

MINUTES of SPECIAL TOWN MEETING – October 1, 2019

MINUTES of Special Town Meeting held October 1, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. in the Old Saybrook Town Hall, 302 Main Street, First Floor Conference Room, Old Saybrook, Connecticut with approximately 30 persons attending.

Carl Fortuna, First Selectman, called the meeting to order and led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance. He introduced himself as well as Selectman Carol Conklin and noted that Selectman Giegerich could not attend. First Selectman Fortuna moved, seconded by Bob Fish and unanimously voted, that Christina Antolino serve as Moderator of this meeting. Moderator Antolino requested the Town Clerk, Sarah V. Becker, read the call of the meeting. Moderator Antolino reminded the audience that you must be an elector or own \$1,000 assessed value or more property/car in Old Saybrook in order to vote at this meeting.

ITEM 1. To recommend to town meeting, based upon the recommendation of the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Finance, an appropriation of \$30,025.00 from the capital non-recurring account for repairs to the town hall lower roof structure. Further, said funds will be moved to an off budget account that will be entitled "Town Hall Roof Repairs".

First Selectman Fortuna explained the problem of water coming in the building under the roof and requires repair. He noted that five (5) bids were received and the contractor will begin the work and then it can be determined if there is any rot which might mean going back to the Board of Finance for additional funds. The work will be done this Fall. Following discussion the Moderator called for a vote. Carol Rzasz moved, seconded by Mark Caldarella and unanimously voted to ADOPT Item 1.

Item 2. To recommend to town meeting, based upon the recommendation of the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Finance, the movement of \$72,083.64 from the Police Department fiscal year 2019 general fund budget and place those funds into the town's capital non-recurring fund.

The Moderator called on Lee Ann Palladino, Finance Director, to speak to this item. Mrs. Palladino explained that this is surplus money from the Police account to be put into the town's capital non-recurring fund, essentially a savings account, for future expenditures. First Selectman Fortuna added that this is a better way of handling the funds, rather than using the "rainy day" fund which could affect bonding, etc. The Moderator asked for any questions or comments and hearing none Mark Caldarella moved, seconded by Carol Rzasz and unanimously voted to ADOPT Item 2.

Item 3. To recommend to town meeting, based upon the recommendation of the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Finance, the movement of \$249,000 from the town's surplus funds for FY2019 and to place those funds in the "Debt Service Stabilization Fund".

First Selectman Fortuna explained the purpose of this account. This money will be targeted for events that may occur in the future and will alleviate raising the mill rate thereby protecting the taxpayers. No questions were raised and Mark Caldarella moved, seconded by Carol Conklin and unanimously voted to ADOPT Item 3.

Item 4. To amend Chapter 192, "Taxation and Assessments", of the Town Code to add an eighth article entitled "Ambulance-type Motor Vehicle Exemption". A copy of the amendment is on file in the Old Saybrook Town Clerk's Office, the Acton Public Library and on the Old Saybrook Town Website.

First Selectman Fortuna called on Kristen Leopoldino to speak to her situation regarding the need for the proposed amendment. He advised that he researched various towns that have this type ordinance and that the vehicle must be used exclusively for transport of a handicapped individual and this exemption would be applied for from the Assessor's office. This is a common piece of legislation across the State and will have very little, if any, effect on the Town's Grand List.

A copy of the Amendment is attached to these minutes.

Carol Rsaza moved, seconded by Carol Conklin and unanimously voted to ADOPT Item 4.

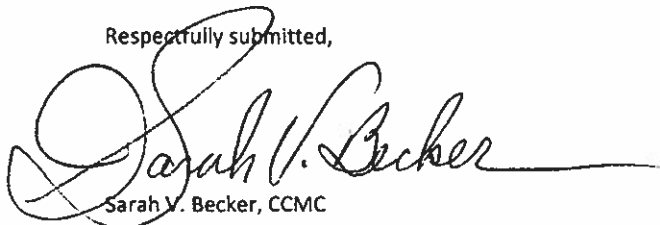
Item 5. To recommend to town meeting, based upon the recommendation of the Board of Selectmen and Board of Finance, an appropriation of \$111,870 from the capital non-recurring account for repairs and restoration of the Kavanagh Park Tennis Courts and the replacement of the fencing around said courts. Further, said funds will be moved to an off budget account that will be entitled "Kavanagh Park Tennis Courts Repair".

First Selectman Fortuna advised that the contract to do the work at Kavanagh Park has been signed and they will begin next week.....this is a long term fix.

Susan Esty moved, seconded by Mark Caldarella and unanimously voted to ADOPT Item 5.

Carol Rzasa moved, seconded by Nancy Walsh and unanimously voted to adjourn at 6:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Sarah V. Becker, CCMC
TOWN CLERK

ARTICLE VIII Ambulance-type Motor Vehicle Exemption

Section 192-12 Exemption Granted: The Town of Old Saybrook hereby enacts legislation, pursuant to the provisions of Section 12-81c of the Connecticut General Statutes, to exempt from personal property tax certain ambulance type motor vehicles which are used exclusively for the purpose of transporting any medically incapacitated individual, except any vehicle used to transport any such individual for profit. This exemption does not apply to vehicles that are used partly for transporting medically incapacitated individuals and partly for other purposes.

Section 192-13 Definitions:

Ambulance-Type Vehicle is one which has had automotive adaptive control devices (AACD's) installed, has been substantially modified with assistive devices, such as, but not limited to, wheelchair lifts and hand controls to make the vehicle viable transport for a medically incapacitated individual, the equipping with beds, stretchers or other special seating accommodations and significant modifications to accommodate medical or emergency equipment such as oxygen.

Disabled Individual is an individual whose licensed physician has attested in writing that the individual requires a specially equipped and/or modified vehicle as hereinbefore defined as a result of the individual's medical incapacitation and/or disability.

Resident is an individual who owns a motor vehicle as hereinbefore defined and has been a resident of the Town of Old Saybrook for at least six months and one day immediately prior to the assessment date for which the application is to be filed.

Eligibility Any individual who is a resident of the Town of Old Saybrook who owns a motor vehicle as described herein or is a resident of the Town of Old Saybrook and the parent or guardian of a person with disabilities and owns a motor vehicle as described herein shall be eligible for exemption of the personal property taxes for one said motor vehicle.

Section 192-14 Application Procedure

- A. The owner of such a motor vehicle described herein may apply to the Assessor of the Town of Bethel on a form prepared by the Assessor for personal property tax exemption for one motor vehicle.
 - B. At the time the owner makes application to the Assessor, the owner must provide proof in the form of documentation that the motor vehicle has been equipped or adapted for use by a disabled individual as hereinbefore defined, provide the make, model, year of manufacture, vehicle identification number and current state license number, the length of time the modified handicap accessible motor vehicle has been in use, a location and description of the place or places from which it is intended to operate and such other information as the Town Assessor shall deem necessary to comply with this section. Furthermore, the Assessor retains the right to examine any vehicle claiming an exemption, at any time, in order to either continue or remove the exempt status.
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- C. At the time that the owner makes application to the Assessor, the owner shall provide proof of disability of the individual as hereinbefore defined by way of a licensed physician attesting in writing to the individual's need for a specially equipped and/or modified motor vehicle as hereinbefore defined. Proof of the individual's disability through a physician's written attestation shall be valid for a period of three years after which a new physician's written attestation must be submitted. If the medically incapacitated person has completed a course required by the State of Connecticut, and the applicant's motor vehicle driver's license has been modified to reflect the completion of the course, a copy of the driver's license may be substituted for the physician's letter requirement. Failure to file such a letter or copy of the motor vehicle driver's license in said manner and form within the time limit prescribed shall constitute a waiver of the right to such exemption for the assessment year.
- D. Initial applications for such exemptions shall be made not later than November 1 following the assessment date with respect to which such exemption is claimed. For vehicles purchased after October 1 and before August 1 of the initial assessment year for which such exemption is requested, said application shall be made later than November 1 following the date of the purchase. Once approved, subsequent applications need not be filed unless a new motor vehicle is purchased. Failure to file such an application in said manner and form within the time frame prescribed shall constitute a waiver of the right to such exemption for the assessment year.

Section 192-15 Effective Date. This article VIII shall be applicable to the assessment year which commences October 1, 2019 and succeeding assessment year thereafter.