

TOLLAND BOARD OF EDUCATION
Hicks Municipal Center
Council Chambers
Tolland, CT 06084

REGULAR MEETING

7:30 – 10:00 P.M.

AGENDA
April 26, 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 – April 6, 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 - Charles Perosino and Andrew Harger

F. SUPERINTENDENT'S FINAL REPORT

F.1 2017-2018 Budget (No enclosure)

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 Meeting- April 11, 2017

M. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

N. EXECUTIVE SESSSION- For the Purpose of Personnel Matters

O. EXECUTIVE SESSION-For the Purpose of Superintendent Evaluation

P. NEW BUSINESS

Q. ADJOURNMENT

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

REGULAR MEETING – April 6, 2017

Members Present: Mr. Sam Adlerstein, Chair; Mr. Patrick Doyle, Vice Chair; Ms. Michelle Harrold, Ms. Karen Moran, Ms. Colleen Yudichak, Mr. Jeff Schroeder, and Mr. Bob Pagoni.

Administrators Present: Dr. Walter Willett, Superintendent of Schools, Mr. Mark McLaughlin, Business Director

Also Present: Town Council Vice-Chair Bill Eccles, Town Council Member Dave Skoczulek

A. CALL TO ORDER, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Adlerstein called the meeting to order at 7:30 P.M. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Regular Meeting –March 22, 2017

Ms. Moran motioned to accept the minutes of the March 22, 2017 regular meeting. Mr. Pagoni seconded the motion. Changes: none. All were in favor. Motion carried.

C. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - none

D. POINTS OF INFORMATION

Mr. Doyle noted that he sent a letter to the elected officials in Hartford (Senator Guglielmo, Representative Belsito, and Representative Ackert) and the leadership of the Education Committee. He asked that the excess cost formula be left as-is and that any possible changes be phased in so that districts may better plan.

Mr. Pagoni commented that the Rage Robotics Team took 1st place. He read what they did and would like to see a one minute video if there is one available.

Mr. Adlerstein noted that an editorial was published in the Journal Inquirer yesterday. It was written by Town Manager Steve Werbner, Town Council Chair Rick Field, and Town Council Vice-Chair Bill Eccles. It concisely described the difficult budget season and what has been handed down to Tolland by the state in an effort to build awareness.

E. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES' REPORT - none

F. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

F.1. Monthly Financial Statement - March

Dr. Willett reviewed the attached report. The available balance is \$1,793,449 or 4.56% of the Board's budget. It was noted that the Board received \$987,473 for the state Excess Costs grant in February. This represents 75% of the payment from the state. The second reimbursement payment should be received in May. It was also noted that Mr. McLaughlin has been attending the CASBO, CABE, and CAPPS meetings and testimony is being given outlining the devastation to local school districts if the state budget were implemented as proposed.

Mr. Adlerstein noted that at the last budget meeting, the Town Council recommended a budget. As he understands it, the Town Council does not have any intention that the proposed budget will pass referendum. Once there is a better sense of the budget that passes the Legislature, the Town Council will review the numbers and propose a new budget. Mr. Eccles explained that it is part of the responsibility of the Town Council to put forward something the Town can afford. His goal is that the amount of requested by the Board will be put forth in the new budget once state information is available. Mr. Skoczulek was in agreement. The Council intends to have a full reset and everything will be back on the table. He explained that a lot of appropriation work needs to be done and multiple bills will impact where the numbers come in.

Mr. Pagoni inquired about a "what if" scenario where the budget presented by the Town Council passes. Mr. Eccles and Mr. Skoczulek both noted that it would not pass and that there are no natural constituencies for it. It represents an 18% increase. He verified that a budget that may pass will not go to referendum until the numbers are available. Mr. Eccles noted that if the budget were to pass, funds would be used to pay down debt and money could be put in the general fund.

Mr. Eccles commented that this is a state budget issue. At some point they will decide on where the education and services in Town should go but that is not what this "no" vote is about.

F.2. Required Staff Addition

Dr. Willett reviewed attachment F2. He explained that this item does not require a vote but he wants the Board to know and recognize the fluidity of the situation. In last few weeks, the district has had to add staff and Dr. Willett noted that the district may also have to bring on a nurse. The district must comply with special education requirements and look out for the best interests of the children. Such needs cannot typically be anticipated or planned for in advance.

The positions that are required to add include a 1:1 paraprofessional and a .5 LPN. The total incurred cost for the remainder of the 2016-17 school year will be \$8,127. The potential cost for FY 2017-18 is \$45,852.

F.3. Budget Presentation (no enclosure)

Dr. Willett noted that the budget page has been updated. This evening he will explain some of the plans discussed previously regarding bringing students into the district and retaining others. He met with some parents to learn more about why they chose to send their children to magnet, charter, and private schools. Some students are going out of district for particular programs and he noted that these programs are available in Tolland as well but are not advertised.

He presented 3 domains that can be addressed between now and 2022 that can create more revenue for the district and take some of the pressure off of the local taxbase. While these programs have a level of speculation, he offers the recommendations with humility and notes there may be some measure of fluctuation between now and 2022.

He explained that there are 3 main components: cost avoidance, revenue generation, and revenue recovery. This will help re-stabilize the district.

Renaissance Programs – Behavioral Programs and Autism Programs

These are programs that can be offered internally and will either bring students back to the district or keep them in the district. Dr. Willett is very confident that behavioral programs can be offered and has great optimism for the autism program. While it will take time both the behavioral program and the autism program could have a significant impact.

Revenue Generation – Open Choice and Lighthouse

Open Choice and the Lighthouse possibilities can bring resources into the district. The latter would happen when other districts consolidate and are looking for places to send their students and would happen through a contract with that district. Tolland could potentially take as many as 100 high school students into the district.

Public Relations & Financials - Reduction of Attrition to Magnet & Charter Schools

Dr. Willett believes the attrition could increase and notes that this is a significant problem. The charters are able to advertise in periodicals, movie theatres, and more. There is a political agenda toward vouchers and putting money into private hands such as charters and this is starting to impact Tolland. Right now, \$263K goes out to M&C schools and if staff and programs are cut, more students may opt to go to school outside of the district. To address this, Dr. Willett would like to hire a secretary dedicated to supporting a public relations campaign which would include crafting materials, grant writing, driving social media, website development, mailings, and using cost effective marketing opportunities. Tolland has better SAT and SBAC scores as well as better programs than many of the magnet and charter schools. Further, Tolland has the opportunity to create a business academy. The investment of \$50-\$70K, using the greatest cost scenario for such a secretary, would be worth it to recover at least a portion of the \$263K and slow or halt additional attrition and escalating loss of funds.

The objectives of the 2017-2022 programs are:

1. Reduce the exponentially more expensive out of district tuition and transportation by investing in better and more cost effective internal programs.
2. Gradually increase incoming tuition to reduce the burden on the local tax base by establishing relationships with the consolidating towns and programs like Open Choice.
3. Increase and expand SRBI to reduce the number of referrals to special education overall.
4. Reduce attrition to magnets and charters by developing an aggressive public relations program.

Dr. Willett presented outplacement data. Tolland as a district spends millions more than comparable districts on outplacements and this number is increasing. This can be in part attributable to resources having been eliminated over time in the past. Further, the district worked hard to comply with state mandates and ironically ended up outplacing students in situations where he feels it could have been avoided and would

have been better to keep the students in-district (i.e. having students not being with non-disabled peers).

Dr. Willett reviewed data which illustrated the potential revenue generation, fund recovery, and cost avoidance that could be actualized and provide stabilization for the district. In its most ambitious and ideal form, the district could add 17 staff members, have a program cost addition of \$1,309,081, and have revenue generation, fund recovery, and cost avoidance of \$1,695,000. This would leave \$385,990 to the positive and 17 more staff members. Dr. Willett reviewed detailed data and what would be needed to make this happen.

A summary of the specifics is presented below:

- Behavioral Health Program
 - Staffing cost = \$411,996
 - Current spending on outplacements = \$477K
- Autism
 - Staffing cost = \$411,966
 - Current spending on outplacements = \$1,373,371
- Revenue Generation
 - Open Choice – by FY 2021-22, the district expects to have 44 students which will generate \$176K with the attendance grant and up to \$221K if it includes early beginnings funds; additionally, support personnel provided for the students coming in under Open Choice will benefit Tolland's resident students as well. Further, the state provides additional support services to participating districts.
- Public Relations
 - Conservatively speaking, a 12-month, step 6 secretary has a potential maximum cost of \$73K. This person would be dedicated to creating a ongoing public relations campaign which would include crafting materials, driving social media, grant writing, web site work, and finding cost effective marketing vehicles as well. If 30% of the 55 students currently going out of district stay in Tolland, \$79,113 would be recovered. At the 50% level, \$131,856 would be recovered. If something is not done, the number of students choosing to go to schools out of district and taking funds with them will be significantly higher by 2022.

Dr. Willett noted that obstacles would include dramatic staff reductions. Lastly, he commented on DRA. Approximately \$30K was spent on evaluating facilities. Dr. Willett reviewed this information and data sources that include organizations such as the American Psychological Association and came up with target class sizes of 20 for K-5 and 22 for 6-12. With the current structure and staff, in all there are 41 potential tuition seats considering these targets. Using a conservative value of \$5,000/student, the district could

gain \$205K in revenue if those seats were filled with students from other districts. More information is available on the budget web page.

Dr. Willett commented that in the past he has explained that Tolland is at a crossroads. Some people felt it was fear mongering. The state has incentivized regionalization and is putting money toward certain elements of education and taking money away from others. The district needs to be real. In 5-10 years, Tolland could look quite different. He added that there have been comments that he is looking to bring busloads of children to Tolland. A bus holds 72 students and the projected enrollment by 2022 in the Open Choice program is 44 or just over ½ of a busload. He noted that those students in the Open Choice program would be Tolland students who live in Hartford.

The Board members weighed in on Dr. Willett's presentation.

Mr. Pagoni inquired if the 44 Open Choice students would include special education students. Dr. Willett expects it would be in the same proportion as children we see in any population around the country. He noted that in a tuition situation, the sending district pays for the special education and the transportation so if a child is outplaced, the sending district provides the funding. Mr. Pagoni inquired who decides which students will be accepted and what happens with students who require more support. Dr. Willett explained that the students would be coming in at the kindergarten level so there is the benefit of the current programs in place. In terms of how one decides who is accepted, Dr. Willett explained that it is a lottery. The parents choose to have their students in the program, submit their choices, and are ultimately assigned a school. Mr. Pagoni noted that Dr. Willett is a cheerleader for this Open Choice but some people will question the program. He asked Dr. Willett what is not good about the program. Dr. Willett explained that he was hired to do what is in the best interest of children and this is in the best interest of Tolland for a number of reasons including providing resources and preparing students for the greater world in regard to diversity. Mr. Pagoni inquired what a downside could be. Dr. Willett responded that a child could feel they are being racially isolated. Mr. Doyle commented that Open Choice was discussed at length, voted on by the Board, and approved. Mr. Adlerstein noted that he works in a district that has been a part of the Open Choice program for years and it has never been sued. Such a possibility is far-fetched and could just as easily be done by a family in town. Mr. Pagoni clarified that he supports Open Choice but the Board members represent the town's residents and need to be able to answer questions from the community. Dr. Willett noted that the district is committed to doing it and it is the right thing to do. Mr. Adlerstein added that you can always find things that are issues but there are more positives. Many towns have done this for years for a reason.

Mr. Schroeder commented that the Open Choice program is culturally responsible, helps underprivileged students, and since the students will be coming in at the kindergarten level, the students will benefit from the program in Tolland. Resident Tolland students are just as likely to need additional support and services.

Ms. Harrold commented that the district needs to be proactive and plan for the future so that its schools will not be closed.

Ms. Yudichak noted that Open Choice is a great program. Many students will benefit.

Ms. Seaver commented that she understands the concept and impact of proposing the 18% budget increase and saying that it is due to the state but it is harmful because RIF notices have to be given to teachers. It is damaging and not the whole story. Mr. Eccles inquired why RIF notices are being issued. Dr. Willett explained he is required to provide RIF notices to teachers that could be subject to a reduction in force before May 1st. He added that Tolland has a perfect storm of circumstances that make it a very difficult situation. Mr. Adlerstein noted that the district has been on a different trajectory over the past few years and if the RIF notices do not need to go out they won't. Dr. Willett noted that he had to issue the RIFs to the administrators since it is required that they be notified by March 1st. Mr. Eccles commented that inherent in that the district has not given RIF notices in the past years is the assumption that the Board's budget would not be affected by the referendum. Mr. Adlerstein noted that in the past staffing would not be affected by the referendum to the degree that there would be large staff layoffs. He added that any year they do not issue RIF notices it is a gamble. Dr. Willett explained that Tolland presenting the proposed 18% budget with the 40 mill rate will go down. Ultimately, if the community and town don't change practices to avoid some of the losses, there will be greater attrition to magnets and charters as programs are lost.

Ms. Moran commented that the only negative of Open Choice is not doing it. She has spoken to parents who have and would have sent students out of district due to its lack of diversity. Mr. Pagoni responded that he is not complaining about the program and he voted for the diversity. He 100% behind the program but asked the question because people will ask and as members of the Board they represent everyone in the community and in turn need to ask the "what if" questions.

Dr. Willett noted that we are talking about human beings. We want children to feel welcome. This needs to be part of the thought process when it is communicated and he expressed concern about some items he has seen and heard on social media. The Hartford parents do research on social media as well. People need to be mindful about what they are communicating.

Mr. Skoczulek thanked Dr. Willett for presenting the scenarios and data. In regard to public relations, he recommended considering UConn grad students. Further, public relations could include internal marketing to keep students vested in the school system at a younger age. The decision-making process of those who chose to go to school out of the district needs to be examined as well. Mr. Skoczulek inquired about the timeline for implementation of the programs presented and Dr. Willett presented a general timeline.

Mr. Eccles highlighted the excess capacity data and noted that program preservation is required to make all else possible. He thanked Dr. Willett for the presentation.

-----The floor was opened for public comment.

Kate Vallo commented that she likes the master plan. She attended last night's workshop on anxiety. The speaker referred interested parties to seek out their school counselors for more information. Ms. Vallo noted that she feels they are at a disadvantage and resources

are stretched at Birch Grove where there isn't a school counselor. This aspect is being addressed by the assistant principal. While Dr. Willett presents a 5 year plan for added staff, she would like to see a 1 year plan for a school counselor at the primary level.

Mr. Schroeder commented that he appreciated the benchmarking of the districts and looking at the best practices that could be adopted in town. He noted that some people may decide not to come here because they would be the diversity.

Mr. Adlerstein noted that he works in a district that has offered the Open Choice program for many years. Additionally, the district has a public relations person and a volunteer. He sees this role and what it has to offer. The town's diversity has been credited with the Open Choice program. Families decide that rather than having their student travel to/from school they might as well move into town.

G. COMMITTEE AND LIAISON REPORTS - none.

H. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT - none

I. BOARD ACTION - none

J. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - none

K. POINTS OF INFORMATION

Ms. Harrold expressed concern that the Board was not asked what it would recommend in regard to the charter. A brief discussion took place regarding some of the recommended items including an item suggested by the Town Manager regarding appropriation requests by the Board. Mr. Adlerstein commented that they received communication from the Town Manager regarding the charter. Mr. Doyle suggested that people review the suggestions before the next Town Council meeting and take the opportunity to speak during public participation.

L. CORRESPONDENCE

- Town Council Minutes - March 28, 2017
- Town Council- Special Meeting – March 30, 2017

M. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Rage Robotics

N. NEW BUSINESS - none

O. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Doyle motioned to adjourn the meeting at 9:45PM. Ms. Yudichak seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Lisa Pascuzzi

Clerk

MEETING MINUTES

TOLLAND TOWN COUNCIL HICKS MEMORIAL MUNICIPAL CENTER 6th FLOOR COUNCIL ROOM APRIL 11, 2017 – 7:30 P.M.

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Paul Krasusky

OTHERS PRESENT: Steven Werbner, Town Manager

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Rick Field called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Recited.
3. **MOMENT OF SILENCE:** Observed.
4. **PROCLAMATIONS:** None.

Bill Eccles moved to add item **8.3 Resolution to Rescind the Budget** to the agenda; Seconded by Robert Green. All in favor. None opposed.

5. **PUBLIC PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS, AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION** (*on any subject within the jurisdiction of the Town Council*) (2 minute limit)

Katie Murray of 8 Lisa Lane: She received the communication from Mr. Werbner about the court case and the possible 'out' that the town has with the budget situation. She wanted to express her thanks for the obvious continued dedication that the Council and staff have had to stay on top of the budget situation. She hopes that they continue to move forward with the Charter Revision Commission. It is needed.

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

- 7a. **REPORTS OF BOARDS AND COMMITTEES RESPONSIBLE TO THE COUNCIL:** None.

7b. **REPORTS OF TOWN COUNCIL LIAISONS:** **David Skoczulek, PZC:** 24 Hartford Turnpike made a request for a special permit to allow additional vehicles. Also, 495 Merrow Road is for sale as a multi-family. There was a decision by the PZC, since that zone does not allow multi-family, to decrease it from a four family residence. **David Skoczulek, BOE:** Mr. Eccles and he were invited to the BOE meeting to have an open discussion, but also to hear Dr. Willett's talk about the Lighthouse Vision. They heard detail on the 5 year plan. It was a great step forward. **Mr. Eccles** said that they came out of that meeting seeing more of a plan. The detail can always be increased. He would like to see some projections based on data, perhaps from studies yet to come.

8. **NEW BUSINESS (ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS):**

- 8.1 Consideration of a resolution to initiate actions necessary to amend the Town Charter and appoint a Charter Revision Commission.

Mr. Field started discussion about the Charter revisions by saying he doesn't feel this needs to be on the fast track that it was since they have added agenda item 8.3. He would like to see this Council put it off, and let the next Council start it off. They will have the proper amount of time, can get residents to participate and do it the right way. They won't have this problem next year, because this 'out' will work again next year.

Mr. Eccles said the problem is not going away anytime soon. He thinks they should take their time and do it right. He believes there is something noble in having this Council kick the process off, without necessarily being able to see any benefit from it. He believes the process should be considered, but not as quickly as initially planned. They should look for residents more wide spread than they have done over the last few days. He wants this Council to kick it off formerly.

Mr. Skoczulek agrees with Mr. Eccles. They do have six months left in their term. They can start it, and they can hand it off to the new Council. They had verbalized that promise to the community.

Ms. Morgan agrees with Mr. Eccles and Mr. Skoczulek.

Mr. Green said he believes the revision is necessary and makes sense. Since they have this 'out', the next Council will not have a gun to its head like they did. He believes they can get the process going now.

After the other Council members' comments, Mr. Field said it appears they want to start the Charter work now. He proposed that the next agenda have an item to discuss how this will get put together. He asked Mr. Werbner to send out an e-blast to the community looking for volunteers, etc.

Mr. Werbner said he needs a date they would like to shoot for, so that he can work a timetable backwards. The Council had discussion and it was decided the target date would be November 2018. Mr. Werbner will work the dates backwards from there to come up with a schedule. Mr. Skoczulek said he would be the point person for the vetting for the Charter Revision Committee, and will pull in other Council members as needed. A notification will be sent out seeking individuals to be appointed to the Charter Revision Commission. There was discussion as to the number of members for the Committee, and the Council thought seven (7) would be good.

8.2 Appointments to vacancies on various municipal boards/commissions:

David Skoczulek commented that Patrick Tracey has resigned from the Veteran's Recognition Commission, and April Teveris will be resigning from the Blight Review Committee effective June 1, 2017

8.3 Resolution to Rescind the Budget as Approved by the Council at Their March 30, 2017 Meeting.

Bill Eccles motioned to accept the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Town Council on March 30, 2017 adopted Resolution 17-18 and 17-19 pertaining to the FY 2017/2018 budget; and

WHEREAS, the budget adopted as part of the above cited Resolutions relied on uncertain revenue and expenditure figures from the State of Connecticut contained within the Governor's proposed budget causing the Town to have an inflated mill rate; and

WHEREAS, the Town Attorney has recently advised that the timelines within the Town Charter, as they pertain to the budget adoption process, are discretionary and not mandatory allowing the Town Council additional time to adopt a budget based on more certain revenue and expenditure figures which will be available from the State at the time the legislature adopts a budget; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Tolland Town Council rescinds Resolution 17-18 and 17-19 and suspends the budget adoption process for the FY 2017-18 until such time as more reliable revenue and expenditure figures are available from the State and at such time the Town Council will reconvene for the purposes of adopting a budget to be presented at the Annual Budget Hearing and then voted on at the Annual Budget Referendum. In following this procedure in all likelihood tax bills will have to be sent out for July 1, 2017 using the current mill rate and then supplemental tax bills issued when a Town budget is adopted to be collected with the second tax installment in January 2018.

Seconded by Robert Green.

Mr. Eccles gave credit to Mr. Skoczulek. Skoczulek read an article in the Journal Inquirer; saw that another town had done this and pointed it out. He was concerned, but after reading the case law, because this is backed by a State Supreme Court, he fully supports this resolution. Mr. Skoczulek said he was initially concerned as well, but with the State Supreme Court finding he is comfortable with this. Mr. Field is happy too. He commended Mr. Skoczulek, the Town Manager and the Town Attorney for researching this and getting all the information back to them. He said this just gives them time to find out what the new numbers are. It doesn't tell them how much they are going to lose, but it gives them time to wait, which he thinks is a very good thing. Mr. Green agreed.

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. Werbner said they have received considerable feedback on the letter to the Editor, most of which was good. The Capitol Region Council of Governments Ad Hoc Committee on Crumbling Foundations will be a meeting with editorial boards throughout the State to get additional support statewide for what they are trying to do with legislation regarding the crumbling foundations. The month of May will be critical to get something out of the Legislature.

11. **ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

- 11.1 March 23, 2017 Special Meeting Minutes: Bill Eccles moved to adopt the minutes; Seconded by Robert Green. All in favor. None opposed. Robert Green and Joseph Sce abstained.
- 11.2 March 28, 2017 Regular Meeting Minutes: Bill Eccles moved to adopt the minutes *as amended*:
The date in the header on pages 2 – 6 needs to be corrected. The date should read March 28, 2017, not March 26, 2017.
Seconded by Robert Green. All in favor. None opposed. Joseph Sce abstained.
- 11.3 March 30, 2017 Special Meeting Minutes: Bill Eccles moved to adopt the minutes; Seconded by Robert Green. All in favor. None opposed. Joseph Sce abstained.

12. **CORRESPONDENCE TO COUNCIL:**

- 12.1 Five e-mails in support of rescinding the budget
- 12.2 E-mail regarding the old budget
- 12.3 A letter from Comcast advising of 'What's New'
- 12.4 Post-card from Bob and Jan Rubino to support education
- 12.5 Consensus card

13. **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:** Mr. Field reported the following:

~There will be no upcoming budget meetings and no referendum. Please advise your family and friends.

**The April 20, 2017 and April 24, 2017 budget meetings are canceled.
There will be no referendum on May 2, 2017.**

14 COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS FROM COUNCILPERSONS: None.

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

Michael Pascuzzi of 55 Aveberry Lane: He spoke about when he was on the Town Manager Search Committee. It was a nine member committee, which was politically balanced. He just wanted to throw that number out for them to think about.

Sue Errickson of 3 Benjamin Lane: She asked if the list of volunteers from the town committees will be thrown out.

Mr. Werbner said no, but advised that he hasn't received a list.

Ms. Errickson will get the list to him. She said she was thinking ahead and asked if the Council would consider a different way of doing the budget, for example changing the fiscal year. The Charter Revision Committee doesn't necessarily know the 'ins and outs' of coming up with a budget and the time table, etc. If they were interested in changing the way the Council comes up with a budget, that would be something the Council would need to direct.

Mr. Werbner said they cannot change the fiscal year according to state statute.

Deb Goetz of 176 Kate Lane: She asked how notification was going to get out to the residence regarding the change in the budget process. Will a letter be sent out, since there are only 2,000 people signed up for the e-blast? She also asked when they will be comfortable setting a budget.

Mr. Werbner said it would be costly to do a mailing. Mr. Eccles said they could put something in the paper, and there is also social media. Luckily, the mailer about the budget was not sent out yet.

Mr. Field said they would like to wait until they have real numbers before setting the budget. Mr. Werbner said if they don't have a budget by June 15th, the current mill rate carries over. Mr. Eccles agreed about waiting for the real numbers.

Ms. Goetz asked what happens with the school's budget if there is not budget set before the school year begins. What assumption do they go on?

Mr. Eccles said that is up to them, but they do have last year's budget. That is a number they could start with.

Matthew Murray of 8 Lisa Lane: With regard to the Charter revision, he suggests going to all the Committees in town and asking them when they've come against a time when they couldn't do what they have wanted to do because it wasn't in the Charter. He grew up in Massachusetts, and they didn't need to approve their budgets every year. He would like to personally see that. It would save the costs of referendums every year. He also suggested since a communication will be going out promoting the Charter Revision, why not suggest people sign up for the e-blast in that communication.

Brenda Falusi of 4 Laurel Ridge Road: She thanked everyone for all their hard work.

16. ADJOURNMENT: Bill Eccles moved to adjourn the meeting; Seconded by Robert Green at 8:10 p.m. All were in favor.

Richard J. Field, Council Chair

Michelle A. Finnegan
Town Council Clerk