

TOWN OF NEW HARTFORD
ANNUAL BUDGET MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, April 18, 2023

The Annual Budget Meeting of the Town of New Hartford was held on Tuesday April 18, 2023. Attendees included Dan Jerram, Alesia Kennerson, Laura Garay, Lynn Florio, Marty Post, Donna Howard, Diana Witte, Noel Gauthier, Karen Gauthier, Michael Jerram, Penny Miller, Kerry Guilfoyle, Mary Beth Greenwood, Steve Unger, Charles Neale, and Carmen Neale.

First Selectman Dan Jerram called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM.

First Selectman Jerram opened the floor to nominations for Moderator.

Motion: Noel Gauthier to nominate Alesia Kennerson as moderator; seconded by Marty Post.

First Selectman asked if there were any other nominations. There were no other nominations.

First Selectman Jerram asked for a motion to close nominations.

Motion to close nominations by Donna Howard, seconded Noel Gauthier. Unanimous.

First Selectman Jerram called for a vote to elect Alesia Kennerson as Moderator. Unanimous.

Moderator Kennerson read the call of the Meeting:

NOTICE OF ANNUAL BUDGET MEETING – APRIL 18, 2023
NOTICE OF REFERENDUM – MAY 2, 2023

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 Tuesday, April 18, 2023 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, 2023.
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 2, 2023 between the hours of 10:00 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, 2023, be accepted?”

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

Dated at New Hartford, CT this 10th day of April, 2023

Daniel V. Jerram, First Selectman

Alesia Kennerson, Selectman

Laura Garay, Selectman

Lynn Florio, 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 Tuesday, April 11, 2023 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 Tuesday, April 11, 2023.

Dated this 10th day of April, 2023.

Daniel V. Jerram, First Selectman

**ITEM # 1: TO CONSIDER AND ACT UPON THE TOWN BUDGET
RECOMMENDED BY THE BOARD OF FINANCE FOR THE FISCAL YEAR
BEGINNING JULY 1, 2023.**

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 2, 2023, between the hours of 10:00 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 would be no action taken regarding the proposed budget and opened the floor up to comments and questions.

Marty Post asked if ARPA is tied into this Budget and are the appropriations written in stone at this point. First Selectman Jerram explained the three questions that will appear on the ballot at the referendum and that this meeting is the Budget Meeting. The Town Meeting would follow the Budget Meeting, at which time ARPA funds and Stanclift Cove would be discussed. ARPA funds are not included in the Operations Budget.

Mary Beth Greenwood questioned the hours of voting time change for the Referendum. Selectman Jerram responded that the Registrar of Voters initially requested the hours of noon – 8:00 PM based on the lower turn out for a referendum and the long hours, considering the election officials are required to arrive so early before polling begins. The Selectmen agreed to 10:00 AM – 8:00 PM.

Donna Howard questioned how the dollar amount was determined for each of the two libraries, noting Beekley received substantially more. Selectman Jerram explained the amounts are based on the requests presented by the individual organization and that the amounts can be revised if decided by the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Finance, but the libraries received the full amount this year. The size and staffing of the two different libraries accounts for the disparity in funds. Donna also questioned the Meals On Wheels line item and Selectman Jerram replied it is a paid per usage basis.

Selectman Jerram clarified similar questions from Charles Neale, Donna Howard and Mary Beth Greenwood regarding budget items Recreation Program Director, Senior Director and Senior Director (support staff), and the note referenced on page 14 of the budget moving Senior Expenditures from Commissions and Other Agencies to Recreation/Seniors. He also explained to Donna Howard the difference between the Historical Society, which is an autonomous agency, for which the funds have not been used but he hesitates to remove it from the budget fully, and, the Historic District Commission as being a town agency which very infrequently hears requests for Certificates of Appropriateness required when someone wants to modify a home within the Historic District around Pine Meadow Green. The commission must review the application prior to Planning & Zoning and the Building Inspector. They may incur costs from the requirement to be posted in the newspaper, mailings and recordings.

Steve Unger asked why the West Hill Lake Association's request to increase the funding from \$15,000 to \$18,000 had not been approved and if the Pond Association President and treasurer were aware. Selectman Jerram replied that it is the fastest growing line item on the budget, West Hill Pond is in two towns and the other town is not participating. Over the last ten years there has been discussion about weed remediation and the changes that have been going on that are significant and need to be addressed. The weed remediation that started roughly ten years ago was two days a year and is now fifteen days but the larger issue is also to consider the Association is receiving \$10,000 from ARPA in addition to the \$15,000 from the Operating Budget. Unger noted that the reason the cost of remediation is going up is due to what is going on in the lake and the increase in the use of the lake.

Donna Howard questioned what the Contingency Fund was. Selectman Jerram said the funds are for unexpected expenses, labor/part-time help, other line items that fall short, some years it is used, some years it is not.

Selectman Jerram explained to Donna Howard that Stanclift Cove has a separate budget with equal donations from New Hartford and Barkhamsted, and, that there is a six-member board separately elected, three from New Hartford and three from Barkhamsted.

When asked about the Mill Rate, Jerram noted that the Mill Rate is specifically approved by the Board of Finance, and they are the statutory authority.

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 2, 2023** between the hours of 10:00 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, 2023, be accepted?”

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

Motion to approve the resolution as read by Laura Garay, seconded by Penny Miller.

Moderator Kennerson asked for a vote on the motion. Unanimous.

Moderator Kennerson stated that since there is no other business to conduct, she would entertain a motion to adjourn the meeting to the referendum to be held on Tuesday, May 2, 2023

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion: Laura Garay, second Kerry Guilfoyle to adjourn to Referendum on Tuesday, May 2, 2023. 7:28 PM Unanimous.

A True Copy

Attest: *Lynn A. Florio*

Town Clerk