

FIFTEEN ROPE FERRY ROAD
WATERFORD, CT 06385-2886



PHONE: 860-442-0553
www.waterfordct.org

AGENDA
REPRESENTATIVE TOWN MEETING
ANNUAL BUDGET HEARING & SPECIAL MEETING
Monday, May 1, 3, 8, 10, 2023
7:00pm – Waterford Town Hall
Auditorium

- A. Pledge of Allegiance
- B. Roll Call
- C. Public Comment
- D. Correspondence
- E. Transaction of Business on the Call;
 - 1. LEARN presentation for Southwest School Property.(May 1, 2023)
 - 2. To consider and act upon the General Fund Budget, which includes both Board of Education and General Government budgets for fiscal year **July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024** in the amount of **\$102,609,670**, as recommended by the Board of Finance, and as may be modified by the determination of the Representative Town Meeting.
 - 3. To establish the schedule of tax payments for real estate, personal property and motor vehicle tax bills for the next fiscal year.
- F. Adjournment

RECEIVED FOR RECORD
WATERFORD, CT
2023 APR 18 A 9:36
TESTE: *David J. Langdon*
TOWN CLERK

FIFTEEN ROPE FERRY ROAD
WATERFORD, CT 06385-2886



PHONE: 860-442-0553
www.waterfordct.org

1

MEMO

DATE: April 17, 2023
TO: Paul Goldstein, RTM Moderator
COPY: Dave Campo, Town Clerk
FROM: Rob Brule, First Selectman
RE: Southwest School Property

RECEIVED FOR RECORD
WATERFORD, CT
2023 APR 17 P 2:54
TESTE: Dave Campo
TOWN CLERK

The Southwest Elementary School property has been a dormant property for several years. LEARN is prepared to take on all the costs and responsibilities that come with the demolition and the environmental clean-up required for the building and property. In addition, LEARN recognized the opportunity to demonstrate our appreciation to the residents of the Town of Waterford through the dedication of a recreational space on the property (e.g., pickleball courts) for the use and benefit of the public. LEARN is interested in engaging in negotiations to purchase this property at an amount that takes into consideration the costs associated with the demolition of the existing building and investment in facilities directly benefiting Waterford residents.

In order to pursue State funding for the building of a new regional birth to 2nd grade educational facility on this property LEARN must file an application with the State in June. Given this timetable, I am recommending the RTM give 15 minutes of its time to hear directly from LEARN Executive Director, Kate Ericson. She would like to present their idea on Monday, May 1, 2023 at the RTM Budget meeting. Their original request is attached for your review as well.

Please note that in the event the RTM were to consider the possible alternate use of this property I am going to ask the BOS tomorrow to refer this issue to the P&Z Commission for an 8-24 review.



Dear First Selectman Brule,

My name is Kate Ericson, and I am the Executive Director of LEARN, a regional educational service center located in Old Lyme, Connecticut. As you may know, LEARN is one of six regional educational service centers (RESCs) established by the state legislature to collaborate with school districts and provide programs and services supporting teachers and students in our region, from Guilford to North Stonington. In addition, LEARN currently operates four magnet schools in the region, including The Friendship School on Rope Ferry Road for the past 18 years. The Friendship School was built as a cooperative agreement between Waterford Public Schools and New London Public Schools and has been a great success. The school has served up to 520 pre-kindergarten three- and four-year-olds as well as kindergarten students and engaged with their families and communities. During that time, the school has transitioned into a full magnet school accepting students from across the region. LEARN has been aided in these efforts by a great relationship with the Town of Waterford, your office, and the Waterford Board of Education. As the school approaches the end of its lease term, due to the school's success a number of factors have emerged creating certain challenges and opportunities requiring LEARN to make some strategic shifts in our regional programs that will benefit the students, families, and districts in our region.

Challenges:

To meet the needs of future generations, we see two major challenges to be resolved. The first major challenge involves the impact of dropping-off and picking-up students as it relates to the traffic patterns on Rope Ferry Road, the community center, and the high school complex. While we have worked with the town to minimize impact, the number of parents transporting their children to school has grown rapidly in the last few years.

The other major challenge is the lack of early childhood programming in the region for infants and toddlers. Southeastern Connecticut employment opportunities are exploding, and with that comes the need for high-quality infant and toddler programs to support such economic growth and development.

Strategic Solutions:

While The Friendship School has a long history of serving young learners from Waterford and across Southeastern Connecticut, regional challenges demand a new, innovative response. Consequently, LEARN is looking for a permanent location that will support the next evolution of The Friendship School into a regional early childhood center of excellence serving children from infants to grade two.

As a result, I am writing to share with you LEARN's desire to grow in Waterford by purchasing the Southwest Elementary School property located at 51 Daniels Avenue. We believe this location affords a "win-win-win" opportunity for Waterford, LEARN and the regional community. A modern school facility

at 51 Daniels Avenue will maintain LEARN's presence in Waterford while continuing its rich tradition of offering high quality multicultural programs to students from all over Southeastern Connecticut. Here, our youngest learners can experience their first formal education, make friendships across social, cultural and town lines, and have access to outdoor learning spaces to explore their world.

To help facilitate a transition to this new location, LEARN intends to apply for the Child Day Care Contract (CDC) Infant and Toddler Expansion grant which will provide slots for sixteen families that are at or below 75% of the state median income. Supporting families with high-quality programming from birth to age 8 will increase success rates for students over the course of their educational career.

The Southwest Elementary School property has been a dormant property for several years. LEARN is prepared to take on all the costs and responsibilities that come with the demolition and the environmental clean-up required for the building and property. In addition, LEARN recognizes the opportunity to demonstrate our appreciation to the residents of the Town of Waterford through the building of a recreational space on the property (e.g., pickleball courts) for the use and benefit of the public. LEARN is interested in engaging in negotiations to purchase this property at an amount that takes into consideration the costs associated with the demolition of the existing building and investment in facilities directly benefiting Waterford residents.

The needs of early childhood learners have grown increasingly complex. Developing special education services includes the need for highly specialized staff at substantial costs, which ties the hands of many local school districts. The region has called upon LEARN to expand its successful model of regional special education programming with the creation of a regional early childhood special education program that is both high quality and cost-efficient.

LEARN has been grateful for the exceptional partnership with and service provided by the Town of Waterford, and the police department, school district, and selectman's office have all been supportive and responsive to the needs of The Friendship School. Over the last 18 years, hundreds of Waterford families have enrolled their children in The Friendship School – and we hope to continue serving students in our magnet and special education programs for years to come.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration. We look forward to continuing this conversation with you as we develop our vision and plans for 51 Daniels Avenue.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Katherine Ericson" followed by the date "3.17.2023".

Katherine Ericson
Executive Director

REPRESENTATIVE TOWN MEETING BUDGET HEARINGS

FY 2023-24

Town Hall Auditorium

7:00 P.M.

2

MONDAY MAY 1

Board of Education

WEDNESDAY MAY 3

Ethics Commission
Conservation of Health
Public Health Nursing
Social Services Grants/Review
Registrar of Voters
Retirement Commission
Youth & Family Services Bureau
Senior Citizens Commission
Board of Assessment Appeals
Assessor
Contingency
Debt Service
Insurance
Town Clerk
Representative Town Meeting

WEDNESDAY MAY 10

Tax Collector
Waterford Public library
Finance Department
Human Resources Department
Board of Finance
Legal Department
Fire Services
Emergency Management
Board of Police Commissioners
Information Technology
Current Year Capital Improvements
Transfers to Capital & Nonrecurring Expenditure Fund

FINAL ACTION

MONDAY MAY 8

Zoning Board of Appeals
Economic Development Commission
Conservation Commission
Planning and Zoning Commission
Flood and Erosion Control Board
Building Department
Building Maintenance
Recreation & Parks Commission
Board of Selectmen
Public Works

RECEIVED FOR RECORD
WATERFORD, CT
2023 APR - 5 A 9:04
ATTEST: *[Signature]*
TOWN CLERK

Updated 04/03/2023



To: Paul Goldstein, RTM Moderator
David Campo, Town Clerk

From: Alan Wilensky, CCMC
Tax Collector

Date: April 10, 2023

Subject: Tax Payment Schedule for Fiscal Year 2023 – 2024
For the RTM meeting agenda of May 10, 2023

RECEIVED FOR RECORD
WATERFORD, CT
2023 APR 10 P 2:43
TEST: David J. Campo
TOWN CLERK

I have the following recommendations for the schedule of tax payments for Fiscal Year 2023– 2024:

- Retain the two-payment system for Real Estate tax bills, providing for collections in July and January.
- Real Estate tax bills over \$100.00 would be collected in two equal installments, due July 1, 2023, and January 1, 2024.
- Real Estate tax bills of \$100.00 or less would be due in full July 1, 2023.
- Personal Property and Motor Vehicle tax bills would be due in full July 1, 2023.
- Motor Vehicle Supplemental tax bills would be due in full January 1, 2024. These bills are for vehicles registered after the assessment date of October 1, 2022.

This collection schedule is recommended in order to keep the Town in compliance with Connecticut General Statutes 12-142, 12-144, and 12-144a.

Sec. 12-142. Installments; due date. The legislative body of each municipality, upon approving any budget calling for the laying of a tax on property, shall determine whether such tax shall be due and payable in a single installment or in two semiannual installments or in four quarterly installments and shall, unless otherwise provided by law, designate the date or dates on which such installment or installments shall be due and payable, subject to the provisions of section 7-383, in any municipality in compliance with requirements concerning the uniform fiscal year under chapter 110; provided the last installment of any such tax shall be due and payable not later than forty-five days before the end of the fiscal year in which the first installment thereof is due and payable, and provided any special tax shall be due and payable in a single installment. In case of failure of the legislative body to determine when such tax shall be due and payable or whenever the date on which such tax shall be due and payable has been determined, however, (1) the preparation and mailing of rate bills for such tax is delayed until after the date such tax is due or (2) such tax is not applicable to certain property until after the date such tax is due, such tax shall be due and payable, with respect to all property or property which becomes subject to tax after the date such tax is due, whichever is applicable, not later than thirty days following the date on which rate bills for such tax are mailed or handed to persons liable therefor. Except as otherwise provided by law, the several installments of a tax due in two or four installments shall be equal, but any taxpayer may pay two or more of such installments when the first is due.

Sec. 12-144. Payment of taxes of not more than one hundred dollars. Any property tax due in any municipality of this state in an amount not in excess of one hundred dollars shall be due and payable in a single payment when so determined by the appropriating body of such municipality.

Sec. 12-144a. Payment of tax on motor vehicles. Irrespective of the provisions of sections 12-142 and 12-144, the appropriating body of each municipality, upon approving any budget calling for the laying of a tax on property, shall determine whether such tax as it applies to motor vehicles shall be due and payable in a single installment.



*Alan Wilensky, CCMC
Waterford Tax Collector*