



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

## **5. Election of Moderator of Town Meeting.**

**Nomination By:** Ms. Carroll  
Larry Niland as Moderator.

**Seconded By:** Dr. Beckett

Ms. Krampitz called for other nominations, but hearing none, she closed the nominations and called for a vote.

**Result:** Larry Niland was elected moderator by a unanimous vote, with no nay votes voiced. Mr. Niland greeted everyone and explained tonight's meeting schedule and process.

## **6. Opening remarks by Town Council Chair, Thomas Gullotta.**

Chairman Gullotta stated that it has been a difficult year. He thanked Mr. Johnson, Town staff, Dr. Bookman, and teachers in Town for doing a great job in managing an exceedingly difficult year. He noted that Town finances are strong, which has been a bipartisan effort. He then stated that this budget will do right by the taxpayers in the community.

## **7. Presentation on Budgets:**

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

Mr. Johnson explained that the Town operating budget is about a 1.7% increase from last year. A subset of that is the ADC pension cost, which accounts for roughly 1.5%, so the proposed budget increase is actually just about 0.2%. He reviewed the major components of the budget, such as wages, which increased 1.62%, and insurance, which decreased by almost half a million dollars. Data processing and technology increased by about \$120,000. He noted that because Town staff is relatively lean, a robust human resources system is of the utmost importance. Contractual services increased modestly, mainly because of the Everbridge Notification System. Utilities and fuel costs have a savings of \$56,000, which Mr. Johnson attributed to Glastonbury's effective management of utilities. Capital outlay, which sustains systems and buildings in Town, has a modest increase of \$20,000. All other operating costs have resulted in a \$125,000 increase.

Mr. Johnson reviewed the Consumer Price Index (CPI) of Glastonbury compared to other Northeast towns, noting that many of the cost increases that the Town experiences run at a greater cost than the CPI. Over 10 years, the Town has run at a combined interest of about 2.8% over the CPI, which is very commendable. Debt and transfers is reduced by about \$108,000 this year. In revenues and transfers, the net decrease is just shy of \$1 million. Mr. Johnson explained that when the new mortality tables were implemented, he recommended an increase of a transfer in, which would gradually be reduced by \$100,000 a year. However, given the reduction in the combined non-tax revenues, the funding source will not be reduced. He then noted the decrease in the ECS funding and the reduction in investment income before speaking to the grand list, mill rate and state aid. He reviewed the CIP, saying that it is the heart of the infrastructure of the community, with 30 projects this year.

Mr. Johnson concluded by stating that this has been a particularly difficult year, due to COVID-19. He thanked his staff for their creativity, efficiency, and hard work in putting together this budget, especially Julie Twilley, Director of Finance, and Kathryn Paquette, Marketing Communications Coordinator.

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

Board of Education Chairman Doug Foyle explained that this year's theme for Glastonbury Public Schools is Renew and Reimagine. COVID-19 has forced them to renew and reimagine almost everything they do, but their mission has remained the same, which is to safely meet the needs of students, faculty, and staff. Superintendent Dr. Alan Bookman explained that their practices have evolved rapidly as a result of the pandemic, such as incorporating Zoom and iPads into their curriculum. Their budget focuses on five areas: academic support and interventions, social and emotional wellness, equity and social justice, technology integration, and the early learning center which opened in August 2020. He reviewed their projections on enrollment and staffing for the schools.

Mr. Foyle discussed the annual fixed costs. Contracted salary increased the budget by 1.81%, health benefits by 0.13%, and utility increases by a modest 0.15%. There is no increase expected in special education because of the LINKS program. Everything else decreases their budget by 0.02%, resulting in an overall budget increase of 2.07%, which is the lowest increase since 1992. Dr. Bookman explained that they are doing excellent in terms of per pupil expenditures in DRG B. They are proud to have been ranked one of the top 200 school districts in the entire country. Mr. Foyle stated that they have also received considerable praise from parents for their handling of the pandemic. He thanked students, families, teachers, and the entire Glastonbury community for their relentless positive spirit. Dr. Bookman also thanked Town staff for all of their hard work and support in putting together this budget.

**8. a. Public Comments.**

*No one spoke*

Mr. Niland asked all residents present to express their opinion on the proposed budget, which provides guidance to the Town Council in their deliberations. There were no spoken or written comments.

**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. Niland asked all residents to vote on whether or not they accept the proposed budget. The yea votes outnumbered the aye votes by a ratio of 17:1.

**9. Adjournment.**

*Motion By:* Ms. Carroll

*Seconded By:* Dr. Beckett

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Glastonbury Town Council hereby adjourns their Annual Town Meeting of January 27, 2021, at 7:56 pm.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Lilly Torosyan

Lilly Torosyan

Recording Clerk

Thomas Gullotta

Chairman