

Annual Town Meeting
May 15, 2018

The meeting was called to order, at 7:30pm, by Town Meeting Moderator Robert Mirto. Mr. Mirto introduced First Selectman James Zeoli, the Board of Selectmen, Superintendent of Schools Vincent Scarpetti, Chairman of the Board of Finance Kevin Houlihan, Tax Collector Sandy Pierson, Chief of Police Gagne and other town officials. Selectman John Carangelo led the townspeople in the Pledge of Allegiance. Town Clerk Patrick O'Sullivan read the Notice of the Town Meeting and he stated that the return of posting and publication was in the Orange Times having circulation in the town on April 25, 2018 and that the notice was placed on the bulletin board and the sign post at the town hall.

The Town Clerk called pursuant to Robert Rules of Order for the Orders of the Day. Moderator Mirto stated that speakers on any items should go to the microphone and state their name and address and would be allowed to speak for up to 2 minutes.

1. To authorize the Board of Selectmen to sell and convey land acquired by the Town through foreclosure of tax liens or by deed in lieu of foreclosure of tax liens. Motion to approve made by Selectman Okenquist and seconded by Patricia Romano. The moderator called for discussion. Hearing none, the moderator called for a vote; the motion passed unanimously.
2. To determine in accordance with Sections 12-142 and 12-144(a) of the Connecticut General Statutes the installment due dates for all property tax including the property tax on motor vehicles. The motion was made by Tax Collector Sandy Pierson and seconded by Town Treasurer Arthur Williams, that the taxes on real estate and personal property will be due and payable in two installments with due dates of July 1, 2018 and January 1, 2019 and that motor vehicle taxes & those taxes \$100.00 or under will be a single payment due and payable on July 1, 2018 and supplemental motor vehicle tax bill will be due on January 1, 2019. The moderator called for discussion, hearing none, he then called for a vote, the motion passed unanimously.
3. To receive and discuss the report of the budget prepared by the Board of Finance for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2018.

Public Comments:

Board of Finance Chairman, Kevin Houlihan reported that the Board of Finance held a special meeting on May 14, because the Connecticut General Assembly passed a state budget which restored funding for municipal aid, and Orange will receive approximately 1.6 million additional funds. Based on the anticipated funds coming from Hartford, the Board of Finance restored \$100,000 to the Orange Board of Education for Science programs and \$900,000 towards ECS (Educational Cost Sharing). The new mil rate will drop from 33.38 to 32 mils.

1st Selectman Zeoli stated that the Board of Finance Public Hearing was held on April 26th on the 2018-19 Town Budget, where citizens questions & input was taken into consideration. The Board of Finance conducted hours of meetings, workshops and department presentations. After reviewing all the department budgets, the budget reflects a 2.84% spending increase. The Board of Finance continues to maintain a very conservative approach to regarding any State of Connecticut reimbursements or revenue payments. 1st Selectman Zeoli thanked the department heads, Board of Finance, Treasurer, Accounting and Finance departments and staff for all the hard work. He also thanked everyone for attending the Annual Town Meeting.

By virtue of Town Charter Section 2.6(c), and a vote by the Board of Selectmen, Item 3 shall be voted on by machine ballot at an adjourned Town Meeting Referendum to be held on Wednesday, May 23, 2018 between the hours of 12:00 (noon) and 8:00pm at the High Plains Community Center, 525 Orange Center Rd. Orange, CT 06477.

Town Clerk O'Sullivan stated that Absentee Ballots are available in the Town Clerks Office.

Moderator Mirto, called for additional comments and hearing none, recessed the town meeting to the referendum to be held on May 23, 2018 between the hours of 12:00 (noon) and 8:00pm; the meeting adjourned at 7:55pm.

Patrick B. O'Sullivan
Town Clerk