

**GLASTONBURY TOWN COUNCIL  
FINAL BUDGET HEARING AND SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES  
THURSDAY, MARCH 21, 2019**

The Glastonbury Town Council with Town Manager, Richard J. Johnson, in attendance, held a Final Budget Hearing and Special Meeting at 7:00 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 Julie Thompson*

**2. Public Comment.**

*None*

**PUBLIC HEARING AND ACTION ON PUBLIC HEARING**

**7:00 P.M. FINAL BUDGET HEARING – 2019-2020 GENERAL FUND-TOWN OPERATIONS, DEBT AND TRANSFER, EDUCATION, REVENUES, TRANSFERS AND USE OF FUND BALANCE, CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM, AND SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS.**

*Mr. Chip Geer of 86 Sunset Drive* said that the town cannot act as if it is in a bubble without any impacts from the state. He criticized the Board of Education saying that salaries and benefits are the majority of their budget as if they have no responsibility and questioning why they give increases every year. He said that in the private sector, they would have to verify revenues

before agreeing to increases. He encouraged the Council to slow the trajectory of the budget increases and in turn, the mil rate.

**Mr. Carl Benker of 55 Hickory Drive** expressed support of the Board of Education budget praising their work educating the students and that that he values a good education.

**Mr. Michael Litke of 292 Feldspar Ridge** grew up in town and came back to raise his family knowing he would be paying his fair share which he said he was willing to do. He urged the town to find other revenue sources and not to cut the education budget. He said that teachers, resources and class size is important adding that instruction is not what it once was. He spoke about the statistics for better success and support for the students.

**Ms. Linda Provost of Hebron Avenue School** spoke to the district and school being excellent and the foundation of excellence is smaller class sizes which allow for less class management and more instruction time as well as concentrating on mental health and wellbeing. She advocated that the cuts to the school budget be rejected.

**Mr. Chittaranjan Sahay 170 East Opal Drive** pleaded that the education budget be restored advocating for even more emphasis on technology.

**Ms. Susan Dzialo of 345 Main Street** expressed support for the Board of Finance cuts saying that they are reasonable and would help people looking to buy in the town. She said that they need to be aware of the dramatic impacts from the state.

**Ms. Theresa Forbes of 78 Mountain Road** noted she was a teacher and was speaking for the children. She said that this was the first time she was scared that the cuts would have substantial impact on the children. She asked that they listen to the educators.

**Mr. Scott Daniels of 98 Rampart Drive** said he was a teacher and coach and was proud except for the fieldhouse. He said it was antiquated, lacked storage and was an eyesore. He spoke to the issues of juggling of the teams, the inadequate changing facilities, poor ventilation, etc.

**Ms. Janelle Lim of 18 Pepperbush Lane** spoke against the education cuts.

**Ms. Rebecca Comenale of 13 Candlelight** read a letter from Dr. Bean advocating for upgrading the fieldhouse calling it inadequate forcing athletes to change in their cars, saying there were ADA issues and no sink for the athletic trainers to wash their hands before and after treating a student. She read that Dr. Bean encouraged support of the education budget as well.

**Mr. David Brown of 61 Coach Road** urged the Town Council to hold the line on increases saying that good teachers and facilities are important but the most important factor is the parents. He encouraged them to pay the teachers well, but the schools and town don't need everything.

**Ms. Emma Monzeglio of 42 Marilyn Drive** said that she is a junior field hockey player and has never been able to use the locker room. She said that she and her teammates change in their cars while teens are leaving school grounds, busses, etc. She urged the Town Council to vote to fix the fieldhouse before something bad happens.

**Ms. Sadie Abernathy of 59 Pilgard Lane** advocated for the education budget.

**Ms. Megan Abernathy of 59 Pilgard Lane** said that people come back and choose Glastonbury for their own families which speaks volumes but she has had to come out and speak about several matters. She implored the Town Council to reject the cuts to the Board of Education budget.

**Ms. Kris Garpfalo of Nayaug School** advocated for the education budget expressing concern for increased class sizes given that instruction has changed. She emphasized large class sizes would hurt students.

**Ms. Janet Balthezar of 360 Stanley Drive and Buttonball Lane School** said that instruction was different and that they do pay the teachers well because you get what you pay for. She said they are currently experiencing budget cuts with the freeze and explained the requests that have been rejected.

**Ms. Janet Cahow of 18 Old Maids Lane** advocated for the education budget.

**Mr. Jay Gregorski of Smith Middle School** said his school stands to lose special education support which is critical support for the most fragile of learners.

**Mr. Kent Hurlburt of Gideon Welles School** spoke to the importance of professional development calling it a key component of success noting that the state mandates a certain number of hours.

**Ms. Abigail Martus-Mayr of Chestnut Hill Road** expressed concern that increased class sizes will mean that teachers will be out of touch with the students and the students will be out of reach.

**Ms. Jen Finnerty of Buttonball Lane School** expressed concern about increased class sizes and urged the Town Council to put the futures of the students at the forefront.

**Mr. Patrick Troy of Paddock Lane** explained that he came to town for the sense of community with the schools at the heart. He said that those without students in the schools often went through the schools themselves or are grandparents or great grandparents. He encouraged the Council to consider the impact to the community.

**Mr. Paul Liss of Paxton Way** urged the Council to support the Board of Finance budget saying that they can't keep raising taxes.

**Ms. Beverly Amon of 233 Cider Mill Road** said that all know why people come to town and while they know the taxes are high in town and in the state, they chose to come anyway due to the good education. She asked the Council to have the courage to support education.

**Ms. Natalie Aloï of 48 Stonepost Road** reiterated that people chose to be in town due to the school system and spoke to the concern cuts might have on class sizes and special education.

**Ms. Lillian Tanski of 160 South Pond Road** said she served on the Board of Education but was speaking on her own. She said she is prepared to make hard choices but won't support higher class sizes. She wanted to protect the education budget but also keep taxes down so people don't have to move. She encouraged people to fight at the state level for reforms in areas such as special education and fight against forced arbitration, diverting property taxes, forced regionalization and assuming teacher pensions.

**Mr. Millard Scudder of 235 Woodhaven Road** said that they came to town because of the education and expressed concern about the budget cuts.

**Mr. Rob Bernard of 113 Weir Street** said he was a teacher, coach and parent and cautioned against budget cuts. He advocated for updating of the fieldhouse and putting the money into their kids.

**Mr. Jamie Andreski of 25 Mockingbird Lane** said he came to town because the schools are first and while there are other great amenities, they only matter if education is prioritized.

**Ms. Kris Cofiell of 269 Chestnut Hill Road** advocated for the fieldhouse updates.

**Ms. Michele Parad of 628 Hopewell Road** said that it is the largest tax increase in town history and advocated for the Board of Finance budget.

**Ms. Maureen Perkins, a teacher and coach at GHS,** advocated for a new fieldhouse because it is currently inadequate, and the inequities must be remedied.

**Mr. David Peniston of 29 Rosewood Drive** said he was a member of the Board of Education but speaking for himself. He said they made the difficult decision to move to Glastonbury from a

more diverse town with lower taxes, but the education was better here. He noted that they spend less per student than many schools. He spoke to the need for the fieldhouse and that students leave the district because there is a perception that Glastonbury doesn't care about is athletes and facilities.

**Ms. Sara Bass of 5 Knollwood Drive** said she couldn't say enough good things about the public schools, but the state is in a serious financial situation. She suggested starting at the top noting the salary of the superintendent. She said that they can look closer than they have before.

**Ms. Aleta Naujunas of 294 Wickham Road** said that there might be declining enrollment, but the needs of the students are not declining with increased special needs, mental health needs and behavior issues. She said that increased class sizes and loss of paras will exacerbate this situation.

**Ms. Marie Robert of 57 Mountain View Road** urged the Council not to cut the education budget which could lead to higher class sizes and jeopardize the school rating.

**Ms. Cheryl Cwierniewicz of 25 Starview Drive** asked the Council to be creative in addressing the budget but not to cut the education budget.

**Mr. Paul Coco of 982 Mott Hill Road** spoke to their education ranking and urged the Council to reject education budget cuts to avoid increased class sizes. He said that increased class sizes will burn out teachers and hurt retention

**Mr. Uttampal Sing of 60 Penwood Crossing** was disappointed to hear of the potential cuts as he moved here for the education and is willing to pay the taxes.

**Mr. Ranga Dasari of 225 Bluff Point Road** explained his background in agriculture in India driving home the importance of education as his family is now 4 doctors and 4 engineers. He said education is a no-brainer and urged the Council to support it and the field house.

**Mr. Kasam Moheb of 30 Gregory Hill** said he grew up in Egypt with a class size of 60 kids and it was a matter of survival with many struggling. He said that education and healthcare always get the short end of the stick and urged the Council to restore the cuts.

**Ms. Susan Karp of 32 Rampart Drive and Chairman of the Board of Education** thanked the speakers and while they will do the most they can to avoid impact to the students, it can't be avoided with any significant cut. She urged the Council to support the education budget as originally proposed.

*Ms. Emily Muro-Trexler of Hopewell School* said she was speaking for Kathleen Murphy and advocated for approving the education budget as original proposed and avoiding class sizes going up which reduces the ability of the teacher to address individual needs.

*Ms. April Kow of 180 Dayton Road* urged the town to maintain the quality of education in town which is the reason why she moved here.

*Mr. Ray McFall of 40 Bidwell* spoke to the amenities of Glastonbury and how fragile it is to be a top-level school.

*Ms. Daniele Paquin of 31 Karen Lee Road* said she was profoundly deaf, and she brought her family back to town for the education knowing they would pay high taxes.

*Mr. Richard Klompus of 9 Pheasant Crossing* expressed concern for the students in large classes.

*Mr. Richard Kelly of Dayton Road* urged for the Council to control spending for affordability.

*Ms. Jean Wong of Jerimiah's Way* said families are an important factor in performance, but good schools attract good families

*Mr. Richard Fu of 3112 Flanagan's Way* said that they moved to town due to the education as well but reviewed the budget and cuts saying they should be able to make up the shortfall. He said the fieldhouse is unacceptable and he doesn't want high class sizes or high taxes so there has to be a way to find a compromise.

*Ms. Lauren Lacey of 163 Chase Hollow Lane* urged for the Council not to reduce the education budget which could result in increased class sizes.

*The meeting recessed at 9:35pm and reconvened at 9:53pm.*

Chairman Gullotta closed the public hearing.

### **3. Old Business.**

#### **(a) Action on Resolutions Adopting the 2019-2020 Operating Budget.**

Mr. Johnson explained the budget changes such as an additional \$100K, an increase in tip fees and revenues, the accelerated ECS reduction and the potential teacher pension cost of \$500K. He said that they have a very advantageous debt service reduction and grand list growth that they are

likely not to have in the following year noting the benefits of smoothing the budget. Dr. Beckett and Mr. Osgood asked some clarifying questions regarding the numbers.

**(1) General Fund Appropriations and Transfers.**

**• Education**

**Motion By:** Ms. Carroll

**Seconded By:** Dr. Beckett

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Glastonbury Town Council approves an appropriation of \$108,049,846 for the 2019-2020 Education Budget.

**Disc:** Vice Chairman Niland thanked the speakers for their time and while they may not all have the same opinion, they all want the best for the town. He said they need to serve all the residents and education is an integral part of town noting he came for the education as well and it drives home values.

**Amendment By:** Vice Chairman Niland

**Seconded By:** Ms. Carroll

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Glastonbury Town Council increases the appropriation for the 2019-2020 Education Budget by \$750,000.

**Disc:** Mr. McChesney echoed the comments by Vice Chairman Niland expressing support for the amendment. Ms. LaChance said that the town they moved from didn't support the education which caused the school rating to drop and the home values to drop. She expressed support of the amendment. Mr. Norman agreed they all want the best for the town and education is important and drives home values but they also need balance and a sustainable path. He couldn't support this high of a restoration. Dr. Beckett said that he worried about class sizes and didn't think elementary was the place for this to happen. He said the town has been feeling the cuts so they can preserve the education system. He said one of the reasons they have a good system is the parental involvement to ensure money is spent wisely. Mr. Cavanaugh said he listened to the Board of Education and Board of Finance meetings and was critical of the state for unfunded mandates, the loss of ECS and the continued increase in taxing and spending. He expressed tremendous concern about the future with state impacts out of their control.

**Result:** Amendment fails {4-5-0} with Vice Chairman Niland, Ms. Carroll, Ms. LaChance and Mr. McChesney in favor.

**Amendment By:** Ms. Carroll

**Seconded By:** Dr. Beckett

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Glastonbury Town Council increases the appropriation for the 2019-2020 Education Budget by \$650,000.

**Amendment By:** Mr. Osgood

**Seconded By:** None

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Glastonbury Town Council increases the appropriation for the 2019-2020 Education Budget by \$400,000.

**Result:** Amendment fails without a second.

**Disc:** Ms. Carroll express support for the maximum restoration thanking the speakers for compelling reasoning. She said she moved here for the schools and acknowledged the uncertain future with the state. She encouraged the Board of Education to think carefully about where the cuts come from encouraging a look at the administration structure. Mr. Norman said he could support some restoration but thought this was still too much. Mr. Osgood echoed Mr. Norman's comments indicating there was too much uncertainty at the state and favorable conditions this year that are unlikely to be repeated. Vice Chairman Niland expressed support. Mr. McChesney noted that many state politicians didn't fund pensions which has created a tremendous problem, but he would support this restoration. Ms. LaChance and Chairman Gullotta expressed support.  
**Result:** Motion carries {6-3-0} with Mr. Cavanaugh, Mr. Norman and Mr. Osgood opposing

- **Town Operations**

**Motion By:** Ms. Carroll **Seconded By:** Dr. Beckett  
BE IT RESOLVED, that the Glastonbury Town Council approves an appropriation of \$42,884,025 for the 2019-2020 General Town Budget.

**Amendment By:** Dr. Beckett **Seconded By:** Ms. LaChance  
BE IT RESOLVED, that the Glastonbury Town Council increases the appropriation 2019-2020 General Town Budget by \$512,000.

**Amendment By:** Mr. Osgood **Seconded By:** Mr. Cavanaugh  
BE IT RESOLVED, that the Glastonbury Town Council increases the appropriation 2019-2020 General Town Budget by \$357,000.

**Disc:** Vice Chairman Niland didn't think this was enough. Mr. Cavanaugh said that historically, there was a thought process that if the education budget was cut, so must be the town operations budget but he no longer feels that's appropriate. Mr. Norman and Mr. Osgood expressed support.

**Result:** Amendment fails {3-6-0} with Mr. Cavanaugh, Mr. Norman and Mr. Osgood in favor.

**Disc:** Ms. LaChance noted that people are compelled to add dollars to the budget when unforeseen expenses have come up for town operations but not the same for education. Mr. Osgood and Mr. Norman were opposed.

**Result:** Amendment fails {2-7-0} with Chairman Gullotta and Dr. Beckett in favor.

**Amendment By:** Vice Chairman Niland **Seconded By:** Dr. Beckett  
BE IT RESOLVED, that the Glastonbury Town Council increases the appropriation 2019-2020 General Town Budget by \$450,000.

**Disc:** Mr. McChesney said he heard from residents and that it was an absurdity what the Board of Finance allocated to the town.

**Result:** Amendment passes {8-1-0} with Mr. Cavanaugh opposing.



• **Debt and Transfer**

**Motion By:** Ms. Carroll

**Seconded By:** Dr. Beckett

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Glastonbury Town Council approves an appropriation of \$13,973,755 for the 2019-2020 Debt and Transfer Budget.

**Disc:** Mr. Osgood said that they are increasing CIP by \$250K closer to annual depreciation.

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

(2) **General Fund Revenues, Transfers and Use of Fund Balance.**

**Motion By:** Ms. Carroll

**Seconded By:** Dr. Beckett

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Glastonbury Town Council approves 2019-2020 General Fund Revenues and Transfers in the amount of \$166,007,626.

**Disc:** Mr. Cavanaugh echoed Mr. McChesney's support for the town budget, noted the built-in constituency for the schools and took offense to some of the mocking of the town's assets outside of the schools.

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

(3) **Capital Improvement Program.**

**Motion By:** Ms. Carroll

**Seconded By:** Dr. Beckett

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Glastonbury Town Council approves the 2019-2020 Capital Improvement Program (see attached Capital Improvement Program: Town Manager Recommended Projects: 2019-2020) in the amount of \$10,168,216. Funding will be provided as follows:

Capital Reserve Fund	\$9,707,000
Town Aid Road	\$461,216

**Amendment By:** Mr. Osgood

**Seconded By:** Mr. Cavanaugh

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Glastonbury Town Council decreases the 2019-2020 Capital Improvement Program by \$250,000.

**Disc:** Mr. Osgood suggested the reduction be for the fieldhouse from \$1M to \$750K which should be sufficient to address the Title IX issue for 3 locker rooms. Vice Chairman Niland was opposed noting that the \$1M is a placeholder and felt it was shortsighted to reduce it now. Mr. McChesney echoed Vice Chairman Niland's remarks expressing concern about the inequity between old outdated locker rooms and new ones. He was concerned about the legal exposure and expected the project would evolve and come down. Mr. Norman felt it sent a stronger signal

to reduce the value of the placeholder now. Dr. Becket couldn't support this saying he would rather the reduction, when determined, come off the second portion. Mr. Osgood said that they could address the Title IX issue by alternating who uses the facility.

**Result:** Amendment fails {3-6-0} with Mr. Cavanaugh, Mr. Norman and Mr. Osgood in favor.

**Result:** Motion carries {7-2-0} with Mr. Cavanaugh and Mr. Osgood opposing.

**(4) Special Revenue Funds.**

- **Sewer Operating Fund**
- **Recreation Activities Fund**
- **Police Private Duty**
- **Riverfront Park Fund**

**Motion By:** Ms. Carroll

**Seconded By:** Dr. Beckett

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Glastonbury Town Council approves 2019-2020 Special Revenue Fund Appropriations and Transfers and Special Revenue Fund Revenues and Transfers as follows:

Sewer Operating Fund	\$3,170,642
Recreation Activities Fund	\$1,487,716
Police Private Duty	\$400,000
Riverfront Park Fund	\$253,200o4

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

**4. Adjournment.**

**Motion By:** Ms. Carroll

**Seconded By:** Dr. Beckett

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Glastonbury Town Council hereby adjourns their final budget hearing and special meeting of March 21, 2019, at 11:08 pm.

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

**Respectfully submitted,**

*Kimberly Meanix Miller*

**Kimberly Meanix Miller**  
**Recording Clerk**

**Thomas Gullotta**  
**Chairman**