

MINUTES of SPECIAL TOWN MEETING - August 2, 2022

MINUTES of SPECIAL TOWN MEETING held August 2, 2022 at the Old Saybrook Town Hall (first floor conference room), 302 Main Street, Old Saybrook, Connecticut at 6:00 p.m. with approximately 20 persons attending.

First Selectman, Carl Fortuna, called the meeting to order and led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance. He introduced Selectman Matt Pugliese and noted that Selectman Scott Giegerich will be arriving shortly. Matt Pugliese moved, seconded by Chuck Savage and unanimously voted that Carl Fortuna serve as Moderator of the meeting. The Moderator then called on Sarah V. Becker, Town Clerk, to read the call of the meeting.

ITEM 1. Based on the recommendation of the Board of Finance and the Board of Selectmen, to ratify the following uses of ARPA funds in the amount of \$247,461.27 which were approved by the Board of Selectmen and have been advanced.

- a) Information Technology Equipment to support hybrid meetings - \$7,774.83
- b) Installing a water main on Evans Lane \$57,278.55
- c) Katherine Hepburn Cultural Arts Center revenue replacement - \$100,000.00
- d) Old Saybrook Chamber of Commerce Revenue Replacement - \$23,900.00
- e) Old Saybrook Historical Society - \$23,000.00
- f) Shoreline Soup Kitchen - \$10,000.00
- g) Old Saybrook Garden Club - \$7,000.00
- h) Economic Recovery Program through EDC - \$18,507.89

Selectman Fortuna explained that the Treasury Guidelines does not designate an authority responsible for disbursement of funds. Due to the various forms of government in each Connecticut town, the Old Saybrook Board of Selectmen has appointed a committee of eight (8) who will review applications and recommend to the Board of Selectmen who will request the Board of Finance to approve and lastly go to Town meeting for finalization. Each recipient is not limited to only one application but each request must be COVID related. Disbursement of funds must be designated by the end of 2024 and monies spent by the end of 2026.

Ease recipient will be required to sign a document attesting to the facts of the use of the funds which will be audited in the future. The selection committee meets every second and fourth Tuesday of the month at 5:00 p.m. in the town hall to decide which applications will go forward for approval.

First Selectman Fortuna then went on to report that the monies requested in items a-h are for ratification by the Town meeting since they have already been expended.

On a motion duly made and seconded, Item 1 was unanimously ADOPTED.

ITEM 2. Based on the recommendation of the Board of Finance and the Board of Selectmen to appropriate \$2,800.00 to the Lions Club – for the purpose of replacing lost event revenue.

Following brief discussion, Karina Julius moved, seconded by Brad Thorpe and unanimously voted to ADOPT Item 2.

ITEM 3. Based on the recommendation of the Board of Finance and the Board of Selectmen to appropriate \$10,000.00 to the Estuary Council of Seniors for the purpose of contributing toward a social worker.

First Selectman Fortuna noted that the Estuary will hire and this appropriation is for one time only from the Town of Old Saybrook. He further advised that he spearheaded discussion with other towns who are now also contributing a one-time appropriation toward hiring a social worker in order to meet the mental health and other needs of our seniors.

On a motion duly made and seconded it was unanimously voted to ADOPT Item 3.

ITEM 4. Based on the recommendation of the Board of Finance and the Board of Selectmen to appropriate \$5,653.00 from the town's capital non-recurring account for the purposes of installing two electric vehicle charging stations in the parking area known as Main Street Connections Park. Additional funding will be accessed by Earthlight Solar and Energy Solutions through an Eversource grant in the amount of \$23,301.00 to complete said project.

First Selectman Fortuna advised that there is enough infrastructure for four (4) chargers, however, we are creating two spots at this time. It is also being considered to put a charging station at Town Hall. The question was raised as to a fee being charged to use these stations. Selectman Fortuna noted that the Board of Finance would like the Town to at least break even rather than trying to make money from this amenity.

Karina Julius moved, seconded by Trevor Nichols and unanimously voted, to ADOPT Item 4.

On a motion duly made and seconded it was unanimously voted to adjourn at 6:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah V. Becker, CCMC
Town Clerk

