

TOWN OF LEBANON
SPECIAL TOWN MEETING
JANUARY 31, 2011
MINUTES

A special town meeting of the electors and those qualified to vote at the town meetings of the Town of Lebanon was held on Monday, January 31, 2011 in the Lyman Memorial High School Auditorium, 917 Exeter Road (Route 207), Lebanon, Connecticut. Audience: 56

First Selectman Joyce Okonuk called the meeting to order at 7:36 P.M.

The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

First Selectman Okonuk then called for nominations for moderator.

Moved by John Bendoraitis, seconded by Charles Haralson, to appoint Al Vertefeuille as moderator. Vote called – Motion passed

Moderator Vertefeuille presented a review of town meeting protocol.

Moderator Vertefeuille waved the reading of the warning of the meeting.

Moved by Jan Van Woerkom, seconded by Holly Sinkewicz, to bring item 1 to the floor. ***“Consider and act upon Establishing a Library Building Committee to plan and oversee the expansion of the Jonathan Trumbull Library”***

Library Director Julie Culp presented an overview of the history of the Library and the need for renovations and expansion.

Moderator Vertefeuille called the question. Vote Called – Motion Passed

Moved by Jan Van Woerkom, seconded by Alicia Wayand to bring item 2 to the floor. ***“Consider and act upon the allocation of up to twenty five thousand dollars and no cents (\$25,000.00) from the Hugh Trumbull Adams Fund, Account # 218-018-2254 for the purpose of preliminary design and cost estimates for the renovation and/or replacement of the Jonathan Trumbull Library.”***

Moderator Vertefeuille called the question. Vote Called – Motion Passed

Moved by Jan Van Woerkom, seconded by Alicia Wayland to bring item 3 to the floor. ***“Consider and act upon accepting a two hundred thousand dollars and no cents (\$200,000.00) STEAP Grant for the Tyler Field Project.”***

Selectman Okonuk stated that the town applied for and received a STEAP Grant, the funds from which will be used for work at Tyler Field. Jeff Walsh stated that the between fund raising and a \$50,000 Pepsi Award, the majority of the site work has been completed. Walsh further stated that hopefully the Grant funds will allow them to complete the project.

Moderator Vertefeuille called the question. Vote Called – Motion Passed

Moved by Jan Van Woerkom, seconded by Alicia Wayland to bring item 4 to the floor. ***“Consider and act upon the release and expenditure of up to forty thousand dollars and no cents (\$40,000.00) from the Open Space Account #220-900-5469 for appraisals, surveys and legal fees for open space projects.”***

Town Planner Phil Chester gave a brief overview of open space. Chester stated that these allocated funds require town meeting approval to be released and expended.

Moderator Vertefeuille called the question. Vote Called – Motion Passed

Moved by Alicia Wayland, seconded by Jan Van Woerkom to bring item 5 to the floor. ***“Consider and act upon the removal of the Goshen Hearse House at the Goshen Hill Cemetery as recommended by the Cemetery Commission.”***

Howard Wayland, Chairman of the Cemetery Commission, spoke to the question as follows. The Hearse House is located in the back left corner of the Goshen Hill Cemetery. In Victorian times it was used to house a horse drawn hearse. It has been determined that repairs to the structure are cost prohibitive, and it is the recommendation of the Cemetery Commission that the building be removed.

Moderator Vertefeuille called the question. Vote Called – Motion Passed

Moved by Jan Van Woerkom, seconded by Alicia Wayland to bring item 6 to the floor. **“Consider and act upon the repeal of the Ordinance Regarding the Approval of Capital Projects.”**

First Selectman Joyce Okonuk spoke to the question as follows. The Ordinance Regarding the Approval of Capital Projects was approved at the May 9, 2009 Annual Town Meeting. The ordinance requires that any capital project with an estimated tax impact in excess of 5% of the Mil Rate be approved by a majority vote of the electors at the Annual Town Meeting. By restricting approval to once a year, the bonding of capital projects could be compromised. At the request of the Board of Selectmen, Bond Counsel, Doug Gillett, reviewed the ordinance and has determined that it is unenforceable and unworkable. Upon Bond Counsel’s determination, the Board of Selectmen is requesting that the ordinance be repealed.

Robert Slate stated that capital projects have a large impact on tax dollars, and by bringing these projects before the Annual Town Meeting, when the proposed Fiscal Year budget is presented, tax payers would be given the full impact of tax dollars being spent.

Moved by Robert Slate, seconded by Jan Van Woerkom, to amend the question as follows. **“Consider and act upon tabling the repeal of the Ordinance Regarding the Approval of Capital Projects and direct the Board of Selectmen to bring it back to a future Town Meeting with revisions.”** Vote Called- Motion Passed

Moved by Robert Slate, seconded by Jan Van Woerkom to call the question as amended. Vote Called- Motion Passed

Moved by Jan Van Woerkom, seconded by Alicia Wayland to bring item 7 to the floor. **“Consider and act upon the re-allocation of unexpended appropriations of one hundred fifty three thousand four hundred eighty nine dollars and thirteen cents (\$153,489.13) from the Capital Non-Recurring Fund, from the following accounts:**

#5340	Hwy Road Plan	\$36,749.90
#5342	Oliver Road Bridge	\$ 1,868.92
#5383	Mack Road Bridge	\$65,000.00
#5377	Leonard Bridge Rd – IV	\$18,970.87
#5378	Leonard Bridge Rd – V	\$30,899.44

with an additional \$150,000 to come from Acct. #5344 Highway Road Plan – LoCIP (as state funding becomes available), and the remainder to come from Acct. #220-000-2290, Fund Balance, a total of all sources not to exceed three hundred sixty thousand dollars and no cents (\$360,000.00) to fund the Waterman Road Bridge over Pease Brook Project.”

Glen Coutu, Vice Chairman of the Board of Finance, stated that the Board of Finance has reviewed and approved the proposed re-allocation of the unexpended appropriations. First Selectman Joyce Okonuk stated that she has just been notified that state funding for LoCIP funds has been increased to \$190,000.

Moved by Joyce Okonuk, seconded by Jan Van Woerkom to amend the question as follows. **“Consider and act upon the re-allocation of unexpended appropriations of one hundred fifty three thousand four hundred eighty nine dollars and thirteen cents (\$153,489.13) from the Capital Non-Recurring Fund, from the following accounts:**

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Vote Called – Motion Passed

Moved by Jan Van Woerkom, seconded by Alicia Wayland to call the question as amended. Vote Called- Motion Passed

Moved by Alicia Wayland, seconded by Jan Van Woerkom to adjourn at 8:20 P.M. Vote Called – Motion Passed

Respectfully submitted,

Town Clerk Susan C. Coutu