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Noë Arpin
BRANFORD TOWN CLERK



Representative Town Meeting

Meeting Minutes

December 16, 2020 7:00 p.m.

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

The RTM held a SPECIAL remote meeting via Zoom on Wednesday, December 16, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. to consider and act upon the following matters:

1. Review of remote meeting requirements & Roll Call:

- a. Moderator Flanigan reviewed the rules of the meeting. Citizen questions and objections to the order of the meeting were voiced. Rep. Flanigan explained the rules of a "Special Meeting".
- b. Roll Call: **Representatives present:** Adelman, Alfone, Anderson, Austin, Black, Brockett, Conklin, Everson, Erlanger, Flanigan, Greenberg (arrived 7:15), Hakun, Healy, Hentschel, Hynes, Ingraham, Jackson, Laich, Lombardi, Prete, Riccio, Sember, Sires, Stepanek, Sullivan, Torelli, Twohill, Wells.

Representatives absent: Kelly, Soomro.

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

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

- a. Rules and Ordinances did not meet this month; therefore Rep. Black made a motion to re-refer items 2-5, seconded by Rep. Sullivan.
- b. A brief discussion followed with several comments from citizen Cooke regarding the process of re-referral and citizen petitions. Several RTM representatives responded and commented.
- c. After everyone was provide an opportunity to speak, Moderator Flanigan put the motion to a vote, the motion was unanimously approved.

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

- a. See item number two: a, b, and c.

4. **To review and if appropriate, approve amendment to RTM Rule A236-1 (k) (4) to change the number of citizens signatures on a Petition to the RTM from 50 to 250:**
 - a. See item number two: a, b, and c.

5. **To review, and if appropriate approve an amendment to Chapter A236-4 (c) Rule 4.3 section (4) to amend rules pertaining to submission of minutes from RTM sub-committees:**
 - a. See item number two: a, b, and c.

6. **To consider and if appropriate, adopt the 2021 meeting schedule for the RTM:**
 - a. Moderator Flanigan reviewed the RTM meeting schedule for 2021. Rep. Twohill made a motion to accept the calendar, seconded by Rep. Brockett.
 - b. Rep. Hentschel recommended that we add a meeting date to the proposed calendar in January 2022 so as to avoid referencing the first meeting of the year a Special Meeting. After discussion, January 12, 2022 was added to the RTM calendar and the motion was unanimously approved.

7. **To consider and if appropriate, approve an agreement by and between Town of Branford and the Town of Branford Employees, UPSEU to June 30, 2022:**
 - a. The Administrative Services Committee heard this item at their last meeting. Rep. Alfone gave a brief description, noting that this agreement was approved unanimously in committee with a 7-0 vote. After a lengthy discussion including clarification of dates, questions, and comments by RTM representatives, Rep. Alfone made a motion to accept this agreement. It was approved unanimously in a roll call vote (see attached tally).

8. **To consider, and if appropriate, approve a transfer from the Board of Police Commissioners as follows:**
 - a. The Public Services Committee did not meet in the month of December to discuss the following items, they will hold a special meeting on January 7. Rep. Conklin made a motion to re-refer items 8 &9 and to add the item regarding the Fire Department transfer, which was accidentally left off of this agenda. The motion was seconded by Rep. Brockett and the items were unanimously re-referred.

From		
10142010-517000	Regular Salaries	\$4,558
To:		
10142010-519050	Stipend	4,558

9. **To hear a request from the Town Engineer for an increase in appropriation for the Branford Point Seawall and Wharf improvements, and consider, and if appropriate, approve the corresponding transfers and resolution:**
 - a. The Public Services Committee will not meet in the month of December to discuss the following items, they will hold a special meeting on January 7. Rep. Conklin made a motion to re-refer items 8 &9 and to add the item regarding the

Fire Department transfer. The motion was seconded by Rep. Brockett and the items were unanimously re-referred.

General Fund

From		
10190000-480296	Fund Balance	\$225,000
To:		
10150000-599116	Operating Transfers Out Fund 700	225,000

Fund 700

From:		
70090000-490010	Transfer In	\$225,000
70043010-544300-19236	Seawall Repairs (Public Works)	200,000
70043010-544300-20236	Seawall Repairs (Public Works)	25,000
70043050-544300-xxxx	Seawall Repairs (Engineering Branford Point)	\$450,000

Transfer and Resolution from Fund Balance

Resolved: That the RTM approves an increase in appropriations for the Fiscal Year 2021 General Fund Budget from \$118,017,243 to \$118,242,243. This increase will be funded through an appropriation from fund balance and will be used to increase the budget for the Branford Point Seawall and Wharf improvements.

10. To consider, and if appropriate, approve a Foote Park appropriation from increased revenue in FY2020 and approve the following transfers and resolution:

General Fund

Increase:		
10145010-480297	Foote Charitable Trust	\$50,000
Increase:		
10150000-599116	Operating Transfers Out Fund 700	50,000

Fund 700

From:		
70090000-490010	Transfer In	\$50,000
70045010-579400-20xxx	Foote Park Tennis Courts	50,000

Transfer and Resolution from Fund Balance (Item #10 continued)

Resolved: That the RTM approves an increase in appropriations for the Fiscal Year 2020 General Fund Budget from \$116,119,944 to \$116,169,944. This increase will be

funded through an appropriation from increased estimated revenue received from the Foote Trust and will be used to increase the budget for the tennis court improvements at the park.

- a. Rep. Black reported that although Ways and Means did not meet on this item and since it is a prior fiscal year item, he expressed a desire to move this item forward tonight. Rep. Black moved to waive rule 441, seconded by Rep. Ingraham. Rule 441 was unanimously waived.
- b. Rep. Black provided details regarding these funds and made a motion to approve this transfer and the accompanying agenda, which increases last year's budget. The motion was seconded by Rep. Brockett and passed unanimously.

11. Letters and petitions:

Rules & Ordinances Committee:

- a). **Letter – Request to review Code of Ethics**
- b). **Letter – Examination of POCD process**

Rep. Black made a motion to re-refer letters a. & b. above since the committee did not meet to discuss these items; the motion was seconded by Rep. Ingraham. Resident Cooke commented on both of these items. He requested that the items be referred to another committee because he does not feel they will be given fair treatment by the Rules and Ordinances Committee. Rep. Flanigan was not willing to refer these items to a different committee and ruled that the items will remain with Rules & Ordinances. After continued discussion and further comments from the public and from RTM members, the motion was unanimously approved.

Administrative Services Committee:

a). Petition -To consider the possibility of public health hazards emanating from the demolition debris piles at the former Atlantic Wire site:

- Rep. Alfone gave a brief history and explanation related to this petition. A discussion ensued with some clarification from Selectman Cosgrove. Rep. Alfone provided further details, based on discussion from the most recent Administrative Services Committee meeting.
- The Administrative Services Committee made a motion to request that the property owner cover the debris piles, and that they ask permission from the proper oversight agencies before moving forward with their recent idea to hydro seed the piles. Rep. Alfone put this motion forward for approval.
- It was reported that the hydroseeding went ahead. A lengthy discussion continued with questions regarding the process and why the hydroseeding went forward. First Selectman Cosgrove commented on the timeline and said he was not aware that the hydroseeding was completed until the day after completion.
- Rep. Everson stated that this issue has come to the attention of the State Environmental Protection Agency.

- Rep. Hentschel suggested an amendment to the committee report. Rep Hentschel made a motion to ask the owner to cover the piles. The motion was seconded by Rep. Brockett.
- A lengthy discussion continued with comments and questions from representatives and citizens. Citizen Costanzo (author of the petition) reiterated that the petition is really asking for more testing and that covering the piles right now is a band-aid approach that should be completed as soon as possible. Many speakers mentioned that this conversation has been going on for two or more years.
- The amendment to the original motion made by Rep. Hentschel, passed in a roll call vote 17-10 (see attached vote tally)
- A second roll call vote on the original motion, as amended, passed 19-8 (see attached vote tally).

b). 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.

- Rep. Alfone reviewed this petition providing details. At the December Administrative Services Committee meeting a motion was made to request that the RTM jointly draft a letter to the SOUTH-CENTRAL REGIONAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS (SCRCOG) and appropriate State Representatives to address Branford's concern of the flooding and safety issues on RT 146. This letter will include the names of the RTM members who approve this motion.
- There was a brief discussion including comments from both citizens and representatives. The motion was put forward for a vote and was unanimously approved (Rep. Soomro and Rep. Kelly were absent for this vote).

Prior to adjournment, Moderator Flanigan reminded all RTM members, the public, and elected officials to conduct themselves in a professional manner at future meetings.

12. Adjournment:

- a. Motion to adjourn Rep. Torelli made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Rep. Anderson.
- b. The meeting adjourned @ 9:15

Dated this 16th day of December 2020

Respectfully submitted,
Donna Laich
Clerk-Branford RTM

