I. CALL TO ORDER- First Selectman called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

IV. COMMENTS FROM THE SELECTMAN - Mr. Fortuna made opening remarks about the State of the Town during the crisis.

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Board of Selectmen Meeting March 10, 2020.

   FORTUNA/PUGLIESE
   Motion to approve Board of Selectmen Meeting minutes March 10, 2020.
   MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

VI. BUSINESS BEFORE THE BOARD

A. CT-Department of Housing (DOH) Affordable Housing Grant Program: Request for Board of Selectmen Endorsement of Planning Commission Grant Application.

   Christine Nelson gave the board an overview of the DOH program that the Planning Commission reviewed. The grant opportunity started in March and runs until June. It is not competitive but is first come, first served.

   FORTUNA/PUGLIESE
   Motion to approve CT-Department of Housing (DOH) Affordable Housing Grant Program Grant Application
   MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

B. Webster Bank Account Opening Resolution-Action requested.

   Finance Director Lee Ann Palladino explained the Resolution and the authorities listed on the various accounts. The banking transition is moving along well but training may be delayed as a result of the public health emergency.

   FORTUNA/PUGLIESE
   Motion to approve Webster Bank Account Opening Resolution.
   MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

C. Update on corona virus- Executive Director of CRAHD Scott Martinson and Emergency Management Director Michael A. Spera.

   Scott Martinson updated the board on the cases in the region and in the town. The Chief of Police updated the board on Emergency Management protocols and the role that he and the team have played locally.
D. Discussion and action on Governor Lamont’s Executive Order No. 7S concerning tax deferment and/or a low interest rate program.
The Board discussed both programs. The First Selectman offered his opinion on both programs, and said that he had discussed this extensively with local leaders and the tax collector. He also clarified that the low interest rate program also applies to landlords, who must also prove they have offered commensurate relief to their tenants. Mr. Pugliese had questions about the landlord requirements under the low interest rate program and was happy to hear it required tenant relief also. He also felt that for ease of administration, the low interest rate program was the way to go.

FORTUNA/PUGLIESE
Approve that the town adopt a resolution to this effect.
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

E. Add to the agenda a Resolution to adopt the low interest rate program pursuant to executive Order 7S.

FORTUNA/PUGLIESE
Motion to add to the agenda a resolution to adopt Low Interest Rate Program pursuant to executive Order 7S.
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

F. Resolution to adopt the Low Interest Rate Program pursuant to Executive Order 7S.

FORTUNA/PUGLIESE
Motion to approve a resolution for the Low Interest Rate Program pursuant to Executive Order 7S.
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

FORTUNA/PUGLIESE
Motion to correct the tax year Items G, H and I; the minutes reflect the correct years for taxation.
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

G. To adopt the following resolution: In accordance with the provisions of Section 12-142 of the General Statutes of Connecticut, as amended, that the property taxes assessed and levied by the Town of Old Saybrook on the Grand List of October 1, 2019 be paid in two semi-annual installments, the first being due and payable on July 1, 2020 and the second to be due and payable on January 1, 2021 with the exception of real property and personal property tax bills under $100.00, payable in one payment on July 1, 2020; motor vehicle taxes due and payable in one installment on July 1, 2020; and Supplemental Motor Vehicle tax bills due and payable in one installment on January 1, 2021.

FORTUNA/PUGLIESE
Motion to approve resolution property taxes assessed and levied by the Town of Old Saybrook on the Grand List of October 1, 2019 be paid in two semi-annual installments, the first being due and payable on July 1, 2020 and the second to be due and payable on January 1, 2021 with the exception of real property and personal property tax bills under under $100.00, payable in one payment on July 1, 2020; motor vehicle taxes due and payable in one installment on July 1, 2020; and Supplemental Motor Vehicle tax bills due and payable in one installment on January 1, 2021.
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
H. To authorize and empower the Board of Selectmen to borrow such sums of money from the Town of Old Saybrook fund balances and/or from other sources as the Board may deem necessary, in anticipation of tax revenues, to pay the appropriations of the budget for the fiscal year July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021. The Board of Selectmen makes a specific finding that such actions are necessary to permit the orderly operation of the municipality and that there is a need to act immediately and during the duration of the public health and civil preparedness emergency in order to avoid endangering public health and welfare, prevent significant financial loss, or that action is otherwise necessary for the protection of persons and property within the municipality. The Board makes this finding pursuant to Governor Lamont’s Executive Order 7S subsection 7.

FORTUNA/PUGLIESE
Motion to authorize and empower the Board of Selectmen to borrow such sums of money from the Town of Old Saybrook fund balances and/or from other sources as the Board may deem necessary, in anticipation of tax revenues, to pay the appropriations of the budget for the fiscal year July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

I. As allowed under the provisions of Section 12-129n of the General Statutes of Connecticut, to act upon the recommendation of the Board of Finance to provide tax relief to certain homeowners of the Town of Old Saybrook aged 65 or over, or permanently and totally disabled, under the following conditions:

   a) That the homeowner meet the requirements for age and/or disability under the specific provisions of Section (1) and (2) of Section 12-129n (a) of the General Statutes of Connecticut.

   b) That the homeowner be a taxpayer of the Town of Old Saybrook for a period of one year next immediately preceding their receipt of tax benefits under this program.

   c) That the homeowner meet the income requirements for eligibility for tax relief under the provisions of Section 12-129b of the General Statutes of Connecticut.

   d) That the total amount of relief allowed to taxpayers under this program for the Town of Old Saybrook fiscal year beginning July 1, 2020 shall not exceed the sum of $90,000.00.

   e) The relief provided under this program to a qualified taxpayer shall not exceed an amount which, when added to relief for such taxpayers, is eligible under the provisions of Section 12-129b to Section 12-129d, inclusive, or Section 12-170aa of the Connecticut General Statutes, which in the aggregate, exceed 75% of the property tax for which such taxpayers would be liable but for the benefits hereunder and under said above-referred to sections.
f) That if deemed necessary by the Old Saybrook Tax Assessor and Tax Collector, by reason of time constraints, the property tax relief program for the tax year beginning July 1, 2020 may be implemented by Certificates of Correction (for the full amount of the relief) issued with respect to the installment of taxes due and payable January 1, 2021.

g) The Board of Selectmen makes a specific finding that such actions are necessary to permit the orderly operation of the municipality and that there is a need to act immediately and during the duration of the public health and civil preparedness emergency in order to avoid endangering public health and welfare, prevent significant financial loss, or that action is otherwise necessary for the protection of persons and property within the municipality. The Board makes this finding pursuant to Governor Lamont’s Executive Order 7S subsection 7.

FORTUNA/PUGLIESE
Motion to approve, as allowed under the provisions of Section 12-129n of the General Statutes of Connecticut, and act upon the recommendation of the Board of Finance to provide tax relief to certain homeowners of the Town of Old Saybrook aged 65 or over, or permanently and totally disabled, under the above listed conditions.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

J. Appointments


FORTUNA/PUGLIESE
Motion to appoint Alyse Yeager to the Conservation Commission for the unexpired portion of a two term due to expire 11/2021.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

VII. COMMENTS FROM THE SELECTMEN – The First Selectman stated that he expects the State bond commission to meet this week. Mr. Pugliese stated that the Economic Development Commission may have just over $2,000 in extra funds by the end of the year which it would like to spend to assist local businesses.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

FORTUNA/PUGLIESE
Motion to adjourn at 4:45 p.m.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Respectfully submitted,

Carl P. Fortuna Jr.
First Selectman
RESOLUTION
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
TOWN OF OLD SAYBROOK, CONNECTICUT

April 14, 2020

Low Interest Rate Program

WHEREAS, on March 10, 2020, Governor Lamont issued a declaration of public health and civil preparedness emergencies, proclaiming a state of emergency throughout the State of CT as a result of the coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19); and

WHEREAS, Governor Lamont issued Executive Order No. 7S on April 1, 2020, entitled “Protection of Public Health and Safety during Covid-19 Pandemic and Response – Safe Stores, Relief for Policyholders, Taxpayers and Tenants”; and

WHEREAS, under Section 6 of Executive Order 7S, the Town shall participate in at least one of the two established programs: a.) Deferment Program, and/or b.) Low Interest Rate Program; and

WHEREAS, the Town has a need for cash flow over the upcoming months especially during July through September 2020 and the Deferment Program would disrupt cash flow; and

WHEREAS, the Low Interest Loan Program can provide for up to 90 days relief for certain interest payments due by taxpayers and utility customers; and

WHEREAS, the Town must inform the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) no later than April 25, 2020 of which program(s) the Town will participate in;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Selectmen hereby selects to participate in the Low Interest Rate Program (Program) under Section 6(b) of Executive Order No. 7S, and that the First Selectman, Director of Finance and Tax Collector are hereby authorized to carry out all such requirements in the implementation of the Program.