

TOLLAND BOARD OF EDUCATION
Tolland High School Library
One Eagle Hill
Tolland, CT 06084

REGULAR MEETING

7:30 – 10:00 P.M.

AGENDA
December 13, 2017

VISION STATEMENT

To represent education at its best, preparing each student for an ever-changing society, and becoming a full community of learning where excellence is achieved through each individual's success.

A. CALL TO ORDER, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regular Meeting – November 8, 2017

C. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (2-minute limit)

The members of the Tolland Board of Education welcome members of the public to share their thoughts and ideas at this time. When appropriate to do so, members of the Board and the administration may respond to comments during "Points of Information". However, in consideration of those in attendance and in an effort to proceed in a timely manner, follow-up discussion may need to take place outside of the meeting setting.

D. POINTS OF INFORMATION

E. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES' REPORT - Alexandra Simon and Mallory Goldsmith.

F. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- F.1 2018 Board of Education Meeting Dates (Second Reading)
- F.2 Cancellation-December 27 Board of Education Meeting
- F.3 Appointment of BOE Members to Shared Services Committee (No enclosure)
- F.4 Clarification of Education Reserve Fund (1% fund) Transfer Request
- F.5 Budget Discussion / Holdbacks / State of the Schools / Lighthouse (no attachment)

G. COMMITTEE & LIAISON REPORTS

H. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

I. BOARD ACTION

J. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (2-minute limit)

Comments must be limited to items on this agenda.

K. POINTS OF INFORMATION

L. CORRESPONDENCE

Town Council Special Meeting- November 1, 2017

Town Council Meeting – November 8, 2017

Town Council Meeting – November 14, 2017

Town Council Meeting – November 28, 2017

Town Council and Board of Education Special Joint Meeting – November 29, 2017

M. FUTURE

N. NEW BUSINESS

O. ADJOURNMENT

TOLLAND BOARD OF EDUCATION

Tolland Public Library
Tolland, CT 06084

REGULAR MEETING – November 8, 2017

Members Present: Mr. Sam Adlerstein, Ms. Michelle Harrold, Mr. Bob Pagoni, Ms. Jane Pasini, Ms. Christina Plourd, Mr. Jeff Schroeder, Ms. Susan Seaver, Ms. Colleen Yudichak

Administrators Present: Dr. Walter Willett, Superintendent of Schools

A. CALL TO ORDER, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Dr. Willett called the meeting to order at 7:34 P.M. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Dr. Willett introduced the Town Clerk, Ms. Sheila Bailey, who swore in the members of the Board.

Ms. Harrold motioned to appoint Ms. Yudichak to the position of Board Chair. Mr. Pagoni seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Mr. Pagoni motioned to nominate Ms. Moran for the position of Board Vice-Chair. Ms. Harrold seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Ms. Moran motioned to nominate Ms. Harrold for the position of Board Secretary. Mr. Schroeder seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Committees – Chairperson Appointments

- **Policy** – Ms. Seaver motioned to nominate Ms. Harrold for the position of Chair of the Policy Committee. Mr. Schroeder seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried.
- **Finance and Facilities** – Mr. Adlerstein motioned to nominate Mr. Schroeder for the position of Chair of the Finance and Facilities Committee. Ms. Seaver seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried.
- **Communications** – Ms. Harrold motioned to nominate Ms. Moran for the position of Chair of the Communications Committee. Mr. Pagoni seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Committees- Membership

- **Policy** – Ms. Harrold, Chair; Ms. Seaver, Mr. Pagoni
- **Finance and Facilities** – Mr. Schroeder, Chair; Ms. Plourd, Mr. Adlerstein
- **Communications** – Ms. Moran, Chair; Ms. Pasini, Ms. Seaver

Liaisons

- **Town Council** – the Board members will rotate through this position
- **CABE** – Ms. Plourd

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- **Regular Meeting** –October 25, 2017
- **Special Meeting** – October 30, 2017

Mr. Pagoni motioned to approve the minutes of the October 25th and October 30th meetings. Ms. Plourd seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

C. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Brenda Falusi, 4 Laurel Ridge, commented that she is acting as the Town Council Liaison for this evening's meeting. The Town Council also discussed having its members rotate through the position of Board of Education Liaison. She congratulated all of the members and looks forward to working with everyone.

D. POINTS OF INFORMATION

Ms. Yudichak commented that a great new Board is in place and thanked Mr. Adlerstein for helping her and Ms. Moran over the summer prepare for their respective positions. Party politics may now be put aside and the Board can get back to work.

E. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES' REPORT – Alexandra Simon

- Ms. Simon congratulated all of the Board members
- An NHS tutoring program, which is at no cost to students, is in place and she will work toward getting more students to utilize the service.
- Students are curious about Mastery-Based learning and have questions. Dr. Willett noted that a workshop on Mastery-Based learning will be held on May 2nd at 7:30PM in the Library. The Board will host a workshop as well in advance of the May 2nd session.

F. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

F.1. 2018 Board of Education Meeting Dates (First Reading)

Dr. Willett reviewed the proposed dates. A brief discussion took place in regard to whether the meetings should start at 7:00PM or 7:30PM. Dr. Willett will research this item.

F.2. Possible Cancellation – November 22nd Board of Education Meeting

Mr. Pagoni motioned to move item F.2 to action item I.1. Ms. Pasini seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

F.3. Board of Education – Orientation Reminder (November 16th at the Board of Education)

Dr. Willett reminded the Board that an orientation session for Board members will be held on November 16th at 7:30PM at the Board of Education office.

F.4. Budget Update (No Enclosure)

The referendum will be held on November 14th at the Tolland Public Library.

G. COMMITTEE AND LIAISON REPORTS - none

H. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT - none

I. BOARD ACTION

I.1. Possible Cancellation – November 22nd Board of Education Meeting

Ms. Seaver motioned to cancel the November 22nd Board of Education meeting. Mr. Adlerstein seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

J. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr. Sam Belsito, 55 Lee Lane, congratulated all of the Board members and noted that he knows they will all do an excellent job. Mr. Belsito commented that Dr. Willett's plan to bring forward a special needs school in Tolland should take a priority position. It is a tremendous idea that will bring in revenue, save money, and provide an opportunity for Tolland students to attend school in Town. It is a win/win plan and he would like to see it put in place in a short period of time.

Kate Vallo, 80 Tolland Green, congratulated all of the Board members. From a resident's perspective, it is exciting to have a new Board and Town Council. With that is a new opportunity to create a new working agreement. She added that the last one was valuable.

K. POINTS OF INFORMATION

Ms. Harrold noted that she agreed with Ms. Vallo. The former agreement is in Council Chambers and the message can be revisited.

Mr. Schroeder, in response to Mr. Belsito's comment, added that the Tolland's special needs students will also benefit by spending less time commuting to/from school. Ms. Yudichak added that it will keep Tolland students in district as well.

Mr. Pagoni concurred with Ms. Vallo. A working agreement with the Town Council should be created. He added that the Council has a different emphasis than the Board does in that it has to look at all areas. There will be disagreements but they need to be constructive and both groups need to be respectful. The leadership of the Board should work with the leadership of the Town Council.

Ms. Yudichak will reach out to the Chair of the Town Council in regard to the working agreement.

Mr. Pagoni requested that the Superintendent provide an update on the security and safety of the schools on a daily basis including at events such as dances and sport functions as a future agenda item.

L. CORRESPONDENCE

- Town Council Meeting – October 24, 2017

M. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

1. School Safety Plan

N. Executive Session for the Discussion of Personnel Issues

Mr. Schroeder motioned to go into Executive Session at 8:16PM and invited the Superintendent to attend. Mr. Pagoni seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

The Board exited Executive Session at 8:30PM.

Mr. Schroeder motioned to approve and accept the bargaining unit agreement / contract between the Tolland Board of Education and the Paraprofessional Union Local 2011, SEIU, AFL-CIO for the period of July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2020. Ms. Pasini seconded the motion. Mr. Adlerstein, Ms. Harrold, Mr. Pagoni, Ms. Pasini, Mr. Jeff Schroeder, Ms. Seaver, and Ms. Yudichak were in favor. Ms. Plourd abstained. Motion carried.

N. NEW BUSINESS - none

O. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Schroeder motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:32PM. Mr. Pagoni seconded the motion.
All were in favor. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Pascuzzi
Clerk

SUPERINTENDENT'S AGENDA ITEM BACKGROUND

ITEM: 2018 – Board of Education Meeting Dates

ITEM SUBMITTED BY: Walter Willett, Ph.D., Superintendent

FOR BOE MEETING: December 13, 2017

ITEM SUMMARY:

Attached please find the recommended Board of Education meeting dates for calendar year 2018. The calendar includes dates for proposed meetings on the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month.

Please also note the potentially new meeting *time* as discussed in previous meeting(s). These can be voted on separately if the BOE so desires.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY:

N/A

BOE ACTION DESIRED:

Proposed motion possibility 1: *Motion to accept the proposed Board of Education meeting dates for 2018 with a start time of 7:00 PM.*

Proposed motion possibility 2: *Motion to accept the proposed Board of Education meeting dates for 2018 with a start time of 7:30 PM.*

SUPPORTING MATERIALS ATTACHED:

Meeting Dates for 2018 document

TOLLAND BOARD OF EDUCATION
2018 Meeting Dates
7:00 p.m.
Please Note New Meeting Time

January	10 24
February	14 28
March	14 28
April	11 25
May	9 23
June	13 27
July	11 25
August	8 22
September	12 26
October	10 24
November	14 28
December	12 26*

*Meetings followed by an asterisk have previously been cancelled because of past practice and could potentially be cancelled. Final determination will be made closer to the date.
Meetings are held at the Hicks Municipal Center, Council Chambers.

SUPERINTENDENT'S AGENDA ITEM BACKGROUND

ITEM: Cancellation of December 27, 2017 Board of Education Meeting

ITEM SUBMITTED BY: Walter Willett, Ph.D., Superintendent

FOR BOE MEETING: December 8, 2017

ITEM SUMMARY:

The Board of Education meeting scheduled for December 27, 2017 is presented for discussion. This meeting has traditionally been cancelled.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY: [N/A or put in a summary]

BOARD ATTORNEY REVIEW: [N/A or put in a summary]

BOE ACTION DESIRED:

SUPPORTING MATERIALS ATTACHED:

SUPERINTENDENT'S AGENDA ITEM BACKGROUND

ITEM: Clarification of Education Reserve Fund (1% fund) transfer request

ITEM SUBMITTED BY: Walter Willett, Ph.D., Superintendent

FOR BOE MEETING: 12-13-2017

ITEM SUMMARY:

The BOE requested information regarding the Education Reserve Fund (1% fund) transfer request. This item fulfills the request for information. Please see information under the headings 1- 6 below as well as the Financial Analysis section.

1) BACKGROUND

Purpose:

There was created a Board of Education Special Reserve Fund pursuant to Connecticut State Statute Section 10-248a to provide funding resources solely for future Board of Education non-recurring or unanticipated expenditure funding needs.

This was adopted by the Town Council of the Town of Tolland on 8-27-2013 by Ordinance Number 86.

Contributions:

- A. Unexpended funds of the school district from the prior fiscal year's budget appropriation, not to exceed 1% of the Board of Education's adopted budget for that given fiscal year, shall be transferred upon request of the Board of Education to the Town Council into a Board of Education Special Reserve Fund. The fund shall be accounted for on the Board of Education's general ledger and will be solely used for nonrecurring or unanticipated finding needs of the Board of Education, including but not limited to capital items, unanticipated special education needs or other unanticipated costs, purchase of goods or services above the amount that was originally budgeted for items such as computers or books, etc.*
 - B. The Town's finance Department and the Board of Education's Finance Department must agree on a final year-end balance, and that amount shall be confirmed by the Town's audit firm prior to any request to deposit funds from that year into the Board of Education Special Reserve Fund.*
 - C. Once funds are confirmed, the Tolland Town Council shall vote to commit funds pursuant to Subsection A, above.*
- 2) Board of Education Meeting (June 14, 2017): The following determination was made with regard 2016-2017 funds and the 1% fund:

A straw poll was held. The vote was unanimous that the Board supports Dr. Willett's to put as much money as possible into the 1% fund.

- 3) Communication to Town: Request of Transfer to Education Reserve Fund (1% fund) from BOE Chair to Town Council Chair (July 27, 2017)

An email communication was sent on **July 27, 2017** from the chairperson of the BOE (Sam Adlerstein) to Rick Field (Town Council Chair) that was also sent to Walter Willett and Steve Werbner. The communication stated the following:

Hi Rick,

The Board of Education, in the meeting of June 14, 2017 instructed the Superintendent of Schools to allocate funds to the greatest extent possible into the 1% fund from the 2016-2017 year, not to exceed 1% of the Board of Education's adopted budget for the 2016-2017 fiscal year. In accordance with Ordinance Number 86 adopted by the Town Council on 8-27-2013, these funds shall be transferred upon request of the Board of Education to the Town Council into a Board of Education Special Reserve Fund.

Please accept this as a reiteration and confirmation of the request of the Board of Education to have these funds moved to the Board of Education Special Reserve Fund. We understand funds will be confirmed, and then a vote shall occur to commit the funds pursuant to subsection A.

Thank you for the efforts of both yourself, and the Town Council.

On behalf of the Tolland Board of Education,

Sam Adlerstein

In response Mr. Field replied:

Unless something changed I do not see a problem.

- 4) Communications to Town: Request from Business Manager BOE to the Director of Finance and Records for the Town of Tolland (August 8, 2017):

Mark McLaughlin sent an email communication to Lisa Hancock, Walt Willett, and Steve Werbner on **August 8, 2017** that contained the following:

From the Available Balance, the BOE has agreed to be put \$393,339 funds into the 1% BOE Reserve Fund. Please insure that the Town Council puts this on their next agenda to vote and move the funds as agreed.

- 5) In the November 1, 2017 minutes of the Special Meeting of the Town Council, under item 5: Consideration of the Town Council's Revised Proposed FY 2017-2018 Budget

The following adjustment (6c) was proposed: *Fund balance use is increased to \$400,000 with the majority of additional money coming from 16/17 lapsed BOE funds currently within the general fund fund balance.*

The resulting mill rate increase after factoring in the new revenue figures is 0.29 mills or a .848% increase.

Mr. Werbner explained the creation of the 1% fund, and why he feels it should be used. He then went on to explain Scenario #5.

- 6) In the November 1, 2017 minutes of the Special Meeting of the Town Council, under item 7: Approval of Budget Resolution

The Town Council adopted a revised FY2017-2018 Town Operating and Capital Budget confirming:
Said appropriations shall require an increase of .29 mills for a mill rate of 34.48.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY:

The BOE's available balance of \$444,712 for the FY16-17 end was comprised of \$393,339, and \$51,373. The amount of \$393,339 was presumably part of what was utilized by the Town as per item #5 above.

The amount of \$51,373 was returned to the Town as per a discussion with Ms. Hancock due to a state budget shortfall at the beginning of the 2016-2017 year.

The audit of the 2016-2017 year is now complete. In the past, once the audit was complete, the BOE officially requested that the Town Council transfer requested funds, pursuant to Ordinance No. 86, into the Education Reserve Fund (1% fund). An example of such a motion would be:

Motion that the Board of Education pursuant to Ordinance No. 86, Chapter 8, hereby request the Town Council to transfer \$393,339 of the audited balance on June 30, 2017 into the Education Reserve Fund.

BOARD ATTORNEY REVIEW: N / A

BOE ACTION DESIRED:

Motion regarding 1% fund under consideration as the BOE desires (please see above).

SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

TOLLAND TOWN COUNCIL HICKS MEMORIAL MUNICIPAL CENTER 6th FLOOR COUNCIL ROOM

NOVEMBER 1, 2017 – 7:00 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Rick Field, Chair; William Eccles, Vice-Chair; Robert Green; Paul Krasusky; Kristen Morgan; Joseph Sce and David Skoczulek

MEMBERS ABSENT: None.

OTHERS PRESENT: Steven Werbner, Town Manager; Michael Wilkinson, Director of Administrative Services; Lisa Hancock, Director of Finance and Records; Christopher Jordan, Assistant Finance Director

1. **Call to Order:** Rick Field called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
2. **Pledge of Allegiance:** Recited.
3. **Moment of Silence:** Observed.
4. **Public Participation (2 minute limit)**

Katie Murray of 8 Lisa Lane: She supports a mill increase of about 1%. It will show restraint and good financial responsibility.

George Eldridge of Fish and Game Road: He supports the budget as originally adopted, which would reduce our taxes. He realizes that won't make people happy, but there are many people on fixed incomes. The money is so out of whack, and the State is in a pickle. There is no way of this getting better. We need to tighten up our boot straps. He said he would compromise a little bit though.

Philip Aieta of 65 Mountain Laurel Drive: He agrees with Mr. Eldridge, because we can't tell what the State of Connecticut will do next. The future of Tolland needs more students. People can't afford to live here. He asked them to use a little restraint.

Bruce Mayor of 56 Branden Way: He thanked the Council and the Town Manager for taking the time to work with real numbers. He would like them to make a rational decision. He would support a small, reasonable increase for those on fixed incomes, yet supports education and the troopers.

Karen Moran of 50 Merlot Way: She thanked the Council for all their hard work, and thanked Mr. Field for his many years of service in Tolland. She hopes that Mr. Field, Mr. Krasusky, Mr. Green and Mr. Sce enjoy their free time. She spoke about the community conversations that she worked on back in 2015. What they heard from everyone in those group conversations was: partnership, building and identifying a system of leadership, culture and climate for our community, town climate (not just the schools), Tolland values, an action plan, community pride and connectedness. She thought those things applied today, since they are here talking about Tolland's future. She suggested that they have Part 2 of Community Conversation.

Andy Powell of 21 Clearbrook Drive: He thanked the Council for showing clear leadership. The work that the BOE and Council have done has been amazing. He spoke of how Option #6 could benefit Tolland. He told them to finish the job tonight and let's move forward for the future.

Bob Pagoni of 27 Barbara Road: He congratulated the retirees on the Council. He said the Council will need to figure out how to create a budget that is good for everyone. He realizes they have fewer students, but that doesn't mean they need less money. He would like to have the Council go in the 2% range. He would like them to look at the big picture and include everyone in their decision.

Christina Plourd of 101 Metcalf Road: She asked that they set up the next Council and BOE for success. She spoke about the positions that were cut, and the possibility of adding them back in. She is a parent and wants the best education for her children, but they can't keep feeding the beast. She would like them to choose between Options 4 and 5.

Sam Adlerstein of 164 Pine Hill Road: They held out and now have the budget from the State. They are able to make a better decision for the town. He feels bad for folks who are concerned about their taxes going up. Everyone is concerned about that, and the BOE has that in sight. They have to invest in the schools. He would accept level funding from last year. He commented that he is getting confused with the language in the budget scenarios. He would like clarification.

Bob Rubino of 296 Weigold Road: Three points: 1.) it's great to have firm numbers to work with. He would like to see a restoration of funds to the BOE and the Town. 2.) Option 4: He argued for the 1% fund balance for the BOE. The money was not to be used for recurring expenses. He asked that they allow the BOE to use the \$393,340 as it was originally intended. 3.) He said they tend to think of the BOE budget, because it is the lion share of expenditures in town, as the convenient fiscal whipping boy.

Michelle Harrold of 256 Mountain Spring Road: She wondered what the conversation would have been back in March and April if they had the numbers that they now have. Instead of hiring back the troopers that are very expensive, maybe that money could be used to invest in our future, whatever that may be.

Liz Costa of 54 Josiah Lane: She grew up here, and moved back to Tolland for the education. Tolland is a very attractive town due to the location. She would support Options 5 or 6, and she supports the addition of two police officers.

Joe Matteas of 124 Browns Bridge Road: They have to think about where they can stop spending. Tolland just voted on this, and 80% of the people choose 'no'. There needs to be ways to generate money, ex.: rent out fields. He is a lifelong resident here. He built a house in town, and his taxes are \$50.00 more a month than his mortgage payment. They need to figure out ways to save.

Brenda Falusi of 4 Laurel Ridge Road: She is on her second house in Tolland and is very excited. There are more people involved right now. There are lots of ways that they can preserve their money. She wants to see the BOE and Council's relationship continue. She appreciates all the time they have put in to this.

Jan Rubino of 296 Weigold Road: The 1% fund: they created this fund as a non-recurring fund. She is concerned about the language and how it may be used in the budget. She wonders if the money in that fund is actually available, because she saw somewhere that it may not be because it hasn't been audited.

Mike Pascuzzi of 55 Aveberry Lane: He can support Options 5 or 6. He thinks they are good numbers. He asked that they don't forget Public Works and Public Safety.

Tammy Nuccio of 71 Webber Road: From a numbers perspective, she can't support the 2.14%. It was a budget that was built in February, and we are now 5 months into the 12 month budget cycle. A prorated portion of that would not get anywhere near 2.14%. She commented that Dr. Willett's presentation was great at their last BOE meeting. He showed a 10 year trend, and showed what was happening with the numbers. She spoke about the need to find additional funds for next year, because supporting education is a key thing. It is the only way to make sure the next generations thrive. She wants it done in fiscally responsible way. It's the BOE's responsibility to advocate for the school system, which they are. It is the Town Council's responsibility to advocate for the town.

Jane Pasini of 11 Cortland Drive: She thanked everyone. She would argue that we've already picked up our boot straps, we are already running lean. She echoes that she doesn't want her taxes to go up either. Work together, and make it happen. Keep the kids in the front of your mind.

Macie Tozzoli of 79 Cook Road: She would like the BOE to be made more whole than it was last year. She supports the police study. The troopers are very important.

Jon Crickmore of 31 Cook Road: He thanked them all for their hard work. He thinks they are millions of dollars ahead of where they could have been because of the work everyone has put in. From 2007 – 2017, the town side of the budget has increased 12%; the BOE budget has increased 24%; enrollment is down 21% and our staff reduction is down 9%. What that equates to in dollars and cents, he doesn't know. But it seems that the trend is one that goes down, and one that goes up. The ECS fund has increased over the years, with the exception of 1 or 2 years. There is a reason that Tolland received this big hit this year. It is because we've been getting over paid for ten years. We've been getting money as our student enrollment has gone down. He would support a small increase in his taxes. He looks at the kids, but also looks at those on fixed incomes. He also mentioned the foundation problem. Those houses are full of kids, and those kids are going to be gone if the people move out. Those taxes are going to be gone. With regards to the public safety: people want safety as much as they want education. There has to be a happy medium for everyone.

Colleen Yudichak of 12 Blueberry Hill: As a BOE member they need to advocate for students and the future of Tolland. The interventionists are key for the struggling student. She would like to stay on the Lighthouse Program that they are working on. That will help them offset reductions and hope to maintain staff.

5. Consideration of the Town Council's Revised Proposed FY 2017-2018 Budget

Mr. Werbner thanked the Town Council for their work and assistance. Between them, Lisa Hancock and the staff, they must have prepared about 50 different scenarios of budgets in the past nine months. It has been a very tiresome period of time. He thanked Dr. Willett and the BOE for all the work that they put in too. They advocate for the schools very well.

Mr. Werbner asked for a moment of silence in honor of Gillis Gregoire, a member of the Tolland Public Works Department, who passed away on Tuesday.

Mr. Werbner said he has worked to keep any mill rate increase at the level of 1.6% or less. He has tried to return as much money to the BOE and Town under the limitations of the mill rate

increase. The 1.6% increase limit is what he perceived to be the goal of the Council from those who provided him input. The goal is to get a budget passed on November 14th to provide sufficient cash flow for the remainder of the year. His preference of the alternatives is scenario #6.

6. Adjust the expenditure reductions as follows:
 - A. Keep the expenditure level of the BOE the same as the prior fiscal year (reinstate to the BOE \$993,340).
 - B. The Town reduction is lessened by the amount we took out of the Police budget which was \$256,956. The remaining reduction is \$86,335.
 - C. Fund balance use is increased to \$400,000 with the majority of additional money coming from 16/17 lapsed BOE funds currently within the general fund fund balance.

The resulting mill rate increase after factoring in the new revenue figures is 0.29 mills or a .848% increase.

Mr. Werbner explained the creation of the 1% fund, and why he feels it should be used. He then went on to explain Scenario #5.

He closed by saying that they have spent the last eight months looking at the State and what is broken. All the problems that were discussed have not gone away – ex., the teacher's pensions. They just got kicked further down the road. The state level issues have not been resolved just because a budget has been passed. He hopes they seriously try to address these issues.

Ms. Morgan asked when the Public Safety study will be finished.

Mr. Werbner said February / March 2018.

Mr. Field said he understands where the BOE is coming from. As a Council person, he needs to think about everyone in the town. They need to keep the taxes down, and they need to look past the year that they are currently planning for. They are getting better with doing that, but it needs to continue. He doesn't see next year being much better than this year. As of now, he is 100% behind Option #6.

Mr. Sce asked for some clarity in Scenarios #5 and 6. He is shooting for a budget higher than .848%, because of what could happen next year. He thinks the fund balance should stay at the \$150,000, and the mill rate should be increased.

Mr. Werbner believes it is prudent to use that fund balance level, in order to keep the mill rate down, in order to get the referendum passed. Over the next three years, he'd like to see them get back down to the normal level. Having a sound fund balance is the plan for the next five years.

Mr. Green asked if the bond rating could be seriously affected.

Mr. Werbner said no.

Mr. Eccles said they are going to need to buy time. The pressure will be on the BOE to make things happen. They need some serious structural changes, and the town needs some changes too. The police study is occurring, but they need to do more. He supports #6. This is not the perfect budget, but it is a good compromise. He thinks they need a clean break from this budget, and would like the next BOE, Council and PZC to start from scratch.

Mr. Skoczulek said that we need the stability, and that this budget needs to pass. He thanked the staff for all their work in preparing the scenarios. This budget will complete this process. He

thinks it is critical having that money aside for the troopers. There will need to be 'outside the box' thinking. He would support #6.

Mr. Krasusky thanked Ms. Hancock, Mr. Werbner and the staff for all their work. He believes the BOE and Dr. Willett are doing great work. He supports #6. He appreciated all the participation from the public tonight. He responded to some of the comments made during the public participation section. He closed by saying that this next referendum needs to pass.

Ms. Morgan said she heard community connectedness echoed several times tonight. She thinks they should have more community conversations. She would also like to see more people attend the BOE budget meetings. Moving ahead, she doesn't believe taxes will ever go down, or that there will be a zero increase, because things get more expensive. She commented that it would be hard for them to pay an increase in taxes, but she sees it as an investment in one of the most important things in this town, which is our education. She said that is one place we can continue to grow and continue to make this a vibrant and thriving community.

Mr. Sce hates to be the black sheep of the Council, but he is concerned with the following year. He is wondering if they could do a compromise between the \$150,000 and \$400,000. Tolland will continue to see less money come through in the following years.

Mr. Eccles said the difference in the fund balance is not worth worrying about right now.

Mr. Krasusky agrees with Mr. Sce, but this referendum needs to pass. He feels if they increase the mill rate too much, it won't pass.

Mr. Field said this Council and the previous Councils have worked very hard to get people in attendance at the meeting. He is very proud that the attendance is large tonight.

6. Approval of Budget Resolution

Bill Eccles motioned to accept the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Town Council has made certain modifications to estimated revenues and expenditures following the defeat of the Budget Referendum held on October 30, 2017, 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 revised FY 2017-18 Town Operating and Capital Budget in the amount of \$55,720,247 to be appropriated as follows:

CATEGORY	AMOUNT
Town Government	\$ 11,781,721
Board of Education	\$ 39,333,948
BOE Teachers' Retirement Contribution	\$ 0
Debt Service	\$ 4,550,000
Capital	\$ 54,578
TOTAL	\$ 55,720,247

Said appropriations shall require an increase of .29 mills for a mill rate of 34.48.

Seconded by Robert Green. Rick Field; William Eccles; Robert Green; Paul Krasusky; Kristen Morgan and David Skoczulek were in favor. Joseph Sce was opposed.

7. **Approval of a resolution authorizing the form of the ballot for the November 14, 2017 budget referendum; the time and place for the budget referendum and authorizing the Town Manager or his designee to place the required legal notices in the local newspapers.**

Bill Eccles motioned to accept the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Tolland Town Council has adopted a proposed FY 2017-2018 Town Operating and Capital Budget to be considered by the Tolland electorate at a November 14, 2017 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 November 14th referendum shall be worded as follows:

"Shall the Town of Tolland's proposed 2017-2018 budget of \$55,720,247, reflecting a spending decrease of \$86,335 or (.16)% which requires a tax rate of 34.48 mills for an increase of .29 mills or .85%, 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 November 14, 2017 at the Tolland Public Library Program Room.
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 November 14, 2017 Referendum.

Seconded by Robert Green. Rick Field; William Eccles; Robert Green; Paul Krasusky; Kristen Morgan and David Skoczulek were in favor. Joseph Sce was opposed.

Mr. Werbner advised that there will be no mailer for this referendum, but there will be signs at the November 7th election indicating that there will be a referendum on November 14th. There will also be handouts on the registration tables that will provide more information on the budget referendum. All the information will also be available on the town's website. The voting for the referendum will be at the Library. Mr. Field asked the public to get the word out and promote this budget.

8. **Adjournment:** Bill Eccles moved to adjourn the meeting; Seconded by Robert Green at 8:50 p.m. All were in favor.

Richard J. Field, Council Chair

Michelle A. Finnegan
Town Council Clerk

MEETING MINUTES

RECEIVED FOR RECORD
TOLLAND, CT

TOLLAND TOWN COUNCIL 2017 NOV 13 AM 8:20
HICKS MEMORIAL MUNICIPAL CENTER
6TH FLOOR COUNCIL CHAMBERS Sheila Bailey
ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

NOVEMBER 8, 2017 - 7:00 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: William Eccles, Chair; David Skoczulek, Vice-Chair; Brenda Falusi; Tammy Nuccio; John Reagan; Paul J. Reynolds; Christine Vincent

MEMBERS ABSENT: None.

OTHERS PRESENT: Steven Werbner, Town Manager; Sheila Bailey, Town Clerk

1. Call to Order: Sheila Bailey called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. Administration of Oath of Office

Sheila Bailey administered the Oath of Office to the new members of the Tolland Town Council.

3. Election of Chairperson

Tammy Nuccio nominated William Eccles as Chairman of the Town Council; Seconded by Paul Reynolds. All in favor. None opposed.

4. Election of Vice-Chairperson

William Eccles nominated David Skoczulek as Vice-Chair of the Town Council; Seconded by Brenda Falusi. All in favor. None opposed.

Ms. Bailey turned the meeting over to Mr. Eccles.

5. Adoption of Meeting Schedule and Set Time for Regular Meetings (See attached)

Mr. Eccles asked if the members would be opposed to starting the Council meetings at 7:00 p.m., rather than 7:30 p.m. The members were not opposed to the time change. Going forward, the Town Council meetings will commence at 7:00 p.m.

They discussed the dates of the meetings, and agreed to leave the schedule as is.

David Skoczulek motioned to approve the *amended* schedule *to start the meetings at 7:00 p.m.* The dates will remain the same; Seconded by Christine Vincent. All in favor. None opposed.

6. Adoption of Rules of Procedure (See attached)

Ms. Nuccio asked if they could do more of a back and forth dialog during the public participation portions of the meeting, rather than having the members of the public speak all at once. If they did it that way, they wouldn't need to catch up with their responses at the end. Mr. Eccles said

there is no requirement for the way this is done, so they can do whatever the Council is comfortable with at the time.

Mr. Reynolds pointed out that Section C says Electors may speak for up to two minutes under Agenda item #5 (Public Participation). Then it states that Electors may speak up to five minutes under Agenda item #14, but in the Order of Business it is actually item #15 for 3 minutes.

Section C: When recognized by the Chairperson, the elector shall stand, and give his/her name and address. *Electors may speak for up to two minutes under Agenda item #5 on any topic within the jurisdiction of the Tolland Council. Electors may also speak for up to five minutes under Agenda item #14 on any action or discussion item on the agenda.* When speaking electors shall avoid personalities or imputing of improper motive to any person.

The Order of Business needs to line up with Section C.

Christine Vincent motioned to accept the rules of procedure *as amended*; Seconded by Brenda Falusi. All in favor. None opposed.

7. Other Issues:

Mr. Werbner advised the Council members that they will get a 'tolland.org' e-mail address. They have the ability to link that e-mail to their personal e-mail account. The IT Department will set this up, but if anyone is opposed to this option, they will need to call Lynn in the Town Manager's office to let her know.

Ms. Nuccio asked if this Council will set up Council Goals as they have in the past. Mr. Eccles said they will. They will set their priorities for this coming term, and reestablish the current goals. He suggested that they review them on their own time, since it is not an agenda item tonight.

Mr. Werbner commented that a list of Board/Commissions requiring liaisons has been provided. Mr. Eccles explained the need for the liaison positions, and what role the Council members play. He asked that the members take a look at the list and think about what they would like to volunteer for. Mr. Skoczulek added that a Council member acting as a liaison is there to listen and not really participate during the meeting, unless the Commission / Board wants to know if the Council is doing anything they need to know about. Then, each liaison reports back to the other Council members. The liaisons aren't really representing the Council's full take, but they have the ability to say what is being worked on at the time.

8. Adjournment: Christine Vincent moved to adjourn the meeting; Seconded by David Skoczulek at 7:23 p.m. All were in favor.

William N. Eccles, Council Chair

Michelle A. Finnegan
Town Council Clerk

**TOLLAND TOWN COUNCIL
2017, 2018 & 2019 MEETING SCHEDULES
HICKS MEMORIAL MUNICIPAL CENTER
7:30 P.M. – COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

D R A F T

2017

November 14

November 28

December 12

December 26

2018

2019

January 9	July 10	January 8	July 9
January 23	July 24	January 22	July 23
February 13	August 14	February 12	August 13
February 27	August 28	February 26	August 27
March 13	September 11	March 12	September 10
March 27	September 25	March 26	September 24
April 10	October 9	April 9	October 8
April 24	October 23	April 23	October 22
May 8	November 13	May 14	
May 22	November 27	May 28	
June 12	December 11	June 11	
June 26	*	June 25	

These meeting dates are to be approved at the Nov. 8, 2017 Organizational Meeting.

*The fourth Tuesday of December is the 25th.

TOWN COUNCIL
Tolland, Connecticut

RULES OF PROCEDURE

(Approved 11/04/2015)

A. ORDER OF BUSINESS:

1. Call to Order
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Moment of Silence
4. Proclamations
5. Public Petitions, Communications and Public Participation (on any subject within the jurisdiction of the Town Council) (2 minute limit)
6. Public Hearing Items¹
- 7a. Reports of Boards and Committees responsible to Council
- 7b. Reports of Town Council Liaisons
8. New Business (Action/Discussion Items)
9. Old Business (Action/Discussion Items)
10. Report of Town Manager (a written report shall be provided the first meeting of the month only)
11. Adoption of Minutes
12. Correspondence to Council
13. Chairman's Report
14. Communications and Petitions from Councilpersons
15. Public listed Participation (on any subject within the jurisdiction of the Town Council) (3 minute limit)
16. Adjournment

B. MEETINGS:

Regular meetings are held on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month.

Special meetings shall be called by the Chairperson either at his/her own discretion or upon his/her receipt of a written request by any three Councilpersons to the Chairperson. Special meetings shall require 24 hours posted notice.

¹ Each item will be handled in the following manner:

1. Report of Town Manager or other appropriate official.
2. Discussion and questions by Council.
3. Comments and questions by public.
4. Vote of public for Public Hearing items.
5. Final discussion and vote of Council.

RULES OF PROCEDURE

Page Two

Emergency meetings can be called by the Chairperson at any time in accordance with the Freedom-of-Information laws. The Vice-Chairperson may call the emergency meeting in the absence/or in lieu of the Chairperson.

C. PERSONAL CONDUCT AT MEETINGS:

It shall be the duty of the Chairperson to preserve order and require procedure in accordance with the rules of the Council; to recognize and grant the floor to members wishing to speak; to declare all votes, and if any vote be doubted, to again put the questions, and to order a vote by a showing of raised hands, or roll call if he/she so desires, or if demanded by any member.

Members of the Council shall confine their remarks in debate to the pending question, and shall avoid personalities or imputing improper motives to any member.

Members shall not speak more than once upon any question until other members who desire to speak shall have relinquished the floor.

Members of the public shall observe the same rules of propriety, decorum, and good conduct applicable to members of the Town Council.

When recognized by the Chairperson, the elector shall stand, and give his/her name and address. Electors may speak for up to two minutes under Agenda item #5 on any topic within the jurisdiction of the Tolland Council. Electors may also speak for up to five minutes under Agenda item #14 on any action or discussion item on the agenda. When speaking electors shall avoid personalities or imputing of improper motive to any person.

Members of the Town Council, as recognized by the Chairperson, may offer points of information to clarify or correct any misstatement of facts made during the meeting.

D. PUBLIC PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS:

An elector may petition the Council in writing, if practical, to include a new item on the agenda for the next regular meeting of the Council, but shall refrain from any discussion of said item except when the Chairperson, supported by a unanimous consensus of the Council present, shall suspend the rules.

E. COMMUNICATIONS/REPORTS FROM OFFICERS, BOARDS, AND COMMITTEES DIRECTLY RESPONSIBLE TO THE TOWN COUNCIL:

All reports of Committees, Commissions, and Boards shall be in writing when practical, and if a vote or ordinance is recommended, a copy of such proposed vote or ordinance shall accompany the report. The Chairperson may request the presence of any chairperson for the purpose of a verbal report if and when the need arises.

RULES OF PROCEDURE
Page Three

F. NEW BUSINESS:

Requests for new business calling for action or discussion by the Councilpersons shall be in writing and shall be filed with the Town Manager, in lieu of the Clerk of the Council, not later than the seventh day preceding the date of the next regular Council meeting, provided that this rule shall not prevent a Councilperson from introducing at a meeting a matter of new business on which he/she does not call for action at that meeting.

The Chairperson shall instruct the Town Manager what matters are to be placed on the agenda of the next Council meeting. The Town Manager shall send to all Councilpersons a copy of such agenda and in lieu of causing the publication of the agenda, the agenda shall be made available to the press.

Any Public Hearing or New Business items (Action/Discussion items) tabled at one meeting shall be listed under Old Business on a subsequent agenda. Original backup materials provided shall not be reduplicated from one meeting to the next for any items listed under Old Business.

Items for which action is expected at the meeting which the item first appears under New Business shall begin with the words "Approval of". Items for which discussion only is expected at the meeting shall begin with the words "Discussion of".

G. SUSPENSION OF RULES OF PROCEDURE:

Any of the Standing Rules may be suspended by a 2/3 vote of the members present and voting in the affirmative.

Approved by the Tolland Town Council on November 4, 2015.

MEETING MINUTES

TOLLAND TOWN COUNCIL HICKS MEMORIAL MUNICIPAL CENTER 6th FLOOR COUNCIL ROOM NOVEMBER 14, 2017 – 7:00 PM

MEMBERS PRESENT: William Eccles, Chair; David Skoczulek, Vice-Chair; Brenda Falusi; Tammy Nuccio; John Reagan and Paul Reynolds

MEMBERS ABSENT: Christine Vincent

OTHERS PRESENT: Steven Werbner, Town Manager; Michael Wilkinson, Director of Administrative Services; Lisa Hancock, Director of Finance and Records; Christopher Jordan, Assistant Finance Director; Jason Lawrence, Tax Assessor

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** William Eccles called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Recited.
3. **MOMENT OF SILENCE:** Observed.
4. **PROCLAMATIONS:** None.
5. **PUBLIC PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS, AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION** (*on any subject within the jurisdiction of the Town Council*) (2 minute limit): None.
6. **PUBLIC HEARING ITEMS:** None.

7a. REPORTS OF BOARDS AND COMMITTEES RESPONSIBLE TO THE COUNCIL:

7a.1 Tolland Housing Authority – Proposed Management Plan for 2018.

Pat Woods, Executive Director of the Tolland Housing Authority – They have a very well run organization. If the 3% payment in lieu of taxes is granted to them, it would certainly help them. Mr. Werbner said no action needs to be taken on this tonight. It will appear on an upcoming agenda.

7b. REPORTS OF TOWN COUNCIL LIAISONS: Brenda Falusi, BOE: They voted in Colleen Yudichak as Chair; Karen Moran as Vice-Chair and Michelle Harrold as Secretary. **Karen Moran:** The BOE has canceled their November 22nd meeting, because it is the night before Thanksgiving. November 20th is their first budget workshop at the high school library at 7:00 p.m. Their Board liaisons will rotate attending the Council meetings.

8. NEW BUSINESS (ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS):

8.1 Appointment of Town Attorney for the term from November 8, 2017 through November 6, 2019.

Mr. Werbner commented that Rick Conti has been the town attorney off and on since 1979. Attorney Conti has done most of Tolland's general town attorney type work, and has been outstanding to work with. He is a litigator, and charges a reasonable rate. There is \$35,000 budgeted for attorney's fees, which has never been exceeded. Mr. Werbner highly recommends they continue his services.

David Skoczulek motioned to accept the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED by the Tolland Town Council that it hereby appoints Richard S. Conti as Town Attorney for the term from November 8, 2017 through November 6, 2019.

Seconded by Tammy Nuccio. All in favor, none opposed.

- 8.2 Consideration and action on a resolution appointing Town Manager, Steven R. Werbner to the Board of Directors of the Eastern Highlands Health District for a three year term of service.

Mr. Werbner said Tolland has two seats on the EHHD. The town manager is one representative, and he attends regularly. Another representative should be appointed, and it doesn't necessarily have to be a Council member. Tammy Nuccio volunteered to be the other representative.

David Skoczulek motioned to accept the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED that Steven R. Werbner is hereby appointed as a member of the Board of Directors of the Eastern Highlands Health District for a three year term of service from January 2018 – May 2018.

Seconded by Paul Reynolds. All in favor, none opposed.

- 8.3 Appointment of Town Council Liaisons to various Boards & Commissions.

David Skoczulek motioned to appoint the following Council members as liaisons to the following Boards / Commissions:

Board/Commission	Council Liaisons Needed	Council Member(s)
Agriculture Commission	1 Council Liaison	Christine Vincent
Blight Review Committee	1 Council Liaison	David Skoczulek
Board of Education	2 Council Liaisons	Tammy Nuccio and rotating member
Conservation Commission	1 Council Liaison	Paul Reynolds
Delinquent Tax Collection Enforcement	2 Council Liaisons	Tammy Nuccio David Skoczulek
Economic Development Commission	1 Council Liaison	Bill Eccles
Health District Representative	1 Council Liaison	Tammy Nuccio
Land Acquisition Advisory Committee	2 Council Liaisons	John Reagan Brenda Falusi
Permanent Celebration Committee	1 Council Liaison	David Skoczulek
Planning & Zoning Commission	1 Council Liaison	Brenda Falusi
Recreation Advisory Board	1 Council Liaison	Tammy Nuccio
Tolland Technology Advisory Board	1 Council Liaison	Paul Reynolds

Tolland Water Commission	1 Council Liaison	Paul Reynolds
Water Pollution Control Authority	1 Council Liaison	John Reagan

Seconded by Brenda Falusi. All in favor, none opposed.

Mr. Eccles said he will be continuing the Chairman's Hour on the first Thursday of each month.

8.4 Appointments to vacancies on various municipal boards/commissions.

Mr. Skoczulek advised that they are in receipt of a resignation letter from Kevin Bouley from the EDC and the TECDC.

8.4.a. Appointment to Board of Building Appeals – 4 vacancies will remain

David Skoczulek motioned to appoint **Victoria Ricci of 456 Old Stafford Road** to the Board of Building Appeals for the term 11/08/2017 – 11/03/2021

8.4.b. Appointment to Tolland Green Historic District Commission – 1 alternate vacancy will remain

Rodney Hurtuk of 76 Tolland Green to the Tolland Green Historic District Commission for the term 11/12/2013 – 11/12/2018. *He is moving from Alternate to Member.*

8.4.c. Appointment to Tolland Technology Advisory Board

Manuel Medeiros of 248 Anthony Road to the Tolland Technology Advisory Board for the term of 05/28/2017 – 05/28/2019; and
Anthony Holt of 67 Mile Hill Road to the Tolland Technology Advisory Board for the term of 05/28/2017 – 05/28/2019.

Seconded by Tammy Nuccio. All in favor. None opposed.

8.4.d. Re-Appointment to the Recreation Advisory Board

David Skoczulek motioned to re-appoint:

David Boland of 63 Susan Drive to the Recreation Advisory Board for the term of 11/08/2017 – 11/03/2021.

8.4.e. Re-Appointment to the Planning & Zoning Commission

Mark Farrell of 112 Sugar Hill Road to the Planning & Zoning Commission as an Alternate for the term of 11/08/2017 – 11/06/2019

Also, they are in receipt of a letter asking them to approve The Historic District Commission Officers: Jodie Coleman-Marzialo as Chair, Rodney Hurtuk as Vice-Chair and Enforcement Officer, Kathleen W. Bach and Ann Deegan as Co-Clerks.

Seconded by Brenda Falusi. All in favor, none opposed.

Mr. Reynolds will work with Mr. Skoczulek on vetting the vacancies for the Boards / Commissions.

9. OLD BUSINESS (ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS): None.

- 10. REPORT OF THE TOWN MANAGER (A WRITTEN REPORT SHALL BE PROVIDED THE 1ST MEETING OF THE MONTH ONLY):** Jason Lawrence, Tax Assessor – He spoke about the tax exemptions for the Gold Star Act. The Gold Star Act is for spouses and people who have lost loved ones killed in action. It allows the town to give them an exemption up to \$20,000 or 10% of their assessed value. There is an income requirement. He advised that there is no test that could be performed to see how this would affect Tolland. They could put it out there for the residents. He does not know of any other towns in the area adopting this. Mr. Eccles said he would like to consider it. Mr. Werbner said it will be put on a future agenda.

Mr. Werbner said they had some concerns regarding the Route 195 State Road Project: 1) the entrance to the Fire Training Center; 2) the right on red onto Rhodes Road (pedestrian crossing was a safety concern); and 3) No turn on red at the exit 68 ramp. The Commissioner came out and looked at the concerns. With regard to the training center, he actually saw what the problem is, but doesn't know what the answer is at this point. They have a serious funding problem for transportation projects. With regard to Rhodes Road, they will put up a yield to pedestrian sign. For the exit 68 ramp, they will put up a sign for turning right on red only from the extreme right lane.

Mr. Werbner updated that he would like to have Department Heads come and meet with the new Council members. He'd like have the Public Works department start in December; Human Services, Recreation and Library in January; Public Safety in February and General Government and Finance in March or April. He asked if the Council members could come prior to the start of the first meeting of the month in order to do this. The Council members will get back to Mr. Werbner regarding the start time.

Mr. Werbner was also thinking of having the Commissions/Boards come in on a rotating basis to provide an update of their activities to the Council. The Council members said they would like that.

11. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

- 11.1 October 24, 2017 Regular Meeting Minutes: David Skoczulek moved to adopt the minutes.
- 11.2 November 1, 2017 Special Meeting Minutes: David Skoczulek moved to adopt the minutes.

12. CORRESPONDENCE TO COUNCIL:

- 12.1 Letter from Christine L. Vaughan, Eversource Energy to Jeffrey R. Gaudiosi, Esq. re: Application of The Connecticut Light and Power Company d/b/a Eversource Energy to Amend its Rate Schedules - Notice of Intent

13. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: None.

- 14. COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS FROM COUNCILPERSONS:** Tammy Nuccio would like to look into reinstituting the Shared Services Committee, and asked if it could be added to a future agenda. Karen Moran commented that she was a member of the Committee, and it was decided that they would meet when they needed to meet. It appears the Committee is still in existence, but new members would need to be appointed. Ms. Moran will bring it to the BOE. It will be added to an agenda, pending the outcome of the BOE.

Mr. Eccles said they needed to get together to discuss their term goals. Mr. Werbner suggested appointing a sub-committee to meld things together, and then bring a draft to the whole Council. The Council members could provide their ideas to the sub-committee. It will be added as an agenda item.

- 15. PUBLIC LISTED PARTICIPATION** *(on any subject within the jurisdiction of the Town Council)*
(3 minute limit): None.

16. **ADJOURNMENT:** David Skoczulek moved to adjourn the meeting; Seconded by Brenda Falusi at 7:50 p.m. All were in favor.

William N. Eccles, Council Chair

Michelle A. Finnegan
Town Council Clerk

MEETING MINUTES

TOLLAND TOWN COUNCIL HICKS MEMORIAL MUNICIPAL CENTER 6th FLOOR COUNCIL ROOM NOVEMBER 28, 2017 – 7:00 PM

MEMBERS PRESENT: William Eccles, Chair; David Skoczulek, Vice-Chair; Brenda Falusi; Tammy Nuccio; John Reagan; Paul Reynolds and Christine Vincent

MEMBERS ABSENT: None.

OTHERS PRESENT: Michael Wilkinson, Director of Administrative Services; Heidi Samokar, Director of Planning & Development; Susan Errickson, Chair of Planning & Zoning Commission; Pat Woods, Executive Director, Old Post Village

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** William Eccles called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Recited.
3. **MOMENT OF SILENCE:** Observed.
4. **PROCLAMATIONS:** None.
5. **PUBLIC PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS, AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION** (*on any subject within the jurisdiction of the Town Council*) (2 minute limit):

Liz Costa of 54 Josiah Lane: She asked the Council to take a balanced approach towards the further reductions of ECS funds. She spoke of the hindrance that the cut to the educational funds could cause to the town. She asked them not to vote on a proposal until they listen. If we sabotage our schools now, students will go elsewhere.

Mr. Eccles thanked Ms. Costa, but they will not be voting on anything tonight related to that subject. They won't be tomorrow night either. It is totally the BOE's decision to make. He advised that there is a joint meeting of the Council and the BOE tomorrow night at 7:00 p.m. in the Library Program Room. They will be discussing how to absorb the \$870,000 hold back that the State has faced Tolland with.

Deb Goetz of 176 Kate Lane: She wondered if they will be addressing some of the options that they will be thinking about tomorrow night at tonight's meeting regarding the \$870,000.

Mr. Eccles said they will not be addressing that tonight. Part of the discussion tomorrow night with the BOE will be what the impact of their decision will be on the town. It is their decision. The appropriation has already been made. Ms. Nuccio commented that the ECS comes to the town, not the BOE. All the revenues come into the town. The reduction in ECS is a reduction in the revenue that the town is going to receive.

Ms. Goetz asked that they look at the fund balance again.

Philip Aieta of 65 Mountain Laurel Drive: He believes the General Assembly may come back. He wouldn't be so quick to make a decision this week based upon what the Governor did or said in the last week or so. Getting money back may still be an option. He thinks they should wait to see what the General Assembly is going to do first.

6. **PUBLIC HEARING ITEMS:** None.

7a. REPORTS OF BOARDS AND COMMITTEES RESPONSIBLE TO THE COUNCIL:

7.a.1. Planning & Zoning - Plan of Conservation and Development Update Process

Heidi Samokar provided a presentation to the Council members with the use of a PowerPoint entitled *Plan of Conservation & Development Update Process*. The Plan is a requirement of the State, and it needs to be updated every ten years. If it isn't updated, then the town is not eligible for certain pots of money from the State. Ms. Samokar provided detail regarding the process of updating the Plan, and the approach that the PZC plans to take.

7b. REPORTS OF TOWN COUNCIL LIAISONS: Paul Reynolds, TWC: There was a public hearing on a rate increase, which the Commission passed. The revenues continue to increase, and they are building up a reserve. There is a consultant currently doing leak detection work. As of the date of the last TWC meeting, no leaks had been detected. **Brenda Falusi, PZC:** A couple came in and gave an informal talk about putting in a car wash across from the Big Y; there is the possibility of a barber shop going into a residential building; and on December 11th, they will be having three public hearings.

8. NEW BUSINESS (ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS):

8.1 General budget discussion and consideration of a resolution to establish a mill rate.

Mr. Wilkinson commented that this resolution will set the mill rate at 34.48 mills. The budget was passed at the November 14th referendum. By setting the mill rate, this will allow them to send out the tax bills by January 1, 2018.

David Skoczulek motioned to accept the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the proposed FY 2017-2018 budget of \$55,720,247 passed at referendum on November 14, 2017.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Tolland Town Council that it hereby sets a mill rate of 34.48 mills and authorizes the Town Manager or his designee to mail out tax bills reflecting this final rate with an assigned due date of January 1, 2018.

Seconded by Tammy Nuccio. All in favor, none opposed.

8.2 Consideration of a resolution for payment in lieu of taxes for the Old Post Village Elderly Complex.

Mr. Wilkinson said starting in 2007; the Old Post Village had requested a reduction in the total amount paid to the town from 10% to 3%. The Town has authorized that yearly at 3%. The money that they do get is put into a capital revenue account.

Ms. Woods commented that they are always at capacity and she has a waiting list of 45 people. They only have 30 units. She said she appreciates what the town has done for them. The tenants are happy there, and she is proud to be in charge of it.

David Skoczulek motioned to accept the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED by the Tolland Town Council that it agrees to allow the Housing Authority to address current and future capital improvement needs:

1. Effective with the 2017 calendar year the Local Authority shall pay the Town in lieu of real property taxes as well as special benefit assessments and sewerage user charges should either of those apply to the site, the sum of three (3) percent of the shelter rent paid by tenants for each occupied dwelling unit.
2. The Housing Authority shall establish and place in its capital repair account the difference between the three (3) percent of the shelter rent paid by tenants and ten (10) percent of such rents on a calendar year basis.
3. The amount of the payment in lieu of taxes shall be reviewed by the Town Council and the Housing Authority on an annual basis in the month of September and in addition the Housing Authority shall submit at the same time a list of capital improvement projects proposed for each of the next five years.

Seconded by Tammy Nuccio. All in favor, none opposed.

8.3 Consideration of a resolution to opt out of CT Public Act 17-155, An Act Concerning Temporary Healthcare Structures.

Heidi Samokar said they would like the Council to consider a resolution to opt out of Public Act 17-155. She gave a presentation. The Act says municipalities must permit "temporary health care structures a/k/a granny pods / tiny homes" as an allowable accessory use in single-family zoning districts. It is to provide alternatives to nursing homes for people who need assistance. Given the aging population, this is important. She reviewed the requirements under the law. The Legislation does say communities can opt out. The reasons they would like to opt out is because they redid the regulations to allow for 'detached accessory structures'. They are 500 sq. ft., which is the same size as in the state statute. Tolland does have some restrictions, but they don't require medical history and people don't need to be ill to live in one of these structures. People can be perfectly healthy. If it is empty, it doesn't need to be torn down. They feel that since they allow these structures, in their own tailored way, they are meeting the spirit of the law of allowing options for people to stay in Tolland. They feel their approach is better for Tolland, than the State approach.

David Skoczulek motioned to accept the following resolution:

WHEREAS; the Connecticut State Legislature adopted Public Act 17-155, which requires municipalities to allow small-scale accessory dwelling units for medical purposes unless the municipality opts out;

WHEREAS; PA 17-155 requires applicants to provide medical information to the town to verify they qualify for such structure and such structure must be removed if no longer used;

WHEREAS; PA 17-155 also restricts municipalities from setting a minimum lot size and restricting the number of bedrooms;

WHEREAS; Tolland recently adopted new zoning regulations that allow detached accessory dwellings and such new regulations are more permissive than PA 17-155 in some respects, while also setting some limitations on lot size and number of bedrooms, among other items;

AND FURTHER; the Tolland Planning and Zoning Commission held a public hearing on October 23, 2017, adopted a resolution to opt out, and published the decision in the Journal Inquirer on October 25 and 26, 2017;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Council is also in support of opting out of PA 17-155 as the town has already taken action to address this housing need in a manner that best suits the town.

Seconded by Christine Vincent. All in favor, none opposed.

8.4 Consideration of appointments to the Shared Services Committee (pending BOE approval).

David Skoczulek motioned to accept the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED by the Tolland Town Council that it hereby appoints the following Council and BOE members to this Shared Services Committee.

Tammy Nuccio
William Eccles
David Skoczulek
{BOE member}
{BOE member}

Seconded by Christine Vincent. All in favor, none opposed.

8.5 Consideration of a process to develop Council goals for 2017-2019 for consideration by the entire Council.

David Skoczulek motioned to accept the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED by the Tolland Town Council that it hereby appoints the following Council members to this Council Sub-Committee. The main objective will be to develop draft Council goals for 2017-2019 for consideration by the entire Council.

David Skoczulek
William Eccles
Christine Vincent
Brenda Falusi

Seconded by Christine Vincent. All in favor, none opposed.

8.6 Appointments to vacancies on various municipal boards/commissions.

David Skoczulek motioned to appoint the following:

8.6.a. Appointments to Zoning Board of Appeals – Alternates

Ben Chevalier, 55 Hurlbut Road, term 11/08/2017 – 11/06/2019
Deb Goetz, 176 Kate Lane, term 11/08/2017 – 11/06/2019

8.6.b. Appointment to Planning & Zoning Commission – Alternate

Jesse Gannelli, 19 Bennett Drive, term 11/08/2017 – 11/06/2019

8.6.c. Appointment to Tolland Public Library Foundation

Cliff Vachon, 44 Julia Road, term 10/31/2017 – 10/31/2019

8.6.d. Appointment to Technology Advisory Board

Mike Pennington, 232 Metcalf Road, term 05/28/2017 – 05/28/2019

8.6.e. Appointment to Tolland Water Commission – 1 vacancy remains

Matt Kenney, 186 Walbridge Hill Road, term 01/31/2017 – 01/31/2021

Seconded by Christine Vincent. All in favor, none opposed.

9. **OLD BUSINESS (ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS):** None.

10. **REPORT OF THE TOWN MANAGER (A WRITTEN REPORT SHALL BE PROVIDED THE 1ST MEETING OF THE MONTH ONLY):** Mr. Wilkinson had nothing to report.

11. **ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

11.1 November 8, 2017 Organizational Meeting Minutes: David Skoczulek moved to adopt the minutes; Seconded by Paul Reynolds. All in favor. None opposed.

11.2 November 14, 2017 Regular Meeting Minutes: David Skoczulek moved to adopt the minutes; Seconded by Tammy Nuccio. All in favor. None opposed. Christine Vincent abstained.

12. **CORRESPONDENCE TO COUNCIL:** None.

13. **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:** Mr. Eccles provided the following report:

~He congratulated the ECHIP system. The premiums are down 2.6%.

~He advised that Tolland received a \$2.1m grant for the renovation of Old Cathole Road. He thanked the town staff for getting the grant.

14. **COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS FROM COUNCILPERSONS:** Ms. Nuccio would like to put on a future agenda the discussion of the \$4.5m debt service. She wonders if they could they find a way to categorize what is dropping off and reducing it to \$4m a year? It would give them \$500,000 to offset the ECS mess. She doesn't know if it is doable. They have time, so this doesn't need to be on an immediate agenda.

Paul Reynolds would like an update as to how the Honeywell energy performance contract is performing, and how well it is working out.

15. **PUBLIC LISTED PARTICIPATION** (*on any subject within the jurisdiction of the Town Council*)
(3 minute limit):

John Crickmore of 31 Cook Road: He asked Heidi Samokar what the additional \$30,000 for that she reference in the Plan of Conservation and Development.

Heidi Samokar said it would be for a consultant for the telephone survey.

Mr. Crickmore asked what the difference was between the EDC and the TDCDC. He said he applied to volunteer for the EDC, but the committee is full. So, he applied for the TDCDC and he received an e-mail saying that they have no mission; they are trying to keep the entity alive and will only be having one meeting a year until they find out if it can serve a true purpose.

Mr. Eccles said there is an EDC meeting is this week, and he will inquire as to what is going on. The difference between the two committees is that the corporation can do certain things that the committee can't do. It was also suggested that this be added to a future agenda. Maybe Greg Williams can come in to explain the difference between the two groups and provide an update.

Susan Errickson: She asked if they have seen any results from the solar farm.

Mr. Wilkinson will ask Mr. Werbner to provide a report.

Colleen Yudichak of 12 Blueberry Hill: She asked if they were going to still try to do the working agreement.

Mr. Eccles said absolutely.

Ms. Yudichak said they are looking forward to the joint meeting tomorrow night. She asked that everyone come in with an open-mind. She reported on the budget workshop they held last week.

16. EXECUTIVE SESSION

David Skoczulek motioned to go into Executive Session at 8:07 p.m., ending the Regular Meeting of the Town Council. Michael Wilkinson, Rick Conti and Heidi Samokar were invited to attend; Seconded by Christine Vincent. All in favor. None opposed. The Executive Session ended at 9:17 p.m.

16.1 Town Attorney to give update on any pending litigation.

16.2 Consideration of land acquisition.

17. ADJOURNMENT: Christine Vincent moved to adjourn the meeting; Seconded by Brenda Falusi at 9:17 p.m. All were in favor.

William N. Eccles, Council Chair

Michelle A. Finnegan
Town Council Clerk

SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
TOWN COUNCIL AND BOARD OF EDUCATION
TOLLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY PROGRAM ROOM

NOVEMBER 29, 2017 - 7:00 P.M.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: William Eccles, Chair; David Skoczulek, Vice-Chair; Brenda Falusi; Tammy Nuccio; John Reagan; Paul Reynolds and Christine Vincent

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT: None.

BOE MEMBERS PRESENT: Colleen Yudichak, Chair; Karen Moran, Vice-Chair; Sam Adlerstein; Michelle Harrold; Robert Pagoni; Jane Pasini; Christina Plourd; Jeff Schroeder and Susan Seaver

BOE MEMBERS ABSENT: None.

OTHERS PRESENT: Steven Werbner, Town Manager; Walter Willett, Superintendent

1. **Call to Order:** William Eccles called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Mr. Eccles announced that Mr. Werbner was the recipient of the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities Joel Cohen Lifetime Achievement Award.

2. **Discussion of Impact on Tolland's Budget of Latest OPM Reductions**

Ms. Yudichak read a statement previously prepared which gave the background of where the BOE stands, and the budget shortfall. She spoke about the staff, curriculum and school day reductions. This would be disruptive and not in the best interests of the students of Tolland. Any reduction to the BOE at this point of the year would cripple the school system.

Dr. Willett said this has been a difficult process. He complimented all the elected officials, and all those who previously served. This is potentially one of the worst budget situations that the State has been in, and Tolland. His role is to make it clear what the status of the schools will be. He urges the elected bodies of the BOE and Council to find a common ground tonight that gives them a cooperative way to move forward.

Mr. Werbner said the budget was adopted on November 14th, based upon an adopted State budget that had within it a provision for \$882m in holdbacks and lapses. The \$882m are cuts in the State budget that the state legislature didn't want to identify and they gave authority to the Governor to come up with ways to meet that reduction. CCM's definition of 'holdback' is essentially a cut to the appropriations of the State budget. OPM holds a portion of funding when it distributes appropriations. The funding could always be released at a later time, although CCM does not believe that will happen. The cuts were in a variety of programs, but the majority was in the education cost sharing grant. For Tolland, the total amount cut was \$870,115. Tolland now has a deficit of \$870,115. He believes there will be additional holdbacks and lapses before the end of this fiscal year. He said they need to close the gap.

Mr. Eccles read a statement into the record. Portions of his statement included: He said the money has been appropriated to the BOE. The money is theirs already. At this time, it would be up to the BOE not to spend the money and potentially return it back to the town. We have a problem. This is a no win

situation. The question tonight is where in the middle they will end up. He said Tolland needs a long term solution; a solution that does not put the Board in this situation again. He recommends a split between the BOE and the town 80/20 as a starting point for their discussion tonight.

Discussion between the Council and the BOE members began.

Ms. Plourd said Dr. Willett provided them with a lot of information. What she sees as important to the schools, and as a resident, are the boots on the ground; the teachers and the interventionists. She feels these are important positions that they need. By asking for \$457,000, almost splitting it down the middle that would help the Board get to where the schools need to be whole, but also help the town.

Mr. Adlerstein said that it appears there are only two options with the way this has been framed. The town reduces its budget, or the BOE reduces its budget. Are there any other options? Mr. Eccles said spending the fund balance. They can't raise revenue. Mr. Adlerstein asked if they could do a supplemental tax bill. Mr. Werbner said they could. Mr. Pagoni asked if there were any other options that could be discussed. Ms. Nuccio said the question to ask would be if concessions were given on the BOE side, what could be done to not impact the teachers and start to come towards a middle ground.

Mr. Eccles said they are talking about revenue that is not even being recognized in the room right now. Students that are being kept in district this year. It is his understanding that that saves money. Is that revenue being talked about? Dr. Willett said that is worthwhile question, and could be discussed in detail at a meeting or a Superintendent breakfast. He did say that what Mr. Eccles is talking about is offsetting out placements. It is a cost avoidance factor that will have a great impact on the future, but will not help much now. There is no measure of offset close to \$870,000 for that. He said they could talk about many things, but coming to a middle ground is what they need to work towards. They could sit here all night talking about this. He thinks they need to look at where in the middle they are going to meet, somewhere in the middle of that number would be good. He thinks the fund balance could handle some of it, as well as the Board.

Mr. Adlerstein asked Dr. Willett to speak about the state of the schools. Dr. Willett provided information on the schools. As of now, they have fewer of everything than they had before. They can do a controlled walk-down of the school system. He wants to set Tolland up to be a winner, despite some of the walk downs coming. They need to prevent any additional lay-offs in the school system at this point. If they don't, it will create a negative impact. Ms. Nuccio asked what a slow paced walk down looks like to him. Dr. Willett said that is a Board decision, but gave his opinion. He said a slow walk down takes into consideration reductions, use of fund balance and some measured responsible increases of the town. Taking too much from one place or the other actually affects the productivity of the organization.

Michelle Harrold thinks they should use the fund balance to resolve this problem. They need to look forward to find savings for next year and mitigate those costs. She reminded that the fund balance was not used at the last referendum. Mr. Adlerstein said he believes the fund balance has gone up, and asked Mr. Werbner about that. Steve Werbner said the fund balance has gone up every year about \$200,000, and that has been a planned extension of the fund balance. It is to assist in addressing situations similar to what is being discussed today to some extent, but not in its entirety. This year, the fund balance has gone up \$700,000 this year. This includes the 1% money that was withheld, and savings on the town side. Ever since the 1% fund has started, the only way the fund balance has grown is by what comes from the town's side. Mr. Werbner said you can hit the fund balance for \$840,000, but if you do, you'll never replenish it. Although, he doesn't believe this will have an effect on Tolland's bond rating, Mr. Werbner explained what could happen to the bond rating should funds continually be withdrawn from the fund balance. He thinks they need to use some of the fund balance so that they can move on to next year. Next year, will not be any easier. They are already starting a bad position for next year. Mr. Adlerstein wanted to make the point that they did not dive into the fund balance this last go around.

Dr. Willett said the landscape is going to change. Looking at the projections that the State has provided is not reliable. Mr. Werbner agreed, but said they need to plan with the information that they have. The landscape may change, but they need to start planning now. They need to start talking to people to get any information they can. Dr. Willett agreed. He just doesn't believe it is good to use the projections for the ECS.

Mr. Pagoni reviewed a listing outlining how this could affect the schools. Although, he made it clear that this list isn't concrete, but jell-o. It could change. Some items included: curriculum materials, language art text, math and focus workbooks, art supplies, batteries, math support, drill support, world language text books, various positions, etc. This is a horrible place to be. Mr. Pagoni asked Mr. Werbner what he would do.

Mr. Werbner said they could give up the request for the 1% fund, and split it 50/50. (\$370,000 BOE, take \$400,000+ from the fund balance, and \$100,000 from the town.) He added that they need to figure out what they are going to do, because once they do that, they will then need to convince the public in the future. He added that no one wants to see the school system or the town services go backwards. He believes there is \$100,000 that the town could put into this.

Dr. Willett agreed with the compromise that Mr. Werbner put forth.

3. Public Participation

Rebecca Risley of 103 Mountain Spring Road – She appreciates the transparency and the bridge between the BOE and the TC. She outlined all the work and the process that was taken in the prior year regarding the budget. She reviewed what cutting anything to the BOE would do to the school system. She believes they should take the funds from the fund balance and give the BOE the 1% fund.

Jackie Kolb of 34 Susan Drive - She agreed with Ms. Risley.

Susan Kasai of 33 Wildwood Road - Ms. Risley did a wonderful job summarizing how she feels as well. She thanked everyone for their work, especially Dr. Willett. They all need to think of how this will affect the kids. This is a shameful situation that the state has put us in. She does not support cutting a curriculum at all. Maybe Tolland needs to look into supplemental tax bills?

Katie Murry of 8 Lisa Lane - She is really angry at Malloy, our State Rep and the State Senator. She has heard a lot of big numbers tonight, but when she goes home she won't be looking at numbers. She will be looking at her three little kids. She wants to live in a community where her children are the most important thing. She wants the children to be the focus and priority.

Joe Overkamp of Wildwood Road – The fund balance should be tapped. It has grown \$700,000 in the last year. It is our rainy day fund, which the State knows about. The longer we carry that fund, the worst it will get for us. He spoke about the various programs that should not be cut, because they need time to mature. He thinks they should use the interest of \$700,000 from the fund balance. He thinks they should grab some more of the money from there too to get out of the Governor's cross hairs.

John Crickmore of 31 Cook Road - He thanked Dr. Willett for his comments. Talking about the community as a whole, Tolland only has six paid firefighters and two police officers. If we are looking out for the community, why can't we rely on volunteers for the school? Community is all of us, not just 2,500 students. Every year the tax base is going to go down due to crumbling foundations. Emptying the fund balance is not the answer. We need to think of everyone here.

Liz Costa of 54 Josiah Lane – She reminded that the \$39m was a decrease. She encourages participation at the Board meetings and workshops. She suggests that everyone be involved in the budget process going forward. She asks that the BOE is provided time to get to a solution.

Heather McCann of 62 Crossen Drive – They recently moved here. The schools were one of the reasons. She has two kids in the school system. She doesn't want anymore taken away from the school system.

Tabitha McKown on Wildwood Road – She has two kids in school. They moved here for the schools. She spends a lot of time volunteering in the school system. She sees how the staff is challenged with the cuts every day. She is in support of preventing cuts to the school system.

Joseph Sce of 37 Usher Ridge - He appreciates everything the TC and BOE has done tonight. He is concerned about the use of the fund balance. Unless there is a plan in place to replace that money, they will just be kicking the can down the road just like the State has done. Be cautious on how to spend it.

Trisha Byam 16 Bonair Hill Road - It doesn't sounds like we've used any fund balance as of yet, and it increased \$700,000 this year. This is a drastic situation. If you use the money the fund balance gained this year, it would be a wash.

Kate Howard Bender of 103 Goose Lane – She has two kids in the Tolland schools. They were previously in magnet schools. Please don't hurt our budget anymore than it already has been.

Ashley Sce of 37 Usher Ridge – She is an 8th grader at TMS. She spoke about how the teacher cuts have affected the students. They can't afford to lose more teachers.

Chris Rose of Lemek Lane - He is thankful to the TC and BOE members for all their work. It pains him to tap into the reserve fund, but he is thinking about his kids.

Andy Powell of 21 Clearbrook Drive - He asked if they would be losing the Arts Program along with curriculum supplies and those sorts of things. Or, was that the next step.

Mr. Willett said they will lose some of their programming, ex.: writer's workshop. He reviewed the possible reductions. He added that they can't lose anything and have something good happen.

Mr. Powell thinks they need to look at the fund balance more. What has been taking place in Hartford has been affecting us for the last 14-15 years. We need to protect the plans that we have going forward.

Diane Clokey of 29 Tolland Farms Road - She commented on the BOE workshop last week. She spoke of the loss of teachers over the last 14 years. There is not one spot available to put a junior for chemistry this year. We need to stay as whole as possible.

Susan Seaver of 46 Shores Drive (speaking as a resident not as a BOE member): She asked if they are legally allowed to change the numbers passed at the budget referendum on November 14th.

Mr. Werbner said they are allowed to save money. The bottom line appropriation that was given to the BOE cannot be changed. The Council can't take the money from Board. The Board has to decide whether they want to spend it or not. The Council can take money from the town side. Mr. Eccles said the appropriations have been made. This discussion does not have to happen at all. The Council is asking that they not spend the \$870,000.

Kathy Hinrichsen of 192 Goose Lane - How would a supplemental tax bill be done?

Mr. Werbner said the Council could vote on that.

Jennifer Overkamp of Wildwood Drive - Would the town be more apt to tap into the fund balance if the funds needed to come from the town side.

Mr. Eccles said he doesn't know. They don't have \$870,000 to cut from their budget. They do have \$250,000 set aside for police services. That probably would be off the chopping block.

Other than that, he is not sure where Mr. Werbner would come up with another \$600,000. They most likely would have to tap into the reserves, or issue a supplemental tax bill.

Ben Christensen of 97 Virginia Lane: He is against a supplemental tax bill.

Kate Vallo of 80 Tolland Green - She feels like the decision tonight really impacts the students. She volunteers in the school and sees how thin everything is running right now. The decision made tonight, and moving forward, will have a direct impact on our schools. She thinks they need a 5 or 10 year plan. This year, they need to dip into the fund balance.

Joe Matteas of 124 Browns Bridge Road - He sees the value of taking the money from fund balance, but they need a plan to replace that money. What happens if they pull all that money and an emergency occurs? The town does so much for the schools (plow, mow, police force, fire department, etc.). Don't forget about that. If you are going to borrow from the fund balance, there needs to be a plan in place to make this work for everyone. He doesn't have kids in the school system, but he still believes in having good schools.

Dan Damato 55 Summerwood Ridge - We have to balance out everything in this town, not just the education side. ECS will not come back full. We need to have a police force and fire department in this town that doesn't only consist of volunteers. It's both sides of the coin.

Christina Plourd of 101 Metcalf Road – Her son is two years old. She wants him to go to public schools. She thinks if they drain their reserves, there will be nothing left for him. So, they need to take care of students in the future too.

Joshua Urrutia of 72 Pepperwood Road - Both sides have it tough here. He is for education, but they need to support everything else.

Amy Free of 56 Waldbridge Hill Road - Who owns the 1% fund?

Mr. Werbner said based on discussion with the town attorney and with the way the Ordinance is drafted, once the audit is complete if the BOE makes a request for the money they can get the money back. The audit is anticipated to be done in the next couple of weeks.

4. Consideration of a resolution to address the shortfall

Mr. Eccles had a prepared proposed resolution, but none of the BOE members had seen it. A handout containing the resolution was provided to the BOE members. It was determined that no vote would be taken tonight, but Mr. Eccles read the proposed resolution. The decision will ultimately lie with the BOE.

Comments were then made by each member of the Town Council and the Board of Ed:

Mr. Eccles began by saying that he came into the meeting with an 80/20% split. After the meeting, he will go 50/50%. He is concerned that they will continue to have emergencies.

Mr. Skoczulek: He hears both sides. Once he heard Dr. Willett agree with Mr. Werbner's proposal, that is what he believes should happen. They need to close the door on this.

Ms. Nuccio agreed. The only way to make this right is for everyone to give a little. They need to start thinking about getting in front of the train. She agrees with Dr. Willett and Mr. Werbner compromise.

Mr. Reynolds would like to move on from this. He wants to talk about how they can turn the ship around. If they get a five year plan, they would be able to turn things around. He wants to work together. They are both willing to give up something to move this forward. Stuff that is saved now will continue to save.

Mr. Reagan agrees. Everyone is going to hurt and there is a compromise to be had. He wants to work together. He agrees with Mr. Werbner and Dr. Willett.

Ms. Falusi said she appreciates the depth of the understanding that the residents have. She encourages everyone to attend the budget workshops. She is a full supporter of the Lighthouse vision. She would like to see the BOE members preserve their plans that they have worked on.

Ms. Vincent thanked the residents for their support. She thanked Dr. Willett and Mr. Werbner for coming to a conclusion. She would like to move on.

Ms. Plourd said she doesn't advocate for a huge cut in materials. It's boots on the ground.

Ms. Harrold said level funded budgets for education are devastating. She is willing to forego the 1% fund. As a resident, she doesn't want to lose anything on the town side either.

Ms. Yudichak said they are in a terrible situation. They all loose together. She doesn't want to lose curriculum materials or staff. She will follow what Dr. Willett says.

Ms. Moran thinks they are all exhausted. She doesn't believe anyone is saying to bleed the fund balance. She doesn't believe the schools deserve to be cut anymore than they already have. She has volunteered at the schools and has seen the depletions at the schools. This shouldn't be the school versus the fire department, or the schools versus the public works. They need to keep it whole and keep our schools stable. She heard tonight that they need to plan. They have been planning. She would like to know, whatever they do agree on, what the impact will be on the schools.

Mr. Pagoni said he is seeing atrophy in the school system. He spoke about the loose of foreign language. The town does need to be supported also. There is no intention of the BOE members draining the fund balance. The BOE has the final word, not Dr. Willett. Willett provides them with the information to make their decision. Mr. Pagoni said they are as efficient as they can be. He encourages the public to come to their meetings and workshops. He said if they don't invest money on the Lighthouse program, they will spiral.

Mr. Adlerstein thanked the public for coming out. He is on board with what was discussed. He said we all want our town attractive. We have our challenges: the crumbling foundations and the state budget. He wanted clarification on what the compromise was between Dr. Willett and Mr. Werbner.

Dr. Willett confirmed the proposal:

\$370,000 Board (1% fund)

\$400,000 Fund Balance

\$100,000 Town

Mr. Adlerstein said he could support that, but the one thing he would change is transferring the unassigned fund balance to the BOE. It's not about spending the money, it's about who controls that money. It's still reserve, it's just assigned to the BOE. It would mean entrusting the BOE to use it responsibly and use it where needed.

Mr. Schroeder wants to maintain excellent schools. He also doesn't want to see town services dropped. He said they do have a five year capital plan, and Dr. Willett is planning for the future. He could support a plan once he sees how it is exactly going to affect the school.

Ms. Seaver agreed with Mr. Reynolds regarding turning the ship. That is what Dr. Willett has been doing. She will not support any cuts that would affect those plans. She will also not support any more

cuts to any town services. So, if it needs to come out of fund balance, or supplemental tax bills have to go out, then so be it.

Ms. Pasini agrees with Ms. Seaver. She doesn't want to see any more cuts.

Mr. Werbner said he will work with Dr. Willett to formulate a draft resolution for the BOE and Council's consideration. Mr. Pagoni suggested they come up with a number, and then a resolution.

5. **Adjournment:** Jeff Schroeder moved to adjourn the meeting; Seconded by Paul Reynolds at 9:50 p.m. All were in favor.

William N. Eccles, Council Chair

Michelle A. Finnegan
Town Council Clerk