

**GLASTONBURY TOWN COUNCIL  
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES  
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2019**

The Glastonbury Town Council with Town Manager, Richard J. Johnson, in attendance, held a Special Meeting at 6:00 p.m. at the Council Chambers of Town Hall, 2155 Main Street, Glastonbury, Connecticut. Also in attendance were members of the Board of Finance and Board of Education.

**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  
Ms. Lillian Tanski

**(a) Pledge of Allegiance.**

**Led by Chairman Gullotta**

**2. Public Communication and Petitions pertaining to the Call.**

***None***

**3. Special Business as contained in the Call.**

**(a) Presentation and discussion on 2020-2021 budget process.**

Mr. Johnson presented slides with an overview of the budget. He noted the status of the year end FY19 where key drivers were the gain in operations and the repayment for the school air conditioning. He spoke to the expectation of a decline in future intergovernmental revenues. Chairman Gullotta asked for more detail. Mr. Johnson said that the substantive portion of intergovernmental revenues anticipated to decline is ECS. Dr. Beckett asked if there was a floor. Mr. Johnson confirmed that there was a floor and he would send out more information. He

continued reviewing the slides on debt service and the capital reserve transfer noting that they are losing buying power and still have infrastructure to maintain.

Mr. Johnson reviewed town operations noting that being in the service business, it is dominated by employee related costs. Mr. Osgood asked how long a period the town saw a 10% reduction in workforce to which Mr. Johnson said 15 years adding that the town has changed a lot in that time. Mr. Johnson spoke to the actuarially determined contribution for the pension saying that there are updated mortality tables they could adopt and there has been discussion of reducing the investment assumption but doing both in the same year would be a lot. Chairman Gullotta noted that Bloomberg discussed 6.1% so he thought they were in a favorable position. Mr. Johnson continued his review of the slides including economic development. Ms. Tanski asked if Mr. Johnson was seeing development slow but Mr. Johnson saw no evidence it was. Mr. Johnson reviewed grand list growth, mill rate, tax rate trends and collection rates. He spoke to drivers of the town operations budget including wages, pension and health insurance. Ms. LaChance asked if the CPI was a percentage of the adopted budget or just the CPI noted for reference and Mr. Johnson said it was just the CPI.

Board of Finance Commissioner Zeller confirmed one slice was 4.4% for both the new mortality charts and reducing the investment assumption. He said that they have a half mil to make up from what they didn't get this year right from the get-go adding that it will be a challenge. He asked if the ratios of commercial to residential has anything to do with the stagnant home values or if the commercial values were going up. Vice Chairman Niland said if commercial is paying more, that is less that the homeowners have to pay. Mr. Johnson said that there is a greater percentage of commercial and industrial.

Dr. Beckett asked if it makes sense to smooth out the contributions to the pension. Mr. Johnson said that they have 12-13 years until fully funded and they have discussed extending it to 15 years. Dr. Beckett said they want to pay it off as fast as possible but also not have the mil rate climb. Mr. Johnson agreed that the key is to find the balance. Chairman Gullotta noted the balance of equities and bonds saying that the pension should be very conservative, and he was interested to hear of the Board of Finance evaluation of the investments. Mr. Johnson thanked Ms. Twilley and other staff for their help in preparing the budget materials. Ms. Twilley added that lengthening the time to fully fund the pension could have rating implications. Dr. Beckett asked about the 10-year mil rate and Mr. Johnson said that they are working on re-estimating the revaluation. Dr. Beckett expressed concern about moving close to 40 mils.

Board of Education Chairman Doug Foyle said that in the recent election, all Council Members spoke of the importance of maintaining a high-quality education. He spoke to their budget being 85% salaries and benefits thus this year a budget increase 2.75% is just salaries and benefits, a significant portion is special education likely leaving very little for all else. He expressed concern about a budget falling below the funding needed to sustain the quality and the potential for a shock to the system. Dr. Alan Bookman, Superintendent, spoke to the first thing they look at being salaries including step increases. He said that they are no longer projecting reductions

in elementary enrollment due to the increase in births and families moving to town with families. He elaborated on the major factors impacting the Board of Education budget.

Ms. Tanski asked about supplies and printer usage. Dr. Bookman said that the staff has responded well to adjustments but that there will always be some difficulty to change culture. Dr. Beckett said that he has always been frustrated that the town and education have different health plans and would like to see them work together to harmonize the options. Mr. McChesney asked about other initiatives. Dr. Bookman said that they have worked to ensure that busses are no older than 12 years as it used to be 18 and they experienced high maintenance costs. Chairman Gullotta asked the Chairman of the Board of Finance, Mr. Constantine, if he had any observations but Mr. Constantine did not have any comments at this time. Mr. Zeller said that they have been working on the investments over the last several months. Chairman Gullotta said that historically, the Town Council has gotten a budget number from the Board of Finance and this year, he would like it to include rationale and suggested lines for reductions should they be necessary. Mr. Osgood asked for a summary presentation on the pension at an upcoming Council meeting.

**(b) Town Manager's Report.**

Mr. Johnson reviewed his report to the Council dated December 6, 2019. Mr. McChesney said that the Santa's Run was a great event.

**(c) Communication.**

**1) Thank you letter from Interval House.**

**(d) Appointments and Resignations.**

**1) Resignation of Jane Fox from the Historic District Commission (alternate member) (D-2022).**

**2) Appointment of Corey Turner to the Recreation Commission (U-2023).**

**Motion By:** Ms. Carroll

**Seconded By:** Dr. Beckett

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Glastonbury Town Council hereby accepts the resignation of Jane Fox from the Historic District Commission (alternate member) (D-2022), and appoints Corey Turner to the Recreation Commission (U-2023).

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

**(e) Executive Session.**

**1) Potential land acquisition.**

**Motion By:** Ms. Carroll

**Seconded By:** Dr. Beckett

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Glastonbury Town Council hereby enters into Executive Session at 7:25 pm, for the purpose of discussing potential land acquisition. 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. Whit Osgood and Ms. Lillian Tanski 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 7:45 pm.

**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 special meeting of December 11, 2019, at 7:46 pm.

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

**Respectfully submitted,**

*Kimberly Meanix Miller*

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Substitute Recording Clerk**

**Thomas Gullotta  
Chairman**