

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
May 3, 2010
MINUTES

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 3, 2010 at 7:30 P.M. in the Lyman Memorial High School Auditorium, 917 Exeter Road (Route 207) Lebanon, Connecticut. Audience: 286

First Selectman Joyce R. Okonuk called the meeting to order at 7:40 PM.

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

First Selectman Okonuk then called for nominations for moderator.

Moved by Russell Blakeslee, seconded by Jan Van Woerkom to nominate Edward Tollmann as moderator. Vote called - motion passed.

Moved by Jan Van Woerkom, seconded by Robert Slate to wave the reading of the warning of the meeting. Vote called - motion passed

Moved by Jan Van Woerkom, seconded by Phil Johnson to bring item 1 to the floor. *“Consider and act upon the proposed 2010–11 Fiscal Year budget for the Town of Lebanon in the amount of twenty-two million five hundred twenty six thousand four hundred fifty one dollars and no cents (\$22,526,451.00) for the General Town Government, Board of Education, and Special Revenue Funds, with Revenue Estimates of eight million thirty nine thousand four hundred sixty seven dollars and no cents (\$8,039,467.00) and the remainder to be raised by taxes, with an estimated mil rate of 22.1 mils, representing a 3.37% increase in the amount to be raised by taxes and to adjourn Item #1 to Referendum to be held, unless such date and times are altered by the Town Meeting, on Tuesday, May 11, 2010 between the hours of 6:00 A.M. and 8:00 P.M. Electors and persons qualified to vote in Town Meetings who are not electors, shall vote at the Fire Safety Complex, 23 Goshen Hill Road, Lebanon, Connecticut.”*

Liz Charron, Chairman of the Board of Finance, explained the proposed 2010-2011 Fiscal Year Budget. (A copy of the proposed budget follows these minutes.) Charron stated that the proposed budget reflects a 4.75% salary increase for teachers, and a 3% salary increase for elected officials and some town employees. She further stated that the proposed 22.1 mil rate would increase taxes for property owners with a \$200,000 assessment by \$160. Darcy Battye, Board of Education Co-Chairman, stated that the Teachers Union has offered two furlough days to help reduce costs.

Moved by Bert Bosse, seconded by Jason Huling, to adjourn item 1 to referendum. Vote called – motion passed

Moved by Phil Johnson, seconded by Jan Van Woerkom to bring item 2 to the floor. *“Consider and act upon, if Item #1 is approved at Referendum, the proposed appropriation of up to eight hundred fifty three thousand seven hundred sixty five dollars and no cents (\$853,765.00) to the Capital Reserve and Annual Capital Expense Fund of which up to one hundred thirty one thousand two hundred ninety five dollars and ninety six cents (\$131,295.96) is to come from available unallocated or reallocated funds and the remainder to come from the 2010–11 Fiscal Year budget appropriations.”*

Liz Charron stated that the Capital Reserve and Annual Capital Expense Funds are used for items that have to be saved for. Those proposed are listed on the proposed budget.

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

Moved by Jan Van Woerkom, seconded by Phil Johnson to bring item 3 to the floor. *1. to consider and act upon a Resolution: (a) to appropriate \$6,550,000 for costs related to the design, construction and equipping of the Amston Lake Area Sewer Project and for costs related to the financing thereof. The project is contemplated to include a low-pressure sanitary sewer system with individual property pump systems to serve the Amston Lake area and connect to the existing Town of Hebron sanitary sewer collection system to address identified potential pollution problems in a manner consistent with Consent Order No. WC0005663 entered into between the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection and the Town of Lebanon and issued on*

December 28, 2009, including the extension of a sewer main through a portion of the Town of Colchester and the Town of Hebron to connect with the existing Hebron sanitary sewer system at a sewer manhole on Deepwood Drive in the Town of Hebron, and related work and improvements including roadway restoration. The project is contemplated to be completed substantially in accordance with the recommendations with respect to such a system included in the study prepared by Wright-Pierce, dated November 2007, and entitled "Amston Lake Wastewater Management Study for the Town of Lebanon, Connecticut," a copy of which study is on file in the Office of the Lebanon Town Clerk and available for public inspection during normal business hours. The appropriation may be spent for design, acquisition, installation and construction, equipment, materials, utilities, engineering, consultant and legal fees, land and easement acquisition, net interest on borrowings and other financing costs, and other expenses related to the project or its financing. The Town anticipates applying for State and Federal grants to defray in part the appropriation for the project. The Water Pollution Control Authority shall be authorized to determine the scope and particulars of the project; and may reduce or modify the scope of the project, and the entire appropriation may be spent on the project as so reduced or modified; (b) to authorize the issuance of bonds or notes or obligations of the Town in an amount not to exceed \$6,550,000 to finance the appropriation; to provide that the amount of bonds or notes or obligations authorized to be issued shall be reduced by any grants received for the project; to authorize the issuance of temporary notes or interim funding obligations of the Town in an amount not to exceed \$6,550,000 in anticipation of such bonds or notes or obligations; to authorize the issuance of sewer assessment notes in an amount which does not exceed the amount of sewer assessments levied against owners of property benefited by the sewer project and to provide that the total amount of sewer assessment notes, bonds, obligations and temporary notes issued and outstanding at any time shall not exceed \$6,550,000; and to authorize a majority of the Selectmen and the Treasurer of the Town to determine the amounts, dates, interest rates, maturities, redemption provisions, form and other details of the bonds or notes or obligations; and to perform all other acts which are necessary or appropriate to issue the bonds or notes or obligations; (c) to take such action to allow temporary advances of available funds which the Town reasonably expects will be reimbursed from the proceeds of borrowings; and to authorize a majority of the Selectmen and the Treasurer to bind the Town pursuant to such representations and covenants as they deem necessary or advisable in order to maintain the continued exemption from federal income taxation of interest on the bonds or notes or obligations authorized by the Resolution if issued on a tax-exempt basis, including covenants to pay rebates of investment earnings to the United States in future years; and to authorize a majority of the Selectmen and the Treasurer to make representations and enter into written agreements for the benefit of holders of the bonds or notes or obligations to provide secondary market disclosure information, which agreements may include such terms as they deem advisable or appropriate in order to comply with applicable laws or rules pertaining to the sale or purchase of such bonds or notes or obligations; (d) to authorize the First Selectman, on behalf of the Town, to apply for and accept grants and loans to finance the appropriation for the project, and to enter into any grant or loan agreement, and to authorize the Board of Selectmen, the First Selectman, the Water Pollution Control Authority, the Treasurer and other proper officers and officials of the Town to take any other actions necessary to obtain such grants or loans; (e) to authorize the Water Pollution Control Authority to approve design and construction expenditures for the project, including any related land or easement acquisition costs; to contract with engineers, contractors and others in the name and on behalf of the Town to complete the project; and to exercise such other powers as are necessary or appropriate to complete the project; and (f) to authorize the Board of Selectmen, the First Selectman, the Water Pollution Control Authority, the Treasurer and other proper officers and officials of the Town to take all other action which is necessary or desirable to construct and complete the sewer project and to issue bonds, notes or other obligations and obtain grants to finance the aforesaid appropriation. Pursuant to Section 7-7 of the Connecticut General Statutes to adjourn said Town Meeting at its conclusion and to submit the Resolution to be presented under Item #3 of this notice to Referendum vote on May 11, 2010, between the hours of 6:00 A.M. and 8:00 P.M. Electors and persons qualified to vote in Town Meetings who are not electors, shall vote at the Fire Safety Complex, 23 Goshen Hill Road, Lebanon, Connecticut. Absentee ballots will be available in the Town Clerk's Office.

The Resolution to be presented under Item #3 of this notice will be presented to the voters under the following heading:

“SHALL THE TOWN OF LEBANON APPROPRIATE \$6,550,000 FOR COSTS RELATED TO THE DESIGN, CONSTRUCTION AND EQUIPPING OF THE AMSTON LAKE AREA SEWER PROJECT AND AUTHORIZE THE ISSUE OF BONDS AND NOTES IN THE SAME AMOUNT TO FINANCE SAID APPROPRIATION?”

Voters approving said Resolution will vote “Yes” and those opposing said Resolution will vote “No.”

Jason Hofmann, Chairman of the WPCA, and Brandon Handfield presented an overview of the proposed Amston Lake sewer project which would connect approximately 300 lake residences to Hebron’s sewer system. It is the goal of the WPCA to avoid using any tax dollars from the Town, and to seek grants and other funding sources to help fund the project. He further stated that to become eligible to apply for grants, the WPCA needs Town approval. First Selectman Joyce Okonuk spoke to the question as follows. The Town is under an abatement order from the State. If the project is rejected, the State will take action against the Town. While it is the goal of the WPCA and the Town not to use tax dollars, the Town would have to help fund operational cost until user fees from Amston Lake residents could cover expenses.

Moved by Jan Van Woerkom, seconded by Phil Johnson, to adjourn item 3 to referendum. Vote called – motion passed

Moved by Jan Van Woerkom, seconded by Phil Johnson to bring item 4 to the floor. *“Consider and act upon approving the 2010-11 Fiscal Year Capital Improvement Program (CIP) as proposed by the Board of Selectmen.”*

First Selectman Joyce Okonuk presented an overview of the proposed FY 2010-2011 Capital Improvement Project. (A copy of the proposed Capital Improvement Program Follows these minutes)

Moderator Tollmann called the question: Vote called – Item 4 passed

Moved by Jan Van Woerkom, seconded by Phil Johnson to bring item 5 to the floor. *“Consider any other business proper to come before said meeting.”*

Moderator Edward Tollmann thanked the Board of Finance, Board of Education, and WPCA for all their volunteer hours, efforts, and outstanding work.

Liz Charron stated that upon the recommendation of the Board of Finance, the Board of Selectmen approved adding two non-binding advisory questions to the referendum ballot.

1. If you feel the Board of Education budget is at the appropriate level, please skip this question; otherwise do you feel the Board of Education budget is: Too High Too Low

2. If you feel the General Town Government budget is at the appropriate level, please skip this question; otherwise do you feel the General Town Government budget is: Too High Too Low

Other items/suggestions brought forward were as follows

- Cut all Town office hours in half
- Use Capitol Reserve Funds to give tax payers some relief

Moved by Jason Hofmann, seconded by Tim Slate to adjourn.

Vote called – motion passed

Meeting adjourned at 10:13 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Susan C. Coutu
Town Clerk