

ANNUAL BUDGET MEETING
APRIL 24, 2013
Senior Center/Meeting Room
New Hartford Town Hall

The Annual Budget Meeting of the Town of New Hartford was held on Wednesday April 24, 2013 in the Senior Center/Meeting Room of the New Hartford Town Hall. First Selectman Dan Jerram called the meeting to order at 7:00PM. First Selectman Jerram opened the floor to nominations for Moderator. Motion Alesia Kennerson, second Penny Miller to nominate Noel Gauthier as Moderator. Hearing no further nominations, First Selectman Jerram called for a voice vote on the motion. The motion to elect Noel Gauthier as Moderator was unanimously approved.

Moderator Gauthier read the Call of the Meeting and the Return of Posting and Publication.

TOWN OF NEW HARTFORD
NOTICE OF ANNUAL BUDGET MEETING – APRIL 24, 2013
NOTICE OF REFERENDUM – MAY 7, 2013

The Board of Selectmen of the Town of New Hartford, Ct hereby notifies all electors and citizens entitled to vote in Town Meetings in said Town of New Hartford, Connecticut that the Annual Budget Meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 24, 2013 at 7:00 pm in the Senior Center/Meeting Room of the New Hartford Town Hall, 530 Main Street, in New Hartford for the following purposes:

1. To consider and act upon the Town Budget recommended by the Board of Finance for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2013.
2. Pursuant to Section 7-7 of the General Statutes of Connecticut, Revision of 1958, as amended, to adjourn said budget meeting at its conclusion and to submit Item number 1 on the call of this meeting to be voted upon using voting tabulators on Tuesday, May 7, 2013 between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. Electors residing in the Voting District #1 shall vote at the New Hartford Town Hall, 530 Main Street in New Hartford. Electors residing in the Voting District #2 shall vote at the South End Fire House, 20 Antolini Road in New Hartford. Voters qualified to vote at town meeting who are not electors shall vote at their respective polling places. Absentee ballots will be available from the Town Clerk, 530 Main Street, New Hartford, CT and will be counted at their respective polling places. The question to be voted upon shall be placed on the ballots as:

“Shall the Budget of the Town of New Hartford including General Government, New Hartford Board of Education and Capital Expenditures, recommended by the Board of Finance for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2013, be accepted?”

Voters approving the question will vote “Yes” and those opposing the question will vote “No.”

Dated at New Hartford, CT this 11th day of April, 2013.

Daniel V. Jerram, First Selectman
John H. Casey, Selectman

Alesia Kennerson, Selectman
Donna LaPlante, Town Clerk

**RETURN OF POSTING AND PUBLICATION
OF NOTICE OF ANNUAL BUDGET MEETING**

I, Daniel V. Jerram, First Selectman of the Town of New Hartford, Connecticut, hereby certify that I caused a copy of the foregoing Notice of the Annual Budget Meeting/Notice of Referendum to be posted on the Town signpost on Wednesday, April 17, 2013 and also published in the Hartford Courant, a newspaper published in Hartford, Connecticut and having a general circulation in the Town of New Hartford, on Thursday, April 18, 2013.

Dated this 24th day of April, 2013.

Daniel V. Jerram, First Selectman

A Point of Order was raised by Daria Hart. Hart stated that under State Statute 7-344, (she has copies available should the public so desire) after the Board of Finance holds a public meeting to consider the budget, it shall “thereupon prepare and cause to be published in a newspaper in such town, if any, otherwise in a newspaper having a substantial circulation in such town, a report in a form prescribed by the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management containing: (1) An itemized statement of all actual receipts from all sources of such town during its last fiscal year; (2) an itemized statement by classification of all actual expenditures during the same year; (3) and itemized estimate of anticipated revenues during the ensuing fiscal year from each source other than from local property taxes and an estimate of the amount which should be raised by local property taxation for such ensuing fiscal year; (4) an itemized estimate of expenditures of such town for such ensuing fiscal year; and (5) the amount of revenue surplus or deficit of the town at the beginning of the fiscal year for which estimates are being prepared; provided any town which, according to the most recent federal census, has a population of less than five thousand may, by ordinance, waive such publication requirement”. Hart stated that in the most recent Federal Census our population was over five thousand and New Hartford has no ordinance to waive such publication requirement. Hart indicated she had copies of the statute available should anyone like one.

Moderator Noel Gauthier deferred to The First Selectman on this matter.

First Selectman Dan Jerram responded that our budget process has been in place for twenty years and referred to the Board of Selectman Meeting minutes of February 9, 2012 where Town Attorney Chip Roraback was present in order to answer questions regarding the budget process. Attorney Roraback at that meeting stated that the power for the Selectman to remove any item off the agenda of a Town Meeting and take it to referendum comes from Connecticut State Statutes and is not illegal.

Daria Hart responded that her point related to publishing of actual numbers relating to the budget and not to the process of moving to referendum.

Maria Moore commented that the Attorney's response related to the process of directing to referendum, but Daria's Point of Order relates to a different matter, that the correct information was not disseminated, making this meeting null and void.

Moderator Noel Gauthier said he would defer this matter to the Board Of Finance. First Selectman Dan Jerram intervened and said that nothing has changed in the process from previous years and everyone will have an opportunity to vote. Dan Jerram recommended a motion to proceed. Motion Penny Miller to move on. Seconded by Alesia Kennerson. Motion carried by voice vote.

ITEM # 1: To consider and act upon the Town Budget recommended by the Board of Finance for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2013

Moderator Gauthier read: the Board of Selectmen, in accordance with Connecticut General Statutes 7-7, have removed item # 1 from the call of this meeting and adjourned such vote on the budget to a referendum to be held on Tuesday, May 7, 2013 between the hours of 6:00 AM and 8:00 PM. In accordance with section 7-6 of the Ct General Statutes, as amended, only an elector of the town or a citizen of the United States of the age of eighteen years or more who, jointly or severally, was liable to the town for taxes assessed against him based on an assessment of not less than \$1,000 on the last completed grand list of the town or who would have been so liable if not entitled to an exemption as a blind person or as a veteran or as a parent or surviving spouse of a veteran who would be entitled to vote at the meeting would be entitled to vote at the referendum.

Moderator Gauthier stated that since this item has been removed from the call of the meeting, there can be no action on this item. Is there any discussion?

Maria Moore objected to the process of removing the item from the call and sending to referendum. She has made an objection for the last three years. The Selectmen are responsible for bypassing the process.

E. Kenneth Krohner referred to the old process (in 1989 & 1990) whereby a petition with 200 signatures was submitted to allow more taxpayers to vote on the budget at referendum. An ordinance was adopted to require the budget to go to referendum. An effort was made to remove the ordinance, but failed at referendum.

Daria Hart requested the number of the actual surplus as of the date of filing of the budget, as this amount was not in the papers filed in the Town Clerk's office. Dan Jerram said he had the number in his office but not with him.

Moderator Gauthier asked if there is any further discussion. Majority responded no.

ITEM NUMBER 2: Pursuant to Section 7-7 of the General Statutes of Connecticut, Revision of 1958, as amended, to adjourn said budget meeting at its conclusion and to submit Item number 1 on the call of this meeting to be voted upon using voting tabulators on Tuesday, May 7, 2013 between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. Electors residing in the Voting District #1 shall vote at the New Hartford Town Hall, 530 Main Street in New Hartford. Electors residing in the Voting District #2 shall vote at the South End Fire House, 20 Antolini Road in New Hartford. Voters qualified to vote at town meeting who are not electors shall vote at their respective polling places. Absentee ballots will be available from the Town Clerk, 530 Main Street, New Hartford, CT and will be counted at their respective polling places. The question to be voted upon shall be placed on the ballots as:

“Shall the Budget of the Town of New Hartford including General Government, New Hartford Board of Education and Capital Expenditures, recommended by the Board of Finance for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2013, be accepted?”

Voters approving the question will vote “Yes” and those opposing the question will vote “No.”

Noel Gauthier requested a motion to approve the following:

Resolved, in accordance with this notice, to hold a referendum on **Tuesday, May 7, 2013** between the hours of 6:00 am and 8:00 pm using **machine vote** to vote on the following question:

“Shall the Budget of the Town of New Hartford including General Government, New Hartford Board of Education and Capital Expenditures, recommended by the Board of Finance for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2013 be accepted?”

Voters approving the question will vote “Yes” and those opposing the question will vote “No.”

Motion Penny Miller, second Alesia Kennerson to adjourn to referendum. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:21PM.

A True Copy

Attest: *Donna N. LaPlante*

Town Clerk