

**GLASTONBURY TOWN COUNCIL
FINAL BUDGET HEARING AND SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 21, 2018**

The Glastonbury Town Council with Town Manager, Richard J. Johnson, in attendance, held a Final Budget Hearing and Special Meeting at 7:00 p.m. at the Council Chambers of Town Hall, 2155 Main Street, Glastonbury, Connecticut.

1. Roll Call

Council Members

Mr. Thomas P. Gullotta, Chairman
Mrs. Jill Barry, Vice Chairman
Dr. Stewart Beckett III
Ms. Deborah A. Carroll
Mr. Kurt P. Cavanaugh {*excused*}
Ms. Mary LaChance
Mr. Lawrence Niland
Mr. George P. Norman
Mr. Whit C. Osgood {*excused*}

(a) **Pledge of Allegiance.**

Led by Chairman Gullotta

PUBLIC HEARING AND ACTION ON PUBLIC HEARING

7:00 P.M. FINAL BUDGET HEARING – 2018-2019 GENERAL FUND-TOWN OPERATIONS, DEBT AND TRANSFER, EDUCATION, CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM AND SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS.

Dr. Douglas Foyle, Board of Education Vice Chairman explained that the premium equivalent is set in April or May and up until that point, their budget estimates are speculation. He said that between January and May, money moves, sometimes there are savings and sometimes things go up. He emphasized that once it is set in May and paid in August, they put in their percentage every pay period. He noted changes occur throughout the year with marriages, children going on the spouse's insurance or the other way around so the money put into healthcare changes but they have never underpaid or there would be issues with the unions. He indicated the idea it was underfunded \$638K was not true adding that the 18-19 healthcare costs are driven by experience the previous two years, it is not a "catch-up". He said that they had a bad year so instead of 19% and 9% increases, they chose to do 13% and 15%.

Mr. Jim Zeller of 210 Woodland Street and Board of Finance said he was unsure increasing at 9% when the real percentage was higher was a good decision. He said that there was \$750K not allocated in the first place, \$640K was allocated then cut and he felt if they had money reinstated from the state, they should cover this year's expenses. Regarding LINKS, he understood there wasn't a 3-year experience in the new space but there is experience of increasing 5-10 in two years so if they take in 20 instead of 15, they revenue increases by \$250K. He also noted that if they are able to bring back Glastonbury students currently outplaced, it would also offer savings.

Ms. Jennifer Sanford of 41 Fallview Drive and Board of Finance said that they understand the budget is being met but struggled with the integrity of the budget. She said that they should meet their current liabilities and restore the funding rather than rolling it forward on a credit card.

Dr. Alan Bookman, Superintendent, said that they weren't going to put any money into the 1% when faced with cuts last year. He continued saying that they put a hiring and budget freeze in place March 1. He said that they saved over \$900K but had to make up \$640K and it made sense to take it out of one-line item, so it was easy to keep track. He continued saying that they could have used it all up, they actually saved money and it is sitting there. Regarding LINKS, being special education, it takes months of months for a single student with PPTs, meetings and visitations. He said they currently have 10 from other towns and two others looking. He continued saying that they may pick up one by September and maybe one or two more but would start much later. He emphasized that 10-15 in one year is aggressive. He stated it has to be the right students and the right program, it is a very slow process and it would never happen all at once. He added if they do it badly, they could risk the reputation of the program for the future.

Mr. Jeremy Grieveson, 3 Tryon Road and Board of Education, said that when state aid increases beyond the budget, the increase doesn't flow to the Board of Education, so if it decreases, it is not appropriate that it impact the Board of Education. He said that the administration works very hard to reduce the cost of projects and they are very proud of the work.

Ms. Julie Thompson of Bluff Point and Board of Education, questioned the Board of Finance increasing the Town budget by \$440K but cutting the Education by \$800K and asking them to fund an additional \$83K for the reduced pension investment assumption. She said that she thought they were in an appropriate area of increase in the area of 2% based on direction and the 2.2% increase was reduced to 1.4%. She expressed concern about further difficult choices that will greatly impact the quality of education.

Mrs. Susan Karp, 32 Rampart Drive and Chairman Board of Education, spoke to the efforts of all during the difficult budget year and this process. She said that their process is thorough,

and they feel they have responsibly represented their estimates including LINKS revenues. She said that they did their best to maintain the level of education for the children and she could not say where they would look to make \$800K in cuts because there are very few places to look with enrollment not significantly decreased.

Ms. Michelle Parad of 628 Hopewell, said that she loves the town and appreciates the property values supported by the favorable education in town adding she hoped to take advantage of it someday. She said that she understood that there was still to be an increase but just not as large but felt it wasn't transparent what would be the tradeoff. She saw value in the capital improvements and wanted all things considered.

Mr. Norman asked if there was room to expand at the current location for LINKS. Dr. Bookman said that there are no simple answers saying that they are getting more requests at the elementary level but there is no room as they need to ensure they can meet the needs of all the students. Mr. Norman asked about the healthcare allocation and 1% fund. Dr. Bookman said the money is in the 1% fund and they are drawing down as they pay the needed expenses for the end of the year adding that they are short on funds for utilities and some building needs. Mr. Nyland asked about the sublet for the space they currently occupy for LINKS. Dr. Bookman said that they have nothing finalized and may have some costs to modify the interior, but any sublet revenue would go to the town. Chairman Gullotta asked who would pay the rent and Dr. Bookman said the Board of Education would. Mr. Norman asked about the expected ECS and the status of the air conditioning. Mr. Johnson said that they are expecting \$2.86M about April 30 and the bids are in for the air conditioning April 3 with early indications that they will come in below estimates. Hearing nothing further, Chairman Gullotta closed the public hearing.

2. Public Comment.

None

3. New Business.

(a) Action on Resolutions Adopting the 2018-2019 Budget.

Mrs. LaChance said that in terms of budgets with salaries and benefits being 90%, when there are cuts, they represent people. Vice Chairman Barry said she would ask the Town Council to restore money to the Board of Education. She said that last year was a negative budget environment and they worked together to get through it. This year is a more favorable year moving investment assumption to near ideal levels and increasing capital projects but the Board

of Education budget was reduced for which she still can't see a rationale. She said that the increase in capital projects is essentially done on the backs of their children. Mr. Norman applauded the reduction of the investment assumption and increase in capital projects without considering the tax burden. He said that while this year is favorable, the state budget issues will be impacting them in the future.

Mrs. Carroll spoke to the schools serving over 6000 students with a stellar reputation and expressed concern about the budget cuts particularly the impact of increasing class sizes. She noted that she was the only one on the Council with an education background and urged her colleagues not to do a disservice undercutting the education budget. Dr. Beckett thanked the member of the public speaking to balancing interests indicating that is their charge. He said he was frustrated this budget year given the different ways the town and education sides handled the uncertainty from the state and then the late information about state aid. She asked that the Superintendent and Town Manager work together so the process is consistent from both sides. Chairman Gullotta concurred with Dr. Beckett and asked the Town Manager and Superintendent to help insure the viewpoint is consistent in the future. Mr. Norman asked if they would vote the following Tuesday. Chairman Gullotta suggested that they could get it done this evening. Dr. Beckett noted the two Members who were unable to attend. Mrs. LaChance noted that this meeting had been on the calendar a long time prior.

(1) General Fund Appropriations and Transfers

- **General Town Budget**
- **Education**
- **Debt and Transfer**

Motion By: Mr. Niland

Seconded By: Dr. Beckett

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Glastonbury Town Council approves an appropriation of \$104,866,982 for the 2018-2019 Education Budget.

Amendment By: Mrs. Barry

Seconded By: Mr. Niland

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Glastonbury Town Council hereby amends the motion on the floor increasing the appropriation of \$104,866,982 by \$600,000 to \$105,466,982 for the 2018-2019 Education Budget.

Disc: Mr. Niland fully supported the amendment saying that It is respectful of the Board of Finance but took issue with the cuts being all on the backs of the children. He said he supported maintaining the proposed investment assumption and the increase of the CIP and while still \$200K less for the Board of Education, it would keep the schools healthy. Mr. Norman agreed with some restoration but did not support this much. Mrs. LaChance conveyed information

about her former town of residence that cut the budgets over a few years, test scores dropped and then property values followed adding that it doesn't happen overnight.

Result: Motion to amend fails {4-3-0}.

For: Vice Chairman Barry, Mrs. Carroll, Mrs. LaChance and Mr. Niland

Against: Chairman Gullotta, Dr. Beckett and Mr. Norman

Abstain: None

Amendment By: Mr. Norman

Seconded By: Dr. Beckett

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Glastonbury Town Council hereby amends the motion on the floor increasing the appropriation of \$104,866,982 by \$450,000 to \$105,316,982 for the 2018-2019 Education Budget.

Disc: Dr. Beckett said that education was cut disproportionately but has been largely shielded from cuts over the last 10 years with the town dropping 10% in staff with increased facilities and education dropping only 3%. He said it is not only teachers suggesting they look more into the opportunity to share resources such as facilities.

Result: Motion to amend fails {2-5-0}.

For: Dr. Beckett and Mr. Norman

Against: Chairman Gullotta, Vice Chairman Barry, Mrs. Carroll, Mrs. LaChance and
Mr. Niland

Abstain: None

Amendment By: Mr. Norman

Seconded By: Vice Chairman Barry

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Glastonbury Town Council hereby amends the motion on the floor increasing the appropriation of \$104,866,982 by \$500,000 to \$105,366,982 for the 2018-2019 Education Budget.

Disc: Mr. Norman said he would see where it ended up but he wasn't going to jump up and down about \$50K. Mr. Niland and Chairman Gullotta expressed support.

Result: Motion to amend passes unanimously {7-0-0}.

Result: Amended motion passes unanimously {7-0-0}.

Motion By: Mr. Niland

Seconded By: Dr. Beckett

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Glastonbury Town Council approves an appropriation of \$41,866,003 for the 2018-2019 General Town Budget.

Amendment By: Mr. Niland

Seconded By: Mrs. Carroll

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Glastonbury Town Council hereby amends the motion on the floor increasing the appropriation of \$41,866,003 by \$150,000 to \$42,016,003 for the 2018-2019 General Town Budget.

Disc: Mr. Johnson spoke to the ability for this to fund healthcare and professional development but that they would still have no contingency. Dr. Beckett asked how they would handle expenses that normally hit contingency. Mr. Johnson said that the process would be longer to put money into place.

Result: Motion to amend passes unanimously {7-0-0}.

Result: Amended motion passes unanimously {7-0-0}.

Motion By: Mr. Niland

Seconded By: Dr. Beckett

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Glastonbury Town Council approves an appropriation of \$15,467,804 for the 2018-2019 Debt and Transfer Budget.

Amendment By: Mr. Niland

Seconded By: Dr. Beckett

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Glastonbury Town Council hereby amends the motion on the floor decreasing the appropriation of \$15,467,804 by \$500,000 to \$14,967,804 the 2018-2019 Debt and Transfer Budget

Disc: Mr. Niland said that this still represents a 20% increase in the CIP.

Result: Motion to amend passes unanimously {7-0-0}.

Result: Amended motion passes unanimously {7-0-0}.

(2)General Fund Revenues and Transfers

Motion By: Mr. Niland

Seconded By: Dr. Beckett

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Glastonbury Town Council approves 2018-2019 General Fund Revenues and Transfers in the amount of \$162,200,789.

Amendment By: Mr. Niland

Seconded By: Dr. Beckett

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Glastonbury Town Council hereby amends the motion on the floor increasing the 2018-2019 General Fund Revenues and Transfers of \$162,200,789 by \$150,000 to \$162,350,789.

Result: Motion to amend passes unanimously {7-0-0}.

Result: Amended motion passes unanimously {7-0-0}.

(3)Capital Improvement Program

Motion By: Mr. Niland

Seconded By: Dr. Beckett

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Glastonbury Town Council approves the 2018-2019 Capital Improvement Program in the amount of \$7,905,000. Funding will be provided as follows:

Capital Reserve Fund	\$6,880,000
Sewer Sinking Fund	\$1,025,000

Amendment By: Mr. Niland

Seconded By: Dr. Beckett

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Glastonbury Town Council hereby amends the motion on the floor decreasing the 2018-2019 Capital Improvement Program in the amount of \$500,000 from \$7,905,000 to \$7,405,000. Funding will be provided as follows:

Capital Reserve Fund	\$6,380,000
Sewer Sinking Fund	\$1,025,000

Disc: Mr. Johnson explained that this is just the spending side and need not reflect the \$500K reduction.

Result: Motion and second withdrawn.

Disc: Mr. Johnson explained that having gone to bid for the roundabout, he felt comfortable removing the \$565K from the total.

Amendment By: Mr. Niland

Seconded By: Dr. Beckett

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Glastonbury Town Council hereby amends the motion on the floor decreasing the 2018-2019 Capital Improvement Program in the amount of \$565,000 from \$7,905,000 to \$7,340,000. Funding will be provided as follows:

Capital Reserve Fund	\$6,315,000
Sewer Sinking Fund	\$1,025,000

Disc: Chairman Gullotta said the CIP has gone up significantly and there are a number of education projects that are moving forward including the locker rooms, kitchen and the air conditioning. He noted that there is some pain on the education side, for sure, but there is a great deal to be happy about respectful of the Board of Finance, Board of Education and town that can be supported by both sides of the aisle.

Result: Motion to amend passes unanimously {7-0-0}.

Result: Amended motion passes unanimously {7-0-0}.

(4) Special Revenue Funds

- **Sewer Operating Fund**
- **Recreation Activities Fund**
- **Police Private Duty**
- **Riverfront Park Fund**

Motion By: Mr. Niland

Seconded By: Dr. Beckett

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Glastonbury Town Council approves 2018-2019 Special Revenue Fund Appropriations and Transfers and Special Revenue Fund Revenues and Transfers as follows:

• <u>SEWER OPERATING FUND</u>	\$3,074,504
• <u>RECREATION ACTIVITIES FUND</u>	\$1,582,849
• <u>POLICE PRIVATE DUTY</u>	\$403,625
• <u>RIVERFRONT PARK FUND</u>	\$242,466

Result: Motion passes unanimously {7-0-0}.

Mr. Niland thanked all those involved for this long and difficult process to approve the budget.

4. Adjournment.

Motion By: Mr. Niland

Seconded By: Dr. Beckett

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Glastonbury Town Council hereby adjourns their final budget hearing and special meeting of March 21, 2018, at 8:28 pm.

Result: Motion passes unanimously {7-0-0}.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly Meanix Miller

Kimberly Meanix Miller
Recording Clerk

Thomas Gullotta
Chairman