

## **SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES**

### **TOLLAND TOWN COUNCIL HICKS MEMORIAL MUNICIPAL CENTER 6<sup>th</sup> FLOOR COUNCIL ROOM**

**MARCH 31, 2015 – 7:30 P.M.**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Jack Scavone, Chair; George Baker, Vice-Chair; William Eccles; Richard Field; Paul Krasusky; Jan Rubino and Ben Stanford

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** None.

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Steven Werbner, Town Manager; Michael Wilkinson, Director of Administrative Services; Lisa Hancock, Director of Finance & Records

- 1. Call to Order:** Jack Scavone called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.
- 2. Pledge of Allegiance:** Recited.
- 3. Moment of Silence:** Observed.
- 4. Public Participation (2 minute limit):** None.
- 5. Consideration of the Town Council's Proposed FY 2015-2016 Budget:** Mr. Werbner had nothing to add to this agenda item.
- 6. Approval of Budget Resolution:**

George Baker motioned to accept the following resolution:

**WHEREAS**, the Town Council has reviewed the Town Manager's proposed budget and has made certain modifications to estimated revenues and expenditures, the details of which will be properly incorporated into the total budgetary document by the Town Manager and Director of Finance and Records;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Tolland Town Council that it hereby adopts a FY 2015-16 Town Operating and Capital Budget in the amount of \$54,598,930 to be appropriated as follows:

<b>CATEGORY</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
Town Government	\$11,597,109
Board of Education	38,275,831
Debt Service	4,542,176
Capital	183,814
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$54,598,930</b>

Said appropriations shall require an increase of 2.31 mills for a mill rate of 33.36.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Town Manager, pursuant to the requirements of the Town Charter, is authorized to advertise this budgetary outlay as part of the April 23, 2015, Annual Budget Presentation Meeting at the Tolland High School Auditorium at 7:30 p.m.

Seconded by Bill Eccles.

Ms. Rubino reminded that the revaluation this year is the primary reason for the increase. There has been a lot of work and joint collaboration on this budget, which she will support. Mr. Stanford thanked the Town Manager and Superintendent for their hard work in putting this budget together. He has no major issues with the budget, but his concern is the State revenue outlook, which is uncertain at best, bleak at worst. It is a travesty that Tolland needs to sit with our hands waiting for them to decide how much they are going to appropriate to us while they figure out their own fiscal mess. Tolland is a model of good governance. His only hesitation with this budget is what revenues Tolland will get from the State, and if our tax rates are going to be adequate enough to maintain the services that the citizens expect of this town. Mr. Scavone thanked Mr. Werbner and Dr. Willett for all their work and collaboration this year. Mr. Krasusky supports the budget, and commended Mr. Werbner and Dr. Willett for all their work. It has been a great process. He encourages the residents to look past the increase, look deeper at the details and support the budget.

All in favor. None opposed.

**7. Approval of a resolution authorizing the form of the ballot for the May 5, 2015 budget referendum and any subsequent budget referendum; the time and place for the budget referendum; authorizing the Town Manager or his designee to place the required legal notices in the local newspapers; and authorizing the preparation and printing of an explanatory text and the mailing of same to local residents in accordance with the provisions of CT General Statutes 9-369b explaining the budget referendum question.**

George Baker motioned to accept the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Tolland Town Council has adopted a proposed FY 2015-2016 Town Operating and Capital Budget to be considered by the Tolland electorate at a May 5, 2015 budget referendum; and

WHEREAS, the Council must now establish the appropriate ballot language for this referendum and the date, time and place of said referendum;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Tolland Town Council the following:

1. The ballot question for the May 5<sup>th</sup> referendum shall be worded as follows:

“Shall the Town of Tolland’s proposed 2015-2016 budget of \$54,598,930, reflecting a spending increase of \$1,423,098 or 2.68% which requires a tax rate of 33.36 mills, be adopted? Yes/No.”

2. The time and place for the referendum shall be between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. on May 5, 2015 at the Tolland Recreation Center Gymnasium and the Tolland Senior Center.

3. The Town Manager or his designee is hereby authorized to place the required legal notices in the Journal Inquirer and other places as conditions permit, advertising the May 5, 2015 Referendum and the April 23, 2015 Annual Budget Presentation Meeting.

4. The Town Manager or his designee is authorized to prepare and print an explanatory text and mail same to local residents in accordance with the provisions of CT General Statutes 9-369b explaining the budget referendum question.

Seconded by Paul Krasusky.

While reviewing the proposed mailer entitled ***Town Council Budget in Brief***, Mr. Field noticed that the day of the Annual Budget Presentation at the THS Auditorium needs to be revised as follows: ~~Tuesday~~ **Thursday**, April 23, 2015, and the notice of the Budget Presentation scheduled at the Senior Center should read **Monday**, April 27, 2015.

All in favor. None opposed.

**8. Adjournment:** Rick Field moved to adjourn the meeting; Seconded by Jan Rubino at 7:39 p.m. All were in favor.

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Jack Scavone, Council Chair

**Michelle A. Finnegan**  
**Town Council Clerk**