

**ANNUAL BUDGET MEETING
SENIOR CENTER/MEETING ROOM
NEW HARTFORD TOWN HALL
APRIL 20, 2016**

The Annual Budget Meeting of the Town of New Hartford was held on Wednesday April 20, 2016 in the Senior Center/Meeting Room of the New Hartford Town Hall. First Selectman Dan Jerram called the meeting to order at 7:06 PM.

First Selectman Jerram expressed his appreciation to the many volunteers who have donated countless hours at over 25 meetings in preparing the budget document to be sent to referendum.

First Selectman Jerram opened the floor to nominations for Moderator. Motion Rob Jerram, second Noel Gauthier to nominate Alesia Kennerson as Moderator.

Motion Reggie Smith, second Bob Howson to close nominations. Unanimously approved by voice vote.

First Selectman Jerram called for a voice vote on the motion. The motion to elect Alesia Kennerson as Moderator was unanimously approved.

Moderator Kennerson read the Call of the Meeting and the Return of Posting and Publication:

**NOTICE OF ANNUAL BUDGET MEETING – APRIL 20, 2016
NOTICE OF REFERENDUM – MAY 3, 2016**

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 20, 2016, 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, 2016.

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 3, 2016 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, 2016, be accepted?”

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

Dated at New Hartford, CT this 12th day of April, 2016.

Daniel V. Jerram, First Selectman

Alesia Kennerson, Selectman

Laura Difelice Garay, Selectman

Donna LaPlante, Town Clerk

Moderator Kennerson read the Return of Posting and Publication.

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 13, 2016 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 14, 2016.

Dated this 20th day of April, 2016.

Daniel V. Jerram, First Selectman

ITEM NUMBER # 1:

To consider and act upon the Town Budget recommended by the Board of Finance for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2016

Moderator Kennerson stated that 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 3, 2016 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 Kennerson explained that there will be no action taken regarding the proposed budget (Attachment 1), but that if anyone wishes to comment on the budget, they may do so

Maria Moore inquired if those present may ask questions about the budget. Moderator Kennerson replied Yes. Ms. Moore then asked if there is reduction in the revenue line for the reduction in the ECS funds to be received from the State. Ms. Moore then made a motion to reduce the general town government budget by \$6,000 and remove the non-contractual raises for town staff. Moderator Kennerson advised Ms. Moore that there can be no motions from the floor to modify the budget as presented. Moderator Kennerson asked First Selectman Jerram to address Ms. Moore's question and he advised that the revenue line had been reduced. Bob Moore seconded Ms. Moore's motion. Moderator Kennerson noted that Ms. Moore's motion is out of order as the budget cannot be modified at this point in the process. Moderator Kennerson asked First Selectman Jerram

to address the process for referring the budget to referendum. Mr. Jerram referred to the opinion from the Town Attorney referenced in the Board of Selectmen minutes from February 19, 2012.

Joe Toro questioned the line item on page 14 of the budget for fire hydrants for Torrington Water and asked where the hydrants are located. Moderator Kennerson asked Mrs. Witte, Town Bookkeeper to address the question. Mrs. Witte indicated that this is a shared expense with the South End Fire District for hydrants located on the south end of town near Home Depot and Whitbeck Road.

Reggie Smith inquired if the Regional 7 reduction is reflected in the budget that has been distributed. First Selectman Jerram confirmed that the latest Regional 7 reduction is reflected in the budget presented.

David Krimmel inquired if anyone has considered the transportation costs in the education budget as he believes that this cost is excessive for the number of students being transported. He does not believe that transportation is an education item, he would prefer to see those funds expended to teachers. Is there a less expensive way to transport our students. Superintendent Brian Murphy replied that the Board of Education had reviewed the contract with Dattco and have signed a new contract that does not have any increase for the next two years. Mr. Krimmel noted that he is suggesting a different means such as vouchers to parents for transporting children other than dealing with a bus company.

Maria Moore commented that she was not objecting to the budget being sent to referendum but objected to the fact that the budget items could be questioned at this meeting, but not altered. Ms. Moore then inquired about the budget item that again provides funding to the West Hill Lake Association that had appeared on last year's budget as a one-time expenditure. Mr. Jerram noted that the \$8,000 in last year's budget was not a one-time expense. The association was clear last year that they would request additional funds this year. The funds have been used for water quality testing and weed removal at West Hill Lake, where the Town property Brodie Park has significant water frontage. He also indicated that purchase orders are submitted to request the funds and invoices are

submitted so there is accountability. Ms. Moore made a Motion to remove the \$16,000 allocated to West Hill Lake Association from the budget. Moderator Kennerson indicated that Ms. Moore's motion was out of order. Mr. Jerram noted that the Association expends in excess of \$50,000 per year and the town's partial investment is worthwhile because of the value our residents receive from the lake.

ITEM NUMBER 2:

Moderator Kennerson asked for a motion to approve the following: Resolved, in accordance with this notice, to hold a referendum on Tuesday, May 3, 2016 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, 2016 be accepted?”

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

Motion Carlene Jerram, second Penny Miller to approve the motion as read.

Moderator Kennerson called for discussion and hearing none called for a voice vote. Majority In favor - One opposed. Motion Carries.

Motion Bob Howson, second Penny Miller to adjourn this meeting to the Referendum to be held on Tuesday, May 3, 2016. Unanimously approved by voice vote.

Meeting adjourned to referendum at 7:30 pm

A True Copy

Attest: Donna N. LaPlante, Town Clerk