

**TOWN OF GLASTONBURY
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
THURSDAY, JANUARY 24, 2019**

The Glastonbury Town Council with Town Manager, Richard J. Johnson, in attendance, held the Annual Town Meeting at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers of Town Hall, 2155 Main Street, Glastonbury, Connecticut. Also present was Dr. Alan Bookman, Superintendent of Schools, Susan Karp, Board Chairman and Members of the Boards of Education and Finance.

1. Roll Call

Council Members

Mr. Thomas P. Gullotta, Chairman
Mr. Lawrence Niland, Vice Chairman
Dr. Stewart Beckett III
Ms. Deborah A. Carroll
Mr. Kurt P. Cavanaugh *{excused}*
Ms. Mary LaChance
Mr. Jacob McChesney
Mr. George P. Norman
Mr. Whit C. Osgood *{excused}*

1. Town Clerk to call Town Meeting to order. *Mrs. Joyce Mascena*

2. Pledge of Allegiance. *Led by Mrs. Joyce Mascena*

Mrs. Mascena welcomed everyone to the annual meeting and briefly reviewed the history of the town and its name.

3. Election of Acting Clerk.

Nomination By: Education Chairman Karp ***Seconded By:*** Council Chairman Gullotta
Kimberly Meanix Miller for Acting Clerk

Mrs. Mascena called for other nominations but hearing none, she closed the nominations and called for a vote.

Result: Kimberly Meanix Miller was elected acting clerk by a unanimous vote with no nay votes voiced.

4. Election of Moderator of Town Meeting.

Nomination By: Education Chairman Karp **Seconded By:** Council Chairman Gullotta
Jake McChesney as Moderator.

Mrs. Mascena called for other nominations but hearing none, she closed the nominations and called for a vote.

Result: Jake McChesney was elected moderator by a unanimous vote with no nay votes voiced.

Mr. McChesney expressed thanks for the opportunity to serve as moderator

5. Opening remarks by Town Council Chair, Thomas Gullotta.

Chairman Gullotta explained that this begins the process of planning for revenues and expenditures for the town. He said that he hoped all the citizens would stay active and involved through the entire process.

6. Presentation on Budgets:

(a) Town Operating and Debt & Transfer Budget and Capital Improvement Program Budget. (Town Manager)

Mr. Johnson reviewed slides saying that they propose a 2.92% increase. He spoke to the factors influencing the proposed budgets such as labor and health insurance saying that they have double digit increases in insurance that they hope to mitigate through plan changes. He said that the investment assumption is proposed to be reduced for the pension which requires the town put in \$243K. He reviewed debt and transfers, revenues and the increase of \$500K to the capital transfer. He noted that Moody's always praises the town for paying as they go. He said that the Governor has until late February to present his budget. He spoke to the grand list, mil rate and state aid. He reviewed the CIP saying that it represents roads and bridges to equipment noting that they work hard to keep up their infrastructure. He thanked his staff Julie Twilley, Director of Finance, Kathryn Paquette, Marketing Specialist, Narae McManus, Financial Analyst, and all the directors for their work in putting together the budget.

(b) Education Operating Budget. (Superintendent of Schools, Board of Education Chairman, and Board of Education Vice Chairman)

Board of Education Chairman Karp indicated that the proposed education budget represents a fiscally responsible way to meet the needs of the students, faculty and staff. She noted that their budget process never ends from planning, analyzing and adjusting throughout the year. She spoke to recognition earned by the district. She reviewed the budget increases the last few years which have been declining and said that they represent largely personnel. Dr. Bookman reviewed enrollment and staffing noting that there are changes between now and the start of the school year. He said that they have reduced by almost 50 students since 2014 and he feels as if they are bottoming out. He reviewed the budget differences since last year in categories such as salaries, benefits, special education and utilities netting out to a 3.6% increase. Education Vice Chairman Foyle continued speaking to LINKS, the 1% fund and professional development. He said they raised the substitute wage slightly as they were having a hard time securing subs and were paying much less than other districts. He showed where Glastonbury is within comparable schools across the state and that with the decline of students, teachers and staff also declined without doing any layoffs. He said that they deliver value for the tax dollars and results for the students.

7. (a) Public Comments.

No one spoke

(b) Public vote to express an opinion on the proposed budget for the guidance of the Town Council. (Section 703 of the Town Charter).

Mr. McChesney asked all residents present to express their opinion on the proposed budget which provides guidance to the Town Council in their deliberations. All votes expressed were aye, in favor of the budget, and there were no nay votes.

8. Adjournment.

Motion By: Board Chairman. Karp **Seconded By:** Board Vice Chairman Foyle
BE IT RESOLVED, that the Annual Town Meeting of Monday, January 24, 2018, adjourns at 8:11 pm.

Result: With no objection, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly Meanix Miller

**Kimberly Meanix Miller
Recording Clerk**

Thomas Gullotta