

Annual Town Meeting May 10, 2023

The meeting was called to order, at 7:32 pm, by Town Meeting Moderator Vincent Marino. Mr. Marino introduced First Selectman James Zeoli, members of the Board of Selectmen, Superintendent of Schools Dr. Vincent Scarpetti, Chairman of the Board of Finance Kevin Houlihan, Tax Collector Tom Hurley, and other town officials. The Pledge of Allegiance was then recited.

Town Clerk Mary Shaw read the Notice of the Town Meeting and she stated that the return of posting, and publication was in both the May editions of The Orange Town News and the Milford-Orange Times. The notice was placed on the bulletin board, on the Town website under legal notices and the signpost at the Town Hall. The Town Clerk also noted that Absentee Ballots were available for the Budget Referendum.

The Town Clerk called pursuant to Robert Rules of Order for the Orders of the Day. Moderator Marino stated that speakers on any items should go to the microphone and state their name and address and would be allowed to speak for up to 3 minutes.

1. To authorize the Board of Selectmen to sell and convey land acquired by the Town through foreclosure of tax liens or by deed in lieu of foreclosure of tax liens.

Motion to approve made by Selectman Mitch Goldblatt and seconded by Selectmen PJ Shanley. The moderator called for discussion. Hearing none, the moderator called for a voice vote; the motion passed unanimously.

2. To determine in accordance with Sections 12-142 and 12-144(a) of the Connecticut General Statutes the installment due dates for all property tax including the property tax on motor vehicles.

A motion was made by Tax Collector Tom Hurley and seconded by Selectmen John Carangelo per CT General Statute 12-144a payment of general ledger 2022 motor vehicle taxes shall be payable in one installment due July 1, 2023. General ledger 2022 Supplemental Motor Vehicle bills will be due in one installment on January 1, 2024. Per CT General Statute 12-142 Real Estate Taxes for general ledger 2022 shall be split into two equal installments due July 1, 2023, and 1 January 2024 excepting payment of taxes not in excess of \$100 and any penny rounding shall occur on the 1st installment. Per CT General Statute 12-142 Personal Property Taxes for general ledger 2022 shall be split into two equal installments due July 1, 2023, and January 1, 2024 excepting payment of taxes not in excess of \$100 and any penny rounding shall occur on the 1st installment.

2023 MAY 25 PM 2:23

ORANGE, CONNECTICUT
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

The moderator called for discussion. Selectman Mitch Goldblatt asked the Tax Collector to explain ordinances he recently requested the Board of Selectmen to review and were passed and the implications some of items that will now not be taxed. The Tax Collector outlined those items with explanations. Selectman Mitch Goldblatt asked for some feedback from the Tax Collector on the ways in which he will keep our residents notified when taxes are due. The Tax Collector provided some examples of how he will keep our residents informed on these due dates. The moderator called for a voice vote; the motion passed unanimously.

3. To receive and discuss the report of the budget prepared by the Board of Finance for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023.

Board of Finance Chairman Kevin Houlihan reported the Budget Hearing took place on April 20, 2023, and the bottom line is residents will receive, if the budget passes, a 1.22 percent tax decrease in the next fiscal year. The referendum is taking place on May 17, 2023. He reminded residents that the Amity Budget portion of this budget passed last week and will have no impact on the rest of the town budget. Selectman Goldblatt asked if there were any changes since the Budget Hearing and Chairman Houlihan stated there were no changes. Selectman Shanley thanked the Board of Finance for their hard work. First Selectman Zeoli gave a general overview of the Town's current financial position, which is positive at this time.

At this time, Moderator Marino asked if there were any motions from the floor. He acknowledged Tax Collector Tom Hurley who gave the following motion: Per CT General Statute 12-144, Payment of Taxes of not more than \$100. Be it moved that any property tax not in excess of \$100 shall be collected in one single Payment Due with the general ledger 2022 on July 1, 2023 installment. Seconded by Selectman Carangelo. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Comments:

Rob Lim, 956 Corn Cob Lane made public comments at this time regarding the Amity Budget and the surplus that is not being returned to the Town. He requested some clarification on this topic.

By virtue of Town Charter Section 2.6(c), Item 3 shall be voted on by machine ballot at an adjourned Town Meeting Referendum to be held on Wednesday, May 17, 2023, between the hours of 6:00am and 8:00 pm at the High Plains Community Center, 525 Orange Center Rd. Orange, CT 06477.

Moderator Marino, called for additional comments and hearing none, recessed the town meeting to the referendum to be held on May 17, 2023, between the hours of 6:00 am and 8:00 pm; the meeting recessed at 7:53 pm.

Mary Shaw
Town Clerk