

**TOWN OF GLASTONBURY
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
TUESDAY, JANUARY 28, 2020**

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, Doug Foyle, Board of Education Chairman, and Members of the Boards of Education and Finance.

1. Roll Call

Council Members

Mr. Thomas P. Gullotta, Chairman {excused}
Mr. Lawrence Niland, Vice Chairman (Acting Chairman)
Dr. Stewart Beckett III {excused}
Ms. Deborah A. Carroll
Mr. Kurt P. Cavanaugh
Ms. Mary LaChance
Mr. Jacob McChesney
Ms. Lillian Tanski
Mr. Whit C. Osgood

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 previous town clerks of Glastonbury.

3. Election of Acting Clerk.

Nomination By: Mr. Niland
Lilly Torosyan for Acting Clerk

Seconded By: Ms. Carroll

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

Result: Lilly Torosyan was elected acting clerk by a unanimous vote with no nay votes voiced.

4. Election of Moderator of Town Meeting.

Nomination By: Mr. Niland
Jake McChesney as Moderator.

Seconded By: Ms. Carroll

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.

5. Opening remarks by Town Council Vice Chair, Lawrence Niland.

Vice Chairman Niland asked for a moment of silence for the passing of resident Helen Stern, who once served on the BOE and Conservation Commission. He thanked Mr. Johnson, fellow members of the Council, all town staff and service members, and members of the various boards and commissions in town, for their hard work and dedication, as well as a special thank you to teachers, who tell amazing stories to our children. He noted that many people come to Glastonbury for the schools and stay because it becomes their home.

6. Presentation on Budgets:

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

Mr. Johnson recognized Joyce Mascena, who will be retiring in April. He explained that the Connecticut Town Clerks Association nominated and recognized Ms. Mascena as the Town Clerk of the Year. Ms. Mascena stated that she has enjoyed working in Glastonbury and will make the transition to the new clerk as easy as possible.

Mr. Johnson explained that this budget has been a bit of a challenge and different from previous years. He reviewed slides, saying that they propose a 2.25% increase in operations, which is the second-lowest increase over the past five years. He spoke to the 8 primary budget components that influenced the proposed budgets, such as labor and health insurance, explaining that they are in the process of looking at consolidating coverages. He noted that most of the 2.25% increase is due to wages and insurance. He reviewed debt and transfers, which has remained generally flat, noting that Moody's always praises the town for paying as they go. In revenues and transfers, Mr. Johnson pointed out the phased decrease in the ECS funding, an estimated \$662k decrease in the investment income, and the use of fund balance increasing to \$975,000, as a one-time allocation to help offset the pension costs. He spoke to the grand list, mil rate and state aid, explaining that this proposal will raise taxes by 2.5%. He noted that they used a tax collection rate of 99.1%, but the town averages about 99.5%, so the excess funds would go to the fund balance to help support the transfer in subsequent years. He reviewed the CIP, saying that this is the

heart of the infrastructure of the community, with 34 projects this year. He thanked his staff Julie Twilley, Director of Finance, and Kathryn Paquette, Marketing Communications Coordinator, 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)

Superintendent Dr. Alan Bookman explained that the proposed education budget represents a fiscally responsible way to meet the needs of the students, faculty, and staff. He reviewed past budget increases, which had a large increase last year, and noted that the high school has two fewer teachers this year. Board of Education Chairman Doug Foyle explained that the contracted 1.94% increase in the salaries of present staff does not account for new staff. He explained that the LINKS program has allowed for a less costly solution, when it comes to special education. Mr. Foyle noted that their budget, which proposes a 3.32% increase, already reduced the superintendent's proposal by \$300k, and there is already a deficit of over \$260k in their budget that has to be addressed by the Council. Dr. Bookman explained that they are doing excellent in terms of per pupil expenditures in DRG B, and a national organization recently rated the town's school system as the best in the Hartford area and #3 in the state, with a #1 athletic program and an A+ rating as a school system. He explained that they are proud to be able to achieve all of that at the lowest possible cost.

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.

Mr. McChesney adjourned the meeting at 8:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lilly Torosyan

Lilly Torosyan
Recording Clerk

Thomas Gullotta
Chairman

*Glastonbury Annual Town Meeting
January 28, 2020
Recording Clerk - LT
Minutes Page 3 of 3*