

**TOWN OF LEBANON
SPECIAL TOWN MEETING — October 19, 2022
MINUTES**

The special town meeting of the electors and those qualified to vote at the town meetings of the Town of Lebanon was held on Wednesday, October 19, 2022, at the Jonathan Trumbull Library meeting room, 580 Exeter Road. Audience: 8

First Selectman Kevin Cwikla called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

First Selectman Kevin Cwikla asked for a moment of silence in remembrance of the two Bristol police officers.

First Selectman Kevin Cwikla called for the nomination of a Moderator.

Moved by Fran Malozzi, seconded by Kathleen Smith to appoint Diane Malozzi as Moderator.
Vote called – Motion passed.

Moved by Kevin Cwikla, seconded by Kathleen Smith to wave the reading of the call of the Special Town meeting dated October 19, 2022. Vote called – Motion passed unanimously.

Moderator Malozzi asked for a motion to bring the item 1 to the floor as written.

Moved by Kathleen Smith, second by Fran Malozzi to bring item 1 to the floor.

Board of Finance Chairman Liz Charron spoke to the question as follows: State statute says if an account area is \$20,000.00 over budget, and the Board of Finance wants to move money from contingency to adjust the budget, that item must be brought to Town Meeting. Legal and Police are areas from the last fiscal year coming forward this evening.

The Legal budget is set at \$50,000.00. If there is an excess in legal, contingency funds are used. There was legal defense (church) at \$21,750.00 and some labor negotiations and other matters at \$22,600.00, plus regular legal expenses. The overage is \$24,538.00. The second area is Police. They provide work at community events. They are paid to work for these events, which is overtime, and then there is revenue. They went overbudget by \$28,726.00 but revenue was \$30,662.00, so revenue offsets the overtime.

Moderator Malozzi opened the floor to questions/comments.

Kathleen Smith, East Hebron Turnpike: When revenue comes in, it stays as revenue?

Board of Finance Chairman Liz Charron: Yes. When revenue comes in and there are expenses, any excess revenue goes to the General Fund.

There were no further questions/comments.

Moderator Malozzi called the question “Consider and act upon transferring a total of Fifty-three thousand two hundred sixty-four dollars (\$53,264.00) from Contingency to the following accounts for FY21-22: Twenty-four thousand five hundred thirty-eight dollars (\$24,538.00) to Account 400 Legal and Twenty-eight thousand seven hundred twenty-six dollars (\$28,726.00) to Account 420-Police Services.”

Vote called – Motion carried. Item passed unanimously.

Moderator Malozzi asked for a motion to bring the item 2 to the floor as written.

Moved by Fran Malozzi, second by Kevin Cwikla to bring item 2 to the floor.

Board of Finance Chairman, Liz Charron spoke to the question as follows: When the budget was established for this fiscal year, oil was priced at \$2.60 a gallon which was about .70 cents higher than previous fiscal year. The final contract went in at \$3.60 a gallon. This impacts all areas, but not a huge extent to Town budgets. Board of Education will amount to an excess of \$92,608.00 based on the number of gallons budgeted at \$2.60, not the \$3.60. Board of Finance feels the Board of Ed should not have to fund these dollars within other areas of the budget. This is out of the Board of Ed control. If this item is passed tonight, this will authorize the Board of Ed to over expend the oil line item by \$92,608.00.

Moderator Malozzi opened the floor to questions/comment.

Fran Malozzi, Burnham Road: Where will this money come from?

Liz Charron, Board of Finance Chair: It will come from fund balance.

Fran Malozzi: Will this affect the MBR for Board of Ed?

Board of Finance Chairman, Liz Charron: MBR is based on the budget, not actuals. We are not changing their budget, rather allowing Board of Ed to over-expend.

Fran Malozzi: If it is paid from fund balance and contingency, why do we have to pass this?

Board of Finance Chairman Liz Charron: State Statute says if an area goes over by \$20,000.00, it is to be brought to Town Meeting forthwith. Town meeting must approve the overage. The Board of Finance felt this amount is significant. This was known early in the fiscal year and why it has been brought to Town Meeting.

Fran Malozzi: Why does it have to go to Board of Ed, if they are overspending, why can't we pay the bill like the Town did?

Board of Finance Chairman Liz Charron: The auditors would not approve this method of paying bills from another budget to cover another area.

There were no further questions.

Moderator Malozzi called the question "Consider and act upon authorizing the Board of Education to over expend up to \$92,608 due to increase in upcoming fuel costs."

Vote called - Motion carried. Item passed unanimously.

Moved by Kevin Cwikla, seconded by Fran Malozzi to adjourn the meeting. Moderator Malozzi called for vote. Motion carried.

The Special Town meeting adjourned at 7:12 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Mary Ellen Wieczorek". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mary Ellen Wieczorek
Town Clerk