

MINUTES
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
May 5, 2014

The Annual Town Meeting of the electors and citizens qualified to vote in Town Meetings of the Town of Lebanon, Connecticut, was held on Monday, May 5, 2014 in the Lyman Memorial High School Auditorium, 917 Exeter Road (Route 207) Lebanon, Connecticut. Audience: 74

First Selectman Joyce R. Okonuk called the meeting to order at 7:35 PM.

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

First Selectman Okonuk then called for nominations for moderator.

Moved by Al Vertefeulle, seconded by John Lyon to nominate Ed Tollmann as Moderator.
Vote called-motion passed

Moved by Al Vertefeulle, seconded by Bert Bosse to wave the reading of warning of the meeting. Vote called - motion passed

Moderator Ed Tollmann announced that a valid petition has been filed with the Town Clerk that Item #1 on the Agenda of this Town Meeting be adjourned to Referendum. Consequently Item #1 will be explained and discussed this evening but it cannot be voted upon.

Moved by Linda Finelli, seconded by Meghan Bruce to bring item 1 to the floor *“Consider and act upon approving the proposed 2014–15 Fiscal Year budget for the Town of Lebanon in the amount of twenty four million forty one thousand four hundred and eighty dollars and no cents (\$24,041,480.00) for the General Town Government, Board of Education, Special Revenue Accounts and Capital Expenditures with Revenue Estimates of seven million four hundred forty four thousand two hundred and eight dollars and no cents (\$7,444,208.00) and the remainder to be raised by taxes with an estimated mil rate of 28.2 mils, representing a 2.16% increase in the amount to be raised by taxes”.*

Liz Charron, Chairman of the Board of Finance, presented a summary of the proposed 2014-15 Fiscal Year Budget, noting that the revaluation lowered the Grand List by 13%.

(A copy of the proposed FY 2014-15 budget and proposed capital budget follows these minutes)

Moderator Tollmann asked for a motion to call a Referendum to take action on Item #1 of this agenda.

Moved by Michael Nintean, seconded by Phil Johnson that the Town of Lebanon hold a Referendum on Tuesday, May 13, 2014 from 6 AM to 8 PM at the Fire Safety Complex, 23 Goshen Hill Road, Lebanon CT to consider and act upon approving the proposed 2014–15 Fiscal Year budget for the Town of Lebanon in the amount of twenty four million forty one thousand four hundred and eighty dollars and no cents (\$24,041,480.00) for the General Town Government, Board of Education, Special Revenue Accounts and Capital Expenditures with Revenue Estimates of seven million four hundred forty four thousand two hundred and eight dollars and no cents (\$7,444,208.00) and the remainder to be raised by taxes with an estimated mil rate of 28.2 mils, representing a 2.16% increase in the amount to be raised by taxes”.

Moderator Tollmann called the question: Vote called – Motion passed

Moved by Jason Huling, seconded by Al Vertefeulle to bring item #2 to the floor *“Consider and act upon approving the 2014-15 Fiscal Year Capital Improvement Program (CIP) as proposed by the Board of Selectmen.”*

First Selectman Joyce Okonuk explained the line items as listed in the proposed FY 2014-15 Local Capital Improvement Program (CIP), as proposed by the Board of Selectmen. Okonuk further noted that in order to apply for grants under the State of Connecticut CIP, the municipality must have a program approved at the annual town meeting in place.

(A copy of the proposed FY 2014-15 CIP follows these minutes)

Moderator Tollmann called the question: Vote called – item 2 passed

Moved by Al Vertefeuille, seconded by Bert Bosse to go to a secret ballot vote on item # 3 (*Consider and act upon authorizing the purchase of one (1) acre of land owned by Edward D. Keefe located at 903 Exeter Road, in the amount of one hundred thousand dollars and no cents (\$100,000.00), funds to come from Fund Balance, for the purpose of providing additional acreage to the school property.*)

Moderator Tollmann called the question. Vote called-motion passed

Moved by Sandra Tremblay, seconded by Linda Finelli to bring item #3 to the floor “*Consider and act upon authorizing the purchase of one (1) acre of land owned by Edward D. Keefe located at 903 Exeter Road, in the amount of one hundred thousand dollars and no cents (\$100,000.00), funds to come from Fund Balance, for the purpose of providing additional acreage to the school property.*”

Town Planner Philip Chester presented a slide presentation of the property outline, and spoke to the question as follows. The land will be used for a parking lot. The property is zoned for business use, and is assessed for \$100,000. The property has been used for parking for school events. The owner has expressed concern about his liability, and has cut off access to the property. The Planning and Zoning Commission, Board of Education and Recreation Commission have endorsed the purchase.

Fire Chief John Lyon stated that the egress along the road-way between the Middle School and the fields is congested with cars during school events which creates a safety hazard, as emergency vehicles cannot get through.

A paper ballot vote on the questions was taken. Results: 35 Yes 33 No
Item #3 passed

(*A copy of a sketch of the property follows these minutes*)

Moved by John Bendoraitis, seconded by Linda Finelli to bring item #4 to the floor “*Consider and act upon approving “An Ordinance Repealing the Ordinance Creating a Municipal Flood and Erosion Control Board for the Town of Lebanon and Designating the Board of Selectmen as the Town’s Flood and Erosion Control Board” as per CT General Statutes 25-84.*”

First Selectman Joyce Okonuk spoke to the question as follows: In 1984 the Town passed an Ordinance creating the Flood and Erosion Control Board. The Board fell inactive for a number of years. It was reactivated in 1992 due to the Lake Williams dam project. Once the project as completed, due to lack of need, the members failed to meet. CT General Statues 25-84 allows the Board of Selectmen to serve as the Flood an Erosion Control Board. The Board is asking that the original Ordinance be repealed, and adopt the proposed ordinance designating the Board of Selectmen as the Town's Flood and Erosion Control Board.

Moved by Bob Slate, seconded by Phil Johnson to call the question.
Vote called: item 4 passed

(*A copy of the proposed Ordinance follows these minutes*)

Moved by Phil Johnson, seconded by Al Vertefeuille to bring item 5 “*Consider and act upon approving “An Ordinance Withdrawing from the Windham Regional Council of Governments, Repealing the Ordinance Entitled ‘An Ordinance Establishing a Regional Council of Governments’ and Joining the Southeastern Connecticut Council of Governments.”*”

First Selectman Joyce Okonuk spoke to the question as follows. The State Legislature reduced the number of Councils of Government from 15 to 8. Lebanon belongs to the Windham Council of Government (WINCOG) which is the smallest COG in the State. As of July 1, 2014 WINGOG will cease to exist and the nine towns in the WINGOG have chosen to become affiliated with other COGS. Lebanon has chosen to move to the Southeastern Connecticut Council of Governments effective July 1, 2014 The Board of Selectmen is asking to repeal the original Ordinance, which made us a member of WINCOG, and permit Lebanon to join the Southeastern Connecticut Council of Governments.

Moderator Tollmann called the question: Vote called – item 5 passed

(*A copy of the proposed Ordinance follows these minutes*)

Moved by Meghan Bruce, seconded by Phil Johnson to bring item 6 “*Consider and act upon authorizing the transfer of one hundred one thousand six hundred and one dollars and forty seven cents (\$101,601.47) from Fund Balance to Capital Fund 220, Roads and Bridges, for the*

purpose of closing out prior year project deficits.”

Board of Finance Chairman presented a spread sheet explaining the prior year project deficits.

Moderator Tollmann called the question: Vote called – item 6 passed

(A copy of the spread sheet follows these minutes)

Consider any other business proper to come before said meeting.

Jim Mello asked the Selectmen to consider turning on the street lights that were turned off a few years ago.

First Selectman Joyce Okonuk suggested that if there were specific lights, to please forward an email to her.

Meghan Bruce spoke to the budget process and asked the Selectmen to renew the criteria for town wages and hiring.

Moved by Bert Bosse, seconded by Phil Johnson to adjourn at 9:38 PM.

Moderator Tollmann called the question: Vote called – motion passed

Respectfully submitted,

Susan C Coutu CCTC
Town Clerk