

MINUTES of SPECIAL TOWN MEETING - September 28, 2022

MINUTES of SPECIAL TOWN MEETING held September 28, 2022 at the Old Saybrook Town Hall, 302 Main Street, Old Saybrook, Connecticut, at 6:00 p.m. with approximately 30 persons attending. First Selectman, Carl Fortuna, called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

On a motion duly made and seconded, Susan Quish was unanimously voted as Moderator of this meeting. Moderator Quish asked the Town Clerk, Sarah V. Becker to read the call for this meeting.

ITEM 1. To appropriate the \$125 thousand from the Town's surplus for FY2022 and transfer said funds to an off-budget Fund called "Main Street Paving" for the purpose of repaving parking areas on Main Street.

Item 1 was duly moved and seconded followed by explanation by First Selectman Fortuna. A voice vote ADOPTED Item 1.

ITEM 2. To appropriate \$100 thousand from the Town's surplus for FY2022 for the Town's share of grant related expenses for FY23 and transfer the funds to a newly created off-budget account called "Grant Related Projects".

Item 2 was duly moved and seconded followed by First Selectman Fortuna explaining that "surplus" is used for projects not budgeted, the amount now in the surplus account and how we accrue these funds. A voice vote ADOPTED Item 2.

ITEM 3. To appropriate \$250 thousand from the Town's surplus for FY2022 and transfer said funds to an off-budget Fund called "sidewalk construction".

Item 3 was duly moved and seconded followed by First Selectman Fortuna reviewed advised to the projects completed and that sidewalks have been fixed to Saybrook Point. Karina Julius complimented Carl on the job well done so far. A voice vote ADOPTED Item 3.

ITEM 4. To appropriate the \$50 thousand from the Town's surplus for FY2022 and transfer said funds to an off-budget Fund called "Vegetation Management" for the purpose of combating invasive plants in Old Saybrook.

Item 4 was duly moved and seconded. First Selectman Fortuna called on Kathy Connolly to speak to this issue. He remarked that the invasive plants are a "biological pollution" invading the Connecticut River. Mrs. Connolly spoke to the fact that invasive plants are now being addressed educationally and from an eradication point of view. A voice vote ADOPTED Item 4.

ITEM 5. To appropriate \$139,265 from the Town's surplus for FY2022 for the purpose of providing capital to update various town parks and beaches and to transfer said funds to the "Park and Rec Sinking Fund.

Item 5 was duly moved and seconded. First Selectman Fortuna listed the projects; Wi-Fi at Town Hall, bring splash pad at Trask Park up to standards, upgrades at Harvey's Beach, new fencing at the mini golf, upgrades at the Vicky Duffy Pavillion, Kavanagh Park. Susan Esty commented in her capacity as Park and Recreation Chairman.

A voice vote ADOPTED Item 5.

ITEM 6. To appropriate \$200,000 from the Town's surplus for FY2022 for a Department of Public Works ("DPW") sweeper and transfer the funds to the DPW Equipment Capital Fund 3353.

Item 6 was duly moved and seconded. First Selectman Fortuna asked Larry Bonin, Public Works Director, to speak. Director Bonin explained that this will be new equipment with amenities not previously available. Carl noted that the actual price is \$340,000 and will be paid from savings plus this new appropriation. A voice vote ADOPTED Item 6.

ITEM 7. To appropriate \$245,560 from the Town's surplus for FY2022 to the Board of Education and transfer the funds to a newly created account entitled "Air Quality/HVAC Improvements".

Item 7 was duly moved and seconded. First Selectman Fortuna commented that air conditioning is important and creates a better learning atmosphere when the teachers/students are comfortable. He noted that the State of Connecticut is authorizing bonding funds to apply for which the Board of Education will be pursuing. The project will start with the Goodwin School. Several Board of Education members present commented on the project. These requested funds will be reallocated to the Board of Education from the Surplus account.

A voice vote ADOPTED Item 7.

Item 8. To approve a transfer of \$321,821 from the Debt Service Reserve to the newly created Pension Reserve Fund.

Item 8 was duly moved and seconded. First Selectman Fortuna explained that we have gone from a defined benefit plan to a defined contribution plan and further how the debt service works.

A voice vote ADOPTED Item 8.

Item 9. To appropriate \$15 thousand from the Fiscal Year 2022 surplus for the purpose of installing a new fence at Whisper Cove and to transfer said funds into an account entitled "Whisper Cove Fence".

Item 9 was duly moved and seconded. First Selectman Fortuna advised that the entire fence will be replaced which is over 900 feet. A voice vote ADOPTED Item 9.

Item 10. To appropriate \$374,030 from the Town's surplus for FY2022 to the capital non-recurring fund 3350.

Item 10 was duly moved and seconded. First Selectman Fortuna advised that these monies (currently \$700,000 in fund – capital savings account) are not allocated for any one project but used for emergency situations. This fund is considered a safety net for the Town when unbudgeted emergencies arise. A voice vote ADOPTED Item 10.

On a motion duly made, seconded and unanimously voted, this meeting was adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah V. Becker, CCMC
Town Clerk