FIFTEEN ROPE FERRY ROAD
WATERFORD, CT 06385-2886

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

MINUTES
REPRESENTATIVE TOWN MEETING
Annual Budget Meeting & Special Meeting
May 1, 3, 8 and 10, 2023

Moderator Paul Goldstein called the Annual Budget Meeting & Special Meeting of the Representative Town Meeting to order on May 1, 2023, at 7:00 P.M.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Kyrah Augmon-Bossa, Michael Bono, Jennifer Bracciale, Mary Childs, Harry Colonis, Thomas J. Dembek, Susan Driscoll, Tim Fioravanti, Steve Garvin, Nick Gauthier, Paul S. Goldstein, Kristin Gonzalez, Ryan Healy, Richard Holmes, Lindsay Khan, Jennifer Kohl, Cheryl Larder, Ted Olynciw, Dan Radin, Michael Rocchetti, Danielle Steward-Gelinas, David Sugrue, David Welch
ABSENT: Tim Condon, Kevin Girard, David Welch.
EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS PRESENT: First Selectman Robert J. Brule, Board of Education Chair Pat Fedor, Board of Finance Chair Glenn Patterson, Selectman Richard Muckle.
EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS ABSENT: Selectman Greg Attanasio.
ALSO PRESENT: Town Attorney Robert Avena, Town Clerk David L. Campo, and Director of Finance Kim Allen.

PUBLIC COMMENT
None

CORRESPONDENCE
Moderator Goldstein noted that a letter from RTM Member Chery Larder was received (See Attachment), along with additional backup for CALL ITEM 1 from LEARN.

CALL ITEM 1 – LEARN Southwest School Presentation
Presentation by LEARN Executive Director Kate Ericson
Short presentation on LEARN's interest in the Southwest School property as a possible site for a new magnet school and the advantages for the Town of Waterford and the region. (See Attachment)

PROCEDURAL MATTERS
The Annual Budget Meeting is, in fact, an open meeting called to order on May 1, 2023, to be recessed on May 3, and again on May 8, and May 10, and only to be adjourned after final action on May 10, 2023. Consideration of the budget by department/agency follows the posted schedule.

CALL ITEM 2 – Board of Education and General Fund Budget
Consideration and action upon the General Fund Budget, which includes both Board of Education and General Government budgets for the Fiscal Year July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024, as recommended by the Board of Finance, and as may be modified by the determination of the Representative Town Meeting.

STANDING MOTION by Majority Leader Steward-Gelinas, seconded by Minority Leader Driscoll, to offer a standing motion to move each proposed budget for consideration in the order specified in the hearing schedules, with approvals at the series subtotal and the department total levels, with the understanding that all totals are considered tentatively approved until final action is taken at the end of our budget *hearing.*
VOTING IN FAVOR: Unanimous.

BOARD OF EDUCATION (10160) $54,730,455
PRESENTATION: Chairman of the Board of Education Pat Fedor, Superintendent of Schools Thomas Giard, BOE Director of Finance Joseph Mancini presented the details of the budget and stood for questions.
MOTION by Steward-Gelinas, seconded by Rocchetti, to reduce the increase by $536,472 for a new total for the Board of Education budget in the amount of $54,193,983.
Lengthy discussion ensued in regard to the reduction.
VOTING IN FAVOR OF REDUCTION: Augmon-Bossa, Bracciale, Colonis, Dembek, Driscoll, Garvin, Goldstein, Healy, Holmes, Kohl, Radin, Rocchetti, Steward-Gelinas, Sugrue.
VOTING AGAINST REDUCTION: Gauthier, Khan, Larder, Olynciw
ABSTAINED: Bono, Childs, Fioravanti, Gonzalez
MOTION TO REDUCE PASSED: 14-4-4
VOTING IN FAVOR OF AMENDED TOTAL ($54,193,983): Augmon-Bossa, Bracciale, Colonis, Dembek, Driscoll, Garvin, Gauthier, Goldstein, Healy, Holmes, Kohl, Olynciw, Radin, Rocchetti, Steward-Gelinas, Sugrue
VOTING AGAINST AMENDED TOTAL: Khan, Larder
ABSTAINED: Bono, Childs, Fioravanti, Gonzalez
MOTION TO APPROVE AMENDED TOTAL PASSED: 16-2-4

Recess at 8:58 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER
The Annual Budget Meeting of the Representative Town Meeting was resumed and called to order at 7:00 P.M. on Wednesday, May 3, 2023 by Moderator Goldstein.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIENCE

ROLL CALL
PRESENT: Kyrah Augmon-Bossa, Jennifer Bracciale, Mary Childs, Harry Colonis, Tim Condon, Thomas J. Dembek, Susan Driscoll, Tim Fioravanti, Steve Garvin, Nick Gauthier, Kevin Girard, Paul S. Goldstein, Kristin Gonzalez, Ryan Healy, Richard Holmes, Lindsay Khan, Jennifer Kohl, Cheryl Larder, Ted Olynciw, Michael Rocchetti, Danielle Steward-Gelinas
ABSENT: Michael Bono, Dan Radin, David Sugrue, David Welch

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS PRESENT: First Selectman Robert J. Brule, Board of Finance Chair Glenn Patterson, Selectman Richard Muckle
EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS ABSENT: Board of Education Chair Pat Fedor, Selectman Greg Attanasio
ALSO PRESENT: Town Attorney Nick Kepple, Town Clerk David L. Campo, and Director of Finance Kim Allen

PUBLIC COMMENT
Quaker Hill resident Helen Kwasniewski spoke about her budget concerns with an emphasis on Senior Citizens.

CORRESPONDENCE

ETHICS COMMISSION (10143) $900
MOTION PASSED: 20-1-0 (Larder against)

CONSERVATION OF HEALTH (10132) $148,407
MOTION PASSED: Unanimous

PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING SERV (10133) $25,911
Presentation: Karen DeSantis, Director of Home Care Services, VNA of Southeastern Connecticut
MOTION PASSED: Unanimous

SOCIAL SERVICES GRANTS/MISC (10120) $92,316
MOTION PASSED: Unanimous

REGISTRARS OF VOTERS (10102) $79,488
PRESENTATION: Democratic Registrar of Voters Bigi Ebbin, Republican Registrar of Voters Patricia Waters
MOTION PASSED: 20-0-1 (Larder Abstained)

RETIREMENT COMMISSION (10116) $7,049,737
PRESENTATION: Chair of the Retirement Commission Susan Driscoll
MOTION PASSED: Unanimous

YOUTH & FAMILY SERVICES BUREAU (10119) $239,827
PRESENTATION: Director of Human Services Dani Gorman, Program Coordinator Joe Trelli, Human Services Coordinator Heidi McSwain
MOTION PASSED: Unanimous

SENIOR CITIZENS COMMISSION (10135) $484,631
PRESENTATION: Director of Human Services Dani Gorman, Assistant Director Terry Wheeler, Chair of the Senior Citizens' Commission Carol Sanders, Senior Services Assistant Donna Payne, Senior Services Technician Meaghan Lineburg, Human Service Coordinator Heidi McSwain
MOTION PASSED: 19-0-2 (Bracciale, Gauthier abstained)

BOARD OF ASSESSMENT APPEALS (10105) $1,602
PRESENTATION: Assessor Paige Walton
MOTION PASSED: Unanimous

ASSESSOR (10104) $292,148
PRESENTATION: Assessor Paige Walton
MOTION PASSED: 20-1-0 (Larder against)

CONTINGENCY (10121) $265,000
PRESENTATION: Director of Finance Kim Allen
MOTION by Larder, seconded by Gauthier, to reduce Contingency by $150,000 for a new total of $115,000.
Discussion ensued.
MOTION withdrawn by Larder and Gauthier.
VOTING IN FAVOR: Bracciale, Colonis, Condon, Dembek, Garvin, Girard, Goldstein, Healy, Holmes, Rocchetti, Steward-Gelinas
VOTING AGAINST: Augmon-Bossa, Childs, Driscoll, Fioravanti, Gauthier, Gonzalez, Khan, Kohl, Larder, Olynciw
ORIGINAL MOTION PASSED: 11-10-0

DEBT SERVICE (10139) $8,148,250
PRESENTATION: Director of Finance Kim Allen
MOTION by Olynciw, seconded by Larder, to reduce Debt Service by $4,000,000 for a new total of $4,148,250.
Discussion ensued.
MOTION withdrawn by Olynciw and Larder.
ORIGINAL MOTION PASSES: 20-1-0 (Larder against)

INSURANCE (10112) $5,105,857
PRESENTATION: Director of Finance Kim Allen
MOTION PASSED: 20-1-0 (Larder against)

TOWN CLERK (10109) $252,225
PRESENTATION: Town Clerk David L. Campo, CCTC
MOTION PASSED: Unanimous

REPRESENTATIVE TOWN MEETING (10117) $18,903
PRESENTATION: Town Clerk David L. Campo, CCTC
MOTION by Gauthier, seconded by Larder to reduce the Line Item #10117-52050 Dues, Conference, Educ line from $12,852 to $0.
Discussion ensued.
MOTION TO REDUCE FAILED: 2-19-0 (Childs and Gauthier in favor)
ORIGINAL MOTION PASSED: 19-2-0 (Childs and Gauthier against)

Recess at 8:47 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER
The Annual Budget Meeting of the Representative Town Meeting resumed at 7:00 P.M. on Monday, May 8, 2023, with the call to order by Moderator Goldstein.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIENCE

ROLL CALL
PRESENT: Kyrah Augmon-Bossa, Michael Bono, Jennifer Bracciale, Mary Childs, Harry Colonis (Speaker phone), Thomas J. Dembek, Susan Driscoll, Tim Fioravanti, Nick Gauthier, Paul S. Goldstein, Kristin Gonzalez, Ryan Healy, Richard Holmes, Lindsay Khan, Jennifer Kohl, Cheryl Larder, Ted Olynciw, Michael Rocchetti, Danielle Steward-Gelinas, David Sugrue
ABSENT: Tim Condon, Steve Garvin, Kevin Girard, Dan Radin, David Welch
EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS PRESENT: First Selectman Robert J. Brule, Selectman Richard Muckle, Selectman Greg Attanasio.
EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS ABSENT: Board of Education Chair Pat Fedor, Board of Finance Chair Glenn Patterson.
ALSO PRESENT: Town Attorney Robert Avena, Town Clerk David L. Campo, and Director of Finance Kim Allen.

PUBLIC COMMENT
None

CORRESPONDENCE
None

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS (10115) $4,310
PRESENTATION: Director of Planning Jonathan Mullen
MOTION PASSED: Unanimous

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION (10113) $27,447
PRESENTATION: Director of Planning Jonathan Mullen
MOTION PASSED: Unanimous

CONSERVATION COMMISSION (10114) $18,250
PRESENTATION: Director of Planning Jonathan Mullen, Environmental Planner Maureen Fitzgerald
MOTION PASSED: Unanimous

PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION (10110) $661,210
PRESENTATION: Director of Planning Jonathan Mullen
MOTION PASSED: Unanimous

FLOOD & EROSION CONTROL BOARD (10141) $2,138
PRESENTATION: Director of Planning Jonathan Mullen
MOTION PASSED: Unanimous

BUILDING DEPARTMENT (10118) $297,609
PRESENTATION: Director of Planning Jonathan Mullen
MOTION PASSED: Unanimous

BUILDING MAINTENANCE (10111) $899,770
PRESENTATION: Director of Public Works Gary Schneider, Office Coordinator Dandy Kenniston
MOTION PASSED: Unanimous

RECREATION & PARKS COMMISSION (10137) $1,423,523
PRESENTATION: Director of Recreation and Parks Ryan McNamara
MOTION PASSED: 19-0-1 (Childs abstained)

BOARD OF SELECTMEN (10101) $207,605
PRESENTATION: First Selectman Robert Brule
MOTION PASSED: Unanimous

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT (10130) $4,994,798
PRESENTATION: Director of Public Works Gary Schneider, Office Coordinator Sandy Kenniston
MOTION PASSED: Unanimous

Recess at 7:55 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER

The Annual Budget Meeting of the Representative Town Meeting resumed at 7:00 P.M. on Wednesday, May 10, 2023, with the call to order by Paul Goldstein.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIENCE

ROLL CALL
PRESENT: Kyrah Augmon-Bossa, Michael Bono, Jennifer Bracciale, Mary Childs, Harry Colonis, Tim Condon (Speaker phone), Thomas J. Dembek, Susan Driscoll, Tim Fioravanti, Steve Garvin, Nick Gauthier, Paul S. Goldstein, Kristin Gonzalez, Ryan Healy, Richard Holmes, Lindsay Khan, Jennifer Kohl, Cheryl Larder, Ted Olynciw, Michael Rocchetti, Danielle Steward-Gelinas, David Sugrue
ABSENT: Kevin Girard, Dan Radin, David Welch
EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS PRESENT: First Selectman Robert J. Brule, Board of Education Chair Pat Fedor, Selectman Richard Muckle, Chair of the Board of Finance Glenn Patterson
EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS ABSENT: Selectman Greg Attanasio
ALSO PRESENT: Town Attorney Nicholas Kepple, Town Clerk David L. Campo, and Director of Finance Kim Allen.

PUBLIC COMMENT
Resident and RTM Member Cheryl Larder, 26 Wiemes Ct, spoke in regard to her concerns over the way budget sessions were conducted. (See Attachment)
Resident and BOF Member John Sheehan, 19 Laurel Crest Dr, spoke in regard to his concerns over the way the budget session was conducted on Monday, May 8, 2023.
Resident Helen Kwasniewski, 227 Bloomingdale Rd, spoke in regard to budget concerns and thanked the Town's first responders for their response to an accident that her brother was involved in.

CORRESPONDENCE
None

TAX COLLECTOR (10106) $217,865
PRESENTATION: Tax Collector Alan Wilensky
MOTION PASSED: 21-0-1 (Fioravanti abstained)

WATERFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY (10136) $1,006,837
PRESENTATION: Library Director Christine Johnson, President of The Waterford Public Library Board of Trustees Aaron Rosenberg
MOTION PASSED: Unanimous

FINANCE DEPARTMENT (10107) $747,721
PRESENTATION: Director of Finance Kim Allen
MOTION PASSED: Unanimous

HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT (10145) $259,836
PRESENTATION: Director of Human Resources Christine Walters, Executive Secretary Joan Barnes
MOTION PASSED: Unanimous

BOARD OF FINANCE (10103) $70,159
PRESENTATION: Board of Finance Member John Sheehan
MOTION PASSED: Unanimous.

LEGAL DEPARTMENT (10108) $295,000
PRESENTATION: Town Attorney Nicholas Kepple
MOTION PASSED: Unanimous

FIRE SERVICES (10123) $3,531,618
PRESENTATION: Director of Fire Services Michael Howley
MOTION PASSED: Unanimous

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT (10122) $1,094,563
PRESENTATION: Director of Emergency Management Stephen Sinagra
MOTION PASSED: Unanimous.

POLICE COMMISSION (10129) $6,830,602
PRESENTATION: Chief of Police Marc Balestracci, Lieutenant Timothy Silva, Lieutenant Nicole VanOverloop, Sergeant Troy Gelinas, Office Coordinator Diane Driscoll
MOTION PASSED: 21-0-1 (Steward-Gelinas abstained)

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (10147) $1,165,181
PRESENTATION: Information Technology Manager Jeff Robillard
MOTION PASSED: Unanimous

CURRENT YEAR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS (10138) $1,636,721
PRESENTATION: First Selectman Robert Brule
MOTION PASSED: 21-1-0 (Childs opposed)

TRANSFERS TO CAPITAL AND NON-RECURRING EXPENDITURE (10140) $281,250
MOTION PASSED: Unanimous

FINAL ACTION

GENERAL GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS $37,812,994
MOTION by Steward-Gelinas, seconded by Rocchetti, to approve the General Government Operations Budget in the amount of $37,812,994.
MOTION PASSED: 19-3-0 (Childs, Larder, Gauthier opposed)

CURRENT YEAR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS (10138) $1,636,721
MOTION by Steward-Gelinas, seconded by Bono, to approve the Current Year Capital Improvements Budget in the amount of $1,636,721.
MOTION PASSED: Unanimous.

TRANSFERS TO CAPITAL AND NON-RECURRING EXPENDITURE (10140) $281,250
MOTION by Steward-Gelinas, seconded by Dembek, to approve the Transfer to Capital and Non-Recurring Expenditure Fund Budget in the amount of $281,250
MOTION PASSED: Unanimous

DEBT SERVICE (10139) $8,148,250
MOTION by Steward-Gelinas, seconded by Dembek, to approve the Debt Service budget in the amount of $8,148,250
MOTION PASSED: Unanimous.

BOARD OF EDUCATION: (10160) $54,193,983
MOTION by Steward-Gelinas, seconded by Dembek, to approve the Board of Education Budget in the amount of $54,193,983
MOTION PASSED: 16-2-4 (Larder, Khan opposed)(Gonzalez, Bono, Fioravanti & Childs Abstained)

TOTAL BUDGET FISCAL YEAR 2024 $102,073,198
MOTION by Steward-Gelinas, seconded by Dembek, to approve a Total Budget for Fiscal Year 2024 in the amount of $102,073,198
MOTION PASSED: 18-4-0 (Childs, Gauthier, Khan and Larder opposed)

CALL ITEM 3 – Tax Payment Schedule.
MOTION by Steward-Gelinas, seconded by Bono, to approve the tax payment schedule for Fiscal Year 2023 – 2024, as recommended by the Tax Collector Alan Wilensky.
Friendly amendment requested by Larder and accepted to refer to the letter from Tax Collector Alan Wilensky to read as follows : MOTION by Steward-Gelinas, seconded by Bono, to approve the tax payment schedule for Fiscal Year 2023 – 2024, as recommended by the Tax Collector Alan Wilensky. (See Attachment)
VOTING IN FAVOR: Unanimous.

MOTION by Driscoll, seconded by Sugrue, to adjourn at 9:01 P.M.
VOTING IN FAVOR: Unanimous

Respectfully submitted,
David L. Campo
David L. Campo, CCTC
Waterford Town Clerk

Cheryl R. Larder
26 Wiemes Court
Waterford, CT 06385
crlarder22@gmail.com

April 24, 2023

Robert Brule, Fist Selectman
Town of Waterford
15 Rope Ferry Road
Waterford, CT 06385

Re: Town Surplus

Dear Rob:

Following is the letter we discussed regarding my inquiry as to why it has been suggested that the use of a portion of the Town's Unassigned Fund Balance ("surplus") to pay down Town debt is a bad idea, or not recommended.

The Town's appropriating boards (Board or Selectman, Finance and RTM) have passed multiple uses of surplus as additional appropriations over the last two (2) years, $1.8 million for roads in fiscal year 2021-2022 and more than $3 million so far in fiscal year 2022-2023. Despite this, the surplus remains at a level significantly over (almost double) the amount recommended in the Board of Finance's Fund Balance Policy.

I have commented on more than one occasion (certainly to the annoyance of some) that I believe we, as elected officials, have a responsibility to return some of this surplus to the taxpayers (who have contributed to it) in real time, in a way that can be immediately felt/appreciated by the taxpayer.

As we discussed, because departments are preparing budgets eighteen (18) months into the future, there continue to be significant amounts returned to the general fund at the end of each fiscal year, which in turn contributes to the continuing high surplus. No one advocates a "use or lose" policy and the return of unused appropriations to the general fund at end of the fiscal year is undoubtedly appreciated.

I understand your suggested moratorium on capital projects in the coming year due to the fact that the Town has many approved and funded capital projects that have not been completed and still will take the next several months or longer to complete. I agree, why tax residents for capital project that cannot be completed in the near term.

I am less convinced that the plan to fund certain capital projects over the next five years from surplus will address the continuing high level of surplus or provide a benefit that taxpayers will feel in an appreciable way in the near term. Looking at the Town Accountant's report of the Status of the General Fund Unassigned Balance dated March 8, 2023, the Town applied additional appropriations through February 28, 2023 in the amount of $3,125,236 but had projected revenues in ***excess*** of budgeted of $3,137,574. Effectively an additional surplus of $12,338 (not including any funds that may be returned by departments at the end of the fiscal year, of which there are sure to be some).

I understand there is strong opposition to the use of surplus to fund the Town budget being approved for the next fiscal year, due to the possibility of it creating a potentially false baseline budget and inflate the tax increase in subsequent years. I have suggested in conversation with other individuals that if we targeted a specific surplus to be applied to budget over a series of years, perhaps that would allay the fear of a drastic inflation of taxes in the subsequent year but there seems to be no room for agreement on this approach.

So, why not pay down debt principal? A paydown of debt principal would have a continuing benefit year after year. Why do we continue to pay debt, and charge taxpayers additionally to pay on debt, when we have their money already to pay it down?

I will appreciate your obtaining an opinion of whomever you or Town counsel deem appropriate, of why it would not be beneficial to pay down the Town's debt with surplus. I think an hour or two of counsel's time, including bond counsel if necessary, would be appropriate if this can lead to any tax relief for our constituents.

Thank you in advance.

Cheryl R. Larder
First District RTM

Re-imagining the Region's Early Childhood Magnet School

A Partnership of Innovation and Impact

The Town of Waterford and LEARN at 51 Daniels Avenue, Waterford

A community resource in the form of a high-quality, multicultural, multilingual education program for approximately 600 children, ages 6 weeks to 7 years.

Benefits to the Town of Waterford

- **Cost Avoidance: Environmental Cleanup**. The 51 Daniels Avenue demolition and environmental cleanup is estimated at 1 million-1.5 million. LEARN will bare the full cost.

- **Cost Avoidance: In-town Special Education**. Transportation costs for outplacement of special education students is $30,000-$50,000 (per student). LEARN will provide an in-town, outplacement facility for Waterford special education students, potentially avoiding thousands in expenses each year.

- **Partnership of Impact: Integrated Education in a State-of-the-Art Facility**. Indoor spaces will be fully accessible to individuals of all abilities. LEARN will work in collaboration with various Waterford groups to make meeting and event rooms available to Waterford residents during non-school hours.

- **Partnership of Impact: Responsible Stewards**. A state-of-the-art facility with accessible grounds will improve the health and safety of all. Waterford residents will have the opportunity to engage in recreational activities, i.e., pickleball courts, walking paths, and pollinator gardens. These activities will enhance the sense of belonging in the neighborhood.

- **Partnership of Impact: Property Value**. The National Bureau of Economic Research found a tie between school expenditures and home values. The "Using Market Valuation to Assess Public School Spending" report indicates that home values increase by $20, per dollar spent on public schools in a community.

- **Partnership of Impact: Child Care Desert**. Southeastern Connecticut programs offering infant/toddler care are at capacity with wait lists. LEARN will complement the region's programming by offering parents and caregivers the ability to work and/or study without having to worry about the health, safety, and education of their young children.

LEARN
Innovate • Collaborate • Serve

Public comment
Cheryl R. Larder
26 Wiemes Court

After I left Monday, calmed down, talked to people, wrote things down and sifted out the anger, I have been left with a found sense of disappointment in how this series of budget sessions have gone. We have new young members who are truly interested in being involved and a part of Town government.

Budget sessions used to be an opportunity for members to learn about town department functions and activities.

Department heads used to lead with a brief discussion of their increase and decreases, highlights of the past year and anticipated activities.

It was where department functions were discussed and explained by town employees most knowledgeable about them before the Board of Selectmen, Finance and RTM. The taxable grand list, town clerk grants, the plan of conservation and development, activities related to ADA compliance, assistance services available to seniors and youth, beach programs, the library consortium and initiatives, versa carts, solid was disposal costs and the decision to go to single stream recycling, police initiatives, fire response times, and the myriad of things for which the Board of Education is responsible beyond teaching abc's.

But for a few, I'm not sure why departments have stopped giving introductory remarks.

The first night of our budget deliberations we heard the phrase "words matter" and "people matter" several times.

That same night we had a motion to reduce the Board of Education budget before any substantive discussion of the budget itself occurred. The proposed reduction effectively eliminated any discussion of the board of education budget beyond the reduction itself.

Monday night this body was effectively censored when members were told that no questions would be allowed that were not specific to budget line items. In fact, some questions were not allowed. A member was also denied asking a question last Wednesday.

Monday, this body plowed through ten budgets totaling $8,536,660 in under an hour with likely not more than a dozen questions.

Yes words matter. I was going to say that "I fear that" but instead I am obligated to say "I know that" the effective censorship of this body has sent the message that a few people, and their opinions matter more than the rest of the members and their constituents.

Statement of J. W, "Bill" Sheehan to Representative Town Meeting Budget Hearing
May 10, 2023

Mr. Moderator, Thank you for the opportunity to make a statement to the RTM tonight. I had not planned to say anything during the RTM budget hearings but what happened on Monday night, May 8, 2023 has prompted me to pass on a few words to the RTM.

I was shocked that the Moderator shut down questioning by Representative Larder. Budget hearings are an opportunity for RTM members (and the Board of Finance members) to ask questions of department heads regarding how they are running their department. The question may not relate to a specific budget line item but it does have a bearing on the entire budget.

I heard it said that if the RTM member had a question of a Department head, they should contact the DH in person or by phone or email outside of the RTM meeting. I would like to point out that RTM and BOF members have no official standing outside of the specific meetings of their bodies. Also, although it may not violate Freedom of Information Act, a question asked outside of a meeting provides the questioner with information that has not been provided to the other members of the RTM unless the questioner sends that information to other members. It also interferes with government transparency since the information is only between the DH and the RTM Member. The Voting Public also has no idea what actions were taken by a member outside of the meeting that influences how they may vote.

I served ten years (out of twelve) on the RTM, three of which as Moderator. I am in my twentieth year on the BOF, two of those years and Chair.. Stifling Member questions may simplify the minutes by the Town Clerk and speed up the meeting, but they rob members of the ability to get new information from the DH or Department spokes person and robs the public of government transparency.

When I have questions for a Department Head if I expect the DH to know the answer immediately, I will not inform him/her. If I expect that the DH may have to do some research to provide the answer, I send an email with a warning not to answer my email but to be ready to answer the question at the nest BOF meeting. This helps the DH to provide an accurate answer and not be embarrassed if he or she does not immediately know the answer. Questioning during a meeting means that all members benefit from the information provided by the answer to the question, not only the questioning member.

I will often ask a question even though I already know the answer because I want the rest of the BOF to know the answer as well, just in case they do not. It makes the DH look good and educates the low information member of the body.

Thank you for your attention, I hope that the RTM members will be able to ask all the questions they desire to educate each other and the public and not be squashed because it may not be directly involved with the line item currently in review. Open government is better government. Let the Sun shine in, not stay behind a cloud.

FIFTEEN ROPE FERRY ROAD
WATERFORD, CT 06385-2886

Town of Waterford

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

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RECEIVED FOR RECORD
WATERFORD, CT
2023 APR 10 P 2:43
ATTEST: [signature]
TOWN CLERK

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

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