

Annual Town Meeting May 11, 2022

2022 MAY 29 PM 12:36
TOWN CLERK

The meeting was called to order, at 7:30 pm, by Town Meeting Moderator Vincent Marino. Mr. Marino introduced First Selectman James Zeoli, members of the Board of Selectmen, Superintendent of Schools Dr. Vincent Scarpetti, Chairman of the Board of Finance Kevin Houlihan, Tax Collector Tom Hurley, Director of Finance John Cifarelli and other town officials.

Mr. Tom Hurley led the townspeople in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Town Clerk Mary Shaw read the Notice of the Town Meeting and she stated that the return of posting, and publication was in both the May editions of The Orange Town News and the Milford-Orange Times. The notice was placed on the bulletin board and the signpost at the Town Hall. The Town Clerk also noted that Absentee Ballots were available for the Budget Referendum.

The Town Clerk called pursuant to Robert Rules of Order for the Orders of the Day. Moderator Marino 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 Mitch Goldblatt and seconded by Selectmen Judy Williams. The moderator called for discussion. Hearing none, the moderator called for a voice 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.

A motion was made by Tax Collector Tom Hurley and seconded by Selectmen Goldblatt that the taxes on real estate and personal property of \$500 or more will be due and payable in two installments with due dates of July 1, 2022, and January 1, 2023, and that motor vehicle taxes & those taxes under \$500.00 will be a single payment due and payable on July 1, 2022, and supplemental motor vehicle tax bill will be due on January 1, 2023. Selectmen Goldblatt seconded the motion. The moderator called for discussion. Selectman Goldblatt shared his thoughts on not raising the amount from \$100 to \$500. The moderator called for a voice vote; the motion failed.

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motor vehicle taxes & those taxes under \$100.00 will be a single payment due and payable on July 1, 2022 and supplemental motor vehicle tax bill will be due on January 1, 2023. Selectman Goldblatt seconded the motion. 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, 2022.

Chairman Kevin Houlihan gave an overview of some changes since presenting the budget at the Annual Budget Hearing that took place on April 21, 2022. He clarified difference between the Amity budget process and the Town budget process. Discussion continued how the two different budgets and the interrelationship to each other. Director of Finance John Cifarelli joined the discussion help answer some of questions being asked.

Public Comments:

First Selectman James Zeoli thanked the Board of Finance, Dr. Scarpetti and the members of the Orange Board of Education for their hard work on the budget. First Selectman Zeoli gave some insight on the Amity budget since it recently failed at referendum. Orange Elementary School District Superintendent Dr. Vince Scarpetti, Resident and Board of Finance Committee member James Leahy, 495 Lambert Road and resident Rob Lim, 956 Corn Cob Lane made public comments at this time regarding the Amity Budget.

By virtue of Town Charter Section 2.6(c), Item 3 shall be voted on by machine ballot at an adjourned Town Meeting Referendum to be held on Wednesday, May 18, 2022, between the hours of 6:00am and 8:00pm at the High Plains Community Center, 525 Orange Center Rd. Orange, CT 06477.

Moderator Marino, called for additional comments and hearing none, recessed the town meeting to the referendum to be held on May 18, 2022, between the hours of 6:00 am and 8:00 pm; the meeting recessed at 8:06 pm.

Mary Shaw
Town Clerk