

MINUTES OF ADJOURNED BUDGET MEETING MAY 1, 2023

The meeting was called to order by First Selectman Christopher L. Johnstone at 8:00 p.m. Nominations were opened for Moderator. Martha Neal nominated Christopher Johnstone she was seconded by Ernie Marmer. There being no other nominations Christopher Johnstone was declared Moderator. The Moderator read the call of the meeting.

**The Board of Selectmen of the Town of Colebrook has designated that the vote on Items 1 and 2 shall be by Referendum on optical scan voting machines in the Town of Colebrook on Tuesday, May 2, 2023 from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m.**

Item No. 1. The Moderator read item number one to consider and act upon the appropriations recommended by the Board of Finance and to determine what action will be taken to adopt a budget for the Town for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2023. He then stated that the budget referendum will take place tomorrow, Tuesday, May 2, 2023 from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. There was no discussion.

Item No. 2. The Moderator read item number 2 to consider and act upon the appropriations recommended by the Board of Finance and to determine what action will be taken to adopt a budget for the Town's Reserve Fund for Capital and Non-recurring Expenditures (Town's Capital Improvement Projects). He then stated that the budget referendum will take place tomorrow, Tuesday, May 2, 2023 from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. There was no discussion.

Item No. 3. The Moderator read item number 3 to act upon a proposal to authorize the Board of Selectmen to apply for and to expend any federal and state grants for the use by the Town. Jim Millar moved the item and it was seconded by George Wilber. There being no discussion and a unanimous hand vote, Item No. 3 to authorize the Board of Selectmen to apply for and expend any federal and state grants for use by the Town was approved.

Item No. 4. The Moderator stated that Lisa Anne Fragale has been the NWR7 Board of Education representative and would like to continue. Ernie Marmer moved to nominate and reappoint Lisa Anne Fragale; he was seconded by Marty Neal. There being no other nominations from the floor and by majority hand vote, Lisa Anne Fragale was reappointed member of the Board of Education of Regional School District No. 7 to represent the Town of Colebrook for a term of four years commencing July 1, 2023 and until a successor is chosen and qualified.

Item No. 5. To consider and act upon the sale by the Town of Colebrook to Eric W. and Stacy Roberts, for the price of \$1.00 plus the Town's legal fees for the transaction, of a 20,292 +/- square feet (0.46 +/- acres) parcel of land situated on the easterly side of Eno Hill Road. Marty Neal moved the item; it was seconded by Jim Millar. Kim Janak asked for clarification on exactly why the property was being sold for one dollar. Mr. Johnstone explained that the adjacent property owner was interested in protecting their right of way and merging it with his property. The property owner will pay all fees associated with the transfer as well as pay taxes on the acreage. There being no further discussion Mr. Johnstone called for the vote to be taken by paper ballot. Sherri Gray and Karen Odell conducted the vote by paper ballot. The results of the vote are as follows: Yes – 22 No – 10. Motion passes. The Town of Colebrook will sell to Eric W. and Stacy Roberts, for the price of \$1.00 plus the Town's legal fees for the transaction, of a 20,292 +/- square feet (0.46 +/- acres) parcel of land situated on the easterly side of Eno Hill Road.

Item No. 6. To consider and act upon an Ordinance to Provide a Tax Exemption for Buildings used exclusively for farming. Pursuant to the provisions of The Connecticut General Statutes Section 12-91(c), providing for a tax exemption for buildings used actually and exclusively in farming as defined in Connecticut General Statute Section 1-1, to the extent of an assessed value of not more than \$50,000.00 per building. The effective date of the Ordinance shall be the Grand List of October 1, 2023. Bryce Zygmunt moved the item; it was seconded by George Wilber. Duncan Wilber made the ordinance presentation of why this is a necessary for the farmers of Colebrook. Please see the attached presentation. Kim Janak and Jim Millar made excellent comments for and opposed. A lively discussion ensued. Mr. Johnstone called for the vote to be taken by paper ballot. Sherri Gray and Karen Odell conducted the vote by paper ballot. The results of the vote are as follows: Yes – 30 No – 4. Motion passes for the Ordinance to Provide a Tax Exemption for Buildings used exclusively for farming.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:48 pm to the budget referendum, Tuesday, May 2, 2023 from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Attest: Debra L. McKeon, Town Clerk