

**GLASTONBURY TOWN COUNCIL  
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING MINUTES  
THURSDAY, JANUARY 27, 2022**

The Glastonbury Town Council with Town Manager, Richard J. Johnson, in attendance, held the Annual Town Meeting at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom video conferencing. Also present was Dr. Alan Bookman, Superintendent of Schools, Doug Foyle, Board of Education Chairman, and Members of the Boards of Education and Finance. The video was broadcast in real time and via a live video stream.

**Roll Call.**

***Council Members***

Mr. Thomas P. Gullotta, Chairman  
Mr. Lawrence Niland, Vice Chairman  
Ms. Mary LaChance  
Ms. Deborah A. Carroll  
Mr. Jacob McChesney  
Mr. Kurt P. Cavanaugh  
Mr. Whit C. Osgood  
Mr. John Cavanna  
Ms. Jennifer Wang

- 1. Town Clerk to call Town Meeting to order.** *Led by Ms. Michelle Krampitz*
- 2. Pledge of Allegiance.** *Led by Ms. Michelle Krampitz*

Ms. Krampitz welcomed everyone to the second virtual annual town meeting of Glastonbury. Ms. Krampitz then went over the history of the establishment of the Town of Glastonbury.

**3. Election of Acting Clerk.**

*Nomination By:* Ms. Carroll

*Seconded By:* Mr. Cavanaugh

Lilly Torosyan for Acting Clerk

Ms. Krampitz 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:** Ms. Carroll  
Larry Niland as Moderator.

**Seconded By:** Mr. Cavanaugh

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.

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

Chairman Gullotta thanked Mr. Johnson and Town staff for providing essential services during another difficult year. He noted that there has been a growth in the grand list. Federal dollars have been awarded to the Town to help recover from pandemic-related financial losses. There might be little to no tax increase this year. He thanked all those who have taken the pandemic seriously by receiving the vaccine and continuing to wear a mask during indoor public settings.

#### **6. 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 2.4% increase from last year. A major component of that increase is due to wages. In prior years, the increase was minimized for a variety of factors, such as a reduction in force, contractual services, and job consolidation, but that is becoming harder to maintain in this market. There is a savings in insurance of about \$240,000 and in the pension of about \$135,000.

Data processing and technology is increased by about \$135,000. He noted that Town staff is relatively lean, and there may be an opportunity to transition one full time employee into part time. Contractual services increased modestly, while utilities and fuel costs increased significantly due to unit price hikes in the market. Even at this rate, Mr. Johnson noted that the Town's aggregate utility cost is below what it was 15 years ago. Capital outlay, which sustains systems and buildings in Town, has an increase of \$66,000. All other operating costs

have resulted in an \$88,000 increase. Mr. Johnson pointed out that 25 of 41 line items in the operating budget increased by only 0.19%. He then 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.

Debt and transfers increase by about \$383,000. Through refinancing, there will be a savings of \$100,000 a year over 5 or 6 years. A contingency of \$75,000 has been recommended, not the \$175,000 that was set aside in prior years. Glastonbury is in a favorable position with respect to ongoing debt service cost. The Capital Reserve Fund Transfer has been reduced from \$6 million in 2020 to \$5.25 million in 2022, which is not adequate to meet the Town's infrastructure care and maintenance needs. Revenues and transfers increased by 3%, while ESC funding remained flat. Mr. Johnson pointed out that the budget is overstated by 75% of \$560,000 from the Municipal Revenue Sharing Account (MRSA).

Mr. Johnson suggests beginning the phased reduction in the General Fund by \$100,000. The grand list is projected to experience a growth of at least 2.75%. The mill rate is proposed to increase 0.13% in 2023. He reviewed the CIP, saying that it is the heart of the infrastructure of the community, with 33 projects this year. He noted that the Town will be receiving \$10.2 million in total from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). The funds could largely be allocated to the CIP, affordable housing, and other uses. He phased in the ARPA money with the Capital Reserve Fund, for a net combined funding of almost \$10.5 million.

Mr. Johnson concluded by thanking his staff for their hard work in putting together this budget, especially Julie Twilley, Director of Finance, and Kathryn Paquette, Melissa Durkin, and Kaida Scaglia for their roles in preparing charts and slides.

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

Superintendent Dr. Alan Bookman explained that this year's theme for Glastonbury Public Schools is Building Bridges that Last. Throughout COVID-19, three strategic goals have guided Glastonbury schools: fostering high expectations for all students, maintaining safe and supportive learning environments, and preparing students for their futures. Despite the pandemic, students' test scores have remained strong. He highlighted five bridges they are building: social and emotional learning, special education supports, technology applications, and the GHS STEAM lab which is expected to open in Fall 2022.

Board of Education Chairman Doug Foyle reviewed their projections on enrollment and staffing for the schools. 6 drivers impact the budget this year, resulting in an increase of 3.25% over last year's budget. Student Support Centers which support students' mental health is a 0.34% increase in the budget. 18 new paraprofessionals for special education accounts for a 0.51% increase. Due to rising heat and fuel rates, utilities represent an increase of 0.23%. Technology software and online applications account for 0.19% of the increase, and salary

increases will add 1.79% to the budget. Rising inflation results in 0.19% increase. This year's budget is the largest budget increase over the past 5 years.

Dr. Bookman explained that they are doing excellent in terms of per pupil expenditures in DRG B. The Glastonbury school district has received a number of accolades in the past year, from Niche local state and national rankings and CABA awards for leadership and communication. He thanked all Glastonbury public school employees who are essential to successful student learning. Dr. Bookman also thanked the Glastonbury community for all their support and ongoing partnership.

**7. 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 nay votes by a ratio of 88% to 13%.

**8. Adjournment.**

*Motion By:* Dr. Foyle

*Seconded By:* Mr. Gullotta

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Glastonbury Town Council hereby adjourns their Annual Town Meeting of January 27, 2022, at 8:00 pm.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Lilly Torosyan

Lilly Torosyan

Recording Clerk

Thomas Gullotta

Chairman