook pages)