

**REPRESENTATIVE TOWN MEETING
MEETING MINUTES**

May 14th, 2019

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MAY 29 REC'D

BRANFORD TOWN CLERK

MODERATOR
Dennis Flanigan



CLERK
Jessica Everlith

MAJORITY LEADER
Ray Ingraham

MINORITY LEADER
Chris Sullivan

The meeting was called to order by: Moderator Flanigan at 8:02p.m. The Moderator led the body in the Pledge of Allegiance. The Meeting was held at Branford Fire Headquarters, 45 North Main Street.

1. Roll Call

Members Present: Rep. Adelman, Rep. Alfone, Rep. Anderson, Rep. Black, Rep. Brockett, Rep. Conklin, Rep. Dunbar, Rep. Everlith, Rep. Flanigan, Rep. Greenberg, Rep. Healy, Rep. Hentschel, Rep. Ingraham, Rep. Jackson, Rep. Lawler, Rep. Lombardi, Rep. Prete, Rep. Riccio, Rep. Stepanek, Rep. Sullivan, Rep. Torelli, Rep. Traugh, Rep. Twohill, Rep. Walker, Rep. Wells

Members Absent: Rep. Erlanger, Rep. Gordon, Rep. Leonard, Rep. Soomro

1 vacancy: District 4

Ex Officios Present: Selectman: Cosgrove, **Town Clerk:** Arpin

Ex Officios Not Present: Selectman: Higgins, Ahern

Treasurer: Nardella,

Town Attorney: Aniskovich

(See Attachment)

2. Approval of the previous meeting. Rep. Ingraham made a motion to approve the minutes from the March 13, 2019 meeting. 2nd Rep. Dunbar. Approved unanimously.

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

The Moderator read a message from elector William St. Paul regarding noise ordinances for dumpster refuse removal. The Moderator sent this item to the Rules and Ordinances committee.

The Moderator read a letter from elector Wayne Cook to ask the RTM to review the COSTCO application process. The Moderator took no action because the item is currently being held in Federal court. Rep. Sullivan suggested the item be moved to the Administrative Services committee. The Moderator declined this suggestion.

Rep. Ricco arrived.

An announcement was made that June is Dog Licensing Month.

The Moderator read a letter from constituent Cordelia Keberle in support of the plastic bag ban being heard in the Rules and Ordinances committee.

4. Rep. Ingraham made a motion to re-refer the item to consider, and if appropriate, adopt a uniform procedure for ordinance enforcement pursuant to Town Meeting Rules (A236-4.1) (d). Motion approved unanimously.
5. Rep. Ingraham made a motion to approve time limit revisions and rights of appeal for Branford's Town dock ordinance. Motion approved unanimously.
6. Rep. Ingraham made a motion to re-refer the creation of an Ordinance re: Tree Warden & Public Tree Protection in Branford. Motion approved unanimously.
7. Rep. Ingraham made a motion to approve the item to consider, and if appropriate, create an ordinance restricting the use of plastic bags, however pending feedback from the Town Attorney he amended the committee report to be re-referred. 2nd by Rep. Sullivan. Committee report amendment approved unanimously.
8. Rep. Ingraham made a motion to approve an extended tax abatement of real property taxes on properties located at 13-29 Rogers Street and 142-190 Ivy Street for an additional ten years effective the October 1, 2019 Grand List as permitted by section 169-2(4) of Code of Branford. (Housing Development Corp. and the Branford Interfaith Housing Corp). Motion approved unanimously.

Rep. Alfone made a motion to approve an extended tax abatement of real property taxes on properties located at 13-29 Rogers Street and 142-190 Ivy Street for an additional ten years effective the October 1, 2019 Grand List as permitted by section 169-2(4) of Code of Branford. (Housing Development Corp. and the Branford Interfaith Housing Corp). Motion approved unanimously.

9. Rep. Alfone made a motion to approve the Town of Branford participating in the Neighborhood Assistance Tax Credit Program. Motion approved unanimously.
10. Rep. Black made a motion to approve a Contract between the Town of Branford and the United Public Service Employees Union (UPSEU/COPS) the Branford

Police Unit #459, Police Pension Agreement to June 30, 2031. Motion approved unanimously by roll call vote. (See Attached)

Rep. Brockett spoke in support of the agreement.

11. Rep. Conklin made a motion to approve a contract between the Town of Branford and the United Public Services Employees Union/COPS, Local #459 to June 30, 2022. Motion approved unanimously by roll call vote. (See Attached)

12. The Board of Finance approved the following budget for fiscal year 2019-2020:

Board of Education: Operating Budget	\$56,977,124
Board of Education: Special Education	\$754,476
Board of Education Capital & Leases	\$563,000
Subtotal Board of Education	-----
	a. \$58,294,600
Town Departments:	\$57,120,112
	b. -----
Total	\$115,414,712

13. Rep. Ingraham made a motion to approve the recommendation of the Board of Finance of an appropriation of \$58,294,600 to the Board of Education (Operating Budget + Capital) for fiscal year 2019-2020. 2nd by Rep. Prete.

Committee Budget Reports:

a.Education: Met on 4/1 and 5/6. All budgets were approved with one change to reduce the James Blackstone Memorial Library request by \$9,620.

Rep. Twohill made a motion to reduce the Board of Finance Approved Budget by reducing the JBML budget request by \$9,620. Rep. Twohill explained the cut was to keep the amount in line with other budget increases. Rep. Dunbar, Adelman, and Jackson spoke out in opposition to the motion on the table. Motion approved 13-11 by show of hands.

Overall education budget passed by roll call vote less the \$9,620 reduction for the JBML (2 NO) (22 YES) (See attached)

Rep. Black made an amendment to cut \$200,000 from the Board of Education. 2nd by Rep. Stepanek. Reps. Twohill, Prete, Jackson, Walker, Sullivan, and Riccio, spoke out in opposition the amendment. Motion denied with some support in favor by voice vote.

b. Rules and Ordinances: Committee voted to approve the WPCA budget passed unanimously with adjustments to: Sewer Line and Manhole repair reduced to \$50,000 (p.65.4) and Force Main & Sewer System Rehab reduced to \$400,000 for 2019-20 (p.65.5).

Rep. Ingraham offered an amendment to the committee report to offer no changes to the Rules and Ordinances committee budgets. Motion approved unanimously.

c. Ways and Means:

Rep. Black made a motion to waive rule 4.4.1. 2nd by Rep. Sullivan. Approved unanimously. Rep. Black made a motion to approve the following transfer 2nd by Rep. Sullivan. Motion approved unanimously.

FROM		BOF Budget	RTM Budget w/ CBA Approval	Change
FROM				
517000	Salaries	4,768,186	5,072,875	304,689
519040	Accrued Payroll	26,663	28,977	2,334
518000	Overtime	297,297	317,393	20,096
518010	Overtime Public Events	84,182	90,655	6,473
518050	Vacation (Replacement Vacation)	141,885	150,142	8,257
518150	Holiday (Replacement Holiday)	137,815	146,774	8,959
518200	Sick Pay (Replacement Sick)	70,413	74,351	3,938
518490	Shift Differential	21,251	22,381	1,130
TO				
588802	Contingency	1,463,512	1,107,627	(355,885)

Rep. Conklin made a motion to reduce contingency by \$107,628 to control the amount of money that flows back into the undesignated fund balance. The contingency fund for the upcoming year would be \$999,999. 2nd by Rep. Dunbar. Motion approved unanimously.

Rep. Black made a motion to approve the Ways and Means related budgets as amended. Motion approved unanimously.

d. Public Services: Rep. Conklin made a motion to approve the Public Services related budgets as recommended by the Board of Finance.

Rep. Black made an amendment to add \$5,200 to the Police Services line for additional Community Services Officers to solve issues arising during the summer

months. This figure covers an additional 19 hours for 14 weeks. 2nd by Rep. Sullivan. Rep. Riccio spoke out against the motion procedurally. Rep. Sullivan spoke in support of the item. Rep. Walker spoke in support of the item. The amended motion was defeated by a tie broken by the Moderator.

Rep. Conklin made a motion to approve the Public Services Committee

e. Admin Services:

Rep. Alfone amended the committee reports to approve the Administrative Services committee reports. 2nd by Sullivan. Motion approved unanimously.

Rep. Alfone offered a motion to approve the Administrative Service related committee budgets. Motion approved unanimously.

The RTM took a recess until 9:31pm.

14. Rep. Ingraham made a motion to approve the amended budget as outlined below. 2nd by Rep. Dunbar Motion approved unanimously

Board of Education: Operating Budget	\$56,977,124
Board of Education: Special Education	\$754,476
Board of Education: Capital & Leases	\$563,000
Subtotal Board of Education:	\$58,294,600
 Town Departments	 \$57,002,864
Total	\$115,297,464

15. Rep. Black made a motion to approve the recommendation of the Board of Finance of appropriation of \$60,055 to the Open Space Fund Budget for fiscal year 2019-2020. Motion approved unanimously.
16. Rep. Black made a motion to approve the recommendation of the Board of Finance of an appropriation of \$14,926 to the Sewer Assessment Fund Budget for fiscal 2019-2020. Motion approved unanimously
17. Rep. Twohill made a motion to approve the recommendation of the Board of Finance of an appropriation of \$60,000 to the Board of Education Special Fund Budget for fiscal year 2019-2020. Motion approved unanimously
18. Rep. Twohill made a motion to approve the recommendation of the Board of Finance of an appropriation of \$609,550 to the Board of Education Daycare Fund Budget for fiscal 2019-2020. Motion approved unanimously
19. Rep. Ingraham made a motion to approve the recommendation of the Board of Finance of appropriation of \$4,535,637 to the Wastewater Treatment Plant Budget for fiscal year 2019-2020. Motion approved unanimously

20. Rep. Conklin made a motion to approve the recommendation of the Board of Finance of an appropriation of \$334,072 to the Animal Control Fund Budget for fiscal year 2019-2020. Motion approved unanimously
21. Rep. Alfone made a motion to approve the recommendation of the Board of Finance of an appropriation of \$1,612,892 Human Services Special Revenue Fund Budget for fiscal year 2019-2020. Motion approved unanimously
22. Rep. Black made a motion to approve the recommendation of the Board of Finance of an appropriation of \$598,000 Lease Fund Budget for fiscal year 2019-2020. Motion approved unanimously.
23. Rep. Alfone made a motion to approve the recommendation of the Board of Finance to the RTM, with the exception of the 1st Selectman who has elected to take a 0% increase, salaries for the following elected officials increase by 2% for each of their two year term of office: Second Selectman, Third Selectman, Treasurer, Board of Assessment Appeals, RTM Moderator and Finance Clerk. The Moderator added the RTM Clerk to be included in the motion. Motion approved unanimously.
24. Rep. Alfone made a motion to approve the recommendation of the Board of Finance to the RTM that salaries for the following elected officials increase by 2.5% for each year of their two year term of office: Town Clerk and Tax Collector. Motion approved unanimously.

25. Other Business

Rep. Adelman offered his thanks to Jessica Everlith, RTM Clerk for her service.

Rep. Ingraham announced the Memorial Day Parade, May 27 and invited town officials.

26. Motion by Rep. Torelli to adjourn the meeting. 2nd by Rep. Dunbar, motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 9:43.

Dated this 29 Day of May, 2019
Respected Submitted,

Jessica L. Everlith
Clerk- Branford RTM

RTM Meeting of: 5/14/2019

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BRANFORD TOWN CLERK