

**GLASTONBURY TOWN COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2019**

The Glastonbury Town Council with Town Manager, Richard J. Johnson, in attendance, held a Regular Meeting at 6:00 p.m. at the Council Chambers of Town Hall, 2155 Main Street, Glastonbury, Connecticut.

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
Ms. Mary LaChance
Mr. Jacob McChesney
Mr. George P. Norman
Mr. Whit C. Osgood

(a) Pledge of Allegiance.

Led by Mr. Osgood

2. Public Comment.

None

3. Special Reports.

None

4. Old Business.

None

BUDGET REVIEWS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2019-2020 – 6:00 P.M TO 8:00 P.M.

Presentation and discussion concerning Town Operations, Debt & Transfer, Revenues & Transfers, Capital Reserve Fund, Capital Improvement Program and other budget related matters involving the combined 2019-2020 budget proposal

Mr. Johnson introduced the department heads and reviewed the Governor's proposed budget versus the assumptions that were made and presented at the annual town meeting. He noted that there is a net difference of -\$76K. Chairman Gullotta was unclear about the penalty for towns like Glastonbury who pay teachers above the median. Mr. Johnson said he's awaiting more information but understood that they are being asked to cover 25% of the normal cost and then some percentage over the median. Dr. Beckett also wanted to understand more such as, is it the base, longevity, etc. Mr. Cavanaugh questioned what the state means by cost. Mr. Johnson reiterated that he's awaiting clarification but there is the normal cost and the unfunded liability and the latter is being covered entirely by the state.

Mr. Johnson continued his budget review speaking to the major factors impacting the proposed budget such as insurance. Mr. Osgood questioned if it made sense to separate out the Board of Education and Town portion of the self-insurance. Mr. Johnson indicated they should look at it adding that the Board of Education has a concern about rating for the whole pool. Ms. LaChance asked why a truck wasn't in the CIP and Mr. Johnson said that it was under \$100,000 and recurring. Dr. Beckett noted the projects put off to bring the budget down asking if they can be accomplished with transfers among departments. Mr. Johnson said that if they have realized savings, they may be able to tackle some of those items that were deferred. Mr. Osgood asked about the 11.5% premium equivalent applied to the town side or both. Mr. Johnson said that it was for the town side only and Mr. Osgood questioned that given the premium was the same.

Mr. Johnson continued his review of the budget explaining the reductions made by the Board of Finance totaling \$2.2M excluding the \$500K sought for teacher pensions by the state. He said that they have to find \$350K in town operations and are considering increasing fees and charges. Dr. Beckett asked if the Town Council controls the investment assumption. Mr. Johnson said that the Town Council is the final budget authority. Chairman Gullotta noted that people come and go and questioned if there is room in wages. Mr. Johnson said that they try to account for people coming and going. Mr. Norman confirmed with Mr. Johnson that reducing the projects doesn't directly impact the tax rate. Mr. Johnson conveyed the bias toward cash but the Board of Finance felt \$6M was better than \$6.25M. He continued reviewing the CIP and debt and transfer.

Chairman Gullotta suggested looking at providing a break for seniors on permits. He also said that single stream is creating issues and growing in disfavor, perhaps the town should go back to separating recyclables. Vice Chairman Niland asked if Mr. Johnson looks for synergies with Dr. Bookman. Mr. Johnson said they look all the time for synergies. Mr. Norman asked about the crime rate statistics. Police Chief Porter said that they evaluate nationwide statistics and their own noting that motor vehicle crime is up everywhere. Chairman Gullotta asked why they are looking to trade SUV's in that have just over 60K miles. Chief Porter said that there are a couple in the 70's and by the time the vehicle is actually replaced, they would likely have another 25K miles. Chairman Gullotta confirmed with Chief Porter that there was no increase for the dog. He asked about trading in old rifles for new ones. Chief Porter said that the rifles are aging, they are experiencing more breakdown and they are expensive to repair. Chairman Gullotta asked

about any policy to collect license plates in parking lots and Chief Porter said they didn't have the technology. Mr. McChesney asked about the Motor Vehicles again. Chief Porter said that they aren't going away, just coming off the patrol line. Mr. Johnson said that they also evaluate the repair history. Mr. McChesney asked the age of the rifles and Chief Porter said he'd get back to them about that.

Vice Chairman Niland wanted more information on the technology saying there seemed to be inconsistency between departments. Mr. Johnson said that he'd get back to him. Ms. LaChance asked about replacing printers. Ms. Twilley said that the finance department needs a printer for checks and a back-up. Ms. Carroll asked why there was a line item for the ambulance if it was now for-profit. Mr. Johnson explained that the budget shows reimbursement with no net cost to the town. Ms. Carroll congratulated Mr. Johnson and his staff for energy savings. Dr. Beckett asked about the future. Mr. Johnson indicated that they always continue to look for more savings but it's unclear what more will be found.

Chairman Gullotta asked about maker space. Ms. Barbara Bailey said that they are 18-24 months out from solidifying the maker space. Vice Chairman Niland asked about the office equipment and Mr. Twilley said they'd get back to him. Mr. Cavanaugh asked if the overlay material was less durable. Mr. Dan Pennington said that that the material of today is definitely not as durable and that there is a sense that the environmental regulations have played a role. He agreed that it impacts the budget. Mr. Osgood thanked the department heads for all their work knowing that less state funding makes work difficult for town employees. Chairman Gullotta echoed the appreciation for the service of the staff.

5. New Business.

(a) Discussion and action concerning membership in Metropolitan District for public water service.

Mr. Johnson reviewed his memo to the Council on the subject dated February 22, 2019. Mr. Osgood suggested they write a letter seeking notification of public hearings for projects in town and a water only membership. He also expressed concern about how they are charged for projects in town where member towns aren't noting that the MDC benefits with the revenue but the town's residents pay the costs. Chairman Gullotta said he didn't have an issue with the letter but wanted to use the motion. Dr. Beckett said that they have had a contentious relationship with the MDC and don't want to muddy the waters with other issues. He continued saying that when there are well issues in town, he would like to see extensions handled efficiently and fairly. Mr. Norman agreed saying he wanted to ensure the voice of the elected officials is heard. Mr. Osgood said that there are a number of projects on the drawing board and the MDC has never thought about a water only membership.

Motion By: Ms. Carroll

Seconded By: Dr. Beckett

BE IT RESOLVED that the Glastonbury Town Council hereby expresses its support to initiate discussions with the Metropolitan District on becoming a formal member for public water service and authorizes the Town Manager to formally advise the District CEO of the desire for Glastonbury to engage in such discussions and schedule a meeting for representatives of the Town and District accordingly, as described in a report by the Town Manager dated February 22, 2019.

Result: Motion passes unanimously {9-0-0}.

Mr. Osgood asked about the other issues. Chairman Gullotta said that Mr. Johnson understands the other issues and can include them as appropriate. Mr. Johnson said that it could be two letters and a consensus was reached in allowing Mr. Johnson to put something together for review.

(b) Action on grant process for Glastonbury High School Kitchen Project.

Mr. Johnson reviewed his memo to the Council on the subject dated February 22, 2019.

Motion By: Ms. Carroll

Seconded By: Dr. Beckett

BE IT RESOLVED, that that the Town Council authorizes the Glastonbury Board of Education to apply to the Commissioner of Administrative Services and to accept or reject a grant for the Kitchen Alterations at Glastonbury High School.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Public Building Commission is hereby established as the building committee with regard to the Kitchen Alterations at the Glastonbury High School.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council hereby authorizes at least the preparation of schematic drawings and outline specifications for the Kitchen Alterations Project at Glastonbury High School.

Disc: Mr. Osgood said that this is a CIP project that is unapproved. Mr. Johnson said that this is a step in the process that must be completed for the project to be completed and submitted so it is ready to go when the CIP is approved.

Result: Motion passes unanimously {9-0-0}.

(c) Discussion concerning proposed increases to State minimum wage.

Mr. Johnson reviewed his memo to the Council on the subject dated February 22, 2019, noting that there are budget implications. Dr. Beckett said he fully understood about a living wage with people trying to raise a family but also that there are teens that are not adults that require training

or are in internships and that there should be carveouts. Mr. Osgood said that there are arguments on both sides and suggested they send a factual letter on the implications. Mr. McChesney agreed saying the facts without weighing in. Chairman Gullotta said that he would like to see the bill and understand the language, exceptions and conditions before sending a letter.

Motion By: Mr. Osgood

Seconded By: Dr. Beckett

BE IT RESOLVED that the Glastonbury Town Council hereby authorizes the Town Manager to draft a letter to their state representatives indicating the impacts of the proposed minimum wage on one year and multi-year budgets.

Disc: Mr. Norman said that this is the time to send input as the bill is forming. Mr. Niland and Ms. Carroll agreed.

Result: Motion carries by the following vote {8-0-1} with Chairman Gullotta opposing.

(d) Action on transfer from Contingency – Cyber Security Audit.

Mr. Johnson reviewed his memo to the Council on the subject dated February 22, 2019.

Motion By: Ms. Carroll

Seconded By: Dr. Beckett

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Glastonbury Town Council hereby approves a \$25,000 appropriation from Contingency for a cyber security audit of Town systems and protocols subject to favorable action by the Board of Finance, as described in a report by the Town Manager dated February 22, 2019.

Disc: Mr. Niland said this was done in the town where he works, and the risk far exceeds the cost. Mr. McChesney and Mr. Osgood also expressed support,

Result: Motion passes unanimously {9-0-0}.

6. Consent Calendar.

(a) Action on License Agreement between Town of Glastonbury and Federal Aviation Administration.

Motion By: Ms. Carroll

Seconded By: Dr. Beckett

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Glastonbury Town Council hereby authorizes Richard J. Johnson, Town Manager, to execute the Revocable License Agreement with the Federal Aviation Administration dated February 26, 2019 for use of a site off Clark Hill Road for public safety communication systems, as described in a report dated February 22, 2019.

Result: Motion passes unanimously {9-0-0}.

7. Town Manager's Report.

Mr. Johnson reviewed his memo to the Council on the subject dated February 22, 2019. Mr. Osgood asked about the removal of the pilons at the riverfront. Mr. Johnson said that 90% plus would likely be going away. Mr. Osgood said he would prefer they are removed to the extent they pose a risk but was unsure about spending the money on removing the ones that were further out.

8. Committee Reports.

- (a) **Chairman's Report.** *None*

- (b) **MDC.** *Discussed Earlier*

- (c) **CRCOG.** *No Report*

9. Communications.

Ms. Carroll noted a communication from CJ Mozzochi about a number of issues.

10. Minutes.

- (a) **Minutes of February 13, 2019 Special Meeting.**

Motion By: Ms. Carroll

Seconded By: Dr. Beckett

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Glastonbury Town Council hereby approves as submitted, the minutes of the meeting held February 13, 2019.

Result: Motion passes unanimously {9-0-0}.

11. Appointments and Resignations.

- (a) **Resignation of Denise Weeks from the Commission on Aging (D-2019).**

Motion By: Ms. Carroll

Seconded By: Dr. Beckett

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Glastonbury Town Council hereby accepts the resignation of Denise Weeks from the Commission on Aging (D-2019).

Disc: Chairman Gullotta said that they will sorely miss her participation on the Commission and she has been a long, active and articulate member.

Result: Motion passes unanimously {9-0-0}

12. Executive Session.

(a) Potential Land Acquisition.

(b) Draft terms and conditions for sale of Town owned land off Western Boulevard.

Motion By: Ms. Carroll

Seconded By: Dr. Beckett

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Glastonbury Town Council hereby enters into Executive Session at 8:20 pm, for the purpose of discussing potential land acquisition and draft terms and conditions for sale of Town owned land off Western Boulevard. In attendance will be Council members and the Town Manager.

Result: Motion passes unanimously {9-0-0}.

Present for the Executive Session were council members, Mr. Tom Gullotta, Chairman, Mr. Lawrence Niland, Vice Chairman, Dr. Chip Beckett, Ms. Deborah A. Carroll, Mr. Kurt Cavanaugh, Ms. Mary LaChance, Mr. Jacob McChesney, Mr. George Norman and Mr. Whit Osgood with Town Manager, Richard J. Johnson.

Motion By: Ms. Carroll

Seconded By: Dr. Beckett

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Glastonbury Town Council hereby exits executive session at 8:35 pm.

Result: Motion passes unanimously {9-0-0}.

13. Adjournment

Motion By: Ms. Carroll

Seconded By: Dr. Beckett

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Glastonbury Town Council hereby adjourns their regular meeting of February 26, 2019, at 8:36 pm.

Result: Motion passes unanimously {8-0-0}.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly Meanix Miller

**Kimberly Meanix Miller
Recording Clerk**

**Thomas Gullotta
Chairman**