

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

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.

BOE GOALS

- Ensure the completion and implementation of the Portrait of a Graduate Report.
- Foster a culture and climate that supports high levels of learning and engagement, promotes mental and physical wellbeing, and leads to individual student success.
- Assess our district needs and advocate for resources to meet them, while pursuing non-traditional sources of revenue, ensuring a quality education for all students.
- Nurture and support an inclusive community where every person, regardless of their identity, is acknowledged and respected. This will ensure that Tolland students have the necessary resources to thrive at school, in the community, and in our diverse world.

REGULAR MEETING

7:00 PM

AGENDA
April 14, 2021

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86358441213?pwd=dUJPbnVDV3BoZW1MT1ZJZ1F1K21XZz09>
Meeting ID: 863 5844 1213
Passcode: 5FgfFH

Dial by your location
+1 929 436 2866 US (New York)
Meeting ID: 863 5844 1213
Passcode: 582724

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86358441213?pwd=dUJPbnVDV3BoZW1MT1ZJZ1F1K21XZz09>

A. CALL TO ORDER, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

B. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- March 24, 2021

D. 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.

E. CORRESPONDENCE

F. POINTS OF INFORMATION

G. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES' REPORT – Alexandra Costa and Simar Grewal

H. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- H.1 Monthly Financial Report
- H.2 Phase 1 – April EOY Document
- H.3 COVID Update (no enclosure)

I. COMMITTEE & LIAISON REPORTS

J. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

K. BOARD ACTION

- K.1 Healthy Food Certification Statement

L. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (2-minute limit)

Comments must be limited to items on this agenda.

M. POINTS OF INFORMATION

- 2021-03-23 Town Council Budget Finalized Meeting Minutes
- 2021-03-23 Town Council Regular Meeting Minutes

N. FUTURE

O. NEW BUSINESS

P. ADJOURNMENT

TOLLAND BOARD OF EDUCATION ZOOM Meeting

REGULAR MEETING – March 24, 2021

Members Present: Ashley Lundgren, Chair; Christina Plourd, Vice Chair; Renie Besaw, Christine Griffin, Madhu Renduchintala, Jacob Marie, Dana Philbin, Sophia Shaikh

Members Absent: Tony Holt

Administrators Present: Dr. Walter Willett, Superintendent of Schools; Tom Poland, Principal, Tolland High School

A. CALL TO ORDER, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Ms. Lundgren called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

B. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA – none

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- March 10, 2021

Mr. Renduchintala motioned to approve the March 10th meeting minutes.

Ms. Plourd seconded the motion.

Discussion: none

A roll call vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

D. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Liz Costa, 54 Josiah Lane, commented that she would like to thank Mr. Poland who took the time to speak to all of the students individually, ask about their future plans, ask what they would like to see for future senior activities, and get to know them which is labor intensive. Ms. Costa appreciates his monthly parent advisory meetings and his ideas. He allow each attendee to weigh in. Lastly, she appreciated that he availed himself to parents of the senior class in his most recent attempts to keep everyone informed via Zoom. Mr. Poland, Dr. Willett, nor the Board of Ed have all the answers given the governance coming from the EHHD, the CDC, and the Governor. Ms. Costa explained that the class advisors and others, who have put on many graduations in the past, and now together with a group of seniors, are trying to plan fun activities and an appropriate graduation. She is worried that if they do not allow these people to do their jobs, if they will want to do them in the future. The work is thankless, they do it for the love of the students, and they have always done an amazing job. Ms. Costa commented that she would love to see an outdoor graduation for the health and safety of the students and for the inclusion of all students of 2021. While it has been a recent tradition to have an indoor graduation, outdoor graduations come with complications of rain dates coupled with Project Graduation dates. Ms. Costa would like to see if new traditions can be explored by having an outdoor graduation; however, 2021 should be about including all students in any way possible. This should be the only concern. She added that she hopes it includes a parade like last year. She commented that she trusts Mr. Poland, Amy Steed, Mr. Wiese, Mr. Cichocki, Mrs. Keane, the input of Dr. Willett and an outstanding group of parents. She does not want to dissuade their efforts as it takes an army to put on these events. She appreciates the custodial staff and personnel for Tolland schools. Ms. Costa commented that Mr. Poland wants to give all seniors as much as possible within his power and either way he celebrates people every day. It is his natural tendency to do so and they should trust him.

Kristy LaPorte, 39 Reed Rd, commented that she is the mother of 4 graduates of Tolland High School and one current senior at Tolland High School. She acknowledged that they are currently in a pandemic and commented that she fully understands the difficulties faced in everyday activities. She does not take the seriousness of COVID lightly and believes safety guidelines need to be followed at all times. As they see COVID numbers going down with some recent upticks, they also see massive vaccinations taking place in Connecticut. Governor Lamont has reduced restrictions and continues to voice safety and COVID-safe practices yet based on what she is aware of; Tolland Public Schools has not adjusted in anticipation of senior activities. Senior events are being planned by administrators and class advisors without listening and taking into consideration the senior class' desire to hold COVID-safe activities off campus and a graduation outside with the availability to invite more family members in a safe COVID manner. Ms. LaPorte explained that class advisors have been told that seniors will not be able to attend any event outside of the school property. Seniors will be able to dress for prom for an evening at Tolland High School where they will watch a movie and eat cafeteria food in the cafeteria. She explained that there is no opportunity for senior prom even though the students have asked the adults to join and help them secure an outdoor prom. There is a plan for an indoor graduation with 600 - 800 people yet the adults will not assist in planning an outdoor prom for 250 students. Ms. LaPorte commented that this does not make sense to her. Several other districts are planning outdoor graduations, proms, and class day activities for their seniors and she would like to see Tolland do the same. She added that there should be a committee to support the seniors in planning a safe outdoor graduation, prom, class day and night. Ms. LaPorte noted that she would like to be a parent representative on the committee and asked the Board to invite parents, school administration, and students so they can plan for the best outcome for the seniors.

Alexis LaPorte, 39 Reed Road, noted that she is a senior at Tolland High School. She addressed the Board of Education members, Dr. Willett, and Mr. Poland and thanked them for placing their year-end events on tonight's agenda. She noted that she has a petition signed by 687 people and 140 seniors who have signed up for the prom they are planning which is unaffiliated with the school. She commented that she speaks on behalf of many seniors at Tolland High School. Ms. LaPorte commented that she understands that COVID remains a concern and while the numbers are down from January, they are ticking up to over 3% right now. With year-end activities 7 weeks away and people getting vaccinated, there will likely be a lower number by mid-May. She added that she understands the complications of planning in a COVID world; however, she believes they can be proactive in planning. Starting in March 2020, current seniors lost the ability to attend school with full day academic continuity in Tolland. They lost their junior prom, most of the winter 2020 sports, spring 2020 sports, football season, homecoming, Senior Valentine, and opportunities for social activities, gatherings, and lunch with their peers. They have endured cancellations, anxiety, depression, and many lost opportunities. She added that while the pandemic has hit them hard in the area of social and emotional well-being, they feel their year-end activities have been preplanned without any input from them. Ms. LaPorte commented that based on Governor Lamont's easing of restrictions, mass vaccination opportunities, and lower COVID numbers, the senior class should be afforded the ability to hold an outdoor graduation where all of their family members can safely watch as they celebrate. She added that being able to celebrate graduation outside with their loved ones, dancing and laughing at junior and senior proms, enjoying a senior class outing and class night knowing the Board of Education with the school administrators gave them a happy ending to

less than desirable junior and senior years, will ease the pain for many of them and let them look back at their last year at THS with triumph and not discontent. Ms. LaPorte commented that they depend on their senior/junior advisors to plan the senior last day and last night; however, they have not been proactive in planning an alternate prom site. On behalf of the Tolland High School Senior Class of 2021, she implored the Board of Education and school administrators to give them the same events that they were afforded when they were in high school.

Mary Rose Duberek, 37 Ryan Rd, commented that she wanted to share her disappointment in the Town Council last night not supporting the budget that the Board worked on so hard for 10 weeks. She commented that she felt bad for the Board, but it has allowed all of them to get a view of what they went through. She is sad to see the budget cut and that the Board's efforts were not as appreciated as they could have been and respected. She commented that she hopes in the future that the Town Council listens to what the Board has to say and moves forward with the schools. She noted that last night she did not get to hear everything going on because she was passing out Munson's candy for a fundraiser in the TMS parking lot. The fine parents of TMS and others that support the children were able to raise over \$1,300 for the kids in the schools. She thanked the Board and added that hopefully the community will vote to support the budget that is put forward.

Willow Golden, 127 Grahaver Road, commented that she is a Tolland High School senior, and she is in full support of the Tolland High School prom and Tolland High School outdoor graduation. She noted she feels that the graduation is most important. Ms. Golden agreed with having a committee and fundraisers and added that it is important to have their whole families there and do it in a COVID-safe manner outdoors.

E. CORRESPONDENCE

- E-mail suggesting the creation of a Special Education Teacher Parent Organization; author also suggests that the committee could be a subcommittee of the PTO and offered to lead the proposed organization or committee
- E-mail expressing concern over the lack of full time in person learning; author questions the purpose of the Board when it does not have a role in the decision to reopen; author also discusses the budget and expresses concern over the joint TC/BOE meeting; author felt that the BOE needs to salvage its relationship with the Council and should have spoken more at the Joint meeting instead of the Superintendent
- E-mail appreciating that students will be able to attend school in-person 5 days/week; disappointed that the students will not be back to normal school hours and will remain on an early release schedule; author feels that asynchronous learning is unproductive
- E-mail appreciating the cooperation among BOE members and the Superintendent; advocates that the Board persuade the Council to adopt its budget and not endorse the Town Manager's reduction to the BOE budget
- E-mail expressing concern over possible reductions to the BOE budget and dismay over how Council members treat the budget process; author urges the adoption of the 3.19% increase proposed by the BOE

- E-mail asking the Board what it is doing to fight attrition to other school districts, magnets, and charters; author urges the adoption of the 3.19% increase to ensure a sustainable future for the community
- E-mail from a First Student employee asking for information about their shot (assuming the shot is the covid-19 vaccine)
- Email urging the Board to advocate for its adopted budget and oppose the reduction submitted by the Town Manager
- E-mail apologizing for using the Tolland Public Schools' logo without permission; author stresses that there was no malintent.
- E-mail expressing concern over Class of 2021 activities; author feels students were not adequately listened to and urges the district to be innovative so it can provide an outdoor graduation and a more conventional set of senior end of year activities; author expresses interest in leading a task force to assist in end of year activities and feels that they can be conducted safely within Covid-19 guidelines
- Email asking about how bus routes are planned for TMS students; author requests that all students be picked up in front of their houses and not at intersections
- Email asking the Board to advocate for its adopted budget
- Email requesting that THS hold a prom for the Class of 2021
- Email highlighting some resources to learn about and raise awareness about the issue of global warming.
- Email requesting that a Senior Prom for the Class of 2021 be held
- Email sent to the Board, Town Council, and Town Manager expressing concern about the reduction to the BOE budget proposed by the Town Manager
- Email asking for the Board's leadership and assistance as the Council discusses the Board's budget at its March 16th meeting; author asks about the \$652,307 allocated for the geothermal project in the budget and wonders why it is in the Board's budget if the buildings are town-owned
- Letter sent by the Class of 2021 Officers outlining their perspectives of Senior EOY planning and plans for an indoor graduation; letter praises Principal Poland for his efforts
- Email sharing a resource that describes the experiences of people of color who work in school districts
- Email sharing an article about bouncing back post-pandemic with regard to curriculum and educational standards
- Email making the Board aware of an email the author sent to the Town Council asking that it not dismiss the Board's budget; author points out that both elected bodies are controlled by the Republican party

F. POINTS OF INFORMATION

- Ms. Plourd thanked the students for their engagement. She noted that it got the Board's attention and what they addressed is on this evening's agenda.
- Mr. Marie commented that he wanted to make it clear that nothing he says should be misconstrued as disrespecting staff or students. He has had both Class of 2020/2021 advisors as teachers, and he has heard that Principal Poland is doing an amazing job. He commented that the petition that was submitted to the Board gained some traction, and he believes it is a good idea to address the concerns. He added that hopefully tonight they can figure things out.

- Mr. Renduchintala thanked the students for speaking up, bringing this to their attention, and engaging. He commented that he did not see anything about the petition and was not aware of what it was and requested that it be shared with him.
- Ms. Philbin thanked the students who are getting involved and are passionate about opportunities for themselves today, tomorrow, and in the future. It is daunting to speak to a room of people and she is appreciative of them as well as the students who sent e-mails – specifically the Student Council. She is pleased this was added to this evening's agenda because she is sure that Dr. Willett, Mr. Poland, and the rest of the administrative staff and the graduation committee have some items they would like to address and this is an opportunity for discussion. She added that she is sure Mr. Poland can speak candidly and intelligently about what the both the committee and team have done. She respects the process the committees and the administrative staff have created over the last several decades. Ms. Philbin commented that she appreciates everyone in the Tolland Public School System and looks to the resident experts to guide them through the process and looks forward to the candid conversation. Ms. Philbin noted that she appreciates Ms. Duberek's comments regarding the budget and Ms. Philbin added that she is disappointed. The Board started at 3.59% and moved it down to 3.19% which was unanimously approved. Ms. Philbin is looking forward to the FFC meeting and more candid budget conversations. She added that she shares some concerns that several Board members spoke candidly in support of the budget at multiple Town Council meetings over the last several weeks and if they unanimously approved the budget, why would one member speak against the budget. She hopes they can candidly have this conversation and looks forward to furthering discussions. Regarding the students and staff of Tolland High School, she is looking forward to having an in-depth conversation of about their senior year activities.
- Ms. Griffin congratulated Alexandra Costa on being Valedictorian. Ms. Griffin hopes they will have some nice discussions on graduation and how to best celebrate Ms. Costa and the rest of the senior class. Ms. Griffin thanked the seniors who spoke and noted that she knows how difficult it is. She is proud of them for standing up for what they believe in and looks forward to the discussion.
- Ms. Lundgren commented that she likes the civic engagement of the students, the creation of the petition and getting names, and reaching out via letters. She noted that as soon as she heard, she reached out to Dr. Willett and asked that he have Mr. Poland attend tonight's meeting to review the process with the Board. Ms. Lundgren congratulated Alexandra Costa for being Valedictorian and Salutatorian Adriana Rhodes.

G. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES' REPORT – Alexandra Costa & Simar Grewal

- NHS is planning a Blood Drive in May; they are unable to host it in school and are seeking another location
- Student Council will host Spirit Week the week before April break
- Ms. Grewal congratulated Alexandra.
- Juniors sat for their SATs today
- Senior Activities – Ms. Costa noted that they are grateful for the time, effort, and care Mr. Poland and the class advisors have put into planning the activities. They have had to make many difficult decisions, but she believes the compromises best accommodate the class' wishes. That said they recognize the benefits of an outdoor graduation from a

health and safety perspective and would be fully supportive if it could be done in a safe and inclusive manner.

H. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

H.1 THS Senior Activities and Graduation (no enclosure)

Dr. Willett introduced Mr. Poland, the Principal of Tolland High School. Dr. Willett explained that Mr. Poland has done amazing work ever since he arrived. More than 100 parents/guardians attended his Zoom meeting to discuss senior activities on February 25th. The next scheduled meeting is tomorrow. Mr. Poland offered to sit down with every senior in early March and gave every senior who wanted to serve on the committee an opportunity to do so. Mr. Poland and his team, which includes staff and students, are working hard to find the best way forward to hold events while adhering to state and health district guidelines that are sometimes moving targets. Everyone is working, including the students to allow the seniors to be able to make memories of a lifetime together and avoid the disappointment that quarantines could yield at this time.

Mr. Poland commented that it has been an absolute joy working in the district during his first year and a half. He has seen the passion of the school community including its parents/guardians and students. Seeing parents/guardians dropping off students every morning who are ready to work is one of the best parts of his day. He appreciates the school community and the community at large for all of their support.

Mr. Poland reviewed the presentation. He noted that this is the second version of what was presented to parents/guardians on February 25th and includes greater detail. It is similar to what will be shared tomorrow night during the second parent/guardian meeting about end-of-year activities and graduation.

The presentation included the following information:

- Objectives
 - Progress update regarding end-of-year activities
 - Present the next steps in the planning process
- Guiding Principles
 - Uphold safety guidelines related to COVID-19
 - Keep the class of 2021 together and unified for all events
 - Ensure loved ones have an opportunity to participate in relevant experiences either in-person or virtually
 - Do what is best for students
- Senior Meetings
 - Individual meetings with every senior in the class of 2021 have been held and/or set up (some are still being scheduled) for two reasons:
 - To listen to each member of the senior class and their perspective on the events at the end of the year
 - To discuss their post-secondary path and plans for life after Tolland High School
- Safety Guidelines
 - All events will be held on the Tolland High School campus
 - All safety protocols related to COVID-19 will be in place which include wearing PPE, sanitizing in and out, and social distancing where feasible

- State, DPH, and health district requirements and guidance will play a major role in the planning and execution of these events
- As they draw closer to the end of the year, more details about these events will be communicated
- Stakeholder Involvement
 - Individual meetings with every student in the senior class
 - Principal held 1 of 3 meetings so far with parents/guardians
 - A survey was sent to the senior students to gather ideas for activities
 - All seniors were invited to be a part of the planning committee
 - All students who expressed interest were invited to participate in the planning meetings
- Events for Seniors
 - Evening of Excellence (6/1)
 - Class Night / Elements of Prom (6/4)
 - Class Day (6/5)
 - Graduation (6/18)
- Graduation
 - Developing a plan for the THS gymnasium and outdoor options/considerations; Date: June 18th
 - The number of guests to be invited will be determined at a later date. Will be based on state, DPH, and health district requirements and guidance
 - Considering factors of students' and families' desires and health and safety with respect to social distancing
 - Will stream to ensure guests unable to attend will be able to view the event
- Class Night
 - Date: June 4th
 - Will include opportunities to take photos, view the senior video, receive a yearbook and the senior t-shirt, and participate in other engaging activities
 - Will include a meal; students can eat together on or off site
 - Will work together to incorporate prom into this event
- The Plan
 - Students will sign up for a group of 55 students prior to the event and will move through the evening with this group
 - There will be 4 groups; each will start at a different activity and will rotate as the evening goes on
 - Vendors, music, and food are still being discussed, researched, and decided upon by the class officers and students who volunteered to be on the Senior Activities Committee
- The Events
 - Reception
 - Pictures
 - Yearbooks
 - Dinner
 - Senior Video

- Timeline
- Class Day
 - Date: June 5th
 - Utilizing the entire campus, both inside and outside, they will offer engaging activities, a grab-and-go BBQ style meal, music, and a “Last Ride” style of parade
 - Parents/guardians will be invited to drive students during the parade
- The Plan
 - Timeline
- The Events
 - Food
 - Outdoor and Indoor Activities
 - Car Decorating
 - Farewell Parade
- Next Steps
 - March 25th – meeting for senior families
 - Provide parents/guardians of seniors an opportunity to be on a graduation advisory council
 - Advise and oversee student committee and provide input/resources for their planning to ensure events are meaningful for seniors

Dr. Willett clarified that they all have the same objective – to see the seniors have the best experience possible. The students working with Mr. Poland have shown great leadership and have asked many questions. Dr. Willett noted that the pandemic may force the graduation to be outside as the best choice. The district will consider the capacity and Dr. Willett reviewed the data. The rationale behind all the conversations is to maximize the number of participants. The gymnasium was considered because it has a greater capacity than available stadium seating outside even if people are around the track, but being indoors may not be possible. Regarding having things in-house, it is important to have a situation where they do not let the seniors down. Seniors, given the age group, are 2-4 times more likely in our health district to be impacted by COVID and are quarantined at a higher level. The in-house events can be awesome, and they should do everything possible to ensure they have a very small impact if anybody is sick rather than a bigger impact that might actually, and ironically, remove these seniors from being able to have the memories they want if they were quarantined. Dr. Willett explained that the last thing he wants to do is tell a group of seniors that they cannot participate in any one of the activities or graduation because of quarantining. There is a lot of thought going into events and it is important to ensure they can protect the opportunity for students to do these things. Dr. Willett noted that they are currently reviewing potential outdoor graduation options.

Ms. Lundgren asked how many students are on the advisory board. Mr. Poland responded that there are 8 seniors, 4 senior class officers, and class advisors for a total of 12 students and 4 adults. He noted that if more students would like to join and be part of the planning process, he is open to this. In the survey, all students were invited to be part of the planning committee. Ms. Lundgren asked about the capacity of the outdoor field versus indoor seating and if they would fill to capacity. Dr. Willett explained that it would be like cohorting by putting families together. They want to

provide the maximum number of tickets and are looking at different options. Ms. Lundgren asked about using venues and if the food will be through the school. Mr. Poland responded that this has not yet been decided. Vendors are being considered. Dr. Willett added that in regard to using venues, if someone comes down with COVID or something else the district cannot control, it could stop the district from being able to use the venue. If something happens in-house there is greater flexibility to ensure the event can still take place.

Mr. Marie commented that he thinks as they start to see ideas for Class Night/hybrid prom, he can see some of students' anxieties begin to go away. It is an uncertain time and this is new for the district. As it becomes clearer, it may become less of an issue. Mr. Marie commented that a few districts are utilizing outside venues and asked if Tolland has spoken to other districts to see what they are doing. Dr. Willett responded that he has heard what other districts are doing. While there is a lot of hope, there is a lot of frustration with the guidelines. He noted that some locations do not have a facility large enough to host an indoor graduation if that were even possible. Tolland has always had an amazing high school with a gymnasium that can accommodate this. Dr. Willett explained that they are not proceeding in this manner because it is the easy way out. This actually takes more energy. In general, some districts are doing it in-house while others are going out. Still others are looking at each other trying to learn. Having a food truck at one's facility is becoming a popular option. There are a number of businesses that will help do things on campus which provides a greater ability to manage things that may be a concern. Some districts are looking to develop on-campus activities much like having a wedding at home. Dr. Willett explained that it is too much to risk with the uncertainty of the pandemic. If the district knows it can do something amazing and dedicate 3 months to making it amazing and safe, it might be better than putting hope in something that 2-3 months from now could end up being cancelled due to some state rules or pandemic circumstances leaving the district to scramble. Mr. Poland agreed with Dr. Willett and noted that he has been focused on the students and those on the committee. He trusts they will build an incredible set of events and that the class advisors and officers will work together to ensure this. He sees the work they are doing and their communications with outside vendors. Mr. Poland noted that he has connected with some principals. While some are looking to do events similar to Tolland, others are looking at outside venues. In terms of Class Night, if things open up more and if they can have the elements of prom, they will. Mr. Poland commented that he wholeheartedly trusts the students and class officers in the work they are doing with the class advisors to build a great end of year. Mr. Marie commented that looking back on his experience, being able to do prom and class day from outside of regular campus grounds helps make it special so he understands the desire. He would like them to do what they can to incorporate outside vendors.

Mr. Renduchintala commented that he believes food trucks are a great idea. He asked if it is safe to say that during the planning process parents/guardians and students have all had a voice in the planning. Mr. Poland responded that he feels they have. They started in January with the individual meetings with students and set up Zoom meetings with senior parents/guardians in February. Further, the Q&A has been posted for parents/guardians to ensure their thoughts can be formally presented to him. He noted that some felt the survey was not effective, but he explained to parents/guardians that

the survey would be about what activities can be built from the events. Those surveys allowed him to see data in an anonymous way and he shared it with the student committee. It was vetted to ensure the activities were as close as possible to what students wanted. The student committee meets almost every week and he advises and oversees those students. He believes it has been good thus far and will get better with the addition of the Graduation Advisory Council. This came through the survey – how people can support and provide feedback specific to graduation. Mr. Renduchintala asked if during the meetings anyone has expressed disapproval with the plan or that they felt they were not being listened to. Mr. Poland responded that he believes that the majority of the students felt they were being listened to. In every meeting the majority understood that this is what they needed to plan for and how it would be executed. Some students wished they could have a traditional prom, a traditional class night and class day. This is why he told the student committee that he wanted to try to come as close as possible with what they are doing on campus. He believes the majority of the students walked away from the meeting feeling heard and understanding the plan and the rationale behind it but with anything not everyone will be happy, but the majority felt good. Mr. Renduchintala responded that wanting a sense of normalcy is fair but they cannot please everyone all the time. He added that it sounds like Mr. Poland is willing to have even more people join and help in the planning. Mr. Poland responded that it is great to have as many at the table as possible whether it is formally in the meeting or through surveys. Mr. Renduchintala commented that he does have some sympathy, but it sounds like they are headed in the right direction. He believes it would be good if everyone pulls in the same direction and appreciates Mr. Poland's time and efforts as well as that of the staff. Dr. Willett noted that Mr. Poland is encouraging students to engage, and it is important to have the voices and they are welcomed. Dr. Willett added that everyone wants what is best and what they feel people would be most excited by. In terms of decision making, he tries to provide as much information as possible and straight answers. For example, he feels things should be on campus because when speaking with the health district, considerations such as what would happen if it is in an off campus venue and contact tracing needs to be done. If they cannot make appropriate determinations then many could be quarantined. He wants to avoid calling a senior family and saying he is sorry but that their child cannot participate in the next 2-3 weeks of activities because they are considered quarantined. He does not want them to be in a worse situation than they already felt they were in. Mr. Renduchintala asked how someone would go about joining the committee. Mr. Poland responded that in the original survey someone would only need to e-mail him. He noted that he could resend the survey to see if any more students would like to be involved in the planning process.

Ms. Griffin commented that it sounds like they started planning early and putting together a comprehensive plan. As the Graduation Task Force Chair last year, she recognizes that it is not an easy task to try to figure out the best way to make students happy and give them the end-of-year activities they deserve. That said, she also recognizes that the current seniors are going on over 375 days of not having a traditional end of high school experience and for many seniors this is a very emotional time. They really want all of the traditional aspects that they have already lost and the ones that that should be upcoming. She commented that she is surprised that prom was not put more to the top of the list. These students lost their junior prom and now

their senior prom. While she understands the hybrid approach, typically the kids would have a class day, class night, prom, and graduation. She asked if the kids asked for a traditional prom and if they were ok with the hybrid. Why would they not have all 4 events? Why would they not, even if on campus, given everything lost, have those 4 events however they possibly can? Mr. Poland responded that they are still in the planning stages. He was early and proactive with the communication with parents/guardians to ensure they got a foundation of a plan knowing that things could open up more as they get closer to the end of the year. They decided to merge the plans in the early stages of planning because they did not know what prom could look like. They did not know if they could hold a prom with dancing and a sit-down meal and be sure the night would be classy and engaging. There are elements of class night that can be executed no matter what such as the senior video and yearbook distribution. He does not know if there will be specific guidance on dancing. Mr. Poland explained that they are still planning, and it is something students expressed a need for. He does not know if dancing and a sit down meal will be able to be done, so in that case it becomes more a class night. When they supplemented and created the hybrid, it was to make sure the night was meaningful. Mr. Poland noted that they will continue to gather input from students. With the student committee right now, there is a theme with related decorations. As they get closer to year end when they can purchase or rent tents and have more of the outdoor feel, it could become more of a prom, but he wants to be sure that night, no matter what, has engaging actionable events. The student committee will continue to meet, discuss, and have every idea on the table. Ms. Griffin responded that from her perspective, she would like to let students know that a real prom is not off the table and that they will do everything they can to make that happen if the guidelines allow them to do so. She believes it is tough for the seniors, especially the girls as they probably would have already bought their dresses. It is another disappointment, and she would like to see the 2 events separated to the best of their ability and see what can be done for the kids to have a true prom. Ms. Griffin added that she understands and there are no guarantees and respects the predicament Mr. Poland is in with his planning team but she would like to not completely take having a traditional prom off the table. They know from last year's in-person graduation that a lot can change in a month. She appreciates all the work they are putting into this and she will be waiting to see where they land on this based on the pandemic and restrictions. Dr. Willett explained that one of the last things they want is that there will be nothing. They are in the planning stage where they want to create a situation where if the state does change something then they can change from one activity straight into another – one that still has value. Mr. Poland explained that from the outset he has tried to incorporate the elements of prom and as things begin to open up, it becomes more like a prom. They will continue to gather the input. He trusts the students, class officers, and class advisors to continue to research what they can truly execute. He will oversee that it is meaningful. Dr. Willett added that they will also try, as a connected issue, to help the younger adults get immunized when April 5th comes, and the opportunity is available. Dr. Willett laid out the timeline and noted that they will try to provide as much support for families who want their students to be vaccinated. They will try in every way to protect the young adults' experiences. More information will be available in the newsletter in the next couple of weeks. He added that the pandemic is not over and as long as this is kept in mind, they will be able to provide awesome events and people can still participate.

Ms. Besaw explained that it seems that a petition was received about graduation and prom which was signed by some students and the Board also received a letter from some students indicating that they were happy with what is going on and she asked if this was correct. Dr. Willett responded that the advisors and some of the students on the committee sent the letter. Ms. Besaw added that someone said they had an organized group of 147 students who are going to have a prom regardless of what the school does. She understands the rationale and that they are trying to keep safety and everyone's health in mind. She added that she was not sure about some of the restrictions and it seems that they are having sports but saying they cannot dance. Ms. Besaw explained that she agrees with the potential to separate the events if possible. It seems to her in this environment that the outside graduation would be the way to go and have the indoor as a backup plan given the current circumstances. She feels badly for this group of students who lost out on everything last year. They are not losing out on everything this year and what has been planned so far is amazing but she feels they would need to pull in some of the other students to have more voices at the table so there is more representation. Mr. Poland noted that it was open to all students and those who e-mailed him were put on the committee. Ms. Besaw explained that she is now aware that it is a bigger issue than she realized and believes there should be a bigger contingent involved in the planning if students are willing to do so. She would like to see the prom as a specific and separate event as well as an outdoor graduation.

Ms. Plourd explained that as people go through the process they see what they like and do not like and this is when the Board receives e-mails. She thanked Mr. Poland and the committee for being proactive on everything. Ms. Plourd encouraged students to be part of the process and be on the committee. This is why she ran for office. She asked if students want the graduation outside because they want it outside or so there can be more people. It seems that they could have more people if it is held indoors. Her opinion is that during the pandemic, outdoors is the safest place to be. She added that she feels for the students and would have been the one questioning why they were not having a prom. It was noted that there are 214 seniors. Ms. Plourd commented that she would like to see a prom for the seniors if there is a way to make it happen. She added that state guidelines which the Board and staff need to follow. She spoke to vaccines and the idea of testing students at the door. Ms. Plourd thanked the staff and students and hopes everyone can come together and do what is best for the students.

Ms. Philbin commented that she is grateful that the young adults are exercising their rights to be heard and exercising their civic duty is to stand up for what they believe in. It is admirable. She is pleased to hear that there is still an opportunity for students and parents/guardians to be part of the process and have their voices heard. Diverse opinions help formulate the right opinion. Ms. Philbin commented that she feels badly for the class of 2021 and the class of 2020 – the students and families. She noted that it sounds like the existing committees are working to focus on as much normalcy as they possibly can for all students. Graduation is about celebrating with friends. Ms. Philbin explained that she would be concerned about the dancing which likely does not comply with 6' social distancing. Sports have guidelines and rules regarding contact and such. In regard to creating committees, as a Board member she does not feel it is her place to get involved with student or parent petitions. Having an additional task force or committee would exhaust resources and they already have a process in place for voices

to be heard. She encouraged parents and students to communicate with Mr. Poland and take the opportunity he has provided to join the committee. She wants the seniors' activities to be as successful as they can be. Ms. Philbin commented that she has heard about the petition but has not yet seen it. She has seen correspondence to the Board from the Tolland High School Senior Class Officers and read it. It is as follows.

Ladies and Gentlemen of the Board:

We are writing to you regarding the end of year senior class activities. As senior class officers, we are directly involved with the planning of these events, and feel we have strong student perspectives that we would like to share.

Over the past year, students have been stripped of many activities and opportunities, including but not limited to, a traditional school year, prom, and sports. As much as any student would, the officers want as many traditional senior events as possible. However, it is vital we come together as a class and enjoy the experiences as originally planned by our principal, Mr. Thomas Poland.

So far, we have worked tirelessly with Mr. Poland, as well as our class advisors (Mr. James Wiese and Mr. Eric Cichocki) to plan a class night, as well as a class day. Both of these events will take place at the High School, and will closely resemble the normal events that take place in any given school year. We also plan on holding an indoor graduation ceremony. As precedent, an indoor graduation ceremony has always taken place. Not only does this ensure the safety of all attendees, but it also upholds the humble traditions of our school, which we take great pride in. These plans have been made according to the current parameters and guidelines set in place. As these guidelines continue to ease, we are open to change and are willing to modify these plans, as pursuant to the guidelines set in place by the State of Connecticut and the Eastern Highland Health District.

As the leaders of our senior class, we fully support Mr. Poland's efforts and plans through and through. So far, Mr. Poland has spent nearly 36 hours meeting with students individually. The topic of these meetings was to discuss the activities at large. Mr. Poland heavily relied on student input while making decisions on these events. During these meetings, no objections were raised to the events taking place at the end of the semester. Furthermore, Mr. Poland held a Zoom meeting with approximately 100 parents, all of whom raised no objections to any of the events described.

We are extremely confident that Mr. Poland and our class advisors will continue to work hand in hand to create the best, safest, and most memorable end of the year experiences for the senior class.

Ms. Philbin commented that these students who wrote the letter for the senior class are partners with the senior class. To those who wrote the petition, she encouraged them to keep fighting for what they believe in but the letter is indicative that the door is wide open. She encouraged students to get involved. People in the Tolland Public Schools are teaching young adults to speak eloquently and on behalf of their right. She is thankful for the voices and for Mr. Poland and his team. She has trust that they will

create an inclusive and safe event for the seniors.

Ms. Shaikh addressed Mr. Poland and commented that she is impressed with all the work he has done and that he is passionate about putting on the best events possible for seniors and it is obvious he cares about them. She appreciates that he included students and gave parents an opportunity to be listened to and will continue to do so. She encouraged the students that spoke out or have any questions about the process to reach out to Mr. Poland. He is willing to include anyone in this process and will do what is best for students.

Simar commented that as a student at THS she is finding it confusing to differentiate between the end-of-year school activities and those that seniors are doing unaffiliated with the school. If this presentation was given during advisory it may make things more clear. She explained that she is confused with how many dresses to get. Regarding graduation, she trusts Mr. Poland and what science says. She would like to have graduation outside but they need to do what is safe for students.

Ms. Lundgren commented that this is a great start in the process, and noted that things change on a dime. She hopes students will reach out and become a part of it. She asked Mr. Poland to send another e-mail to students inviting them to join. It is important to have different sides and sometimes students need a little push to get on board. Ms. Lundgren noted that she likes that Mr. Poland took the time to sit with every senior and that students appreciate being heard. It is difficult to make decisions with the pandemic. Given the rules and state mandates they do not know what will happen. She thanked Mr. Poland for attending and reviewing what is happening.

Dr. Willett noted that Mr. Poland has done outreach in many ways and will continue to do so. With the pandemic it has been a very difficult year and they have struggled without less administrative support. They had the Athletic Director serving as Assistant Principal and as wonderful as he is, there are some things a principal has to do and Mr. Poland has had to pick up additional weight during the pandemic. During all this he did constant outreach to the students and offered to meet with every one of the 214 seniors. Dr. Willett appreciates everything Mr. Poland and the staff is doing.

Ms. Lundgren invited Mr. Poland to return to update the Board on what transpires and where they are at.

H.2 Budget (no enclosure)

Dr. Willett noted that the Town Council set the budget.

The Superintendent's Proposed Budget was 3.59%, the Board of Education's adopted budget was 3.19%, and the budget approved last night by the Town Council was 2.0%. In the next few weeks, Dr. Willett will work on the phase documents and present options to the Board which will help determine what is prioritized for the end of the year. The 2% represents about an \$801,999 increase. Thus, some reductions will need to be made. The difference between the Board's adopted budget and the budget approved by the Town Council is approximately \$474K. Dr. Willett is looking in each subject area and working with the staff to see what possible forward investments can be made in FY22. He will discuss this with the Finance and Facilities Committee (FFC) and

include the information in the phase documents for the Board's review. Dr. Willett noted that they need to be careful about investments in FY22 because anything taken out of FY22 they will need to return in FY23 but he is confident that they will be able to find the right path.

Mr. Renduchintala commented that reading between the lines at the Council meeting, it seems that the hope is that they will be able to backfill some of the further reduction with the American Rescue Plan (ARP) funds. He asked if the district has any more information about guidance and if they will be able to have some of the items covered by the ARP. Dr. Willett responded that rescue funds are for things the district will be expected to do that it has never had to do. They will have to extend extended year programs among others and the money is going to need to be utilized out over the next 3-4 years. The reason for the 3-4 years to expend the funds is because it is expected that the pandemic effects will have a 3-4 year impact. Dr. Willett added that this does not come without strings and will require additional resources to execute. He noted that it is something that will help the district make it through the next 3-4 years but cautioned against looking at it as an offset for a single year. He noted that there are funds in the ERF that can be used for capital, special education, and technology. There are things they can look at to manage the situation including the COVID-fund. They will need to draw from all of their resources over the next couple of years. Mr. Renduchintala clarified that the ARP is earmarked for specific purposes. Dr. Willett explained that it is not for offsetting the needs of the district in one year does list specific things over the long run.

Mr. Marie asked if they have any information on ESSER III. Dr. Willett responded that last he saw it was \$461K with some provisions for about 20% to be used directly for students to offset impacts. It can also be used on items such as HVAC systems and PPE. He noted that Governor Lamont is talking about extending remote learning into next year and it will add costs such as allocating staff. Dr. Willett noted that the \$461K has to go out over 3-4 years. He noted that the amount is only what he sees on paper and the district may receive less. Dr. Willett added that they can feel confident that they will get something substantial but the funds are a one-time deposit and are expected to be spent over a span of 3-4 years.

Ms. Plourd commented that she fully supports the budget and respects all the work the Board did in coming together for the students and the town. She has always wanted to maximize efficiencies. She supports the Board and what Mr. Rosen presented because she was confident in what he worked out with Dr. Willett. In terms of the further reduction, she still needs to formulate an opinion but it was disappointing. She would like to see the work done in FFC and it seems that Dr. Willett has some ideas that will not impact services the Board agreed upon for this year –she noted that at least this is her hope. Ms. Plourd noted that they are a team and she does support the Board's budget.

Dr. Willett noted that it is always his goal to have the least impact possible. He thanked the town staff for their efforts. They have done a great job.

Ms. Philbin thanked Ms. Plourd for her comments and appreciates all of the Board members' comments over the 10 weeks. They put a lot of work in and she was disappointed. She hoped they would stand united and noted that she sent an e-mail to the team hoping that everyone would speak on behalf of the 3.19%. They started at 3.59% and unanimously approved the 3.19%. Ms. Philbin explained that they took the oath as Board of Education members to support and guide students, staff and the Tolland Public School System. Although they need to be cognizant of members, incomes, and capacities in the community, they need to focus on the Board of Education and be guardians of education and put forth a budget that fulfills the needs of students. The Town Council has the role of ensuring mill rate and tax rate accuracy and not pricing people out. Ms. Philbin commented that she was disappointed because they worked as a team and all the members raised their hands and said yes. She was hopeful they would all speak on what was discussed. She noted that she is concerned with the proposed budget but is confident in Dr. Willett, the administrators, principals, and staff that they will do what is right. They need to continue to support schools, staff, and students to become the future.

I. COMMITTEE & LIAISON REPORTS

- Finance & Facilities – met on March 17th; discussions included the financials, possibly using funds for this year for curriculum writing and food services, moving expenses for Birch Grove, the American Rescue Plan, Town Manager's Proposed Budget, preparation of the phase documents, paving projects to be taken from the capital budget
- Negotiations – meeting with the secretaries

J. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Ms. Lundgren commented that they are all neighbors all in one town and it should not be the Town Council vs. the Board of Education vs. the Fire Department. There are needs in many different sectors within town and they will continue to advocate for students. She has faith and trust in the FFC working with Dr. Willett and the Board to look into using the ESSER funds. If there are end of year funds available, they will invest in items for next year and will work with what they were given to the best of their abilities. This was a larger request given the circumstances. The schools need funds to operate and the state's unfunded mandates increase and Tolland has a bullseye on its back for ECS funds. She has confidence Dr. Willett will properly use the funds and protect the essential programs for all students. They will continue to strive for excellence. She asked that everyone work together and not blame each other for the rising cost of education. Ms. Lundgren added that graduation and senior activities are currently being discussed. These are still questionable times and advanced planning is required. Administrators are working hard to listen to all students impacted and she appreciates everyone who spoke out about their thoughts and feelings. Voices do not go unheard; however, at the end of the day if they all work together and come to a common ground, it needs to be respected. Vaccines are rolling out and there is a possibility of a light at the end of the tunnel and spring is here. She encouraged people to get outside and breathe some fresh air. Everyone can use a positive mental lift. It has been a long year. She thanked everyone for their work. It is a volunteer Board and she appreciated everyone's time, decisions, and discussions.

K. BOARD ACTION

K.1 State CO#3 for the Birch Grove Building Project

Dr. Willett noted that the document's links are available in the attachment.

Katie Murray, Chair of the Birch Grove Building Committee was in attendance. Ms. Murray explained that this is State Change Order #3. Board action is needed to move forward to apply for reimbursement. All of the items have already gone through the Committee and have been approved by the Committee and signed by the Town Manager. Payment has been promised and they are seeking reimbursement.

Mr. Renduchintala motioned to accept documentation related to Project 142-0083-N State Change Order #3, presented in the Board of Education meeting of March 24, 2021, and authorize the Superintendent to sign all related documentation and approvals to apply for reimbursement from the State for eligible items.

Ms. Philbin seconded the motion.

Discussion: none

A roll call vote was taken.

Motion passed unanimously.

L. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Alexis LaPorte, 39 Reed Road, commented that she does not believe the 4 senior advisors are truly taking all senior opinions into account and this is another way she and her peers feel their opinions are being neglected. She noted that 122 Tolland seniors have saved a spot for their prom at Maneeley's and over 680 people want to see graduation moved outdoors. Ms. LaPorte commented that the graduation plan and senior activities were planned without their voice. They met with Mr. Poland and were told that all activities will be onsite. They were told they would have a class night with aspects of prom. She explained that she is not sure what that means. Further, during planning for class night they were told that groups would be split into 4 groups of 55 after being shut down with the other ideas out of fear of splitting up the senior class. Ms. LaPorte commented that in her opinion it is hypocritical to say they can be split in one aspect but not another. She explained that they were told that there would not be an opportunity to hold graduation outside, that there would not be a prom off campus, or an opportunity to have any real celebrations like all seniors before 2020 were able to enjoy. Ms. LaPorte commented that they asked for input but did not take it into consideration. Outdoor graduation is the tradition. Indoor graduation started with the senior class in the newly built THS. She asked why it is ok to have outside vendors such as food trucks but they cannot attend Holiday Hill for class day or Maneeley's for class night or an outside prom. She commented that their voice is not being considered. They went through the motions but they did not try to reach for the stars. Ms. Laporte explained that Mr. Poland shared with the Board that there are 8-12 members on the committee making the decisions but the decisions have been finalized. She noted that a Board member read the letter from the 4 class advisors and she does not feel it reflected their opinion and asked that the e-mail she sent be read or considered so the Board has everyone's opinions. She added that they are planning a prom for May 20th at Maneeley's. She explained that it is not closed as she was told and she was humiliated. Her class advisors told her Maneeley's was closed and they cancelled on them when in reality Tolland pulled out of the event and requested a refund of the deposit. Ms. LaPorte commented that South Windsor with a class of over 320 students has its prom booked at Maneeley's as does Cheney Tech. She added that East Windsor is booked offsite as is Ellington. She commented that Tolland High School seniors have to plan their own. They are planning it and have an outdoor location, indoor location, food, dancing, and anything related to a normal prom. The price will be about \$70.00/ticket and about 144 people have signed up. It is first come first serve due to guidelines

and while they do not expect to go over this, if they do, they will do as they see fit. Ms. LaPorte explained that they would like to see some creativity with the administrators. She added that people can follow their progress on Instagram @THSclassof2021plans. They have toured Maneeley', will put down a deposit, and expect to have a great night.

David LaPorte, 39 Reed Road, commented that he is the father of Alexis LaPorte and also a teacher at Tolland High School and a coach in Ellington. He has been involved with education for over 30 years. He explained that he is a little baffled as to why they are making decisions without looking at all of the possible situations. As a coach he watches kids play without masks and that is ok but they are saying that they cannot dance. He is looking at people having an indoor graduation but they cannot have an outdoor graduation. Mr. LaPorte believes now is the time to plan for the best but prepare for the worst. A hybrid could be the backup plan. He commented that they should let the kids have a prom. This will be the only class in Tolland High School history to date that will not have had a prom and it is a shame. He added that graduation is about trying to keep everyone together. It can be done outside. Class day and class night can be arranged and there can be a backup plan. Mr. LaPorte commented that he does not see why they are not taking all the other students into consideration. He added that he understands that the 4 class officers have their opinions, but there are several other students that may not be expressing their opinions because they do not know how to do so. He noted that they owe it to the kids, as adults, to do what is best for them and not just do what is best for the adults.

Steve Jones, 514 Old Stafford Road, noted his comments made at last night's Town Council meeting and extended an invitation to any Board member that he will work with them in a bipartisan fashion to ensure the budget, as adopted last night, passes overwhelmingly in the first round.

Linda Scheidel, 81 Morgan Lane, commented that she is saddened that the Board needs to find areas to reduce their unanimously approved budget. She has no doubt that Dr. Willett will be able to do this as he has been able to do this repeatedly over the years. She commented that she cannot help but wonder if all 9 Board members spoke at each of the Town Council meetings in support of their budget if they would be having a different conversation tonight. Instead, only 5 members showed their support and 1 member contradicted their support while 3 did not show up. She added that if the Board showed a united front for what they worked so hard for, maybe the Town Council Chair would not have felt the need to further reduce the Town Manager's suggested budget. Ms. Scheidel commented that she is disappointed and will keep this in mind come November.

Amber Comeau, 64 Morgan Lane, commented that she wanted to follow up on what Ms. Plourd said earlier in reference to Ms. Philbin's comment. Ms. Comeau commented that she knows Ms. Plourd said she likes to be transparent and in this situation she has been. She added that she does not feel Ms. Plourd supported the Board or Dr. Willett. Further, that Ms. Plourd is not supporting the budget. Ms. Comeau explained that at last night's Town Council meeting, Ms. Plourd all but thanked the Town Council for saving tax dollars for the town. The Board is supposed to be a committee of people who stand for what is best for the schools and the students of Tolland. If Ms. Plourd wants to focus on reducing the tax burden to the town then she should run for the Town Council and get off the Board of Education. Ms. Comeau

commented that she apologizes if this seems personal but she felt the door was open when Ms. Plourd commented that she has a need to be transparent.

Liz Costa, 54 Josiah Lane, commented that she is concerned about the budget process that took 10-12 weeks with long nights and many committee meetings on top of full Board action. Her concern is about the transparency in the process. She explained that she is not sure why the Board's Vice Chair, who led most of the process during the absence of the Chair during maternity leave, voted "yes" to the 3.19% budget put forth to the Town Council and then chose not to support the same body of work when faced by the Town Manager and then the Town Council further reducing it. Ms. Costa commented that she is concerned that a "yes" to a budget means different things to different people. If someone cannot support it to those it needs to be sold to, then why say "yes". What other information is needed? When does the testimony of the people that wrote letters and spoke during public participation outweigh 1 family? Ms. Costa explained that she would like the Board members to uphold and defend the budget put forth; otherwise, they should move over for someone that truly cares about Tolland education.

M. POINTS OF INFORMATION

- March 9, 2021 Town Council Meeting Minutes
- March 10, 2021 Town Council Budget Meeting Minutes
- March 11, 2021 Town Council Budget Meeting Minutes
- March 16, 2021 Town Council Budget Meeting Minutes
- March 17, 2021 Town Council Budget Meeting Minutes

- Ms. Griffin commented that she is disappointed, but not surprised, at the members of the public who are going after Ms. Plourd for speaking her mind and being transparent. It was a tough budget year and Ms. Griffin supports Ms. Plourd and feels that she supported the entire Board by supporting the budget. They worked tirelessly on the budget – many hours and committee meetings. Ms. Griffin explained that she did not speak at any Town Council meetings and does not feel she owes anyone an explanation for not doing so. She noted that she had numerous one-on-one discussions with both sides, Republican and Democrat, on the Town Council because she felt in her position that it was easier and better to discuss why she was supporting the budget. Perhaps Ms. Plourd had the same discussions with some members of the Council as well. Ms. Griffin added that they absolutely supported the budget and it is beyond frustrating to her that no matter what they say or do, people throw out "unanimously supported this budget" but they are still never happy with the outcome. Ms. Griffin commented that she is sick and tired of the negativity and backlash when they absolutely supported this budget.
- Ms. Besaw responded to the comment regarding, "Board members who didn't bother to show up". She explained that she was out of town and has things in her personal life that she has to tend to at times. She cannot be at every Town Council meeting. Ms. Besaw explained that she tries and attended a committee meeting while out of town because it was required. She noted that it is upsetting to be called out on the carpet for not making a Town Council meeting. Ms. Besaw explained that she voted for the budget and things did change from the time that the Board voted for the budget in terms of

some of the stimulus. Regardless, she wanted to address why she was not at the Town Council meeting.

- Ms. Plourd thanked Ms. Griffin for standing up for her. She thanked the members of the audience who have constructively criticized her. She does not see it as a personal attack. The reason she is here, and here again even after having another baby, is that she did not feel her voice was heard and she cares about the Tolland education system. She explained that she has a kindergartner and a 2-year-old and wants to make sure her family can stay here and get a great education. She noted that she thinks the town has that and that they can get along as a community and move forward in a positive way instead of pointing fingers. Ms. Plourd addressed Ms. Alexis LaPorte and told her to remember that when she does not feel heard to keep the seat at the table.
- Mr. Renduchintala congratulated Alexandra Costa on being named Valedictorian. Regarding senior activities, it does not appear to him that anything is being taken off the table based on tonight's presentation and the answers that were given. Before they look at an alternate prom group, they need to let the process play out. He recommended students make their voices heard on the committee and follow the proper channels.
- Ms. Philbin thanked everyone who spoke this evening. She addressed Ms. Alexis LaPorte and her peers who feel strongly. In regard to the petition letters, she recommended that they find a seat at the table. It is important for people in her corner and they need to be sure voices from all aspects are heard. She encouraged her to continue to go to meetings, send e-mails, and get involved on the committee. Regarding the comments on the budget, Ms. Philbin explained that she supported the 3.19% and has tried to represent all Tolland constituents and students. She feels her elected seat as a Board member can come with heat and criticism but there are things constituents will say in public participation, email, and social media etc. Ms. Philbin commented that it is not her job as a Board member to defend herself in a public manner and talk to constituents in a negative condescending tone. She explained that it is her job to listen to the constituents and look in the mirror and see what she can do better to ensure that she is representing all the constituents. She commented that last night, at the Town Council meeting, she heard someone say that they are there to represent and speak up for the folks who voted for them. Ms. Philbin explained that her job as an elected body of the Board of Education is not to represent the people who elected her. It is to represent the entire Town of Tolland and its students and faculty. Regarding those who spoke during public participation, Ms. Philbin asked that they continue to do so. The Board is supposed to be listening and absorbing what they have to say and do its best to represent them. She hopes her peers look in the mirror and do their best to respect the constituents. It is what they signed up for as elected officials.
- Ms. Plourd requested that Alexis LaPorte's e-mail be included in the minutes. The e-mail follows.

Subject: Senior activities

March 14, 2021

Dear Tolland Board of Education Members:

The purpose of this communication is to request the 2021 Senior Class secure a voice in the planning of year-end activities. While the Tolland School Administration and teachers have started the process of planning these activities, there are limited options for opinions or leadership from the actual participants (Class of 2021 members) of these activities.

Starting in March 2020, current seniors have lost our ability to attend school with full day academic continuity in Tolland. We have lost our junior prom, our spring 2020 sports season, a football season, homecoming, senior valentine, opportunities for social activities, gatherings and lunch with our peers at school. We have endured cancellations, anxiety, depression, and many lost opportunities. As we continue to take a back seat with limited to no voice in our senior year activities, it is becoming increasingly apparent that Tolland Public Schools is taking a conservative approach without considering Governor Lamont's easing of restrictions, mass vaccination opportunities, and lower Covid numbers. The difficulty also seems to be breaking antiquated traditions that are no longer valued by the current 2021 seniors. The only voice that seems to be valued at this time are the adults who are making decisions that make them feel comfortable.

From the outside, it would appear administrators are providing student voice; however, the decisions have already been made. Mr. Poland is a first year principal at THS. He has limited power or control over decision making. He has tried to make us feel included. He met with each senior, which was appreciated. He took the time out of his busy day to speak to us individually. However, the conversation included, indoor graduation, all senior activities on campus and prom/senior day/night all in one. He is one person and new to the District. While I personally feel he cares and wants to support us, it is ultimately not his decision. After meeting with Mr. Poland, a survey was distributed to all seniors. It was a disappointment and not really a survey. It was a more of a summary of the events that were already decided upon:

1. Ideas for graduation-Friday, June 18 (Gymnasium)
2. Ideas for Class Day (On THS Campus-June 5)
3. Ideas for Class Night (which can include elements of prom)-On THS Campus-June 4
4. Any other thoughts

There were zero opportunities to think "outside the adult initiated decisions." The survey was not supportive of student ideas on events. Nor did it allow for our voice to be heard. This survey was for "show" and to ensure the adults could state "seniors completed a survey and their voices were taken into consideration". In fact, our voices were not heard. While seniors requested other options, any discussion was shut down. When we inquired into where our senior dues would be spent by senior advisors, students were told they wouldn't be able to inquire about where our money is being spent.

Needless to say, the lack of voice in our senior year has been disappointing and frustrating. Therefore, Willow Golden and I requested a meeting with Dr. Willet to discuss our concerns. He explained that tradition was important as were the recommendations from various town Board members and THS administrators. This meant that any change from indoor graduation is not an option. While I appreciated the time Dr. Willet gave us, we left feeling frustrated again. It appeared that our recommendations did not matter and events were already determined where and how they would be held. There were only excuses as to why we can't use the turf, can't use the fields: Tradition, elderly visitors would be uncomfortable in the heat especially on the black top, can't control the climate, etc. Additionally, we were told, if prom or senior day is off site, they can't ensure the bathrooms can be cleaned every hour,

etc. The overall theme was “control” and all activities must be on THS property to control every aspect

Although we discussed our concerns with administration, we also offered many solutions to our concerns. We didn’t come to complain, we came to provide safe and cost effective solutions for our graduation, class day, and prom.

1. Graduation outside: In other districts, choir bleachers and stages are set up outside. We propose a rain date. With hSB7258:
<https://www.cga.ct.gov/2019/BA/pdf/2019HB-07258-R000297-BA.pdf>
 the opportunity to set a date with 180 days of school for seniors and then offer a rain date everyday after. Example, set the graduation date for June 16th. Rain dates June 17th and 18th. The BOE has the power to change the graduation date at any time.

Graduation outside can be held at THS in the soccer/lacrosse practice field, the parking lot, TMS football field, the front field at TMS, cross farms, or any other large field or lot in Tolland. Tolland administrators can contact Ellington, Bolton or West Hartford for details on how to set it up and support outside graduations. I have already inquired and the planning for an outdoor graduation is not difficult.

It is also interesting that the recommendation of indoor graduation with 200 students and 2-4 guests indoor would result in at least 800 people in a gymnasium inside. Yet, prom is not allowed at an outdoor venue? Class day is not allowed at an outdoor venue? It was explained to us that prom was too risky. Strange that a graduation with 800+ people inside, most likely not social distancing is viable but an outdoor prom with less than 300 people who, for the most part, attend school with one another daily is way too risky. This does not seem plausible.

2. Governor Lamont has reduced restrictions at this time to include 200 participants in an outdoor venue. Yet, district administrators are not even considering an option for a prom. A quick call to Maneely’s in South Windsor resulted in plenty of options for an outdoor prom. Cheney Tech has already scheduled Prom at Maneelys. They stated they can provide a safe outdoor prom for 200 students; more if restrictions are lifted further by May. There are several options in close proximity to have prom. Without support from the school scheduling a prom, students will have to move forward and schedule our own prom. We lost the opportunity to have prom in our junior year and district administration is denying us the option for prom senior year. Yet they are considering an 800 indoor event at THS? Further, if no prom is held, we will most likely be the only class never to attend a prom.

3. Class day at Holiday Hill. This option is also off the table. We were told, we can’t have the class day as “we can’t ensure bathrooms are cleaned three times an hour.” This does not make sense as businesses are desperate for clients. A quick call to a venue ensures they can include these options of bathroom cleaning in the contract.

The bottom line: each member of the Board of Education and all school administrators were once seniors in high school. They had the opportunity to attend proms, senior activities and graduation with their families. They are able to reminisce and recall those moments which bring back memories of joy. We never had a junior prom. Therefore, many of us have never attended a prom. Now those of you who enjoyed these rites of passage are the people

making decisions on whether we can enjoy those same activities and attend at least one prom, have a graduation outside with all of our immediate family members and enjoy a class day and night as all of you have when you were a senior. Tolland Public Schools is settling right now and refusing to be innovative, creative and support our class celebrations, even after all the suggestions and solutions we have provided to them.

Understandably, we are in a different time and situation with Covid. However, we are on the downside. Teachers, administrators and school employees will all be vaccinated by the end of March early April which is well before the end of the year celebrations. President Biden has ensured all of us that all Americans (18 and over) will be able to sign up for vaccinations. Yet, school administration is planning as if we will still be in the midst of rampant infections, which is ultimately preventing proactive planning. There are over 500 students in THS four days a week all together for hours, yet administration are unwilling to plan prom, class day and class night for 200-250 students as it "is overwhelming." We would expect to follow current Covid restrictions and wear a mask and socially distance at our graduation, prom and class day.

On behalf of our fellow peers, I request the BOE support our Senior class in allowing an outdoor graduation, a senior prom, a class day and senior night off campus with all safety protocols by our design. As some of you are aware, I sent out a petition yesterday, March 13th, which already has 618 signatures as of 8:00 p.m. today. You can find the petition here: https://www.change.org/p/tolland-board-of-education-hold-an-outdoor-graduation-for-tolland-class-of-2021/dashboard?source_location=user_profile_started

I am willing to lead a task force to address all of these issues to ensure we have the same opportunities all of you had as seniors in a safe Covid alert manner.

Sincerely,

Alexis LaPorte
Class of 2021

- Ms. Lundgren commented that many people noticed that her daughter was on the Town Council meeting with her and she thanked people for their e-mails. It is hard being a volunteer and having other things to do and when it comes down to it, they advocate and fight for the students. She believes every Board member fought for the budget. It is the largest one they have had and it still needs to go to referendum. As a Board, they are together and need to fight for what they can. Like Mr. Jones said, they need to work together. It is the only way things are going to get accomplished – through being bipartisan and having the conversation. They need to be a team so the referendum passes and advocate for the students. As noted in her Chair Report, she has faith in the FFC and Dr. Willett that they will be able to figure out some ways to try to ensure that essential programs will stay in place and be funded. She appreciates all the work he puts into the budget and the school system. Ms. Lundgren addressed Alexis LaPorte and explained that it is time to join the group of students and have her voice heard. Civic engagement starts young and continues throughout one's life. She added that it is important to ensure that protocols are followed. She believes that having Ms. LaPorte making herself known to Mr. Poland and the advisors is the best starting place for the conversation. She recommended that she grab some friends who are on the petition and who want to see changes talk to Mr. Poland and other students. There are 12 students and 4 were class officers. Ms. Lundgren encouraged the students to join

and make their voices heard. While there are mandates and standards that need to be followed, it is important to be engaged and involved.

N. FUTURE

- School rounds/tours (briefings/tours/debriefings)
- Superintendent's Monthly Report – addition of data points on performance
- Culturally responsive education/culture/climate

O. NEW BUSINESS – none

P. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Renduchintala motioned to adjourn at 9:45PM.

Mr. Marie seconded the motion.

A roll call vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Pascuzzi

Clerk



TOLLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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OFFICE OF THE
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Walter Willett, Ph.D.
Superintendent

TO: Board of Education

H1

FROM: Mark S. McLaughlin, Tolland Public Schools Business Director

RE: Monthly Financial Report for March 2021

Date: April 5, 2021

CC: Walter Willett, Ph.D. Superintendent of Schools

Please find attached the monthly financial report for the FY 2020-2021 fiscal year. The month of March 2021 is the 9th month of the 2020-2021 fiscal year. The monthly financials for this school year may look a little different do to the COVID pandemic but the goal remains to provide for student needs and success. The attached report is only a temporary financial snapshot identifying nine months of activity. As with any financial report generated during the school year, not all purchase orders have been created, not all materials purchased and not all staff hired. This monthly financial attachment is provided in an object format to clearly show the adopted budget and the YTD expenditures. This summary report provides the essential groups of accounts so the BOE can better understand the functional areas of the budget. The object line items follow the reporting format required by the State Dept. of Education. The line items show the approved budget, 9 months of expenses, encumbrances and available balances as generated through the financial software.

Since this report identifies many line items such as salaries, health insurance, FICA/Medicaid & Social Security, retirements, legal and audit services, utilities, tuition, transportation, textbooks, professional services etc. have not all been encumbered or spent. This is normal for this time of year. The budget balance of \$1,049,057 will be converted into encumbrances or expenditures over the next several of months.

The attached March 2021 financial report shows an available balance of \$1,049,057 or 2.62% of the BOE's current budget. As previously stated, this amount will reduce over the next several months. It is extremely important to understand that this available balance is somewhat normal occurrence considering the worldwide COVID19 pandemic. Currently the timing of budget spending, needs of the students and expense patterns are cyclical in nature. Items like, health Insurances will only be booked after teachers return to school, substitute expenses start in September, special education student tuitions will continue to increase, utility transfer to the town is complete, transportation routes are still being booked or adjusted, and instructional supplies will be spent as needed for the balance of the year. Some line items cannot be encumbered and will always have

available balances such as substitutes, overtime, course reimbursement, consultants, unemployment compensation, workers compensation, and severance.

Considering the worldwide pandemic, the current school budget is impacted both positively and negatively. There could be additional financial shake out on the current and long-term budget resulting from the impact of the virus. Since the virus continues, all preventative measures will also remain in place. The continued impact from the virus will change how we track, spend, monitor, and educate our students. The situation remains fluid and changes are based on health guidelines, government closure or reopening directions and the safety of the community. The Superintendent will be the focal point to distribute information when it becomes available.

In a typical year, the budget is built 18-20 months from implementation, based on the best know data and assumptions from the town, state of Ct, grants, interest rates, market conditions, contacts, negotiations, Department of Ed. Mandates, and professional services etc.

The Budget for FY20-21 was Town Council approved for \$40,017,290. The BOE is anticipating spending the allocated budget by year-end in accordance with CGS 10-222. As in the past, any budget balances, may be returned to the town or the BOE will request to transfer the balance to the Educational Reserve Fund after final approval. The district received the first excess cost payment in February 2021 from the state for \$548,825. The second payment is due in May 2021.

The FY21-22 Superintendent's budget was submitted in January 2021 and approved by the BOE in February 2021.

Tolland Public Schools

MM OBJ A Expenditure Report Summary (by OBJ - ??0)

From Date: 7/1/2020

To Date: 3/31/2021

Fiscal Year: 2020-2021

☐ Subtotal by Collapse Mask

☒ Include pre encumbrance

☐ Print accounts with zero balance

☒ Filter Encumbrance Detail by Date Range

☐ Exclude Inactive Accounts with zero balance

Account Number	Description	GL Budget	Range To Date	YTD	Balance	Encumbrance	Budget Balance	% Bud
0100.0000.110.00.000.1	Salaries	\$22,522,117.53	\$14,691,859.58	\$14,691,859.58	\$7,830,257.95	\$7,535,446.01	\$294,811.94	1.31%
0100.0000.120.00.000.1	Substitutes	\$367,228.00	\$190,352.25	\$190,352.25	\$176,875.75	\$58,564.00	\$118,311.75	32.22%
0100.0000.130.00.000.1	Overtime	\$218,870.00	\$169,657.69	\$169,657.69	\$49,212.31	\$589.43	\$48,622.88	22.22%
0100.0000.150.00.000.1	Stipends	\$389,839.90	\$240,020.30	\$240,020.30	\$149,819.60	\$118,078.05	\$31,741.55	8.14%
0100.0000.190.00.000.1	Pension/Severance	\$205,561.00	\$60,046.44	\$60,046.44	\$145,514.56	\$50,098.40	\$95,416.16	46.42%
0100.0000.200.00.000.1	Employee Benefits	\$535,750.00	\$491,808.38	\$491,808.38	\$43,941.62	\$0.00	\$43,941.62	8.20%
0100.0000.210.00.000.1	Health/Life/Disabl Ins	\$5,252,093.00	\$4,041,059.69	\$4,041,059.69	\$1,211,033.31	\$1,245,950.25	(\$34,916.94)	-0.66%
0100.0000.220.00.000.1	FICA/MED/Soc Sec	\$727,048.40	\$422,406.67	\$422,406.67	\$304,641.73	\$179,400.53	\$125,241.20	17.23%
0100.0000.240.00.000.1	Retirement (ICMA)	\$262,917.61	\$161,283.88	\$161,283.88	\$101,633.73	\$60,112.36	\$41,521.37	15.79%
0100.0000.250.00.000.1	Course Reimbursement-Degree Ch	\$50,000.00	\$15,770.00	\$15,770.00	\$34,230.00	\$0.00	\$34,230.00	68.46%
0100.0000.260.00.000.1	Unemployment Compensation	\$50,981.00	\$18,184.25	\$18,184.25	\$32,796.75	\$81,921.50	(\$49,124.75)	-96.36%
0100.0000.270.00.000.1	Workers' Compensation	\$265,612.00	\$256,932.99	\$256,932.99	\$8,679.01	\$0.00	\$8,679.01	3.27%
0100.0000.300.00.000.1	Purch Prof & Tech Servcs	\$55,842.00	\$26,557.55	\$26,557.55	\$29,284.45	\$0.00	\$29,284.45	52.44%
0100.0000.310.00.000.1	Benefits Consultant Services	\$65,280.00	\$40,028.30	\$40,028.30	\$25,251.70	\$26,390.00	(\$1,138.30)	-1.74%
0100.0000.320.00.000.1	Prof Educ Servcs	\$241,004.00	\$219,272.59	\$219,272.59	\$21,731.41	\$263,443.58	(\$241,712.17)	-100.29%
0100.0000.330.00.000.1	Professional Tech Svcs	\$34,482.00	\$7,599.38	\$7,599.38	\$26,882.62	\$14,004.80	\$12,877.82	37.35%
0100.0000.340.00.000.1	Legal/Audit/Consult Servcs	\$203,145.00	\$129,330.54	\$129,330.54	\$73,814.46	\$41,455.57	\$32,358.89	15.93%
0100.0000.350.00.000.1	Tech Services	\$470,460.50	\$410,449.61	\$410,449.61	\$60,010.89	\$99,149.71	(\$39,138.82)	-8.32%
0100.0000.410.00.000.1	Sewer/Water	\$33,931.00	\$33,931.00	\$33,931.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00%
0100.0000.420.00.000.1	Cleaning/Rubbish Services	\$135,458.00	\$57,507.58	\$57,507.58	\$77,950.42	\$49,426.76	\$28,523.66	21.06%
0100.0000.430.00.000.1	Repair and Maint Servs (Facili	\$246,783.00	\$67,562.58	\$67,562.58	\$179,220.42	\$51,193.61	\$128,026.81	51.88%
0100.0000.440.00.000.1	Rentals	\$173,565.00	\$126,791.10	\$126,791.10	\$46,773.90	\$34,771.63	\$12,002.27	6.92%
0100.0000.510.00.000.1	Student Transp Svcs	\$2,808,995.00	\$1,083,921.10	\$1,083,921.10	\$1,725,073.90	\$1,714,294.03	\$10,779.87	0.38%
0100.0000.520.00.000.1	Property/Liability Insurance	\$204,069.00	\$200,641.69	\$200,641.69	\$3,427.31	\$0.00	\$3,427.31	1.68%
0100.0000.530.00.000.1	Telephone/ Postage	\$66,870.00	\$37,593.98	\$37,593.98	\$29,276.02	\$20,445.75	\$8,830.27	13.21%
0100.0000.540.00.000.1	Advertising	\$18,000.00	\$19,281.00	\$19,281.00	(\$1,281.00)	\$2,816.00	(\$4,097.00)	-22.76%
0100.0000.550.00.000.1	Printing and Binding	\$19,327.00	\$12,338.40	\$12,338.40	\$6,988.60	\$4,779.62	\$2,208.98	11.43%
0100.0000.560.00.000.1	Tuition Educ Agency	\$1,844,555.00	\$1,148,596.57	\$1,148,596.57	\$695,958.43	\$441,150.46	\$254,807.97	13.81%
0100.0000.580.00.000.1	Travel and Conference	\$26,159.00	\$5,500.56	\$5,500.56	\$20,658.44	\$2,476.00	\$18,182.44	69.51%
0100.0000.590.00.000.1	Public Officers & State Troope	\$91,994.00	\$4,984.42	\$4,984.42	\$87,009.58	\$2,500.00	\$84,509.58	91.86%
0100.0000.600.00.000.1	General Supplies	\$140,753.00	\$47,400.30	\$47,400.30	\$93,352.70	\$95,199.19	(\$1,846.49)	-1.31%
0100.0000.610.00.000.1	Instr Supplies/Mat'ls	\$317,986.37	\$216,194.35	\$216,194.35	\$101,792.02	\$101,239.32	\$552.70	0.17%
0100.0000.620.00.000.1	Energy	\$1,611,759.00	\$1,464,320.00	\$1,464,320.00	\$147,439.00	\$142,308.96	\$5,130.04	0.32%
0100.0000.640.00.000.1	Textbooks	\$121,123.99	\$81,505.82	\$81,505.82	\$39,618.17	\$47,853.75	(\$8,235.58)	-6.80%
0100.0000.650.00.000.1	Films and Videos Supl	\$1,050.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,050.00	\$500.00	\$550.00	52.38%
0100.0000.660.00.000.1	Computer Software	\$44,690.00	\$53,209.84	\$53,209.84	(\$8,519.84)	\$345.00	(\$8,864.84)	-19.84%
0100.0000.690.00.000.1	Misc Supplies	\$49,059.00	\$13,474.96	\$13,474.96	\$35,584.04	\$38,436.49	(\$2,852.45)	-5.81%
0100.0000.730.00.000.1	Equip Instruct - New	\$89,734.00	\$69,487.27	\$69,487.27	\$20,246.73	\$54,382.54	(\$34,135.81)	-38.04%
0100.0000.760.00.000.1	Equip - Spec Ed - Instr - New	\$850.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$850.00	\$0.00	\$850.00	100.00%
0100.0000.810.00.000.1	Dues and Fees	\$52,346.95	\$48,586.98	\$48,586.98	\$3,759.97	\$4,060.00	(\$300.03)	-0.57%
Grand Total:		\$40,017,290.25	\$26,385,449.59	\$26,385,449.59	\$13,631,840.66	\$12,582,783.30	\$1,049,057.36	2.62%

End of Report

To: BOE

From: W.Willett

Date: April 6, 2021

RE: Phase 1 – April EOY Document

Please note, this information is subject to change as the FY21 budget year closes

SECTION 1: BOE budget allocation & Reduction

Consideration	Budget Figure	Description/Information
FY2020-2021 BOE Budget	\$40,017,290	
Superintendent Proposed Budget	\$41,452,479 budget \$1,435,189 increase 3.59%	
Board of Education Budget	\$41,293,289 \$1,275,999 increase 3.19%	Reduction of \$159,190 from SPB
Town Council allocation for the Board of Education included in Town Budget for referendum May 2021.	\$40,817,635 \$800,345 2.0% Confirmed with Lisa H: \$40,819,289 \$801,999 2.00413%	Reduction of \$475,654 from BOEB Reduction of \$634,844 from SPB Reduction from Lisa Hancock: \$474,000

Target amount for adjustment: **\$474,000**

SECTION 2: Current Estimated Balance for FY21 *(Please note these numbers subject to change)*

As of Date:	Amount
2021-4-1	\$1,049,057
2021-5 Anticipated Excess Cost Payment	\$150,000
CREC Reimbursement	\$64,042
Paraprofessional Retro Bargaining Unit Settlement	-\$177,863
Food Services COVID transfer	-\$230,000
TIS concrete work /sidewalk (entry)	-\$30,000
TOTAL	\$825,236

SECTION 3: Potential EOY Expenditures & Related Balance using Section 2 information

Item for consideration	Amount
Adopted Math Program Training K-8 (Bridge/SF/IM)	\$38,610
SEL – RULER Program	\$37,500
Graduation additional expenses	\$15,000
PPE	\$10,200
Masks	\$3,600
THS Projects (Scoreboard)	\$15,000
BGP Skylift	\$15,000
BGP Exterior Storage shed	\$15,000
BGP Truck rental	\$5,000
BGP Moving Labor	\$20,000
TIS Tennant 5400 floor machine	\$8,000
Athletic Uniforms	\$27,031
Curriculum Work	\$20,000
Overtime	\$25,000
Course Reimbursement	\$15,000
Chromebook cases	\$42,500
TOTAL	\$312,441

SECTION 4: Potential EOY FY21 Investments/Reductions for FY22

Please note items made as pre-investments in FY22 in this section can have FY 23 impacts

Item for consideration	Type	Amount
Investment into Insurance Fund	FY22 Investment	\$100,000
BGP / TIS	FY22 Investment	\$35,771
LIBRARY Books Library books \$10,000.00		
COMP. ED. online Typing Club \$2,000.00		
LA online services/subscriptions Razz Kids \$5,542.00		
ART Instructional Supl./Mats. Art materials \$1,000.00		
COMP. ED. Computer Supl./Mats. Headsets \$1,000.00		
SPEC. ED. Instructional Supl./Mats. Materials \$1,000.00		
PRIN. OFF. Inst. Supl./Mtls. Lexia subscription renewal \$9,900.00 PRIN.		

OFF. Inst. Supl./Mtls. Laminator start up kit 1371177 \$2,143.00 PRIN. OFF. Inst. Supl./Mtls. Colored Butcher Paper rolls 36" \$216.00 PRIN. OFF. Inst. Supl./Mtls. Butcher paper carousel \$634.28 PRIN. OFF. Inst. Supl./Mtls. Paper cutter 36" inch \$562.79 PRIN. OFF. Inst. Supl./Mtls. Radios \$354.60ea x 5 \$1,773.00		
TMS ART Instructional consumable supplies \$4,000.00 MUSIC Instructional supplies band scores, choral octavo scores \$2,000.00 PE Instructional supplies, snowshoes \$4,000.00 WORLD LANGUAGE Instructional supplies \$1,000.00 1 TECH ED Instructional supplies, consumable materials for projects \$3,700.00 ROPE Instructional supplies, consumable materials for students/teacher \$1,700.00 LIBRARY, books \$2,500.00 LIBRARY, periodical \$600.00 PRIN OFF , Paper for building printing \$1,000.00	FY22 Investment	\$20,500
THS Big Y Encumbrance for food purchases, \$6,000.00 Downes and Reader Purchase of lumber \$2000.00 SPEC ED testing - WJ IV Protocols, \$620.00	FY22 Investment	\$38,670

<p>SPEC ED Instructional Supl/Mtls - Scanners, \$1200.00</p> <p>TALC Textbooks, \$400.00</p> <p>TALC ""TALC instructional Supplies"", \$500.00</p> <p>Discovery Education \$3750; Newsela \$1692</p> <p>(Art Instructional Supplies) 2. Kiln: the kiln at the high school is being replaced over the summer.. \$1000</p> <p>Studies Instructional Supplies- Books for student/classroom use \$1976.00</p> <p>Social Studies On-Line services- subscriptions -Edhelper.com \$70.00</p> <p>Shure PGADRUMKIT7 7-piece Drum Microphone Kit - \$499</p> <p>2x Audio-Technical ATM350PL Cardioid Condenser Piano Microphone \$349 ea., \$698 total</p> <p>Behringer X32 40-channel Digital Mixer - \$1,999</p> <p>1 pack of 24"" Laminate for Current Laminator, \$325.00</p> <p>1 roll of Blue on White Poster Printer Paper, \$109 (the price of the laminate is accurate, but the poster printer paper cost is based on last year's price)</p> <p>BUS ED Equip Instr - NEW, \$1,100.00</p> <p>BUS ED Computer Suppl/Mtls., \$350.00</p> <p>Phys. Ed Audio Visual Supplies- \$575</p> <p>Principal's Office Supplies and Materials - \$1,500.00</p> <p>Principal's Office Supplies and Materials - \$9,807.00</p> <p>Student Activities Improvement - \$2,000</p>		
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Student Activities Supplies & Materials \$500		
CURRICULUM MATH On-Line Services - Subscriptions \$4500 IXL Subscription MATH Workbooks \$7400 MATH Workbooks 3-5 pilot adoption purchase \$24000 MATH Instructional Supl/Mtls. TI-84 Plus EZ-Spot Calculators - replacements and additions \$3500 MATH Audio-Visual Supl/Mtls. AAA batteries - replacements for used/dead batteries for calculators for the department \$400 MATH On-Line Services - Subscriptions \$8500 online coaching support through CREC to support implementation of Illustrative Math	FY22 Investments	\$48,300
PROGRAM FY22 Investments Literacy How Special Education \$72,000 Literacy How BGP \$30,000 Literacy How TIS \$30,000	FY22 Investments	\$132,000
Science- Textbooks, \$3100 Science- Textbooks, \$19,500 Science- Textbooks- \$9,083	FY22 Reduction	\$31,683
Change HR Generalist to 10 Month Secretary (47k-29k)	FY22 Reduction	\$18,712
TOTAL		\$425,636

SECTION 5: Sections 3 and 4 Total

SECTION	Amount
Section 3 – Potential Expenditures	\$312,441
Section 4 – Potential EOY Investments	\$425,636
TOTAL	\$738,077

SECTION 6: FY21 Potential Remaining Balance

Section 2 - Current Balance after credits and debits	\$825,236
Section 5 - Allocations (Purchases & Investments)	\$738,077
Remaining	\$87,159

SECTION 7: RECOMMENDATION for REMAINING FUNDS (beyond Section 5 allocations):

A “percentage split” of 50% to ERF, 50% to COVID/PANDEMIC ACCOUNT CREATION, and **0% rolling over** to town.

- 1) **ERF TRANSFER REQUEST:** Request transfer of funds in accordance with Ordinance 86 Chapter 8 into the Educational Reserve Fund (for use in mitigating future Special Education, Technology, Capital needs). Once checked by auditors in the 3rd quarter of FY22 and allocated by the Town Council, these funds would remain BOE funds in the ERF until spent. These funds are important to help manage potential impacts of COVID-19 on special education, technology, and capital considerations.
- 2) **COVID/PANDEMIC/ACCOUNT INVESTMENT:** Continuation of COVID-19 fund for use for education needs during the COVID pandemic (as discussed in the 6/8/2020 Town Council meeting). Any remaining funds could be requested to be reclassified as ERF funds (up to the total amount allowed for that year @ 1% of budget) at the end of the period of need.
- 3) **ROLLOVER:** Allow a certain amount of end of year funds to remain in the accounts through the end of the fiscal year without making a request on them – effectively “rolling” those funds over to the town as of June 30, 2021. This can help offset budget impacts and help limit what is utilized from the town’s fund balance.

Breakdown of Sections and Remaining Funds

SECTION & CONSIDERATION	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT
SECTION 1	<u>BOE budget allocation & Reduction</u>	\$40,819,289 Budget \$474,000 Reduction
SECTION 2	<u>Current Estimated Balance for FY21</u>	\$825,236
SECTION 3	<u>Potential EOY Expenditures & Related</u>	\$312,441
SECTION 4	<u>Potential EOY FY21 Investments/Reductions for FY22</u>	\$425,636
SECTION 5	<u>Total Potential Expenditures and Investments</u>	\$738,077
SECTION 6	<u>Potential Remaining Balance</u>	\$87,159
SECTION 7	<u>Recommendation for Remaining Funds</u> 1.Educational Reserve Fund 50% 2.COVID/Pandemic/Emergency Fund with Town 50%	 1. \$43,579 2. \$43,579

CURRENT EDUCATIONAL RESERVE FUND BALANCE: \$290,383

SUPERINTENDENT'S AGENDA ITEM BACKGROUND

ITEM: Healthy Food Certification Statement 2021 - 2022

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

FOR BOE MEETING: April 14, 2021

ITEM SUMMARY:

Section 10-215f of the Connecticut General Statutes allows public school districts (including the vocational-technical school system, charter schools, inter-district magnet schools and endowed academies) that participate in the National School Lunch Program to receive additional funding if food items sold to students meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards. Eligible districts that opt for the healthy food certification are currently receiving approximately 10 cents per lunch, based on the total number of reimbursable lunches (paid, free and reduced) served in the district in the prior school year. Last year the School Lunch program received \$14,465 for meals served in the 2018-2019 school year.

The three considerations for the vote by the board of education/governing authority are whether to implement the healthy food option and whether to allow food and beverage exemptions.

- **Consideration 1 – Healthy Food Option:** : Pursuant to C.G.S. Section 10-215f, the board of education or governing authority certifies that all food items offered for sale to students in the schools under its jurisdiction, and not exempted from the Connecticut Nutrition Standards published by the Connecticut State Department of Education, will comply with the Connecticut Nutrition Standards during the period of July 1, 2021, through June 30, 2022. This certification shall include all food offered for sale to students separately from reimbursable meals at all times and from all sources, including but not limited to school stores, vending machines, school cafeterias, culinary programs, and any fundraising activities on school premises sponsored by the school or non-school organizations and groups.
- **Consideration 2 – Exemption for Food Items:** The board of education or governing authority will allow the sale to students of food items that do not meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards provided that the following conditions are met: 1) the sale is in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend; 2) the sale is at the location of the event; and 3) the food items are not sold from a vending machine or school store. An “event” is an occurrence that involves more than just a regularly scheduled practice, meeting, or extracurricular activity. For example, soccer games, school plays, and interscholastic debates are events but soccer practices, play rehearsals, and debate team meetings are not. The “regular school day” is the period from midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the official school day. “Location” means where the event is being held.

Note: C.G.S. Section 10-221q addresses requirements for the sale of beverages to students in public schools, and allows exemptions if beverage sales meet specific conditions. Beverage exemptions are **not** part of the annual HFC Statement, which applies only to food sales. If the district chooses to allow beverage exemptions, the CSDE recommends that the board of education or school governing

authority conducts the vote on beverage exemptions at the same time as the vote on HFC participation and food exemptions.

- Consideration 3 – Exemption for Beverage items: The board of education or governing authority will allow the sale to students of beverages not listed in Section 10-221q of the Connecticut General Statutes provided that the following conditions are met: 1) the sale is in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend; 2) the sale is at the location of the event; and 3) the beverages are not sold from a vending machine or school store. An “event” is an occurrence that involves more than just a regularly scheduled practice, meeting or extracurricular activity. The “school day” is the period from midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the official school day. “Location” means where the event is being held and must be the same place as the beverage sales.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY:

.10 cents per lunch

Reimbursed \$14,465.00 for meals served in the 2018-2019 school year

BOARD ATTORNEY REVIEW:

N/A

BOE ACTION DESIRED:

First reading, or if the board feels so inclined, move to action.

Recommended Motion: Move Agenda Item to action, second, discussion, and vote.

Motion language for food exemptions: The board of education or governing authority will allow the sale to students of food items that do not meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards provided that the following conditions are met: 1) the sale is in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend; 2) the sale is at the location of the event; and 3) the food items are not sold from a vending machine or school store. An “event” is an occurrence that involves more than just a regularly scheduled practice, meeting, or extracurricular activity. For example, soccer games, school plays, and interscholastic debates are events but soccer practices, play rehearsals, and debate team meetings are not. The “regular school day” is the period from midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the official school day. “Location” means where the event is being held.

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than just a regularly scheduled practice, meeting or extracurricular activity. The “school day” is the period from midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the official school day. “Location” means where the event is being held, and must be the same place as the beverage sales.

SUPPORTING MATERIALS ATTACHED:

None

BUDGET MEETING MINUTES

TOLLAND TOWN COUNCIL ZOOM REMOTE MEETING March 23, 2021 – 6:00 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Tammy Nuccio, Chair; Steve Jones, Vice Chair; Brenda Falusi, Cassandra Forsythe, Lou Luba, John Reagan, Kurt Schenher

MEMBERS ABSENT: none

OTHERS PRESENT: Michael Rosen, Town Manager; Lisa Hancock, Director, Finance & Records/Treasurer; Mike Wilkinson, Director of Administrative Services; Scott Lappen, Director, Public Works; Dr. Walter Willett, Superintendent

1. **Call to Order:** Ms. Nuccio called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.
2. **Pledge of Allegiance** - recited
3. **Moment of Silence**
4. **Consideration of the Town Council's Proposed FY 2021-2022 Budget**
Mr. Rosen introduced this item.

Mr. Rosen reviewed the numbers proposed in the Town Manager's budget: Town Government, \$12,655,147; Board of Education, \$41,000,289; Debt Service \$4,650,000; Capital \$167,946. The total was \$58,473,382 which would require a mill rate of 37.31 to support or 1.26 mills increase or a 3.5% mill rate increase.

It is now up to the Council to deliberate on this and/or make any amendments.

Mr. Luba asked if the Council has information on the Board of Education budget as far as the increases over the past 10 years. He noted that he has the figures but would like to verify the information. Ms. Nuccio responded that the operational costs are in the budget book for 2009-2022.

Mr. Jones commented that he is strongly in favor of moving forward with the Town Manager's proposed budget. He believes a solid budget was provided that the Town Manager reasonably believes will pass at referendum and maintains the town's sense of solvency. Mr. Jones added that he respects and would be willing to consider the 3.19% for the Board of Education. He has spoken to a number of Board members and they stand by their vote even with the changing federal guidelines. In terms seeking a compromise, he supports the Town Manager's proposed budget.

Ms. Falusi commented that she fully supports the proposed Board of Education budget. She reviewed months' worth of meeting minutes and meetings as well as the work of the Superintendent, staff, and the Board of Education. She explained that she cannot, in good conscience, go below what they proposed. She added that the school system is in the midst of a pandemic and needs a proper response and recovery and the proposed budget will get them through it. Ms. Falusi commented that she spoke to a number of residents and many e-mails have been received in support of the budget. She believes the Council needs to listen and go with the budget proposed by the Board.

Mr. Luba commented that he reviewed the information in the budget book. He explained that he is basing today's decisions on many items including his discussions with Dr. Willett, the e-mails in which Dr. Willett responded to Mr. Luba's questions, and the information provided in the FAQs. Mr. Luba added that he spoke with Chief Littell regarding his needs and those of the Fire Department and the Department of Public Safety. Further, Mr. Luba noted that he spoke with Mr. Rosen regarding the issues and needs facing the town. Mr. Luba commented that while he understands the significant work put in by Mr. Rosen, Dr. Willett, and the Board of Education, he cannot support the budget that has been put forward by Mr. Rosen. Mr. Luba explained that with the increase put forward, it is in excess of a 3.2% increase which he cannot support at this time. He added that there are many factors that should be considered including that any increases made on a yearly basis to the Board of Education budget, unlike other town departments, becomes the starting point for the following year. The Town Council has already set aside a COVID fund to address the needs of the Board of Education and it is a discretionary fund. Further, the town has a savings fund so if there is a specific

need/emergency within the town, money can be pulled from it. Further, a number of federal funds are coming in related to COVID expenses and the response. Mr. Luba added that they need to look at long term planning for both the town and the Board of Education. While they are trying to look long term and anticipate items for capital spending, they need to look at planning for long term normal expenses. He cited the example of not replacing items all in one year that could be staggered over a period of time. Mr. Luba commented that the greatest concern, looking over the past 10 years, is that any budget that has gone over 3% has never made it through referendum on the first try. The average budget passed by referendum is usually 2.5% or 2.6%. He does not want to put forth a budget, not have it pass referendum, and then have to start the process again delaying funding to departments. He added that the town has repeatedly spoken that it will not pass a budget over 3% and this budget as presented is over 3%. Mr. Luba explained that he would like the Council to work to come up with a budget under 3% that can be put forward in good faith to the town showing it has done its due diligence. He noted that the Board of Education and the Town Manager have done their due diligence and the Council needs to see if this is something it can support and moreover that the town will support.

Mr. Schenher inquired about the Capital Budget. In regard to Public Works, they discussed moving 2 of the lawn mowers into next year's Capital Budget and he asked if this is the plan. Mr. Rosen responded that there are 4 mowers in the Capital Budget for next year in the amount of \$55K. They are all being replaced next year via borrowing. Mr. Rosen added that if there are funds remaining in June, they would be willing to buy 1 or 2 out of this year's money.

Mr. Reagan commented that from his perspective, the last year has been defined by the pandemic. They have all had struggles and everyone has suffered to a certain degree from the pandemic. While they are starting to come out of it and things are starting to get back to normal, they are not out of the pandemic yet. Thus, he believes people are still struggling and there is federal assistance available for people, districts, and towns. Mr. Reagan would like to take this into consideration and see if the Council can sharpen its pencils and drive this budget below 3%. He added that he feels he owes it to the people who voted for him over the last 2 elections. He does not feel he was elected to pass a budget that would be one of the highest in years.

Ms. Forsythe commented that she agrees with Mr. Luba and Mr. Reagan and noted that she likes the points made by Mr. Schenher. She believes they should try to stay below a 3% increase based on past referendums.

Ms. Falusi commented that they keep speaking about the recently approved federal funds. She asked if they have any indication what they will be, the requirements for spending, and if the funds would be only for COVID-related items. Would the funds be for responding to COVID or recovery? She explained that she does not know the amount or what they would be allowed to spend them on, and it is hard to tell people in the schools that they will need to deal with cuts to services. Ms. Falusi commented that they need to provide for people whose services will be cut. She commented that to pit the mill rate against needed services is terrible in her book and does not do justice to the community. She added that it hurts the most vulnerable population. Mr. Rosen responded that they have not budgeted to use the American Rescue Plan in next year's budget because it is not yet tangible. They have not yet received official guidance, and nothing has been finalized. He noted that he has seen some numbers for Tolland, but they have fluctuated. Mr. Rosen explained that they have budgeted conservatively to ensure funding for items such as cleaning and overtime costs. These are still included as town expenses; however, if it materializes, they will program those expenditures to that money. He noted that he does not know the nuances of what is eligible but believes they are for COVID and revenue replenishment on the town side. Ms. Falusi commented that she is not comfortable looking at historically what the town has voted for for a budget and pitting the mill rate against the needs of the most vulnerable populations. They need to provide services to residents. She commented that services have been shrinking and the ask for the town staff has been increasing over the years when budgeting does not fulfill the needs of the town. Thus, she will not vote for anything below what was requested by the Board of Education and what the Town Manager has presented on the municipal side.

Mr. Luba commented that he believes they have provided for the needs of the most vulnerable. Further, Mr. Rosen and Dr. Willett have said that they have provided for those needs. While they, and every town, can always do better, they are providing for the needs and providing exceptional services to both students and town residents. Additionally, based on the projected budget of the Board of Education, there are still dollars available for needs. Money has been set aside in the COVID fund that the Council can use. Specific restrictions were not put in place. As long as it is something that is tangentially related, the Council can provide the funds if needed by the Board of Education. Approximately \$1.2M is available and even if they do not take into account the \$1M still left in the Board of Education budget, there is still

\$200K or more that has been set aside by the Council that would offset any cuts. Mr. Luba commented that in regard to the town budget, there is always room to see where operations could be streamlined and ensure the most efficiency. Further, there are enough savings available so if there is a significant need, not included in the town's budget, the Council can appropriate funds to offset it. This was done last year by using \$600K to offset a tax/mill rate increase. Lastly, based on Department of Labor statistics released this week, unemployment in Tolland is twice what it was last year. Even though they are on the road to recovery, they still have twice as many people in Tolland who are unemployed and may not be able to afford even the most minimal increase. Those people also need to be considered and may not be able to afford a minimal \$40 increase.

Mr. Jones made a point of clarification. He believes a budget of 3% did pass. Second, in regard to supporting the Town Manager's budget, they did not pass a mill rate increase last year so they should consider what is being presented is over the past 2 years recovery, recouping, and reclaiming what they tried to do for those in need last year. The 3.5% is really 1.75% over a 2-year period that is being proposed that provides for short-term and long-term impacts. Mr. Jones asked Dr. Willett if the budget is further decreased what impacts can be expected and if it structurally changes staffing and programming. Dr. Willett responded. He cautioned that they are receiving the ESSER II and III funds, but they come with strings and this is a 3- or 4-year thing for the Rescue Plan Act. He understands that the Council has as difficult thing to do, and the Board of Education has worked hard to put the 3.19% together. At this point, it is the Council's burden on how to move forward. Dr. Willett explained that he cannot comment on what would be reduced unless he knows exactly where the reduction line is set. Everything has an impact, but he respects the process and while they hope for the 3.19%, they are listening to where the Council lands this evening. Mr. Jones asked Mr. Rosen if they budget for 2 referendums. Mr. Rosen responded that they do budget for 2 and they cost about \$6K each.

Ms. Falusi commented that there are limits on some of the buckets of money. She cited the example of the 1% fund. While she appreciates the feeling that there is money that can be used, this is not what is happening or the money would have been put in the budget and been used. She commented that there is no changing minds here and that she sees where it is going. She recognizes the unprecedented way the town staff performs duties – they go above and beyond and sacrifice personal time to provide exceptional attention to the town and residents. Ms. Falusi commented that she believes it is time they start to provide the fiscal means for the town staff to address the services that are needed.

Ms. Nuccio commented that she has had many conversations with people including those on her side, the Vice Chair, Mr. Rosen, and Dr. Willett and looked at different options and scenarios as well as the information provided by Mr. Rosen on the mill rates. Further, she has looked at unemployment, spoken to many people in town – some who support and some who do not. She respects all the work that went into the budget and understands what a budget document is, what it is built on, and understands the revenue side. Given the review, she would like to see the budget right underneath 3%. Ms. Nuccio explained that it is not an arbitrary selection. She has reviewed where she believes there is money in the budget that has not typically been spent in those areas and dollars left at the end of the year. After looking at the analysis, she is comfortable with the Council going with a 2.95% budget if possible. From the perspective of the capital side, they discussed the lawn mowers and if there is money left at the end of the year, they may purchase some so the expense may be staggered and so it is not a hit to replace them every so many years at the same time. She noted that the fire station is also in the Capital Budget. Ms. Nuccio commented that she has numbers if they would be useful to anyone or she can explain how she arrived at the number but overall, at least from the majority side of the Council, this is where the members are comfortable with the number. The 3.5% is too big of an ask when they know dollars are coming from the federal level. The numbers have stabilized over the past couple of weeks and Ms. Nuccio believes they know about what the school and municipal sides will be receiving. They have seen the preliminary language on what the funds can be used for. Ms. Nuccio commented that they would be doing a disservice to the town by not utilizing the money that the town will receive from the federal government in the best way possible. She believes that with a 2.95% they will still be able to achieve everything the budget needs. They will utilize the money from the federal government to offset some increases and if there is money remaining at the end of the year on the school side, she is in favor of looking at putting some into a COVID fund to offset expenses for next year. If there is money left on the town side, they can look to do things such as purchasing lawn mowers and things to alleviate pressure from the budget. A 2.95% would be approximately a 2% increase on the Board of Education side and approximately a 1.6% increase on the town side. After a review, she believes they can get to this and keep the new position of the grant writer and the money for the library. She has spoken with Dr. Willett who has been understanding and forthcoming regarding the 2% increase. Ms. Nuccio commented that she is fairly confident that the schools will get

everything they need, or close to it with this and by utilizing the money left at the end of the year, hopefully create another savings for COVID.

Ms. Falusi commented that Ms. Nuccio has looked at what the professionals – the town staff- have come up with and she decided what the town needs and that there were more cuts to be made and that they could achieve all of the needs with less support. Ms. Falusi commented that before voting for this, she would need to see a breakdown of what Ms. Nuccio feels could be cut and how it would impact the services to the town and if it would negatively impact the response and recovery to the pandemic. Ms. Nuccio responded that she can sit down and review it with Ms. Falusi. Ms. Nuccio explained that she looked at the numbers, the different contingencies, the actual trend over the last few years where dollars were not spent, and asked questions. Given this, she feels there is money that can be removed and if there is an emergent issue, there is an opportunity for the town to ask for funds rather than building in contingency that she does not feel is fair to ask town residents to pay for without a direct need. Ms. Nuccio noted that she is confident in her number and feels they will be able to provide for the needs of the town with a 2.95% increase. Ms. Falusi commented that Ms. Nuccio offered to show the numbers and asked her to do so. They saw everyone else's line-by-line budget and if there are cuts Ms. Nuccio would like to make, Ms. Falusi would like to see what services are being impacted before making an informed decision on the budget. She added that others would like to see it as well. Ms. Nuccio presented the data for the town side. This included \$50K of cuts that do not impact a single service. Based on actuals, there were dollars that have not been historically spent when looking at the last 3-year trend. Further, she looked at contingencies across the board and the opportunity to bring someone in with COVID funds and reductions in overtime as well as other contingencies. Ms. Nuccio noted that for details, one would need to look at the Budget Book. Ms. Nuccio commented that she is asking Ms. Falusi to vote based on the meetings that have taken place and questions she has asked. Ms. Nuccio explained that this is her reasoning on how she is voting and that she is asking Ms. Falusi to vote how she wants. Ms. Nuccio explained that this is her opinion based on her professional review and coming up with what she believes is logical. Ms. Nuccio commented that Ms. Falusi can vote her conscience. Ms. Falusi commented that Ms. Nuccio offered to show them the information so they could come to an informed decision and she is giving her the opportunity to do so. Ms. Nuccio responded that in 20 minutes she cannot review a 380-page document which has been reviewed in multiple meetings.

Mr. Rosen asked that if the town side is reduced, he would like the number. He appreciates the line-by-line done by the Chair but it would be helpful to have the final number so he can discuss it with the department heads. Ms. Nuccio explained that she would not ask them to go off her analysis which was used to arrive at the number where she is comfortable. She is not asking them to make adjustments based on this.

Mr. Luba commented that in looking at the budget they may see some areas that can be cut but that is their assessment. How it is spent by Mr. Rosen and Dr. Willett is in their purview based on their discussions with department heads and staff. Mr. Luba explained that they have identified issues that can be cut but ultimately it is up to the department heads, Dr. Willett, and Mr. Rosen how they do so.

Mr. Jones clarified that whatever is passed, if lower than requested by the Town Manager, staff has the ultimate say of how they will go through the process. He requested that if the budget is passed at referendum, that at a future meeting a summary be provided of what was done by the town to reach that number versus what was proposed. It would be appreciated if the Board would do something similar. Ms. Nuccio explained that usually an amended budget is done but ultimately it is up to the Town Manager and the Board to decide what to do with the money once it is assigned by the Town Council.

Mr. Rosen noted that the 2 draft resolutions will need to be amended since it sounds like the numbers will be different. He requested verification so they could start running the numbers. Mr. Rosen commented that his understanding is that the mowers are bonded and would not impact capital. Ms. Nuccio confirmed that this is correct. Ms. Hancock commented that she believes Ms. Nuccio is around \$80K. Ms. Nuccio confirmed this is correct. Ms. Hancock explained that with the WPCA they planned on phasing in some money this year so it would not hit taxpayers as hard as time went by. Next year, they planned to phase in some money and then \$30K. Thus, Ms. Hancock explained that her thought is to use the \$30K from the WPCA budget, cut the general fund portion that is put into capital by \$30K, and then either look at settlement money or other funding and phase in the impact on the taxpayers. The rest would have to come out of the general fund budgets and the Town Manager would work on where to cut it. Mr. Rosen explained that they would reduce the town government proposed number by \$50K and the reduce the capital budget by \$30K. Ms. Nuccio explained that it would be \$170K on the Board side which would get it to a 2% increase. Ms. Hancock

explained that a 2% increase on the Board side would be approximately \$181K. Ms. Hancock noted that \$2,500 was to be added back to the library. Based on her numbers, Ms. Hancock calculated that this results in a 2.94% with a 1.06 mills increase. The mill rate would be about 37.11. Ms. Nuccio confirmed that the Board of Education would be at 2% and the Board operating budget would be at 1.9% and the capital would be minus 28.36% and debt would be 1.09%. The total overall budget increase of spending would be 1.81%.

Mr. Luba verified that the 2% for the Board is higher than it has been for the past several years.

Mr. Rosen addressed agenda item 5.

Ms. Hancock provided the following information: town operating budget, \$12,607,647, 1.9% increase; education operating budget, \$40,819,289, 2% increase; debt service, \$4,650,000, 1.09% increase; capital improvements, \$137,946, 28.36% decrease. Total budget: \$58,214,882, 1.81% overall spending increase, a mill rate of 37.11 which is a 1.06 mill increase or 2.94%.

Mr. Luba motioned to adopt the budget as set forth by Ms. Hancock in the summary just presented.

Mr. Schenher seconded the motion.

Discussion: Mr. Rosen clarified that the motion in the packet has a "further resolved" section as well that talks about the public meeting on April 19th. Mr. Rosen requested that the motion capture both halves.

Mr. Luba withdrew the motion.

Mr. Luba motioned to adopt the budget as set forth by Ms. Hancock and to set it down for a public meeting on April 19th at 7PM.

Mr. Schenher seconded the motion.

Discussion:

Mr. Jones commented that he cannot support this budget as proposed. He would have rather gone ahead with the Town Manager's proposed budget to go to the public at referendum. That said, when it comes to May 4th, he will vote in favor of the budget knowing that if it does not pass that he has concerns that it will continue to be cut impacting hiring prospects and long-term planning for both the Board and the town. He added that he will willingly work in a bipartisan manner with any Council members if they want to advocate for this budget and he will go to task on social media and in social circles explaining why people should vote "yes".

Ms. Falusi commented that she cannot support this budget. She believes it does a disservice to the most vulnerable in the community. She thinks it means the school will have a harder time recovering from the pandemic. Some students have at least 9 months before they can be vaccinated and those will be the youngest populations. It is a long process and is nowhere near completion. Ms. Falusi explained that to not provide the town with the revenue it needs to be able to address services is unconscionable to her. She apologized to everyone who will be negatively impacted by the budget and appreciated everyone who has reached out to her.

A roll call vote was taken.

	Yay	Nay	Abstain
Falusi		x	
Forsythe	x		
Jones		x	
Reagan	x		
Luba	x		
Schenher	x		
Nuccio	x		

Motion passed 5:2.

5. **Approval of Budget Resolution**

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

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Tolland Town Council that it hereby adopts a FY 2021-22 Town Operating and Capital Budget in the amount of \$58,214,882 to be appropriated as follows:

CATEGORY		TOWN COUNCIL AMOUNT
Town Government		\$12,607,647
Board of Education		\$40,819,289
Debt Service		\$4,650,000
Capital		\$137,946
TOTAL		\$58,214,882

Said appropriations shall require an increase of 1.06 mills for a mill rate of 37.11.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Manager, pursuant to the requirements of the Town Charter, is authorized to advertise this budgetary outlay as part of the April 19, 2021, Annual Budget Presentation Meeting held remotely at 7:00 p.m.

6. **Approval of a resolution authorizing the form of the ballot for the May 4, 2021 budget referendum and any subsequent budget referendum; the time and place for the budget referendum; authorizing the Town Manager or his designee to place the required legal notices in the local newspapers; and authorizing the preparation and printing of an explanatory text and the mailing of same to local residents and in addition sent out via the Town's Tolland Notification system and included with absentee ballots in accordance with the provisions of CT General Statutes 9-369b explaining the budget referendum question.**

Mr. Jones motioned:

WHEREAS, the Tolland Town Council has adopted a proposed FY 2021-2022 Town Operating and Capital Budget to be considered by the Tolland electorate at a May 4, 2021 budget referendum; and

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

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

1. The ballot question for the May 4th referendum shall be worded as follows:

"Shall the Town of Tolland's proposed 2021-2022 budget of \$58,214,882, reflecting a spending increase of \$1,032,385 or 1.81% which requires a tax rate of 37.11 mills for an increase of 1.06 mills or 2.94% be adopted? Yes/No."
2. The time and place for the referendum shall be between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. on May 4, 2021 at the Recreation Center.
3. The Town Manager or his designee is hereby authorized to place the required legal notices in the Journal Inquirer and other places as conditions permit, advertising the May 4, 2021 Referendum and the April 19, 2021 Remote Annual Budget Presentation Meeting.
4. The Town Manager or his designee is authorized to prepare and print an explanatory text and the mailing of the same to local residents; to be included with absentee ballots and documented via the Town's Tolland

Notification system in accordance with the provisions of CT General Statutes 9-369b explaining the budget referendum question.

Mr. Schenher seconded the motion.

Discussion: none

A roll call vote was taken.

Motion passed unanimously.

4. Adjournment

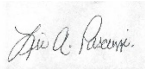
Mr. Jones motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:01 PM

Mr. Schenher seconded the motion.

A roll call vote was taken.

Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by,



Lisa Pascuzzi
Town Council Clerk

Town Council Chair

MINUTES

TOLLAND TOWN COUNCIL
ZOOM REMOTE MEETING
March 23, 2021 – 7:00 P.M.

Received for Record at 8 : 36 (AM) PM
This 25th Day of March, 2021
Attest: Kathleen Reagan Town Clerk
Interim

MEMBERS PRESENT: Tammy Nuccio, Chair; Steve Jones, Vice Chair; Brenda Falusi, Cassandra Forsythe, Lou Luba, John Reagan, Kurt Schenher

MEMBERS ABSENT: none

OTHERS PRESENT: Michael Rosen, Town Manager; Lisa Hancock, Director, Finance & Records/Treasurer; Mike Wilkinson, Director of Administrative Services; John Littell, Fire Chief/Director of Public Safety; Scott Lappen, Director, Public Works

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Ms. Nuccio called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Recited
3. **MOMENT OF SILENCE:** Observed
4. **PROCLAMATIONS/PRESENTATIONS:**
 - 4.1 Proclamation Recognizing March as Disability Awareness Month
Ms. Nuccio read the Proclamation.
 - 4.2 Proclamation Recognizing Members of the Tolland Resident State Trooper's Office, Connecticut State Troopers-Troop C and Tolland Public Safety regarding attempted burglaries on February 20, 2021 on Tolland Green
Ms. Nuccio noted that she spoke with Lieutenant Palmer at Troop C and once signed, she will bring and present this Proclamation.

Mr. Rosen noted that this item is on this evening's agenda to finalize the wording. There is still an opportunity to present this formally. When on the agenda a second time, it is to ensure the wording is appropriate. The Proclamation has not yet been signed.

Ms. Nuccio read the Proclamation.

- 4.3 Proclamation Honoring Resident regarding attempted burglaries on February 20, 2021 on Tolland Green
Ms. Nuccio read the Proclamation.

Ms. Nuccio personally thanked Mr. Lawrence. She commented that his acts stopped her heart a little bit and she thanked him for going out of his way. There could have been more damage and it is scary that he put himself in harm's way to do this. She is honored and privileged to present the Proclamation to him once it is voted on and signed. She thanked him for his service to the town.

A discussion took place.

Ms. Falusi commented that she is confused with the process. She explained that the minutes said that there would be the 3 Proclamations, but it did not say there was an approval. There may be confusion on the public's part and an expectation to be present during the formal reading. She asked if changes were to be made if they would need to be voted on again. Ms. Nuccio explained that this is the proposed language. If there are any changes to be made, Mr. Rosen would make the edits. Ms. Falusi commented that she has no issues with the proposed language. If they are going to be approving proposed language, it probably should have said so in the Proclamation area so residents would understand. She asked if everyone on the Proclamations were invited or not because the Council was expecting to make changes. Ms. Nuccio explained that the Proclamations were on the agenda and she believes Mr. Lawrence and Mr. Christensen asked about it and are in attendance. Ms. Nuccio does not believe anyone else is present because she has not yet signed them, and they are not official. Right now, the Council is reviewing the

language. Ms. Falusi commented that the agenda does not say that they would be approving the language. She is looking for a process for the future.

Mr. Jones commented that he did not have any questions about the content. He thanked Public Safety, Troop C, Resident State Troopers, and Mr. Lawrence for all their assistance in the events and appreciates the recognition of Disability Awareness Month. He explained that in the past minutes for approval, there was not a vote or discussion about if language had to be augmented. It does not seem as though when language for a proclamation is appropriately provided that they have another vote to approve the final language. Ms. Nuccio explained that they voted to have the proclamation and language was provided. If anyone would like to change the language it can be discussed. She added that they need to work on the process and procedure.

Mr. Rosen noted that a second vote has not been taken. The only vote has been to give the Town Manager permission to put the language together. Ms. Nuccio noted that she will sign the Proclamations.

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

Rebecca Risley, 103 Mountain Spring Road, respectfully requested that the Republican majority Town Council not dismiss the thoughtfully crafted budget unanimously approved by the Republican majority Board of Education. She explained that the reason she is stressing the Republican part is that the vote earlier was obviously along party lines. There is nowhere left to cut. They cannot summarily dismiss and ignore the voices of half or more of the town's voting population. For years Tolland has made cuts in the schools and town departments. Nowhere is this more apparent than with the needs of the Fire Department. Any attempt to implement multi-year improvement has been ignored. The town needs visionaries, not micromanagers of pennies and dollars. Ms. Risley thanked Board of Education Chair Ms. Lundgren for publicly voicing her full support of the budget. Additionally, Ms. Risley has re-watched several recent BOE meetings and provided quotes from several Republican members. Ms. Risley quoted Ms. Plourd, "For 10 weeks we did our homework. Who better to sell this budget than us?". Ms. Risley quoted Mr. Marie, "asked more questions than I ever asked when I was newbie on Board of Education. I like the team. I think the team can work together to get the Council to buy into this budget". Ms. Risley quoted Ms. Besaw, "I don't have a lot because Plourd pretty much said my thoughts as well. We need to open up a dialogue with the Town Council. The goal is to help them understand the budget [inaudible] and I think we communicated that we went through the budget with a fine-toothed comb." Ms. Risley quoted Mr. Marie, "[inaudible] thank you to Dr. Willett and all the staff that I'm sure helped put together this document. I think we've really been able to work together. The Board and our staff crafted a document that really meets our goals. I think that this budget is a good document that will help our schools rebuild after a year of craziness and I think that we're doing this with [inaudible] use of ESSER funds and perhaps ERF down the road. It is a smart move and I look forward to presenting this to the Town Council." Ms. Risley commented that if the Council refuses to listen to the voice of half or more of its voters, perhaps it will hear the words of its Republican counterparts on the Board of Education.

Katie Murray, 8 Lisa Lane, noted that her comments are being made as an elector and not in any of her volunteer roles. She wanted to express her confusion that this meeting was called to order by Representative Nuccio per the Zoom labels. Ms. Murray appreciates that the oversight seems to have been corrected; however, she believes the Council is aware, and she understands that the Council Chair is aware, that there are lines drawn between the role of State Representative and Town Council member. Ms. Murray urged the Council to hold Ms. Nuccio accountable to those differentiations. Ms. Murray explained that she would plead with Ms. Nuccio to be sure that she is also aware of the distinction. *Ms. Nuccio responded that the oversight of her name had to do with signing on to Zoom and it was corrected immediately. She thanked Ms. Murray for pointing this out.*

Dana Philbin, 11 Harvest Lane, commented that she was on the 6:00PM Zoom with the Town Council discussing the budget. She thanked Ms. Risley for citing some of the comments made by her peers and teammates during the budget process. It was unanimously approved by 9 Board of Ed members with diverse backgrounds and political affiliates. The work was done over 10 weeks to find a budget that would suit and fulfill students and staff needs as well as support the town. Ms. Philbin commented that she is concerned that they are starting with a mill rate number to meet before fulfilling the needs of students and staff. Professionals in the room, Mr. Rosen and Dr. Willett, provided budgets they felt would move the town forward, through the pandemic, and would support all departments within the town including the Fire Department, the Planning & Zoning Commission, the Board of Ed, library services, and others. Ms. Philbin commented that she becomes concerned when talking about cutting services and equating it to increasing mill

rates for those who cannot afford an increase in their taxes. She challenged the Council and those on Zoom that the people for whom they are concerned about increasing their taxes are the people who need the support and services. She explained this means having more cost-effective housing for the family of a single mother of four who cannot afford a tax increase and the extra cup of coffee a week which equates to some people's tax increase. Ms. Philbin equates this to the special, affordable, multi-unit housing with lower median income which would increase federal funding. She would talk about programs for arts, sports, special needs, and to support school staff to provide them with tools to properly do their jobs to support students and the community. Ms. Philbin commented that those parents who cannot afford a tax increase, which equates to a single cup of coffee, are also the parents who cannot afford the extra fees requested for items including glue sticks, dry erase markers, erasers, pencils, paper, and other items. Ms. Philbin commented that she is concerned that the 3.19% is going to be cut to 2%. She asked if this does not pass at referendum if the majority Council plans on continuing to make more cuts to the town side and the Board of Ed side. Ms. Philbin commented that she wants to ensure they can fully support students and staff and she does not want to underfund resources such as the Fire Department. She wants to ensure the Fire Department has the tools to service and help families.

Madhu Renduchintala commented that he appreciates the hard work the of the Board, town staff, Mr. Rosen, and Dr. Willett did in proposing a budget that while fiscally conservative, adequately serves the needs of the town. He explained that over the past few months, he has spoken with residents of the town who expressed their support for the Board's adopted budget. Of all the people who took the time to write in, not one expressed any concern with the increase requested by the Board. During the public budget deliberations, where they went through the budget line-by-line and questioned everything including new staff positions, no one raise an objection or disagreed with what the Board was asking for. Mr. Renduchintala explained that the Board agreed that it was a responsible budget and unanimously adopted it. He commented that during last week's Council meeting no one disagreed with any budgetary request presented by any of the departments. He noted that the only group that has an issue with the budget is the majority on the Council. He explained that he understands that there is no malicious intent and that it is a thankless job. He appreciates them doing the job, but it appears that instead of listening to the overwhelming voices of residents, they are content to go to referendum with they think is justified and needed and not the needs expressed by residents and recommended by town staff. Mr. Renduchintala commented that the services in Tolland will suffer for it as will the residents. He explained that they cannot count on federal funds to bail them out when they do not know what the restrictions will be. He would have liked to have people decide what they want and not what the Council is willing to give them. He noted that he is willing to work across the aisle to ensure it passes.

Liz Costa, 54 Josiah Lane, thanked the public safety officers and the town resident for their heroic efforts in January. She asked the Council Chair to include her back of the envelope budget spreadsheet in the minutes from the previous meeting. Lastly, she commented that it was an arbitrary number. They spent 3.5 hours grilling the Superintendent on budget needs in the joint Council meeting and came up with an arbitrary 2%. She added that not 1 Councilor heard where the cuts would be taken. She asked that the Council reconsider and go with the 3.19%.

Kate Vallo, 80 Tolland Green, commented that she knows everyone works hard, are volunteers, and she appreciates this. She commented that she was at the 6PM budget meeting and thanked town staff, the Town Manager, and the Superintendent who worked hard to assemble the numbers and be thoughtful of the needs of the community. She explained that as a constituent and mom to civically minded kids, she requested that all future Council business be completed in public. She commented that it was apparent at the 6PM meeting that there had been some discussion prior to the meeting, understandable since there is a lot of work to do and that there had been some caucusing which is part of the process. Ms. Vallo explained that she is seeking transparency and collaboration in a bipartisan way so that they do not run into issues where a minority member does not know the numbers and there is not time. She commented that she understands there are time limitations and issues with the structure of the meetings. She wants to be included the process and model this for her kids. She knows the community can do this and has seen it done. She asked that they be cognizant of this in the future. The community would like to see that everyone is represented and that representatives are working together on this. She thanked everyone for their time and hard work.

Deputy Chief Dojan commented that everyone is picking and choosing over what is most dear to them and he understands that. Everyone has hard cuts to make. He has worked with Chief Littell on the budgets, and they have cut staffing, equipment, and there are mandates and levels that need to be met. They are all taxpayers in town and want to be able to afford to live in Tolland. He noted that he has lived in town his entire life and taxes have gone up quite a bit and they still get a great service for what is being paid. He added that there are a lot of fixed costs with utilities,

contracts, and other items so they are cutting service-related items such as cutting career staff, an administrative staff position, and purchasing of equipment that allows compliance with OSHA regulations. He explained that it is not a Board of Ed against the town. Everyone should be trying to work together to come up with a fiscally responsible budget for all. He commended everyone for the jobs they do but they need to represent everyone. Everyone has different backgrounds and financial issues. It is a tough thing to balance.

Christina Plourd, 101 Metcalf, thanked everyone for their work this evening as well as at the previous meeting. She noted that she is speaking as a resident and not a Board member. She thanked the Council for taking into account how high the taxes have gone up and she appreciates them not pushing people out of their homes and into affordable housing. People who own their homes who want to stay here and have asked to keep their kids here deserve to have their voices heard as well.

6. PUBLIC HEARING ITEMS:

- 6.1 Resolution authorizing an appropriation of \$5,000,000 for the Firehouse Improvement Project and the financing of said appropriation by the issuance of General Obligation Bonds of the Town and notes in anticipation of such bonds in an amount not to exceed \$5,000,000, or so much as may be necessary after deducting grants therefor, as well as establishing a date for a referendum.

Mr. Rosen provided background information on this item. This item is for the renovation and capital improvement of 3 of the town's 4 fire stations. Specifically, they are discussing additions, addressing space needs, fixing a crumbling foundation at station 140, and making improvements to kitchen areas and living quarters at stations 340 and 440. For stations 340 and 440, the recommendation is to knock down the existing buildings and start over with Morton-style prefabricated buildings. Mr. Rosen played an informational video about the 3 fire stations which showcased their deficiencies and the existing conditions. He noted that it is also available on the town's website.

Mr. Rosen explained that tonight they are preparing for the May 4th referendum. They would like this to be a standalone referendum question to authorize the appropriation of \$5M for the project of fixing all 3 stations. This has been in the capital plan for many years with a placeholder amount of \$3M. Mr. Eaton's firm did the study on the needs of the 3 stations and advised the town to amend the number to \$5M to accurately reflect and capture all the improvements that will be needed.

Mr. Rosen presented and reviewed the slideshow, "Tolland Fire Department Facilities History" and noted that it is available for viewing on the town's website. As an overview, the 3 stations are as follows: Station 140, 64 Crystal Lake Road, has a crumbling foundation; Station 340, 247 Gehring Road; Station 440, 107 Plains Road.

Mr. Rosen asked Chief Littell if there was anything he would like to highlight about the 3 buildings. Chief Littell responded that he has concerns about possible unsuitable soil and similar items. He hopes the number being presented is the right number and is trying to put something forth in the community that is cost effective. He presented an overview of Morton-type buildings and noted that they have come a long way. He noted that they have a great crew, and it would be nice to have facilities so they can shower. He is trying to provide tools as they move forward and look to the future. Chief Littell cited the difficulties in finding volunteers. He added that the stations were good in their day and encouraged people to e-mail with any questions. The video provides a walkthrough and shows the conditions. Chief Littell provided background information including a history of budget challenges and noted that they have been fortunate to receive donations from the community and grants which are put into the service. He highlighted the importance of having a proper containment system so they can wash salt off apparatus and reviewed replacement costs of the vehicles. If the town were to pay for a 24/7 department it would have at least a \$5M operating budget. They are fortunate to have a combination department and as they move forward, they are looking for something workable and livable. He noted that Station 440 has equipment and is staffed during storms. Chief Littell explained that there is only so much he can do with the money that is allotted but his office is open 24/7 and anyone is welcome to reach out to him. They value the community's input.

Mr. Rosen introduced Chuck Eaton, the town's engineer who works for the group which did the study of the fire stations. He reviewed the Scope of Work Narrative dated September 18, 2020, revision date December 15, 2020 and explained how they got from point A to point B on the cost. They worked with Chief Littell and his

staff as well as Mr. Rosen and his staff and put together a space program for the needs and costs. The significant aspect of Station 140 was the crumbling foundation. Its foundation replacement has been included in the costs and the cost of this, including the upgrades is \$2.1M. Mr. Eaton reviewed Station 340 and 440. They have a similar design and when they compare the cost to rehab the buildings vs. the cost for pre-engineered metal buildings, the cost is less for the latter. For Station 340, the cost difference is \$250K and for Station 440, \$150K. Mr. Eaton reviewed the issues, improvements, and noted that the big addition would be a third bay on each of the buildings. He noted that both stations will continue to degrade unless the roofs are replaced. If the stations are not replaced, the town should first look to replace the roofs on those buildings. The total for the buildings, design costs, and bonding costs comes to \$5M. Mr. Rosen noted that the slides presented this evening, like the video, are available on the town's webpage.

Mr. Lappen commented that they have done as much as they can to assist the Fire Department including doing repairs, but the buildings are old and he believes the Morton-type buildings are the way to go. They are pre-engineered so they do not need to go through the entire design system. If this does not pass, they will need to invest in the roofs, and this will not assist the Fire Department.

Mr. Rosen introduced others who are in attendance this evening including Lisa Hancock, Finance Director; Barry Bernabe, Managing Director for Phoenix Advisors, the town's municipal advisory firm; and Mike Botelho, bond counsel. It is recommended that this project go to referendum on May 4th and it is a responsible project as drafted. This has been expected for several years and has been in the Capital Plan. It will give what the Fire Department needs to subsist for the next few decades.

Mr. Jones motioned to open the Public Hearing.

Ms. Falusi seconded the motion.

Discussion: none

A roll call vote was taken.

Motion passed unanimously.

Ben Christensen, 97 Virginia Lane, thanked the Council for the kind words about his father. As a resident he fully, 100%, supports allocating the money to the Fire Department. They provide an invaluable service to the town and it is seen when they are driving with lights and sirens, but people do not see all the work they do in the background to keep people safe and secure in their homes. He hopes as a town people come together collectively to support them. Mr. Christensen commented that he fully supports allocating the money to them and expressed endless thanks for what they do for the town.

Kate Vallo, 80 Tolland Green, commented that she is in full support for the appropriation of the funds needed for the Firehouse Improvement Project. She added that she has the highest respect for the members of the Fire Department and for Chief Littell as well as tremendous appreciation for the difficult and critically important jobs that they do in the community. They provide high-quality services and should have nothing less than high-quality accommodations for their day-to-day professional jobs as well as appropriate and efficient facilities for their use. Due diligence was done to determine what is needed and the town should have done this sooner. She is hopeful the community will support them in the same way the Department supports the community.

Rebecca Risley commented that she wished to extend her thanks to Chief Littell and his team. She wholeheartedly and unequivocally supports the improvements that are that are needed, funding it fully, and doing it as quickly as possible. What they do for the town, above and beyond what happened with COVID, and the difficulties faced are unbelievable. She cited the accidents between the stretch of exits 67 and 69 on basically a daily basis and commented that she is unsure if state aid is received but noted that it should be. Zero is not acceptable and this is something they should look at with the state representatives. More support is needed from the state level for that stretch of highway. Ms. Risley commented that people know they can depend on the Fire Department and they want to support them as they support the community. She fully supports this.

Colleen Yudichak, 12 Blueberry Hill, commented that she 110% supports the Fire Department. The town is lucky to have Chief Littell and his staff who do tremendous things for the community and they keep everyone safe. The Department deserves what it is requesting.

Michelle Harrold, 194 Sugar Hill Road, thanked Chief Littell and his staff for their amazing work. As a former resident that lived at the exit 67 overpass, she knows how hard they work on that stretch of highway. She commented that she fully supports this project. The Fire Department volunteers and staff deserve better than what is currently being provided. She added that she was surprised by the condition of the fire facilities. Ms. Harrold asked if there is a plan to maintain the new facilities, so they do not end up in this position of disrepair again.

Lisa Burns, 214 Slater Road, commented that she supports the Fire Department and giving them the money they well-deserve to update their facilities. She added that Chief Littell has been in front of the Council numerous times over many years, and she believes it is time for the community to gather around the Fire Department and give them the needed upgrades.

Deb Goetz, 176 Kate Lane, commented that she wants to put her full support to sending this referendum. Over her 22 years in Tolland, they have supported many school projects, the public library project, the Town Hall project, and now it is the Fire Department's time. She noted that she fully supports this.

Mr. Jones motioned to close Public Comment.

Ms. Falusi seconded the motion.

Discussion: none

A roll call vote was taken.

Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Luba commented that having been a volunteer firefighter and working with the Tolland Fire Department at the Emergency Operations Center during the pandemic, if anyone truly understands the challenges they face it is him. He noted that he is in support of the quest. Mr. Luba asked about construction. Based on prior presentations, it appeared there was a multi-phase construction plan. Given the equipment needs, all 3 buildings could not be done at once. He asked if it is still a multi-phase plan. Mr. Eaton responded that it would need to be phased. Chief Littell will put together a plan based on the town's geography and what equipment is needed where. Mr. Eaton noted that pre-engineered buildings typically go up more quickly and the overall construction period could be shortened. Mr. Eaton noted that nothing is set in stone right now but the plan is to do the project in phases. Chief Littell commented that Tolland has always been short on storage and he would not want to do anything to jeopardize the safety of the community. They have stored apparatus at the new highway garage, and he believes they could work out a schedule. Regarding phases, they will need to look at it in terms of weather and the community, but they will need a phased approach. Mr. Rosen noted that there is no indication at the moment that there is a soil issue and asked Mr. Eaton to weigh in on this. Mr. Eaton explained that based on initial assessments, it does not appear that there is any unsuitable material. Ms. Nuccio commented that regarding Station 140 she assumes that if anything was wrong it would have been identified when it was built. Mr. Eaton commented that it is a good assumption. Mr. Luba commented that since this will be a multi-phase project, how will the issues of the roofing be addressed. Would repairs be needed? Mr. Eaton explained that there is no point in doing rehab work or work replacement if they are going to have a new station. If the referendum does not pass, the town will need to address the roofs. He feels the roofs can last another year or two but the water entering the envelope is deteriorating the buildings.

Steve Jones requested that when the minutes are published, he would like there to be a Q&A webpage with information provided by Deputy Chief Dojan and the minutes to be used as a quick link to cover any questions that were not answered immediately in the presentations. Mr. Jones asked how the issuance of debts, notes, and bonding works. He understands that they will not be issued all at once. He asked what the interest rates would be in terms of issuing the debt and if they issue all at once, can they issue at a lower interest rate. Mr. Rosen responded that Ms. Hancock has programmed in multi-year phasing. They do not anticipate borrowing the full \$5M at one time. Ms. Hancock explained that the debt management plan currently has a phase-in of the project. There would be \$3M in notes the first year. Rates on bonds are around 1% right now and notes would likely be a lot less costly. Ms. Hancock noted that in the second year when they do the Morton-type buildings, they would issue the entire \$5M of debt in bonds. This allows them to phase-in the impact of the debt issuance. Further, if there are any grants, they could potentially pay off the notes and less bonds would be issued. They cannot issue the entire \$5M unless the entire project is done at once. They cannot issue the debt

until they are ready to spend it down. The IRS has spend down requirements that do not make it possible for them. If they receive grants, they would not be able to issue all of the debt anyway. Mr. Botelho explained that today the Council will vote on sending this to referendum. The referendum vote is whether the town is authorizing up to \$5M in debt whether it is in the form of bonds or notes. It does not mean that the town has to issue the full \$5M. The town would not want to issue debts all at once if it has submitted applications for grants because the town does not want a situation where it overissues the debt. The town has to reduce the amount of debt issued by the grants it receives. If the project cost is \$5M, the town will wait to permanently finance the project until the town knows if the grants will be received. For example, if the project costs \$5M and \$1M in state grants is received, the town will only issue debt up to \$4M. Mr. Botelho explained that the town will not issue debt until the projects are ready to be built. The IRS requires that a tax-exempt issuer, like the Town of Tolland, expends its bond proceeds in a timely manner. Ms. Nuccio asked if the town approves the referendum at \$5M and they are breaking this out over 2-3 years for the build, does the town get to lock in the interest rate for the \$5M upfront or is it the interest rate at the time of issuance. Mr. Botelho reviewed the process. The bond resolution is approved – in this case it is going to referendum by virtue of the Town's Charter. Next, Mr. Bernabe and Ms. Hancock will put together a financing plan for when the debt is issued. This will be dictated by Chief Littell and the advisors in terms of when the money is needed for the project. Once this is determined, Mr. Botelho will prepare a disclosure document which is presented to investors when the town is getting its rates. This is part of the sale process. Shortly thereafter the debt will be issued. Mr. Botelho will draft the bond documents, render a legal opinion on behalf of the town that the debt being issued is tax-exempt. This takes about 6 weeks. Two weeks later the town issues the debt, and this is when the rate is set. Ms. Nuccio asked if there is a financial benefit to having it upfront if the rates increase when the town goes for the last part of the issuance. Mr. Botelho explained that there is a benefit to the extent that rates are low now and locking them in, but the problem is that it has to be weighed against the IRS regulations. If the town is not ready to spend the money, it cannot issue all the debt and lock the rate. It will need to be done in a phased approach. He noted that rates cannot remain as low as they historically are, but they have been saying this for years. Rates have been low for a long time and they have been surprised each year. In terms of speaking to the rates, he cannot do so.

Mr. Jones asked over how many years this would be paid off and if there would be an opportunity for refinancing as has been done with other projects. Ms. Hancock explained that the debt financing goes out about 20 years. As far as refinancing, the federal government has made it difficult for municipalities to refinance debt issues. Mr. Botelho commented that with the new administration, there has been some momentum to pass legislation that would bring back advanced refundings which is a method to help municipal issuers refinance the debt. He noted that they can still refund but it is not as favorable and there are many limitations. Mr. Jones asked if there are any penalties if debt is issued over a period of time and the town ends up getting substantially more than expected and they have to reduce what was bonded. Mr. Botelho explained that this would not happen. They would not issue more debt if more grants are anticipated. Worst case, the debt is prepaid to the extent which it is allowed under the bond documents or other remedial actions are taken. Generally speaking, the town would not be in such a situation. Another option is to issue notes and then apply the grant proceeds to the notes. As long as the town does not permanently finance it with bonds it is fine.

Mr. Bernabe commented that when Tolland issued bonds last year, the rate was 1.54%. Even though rates have gone up a little, they are still historically low and they were conservative with the town's debt management plan. As of right now, rates are way below what was assumed for the debt management plan. In summary, if the project passes, they plan to do a short term note later this year and then a permanent bond issue in Fall 2022.

Mr. Jones asked about the phased-out approach in the process and if over the next few years if other debt falls off creating a break even or perhaps a net loss. Mr. Bernabe explained that there are other projects besides the fire station. The current 5-year debt management plan takes into consideration project issuance of about \$19.1M in capital projects. To issue the \$19.1M, the town, on average, would have to increase its debt budget by about \$50K each year over the next 5 years. While it may not seem like a large increase, it is because the town's existing debt is amortizing aggressively.

Ms. Nuccio confirmed that there is no benefit to dragging the project out over 3 years for approval. Ms. Hancock explained that all of the money is not spent, nor debt issued at once. The resolution provides authorization.

Mr. Schenher asked about the roofs for the new buildings. Mr. Eaton responded that he anticipates they will be pitched metal roofs. Mr. Schenher asked about maintenance. Mr. Eaton responded that they have approximately a 35-year life span.

Ms. Falusi asked if there is any benefit to purchasing the buildings all together i.e. in bulk. Also, is there any possibility of there being enough space to put a building next to an existing one that could be used for storage. Mr. Eaton explained that Stations 340 and 440 will be essentially the same building. If they go out for another referendum later, there is no guarantee that the buildings will be by the same manufacturer so the town may have to pay for the design twice. The other area where there would be savings is with the general contractor and general mobilization. Thus, there are some cost savings by doing them together. In regard to putting the buildings next to each other, they have not yet done the site designs since they do not want to spend money without knowing that the referendum will pass.

Mr. Jones asked if they did 2 separate projects for the fire stations if there would be a potential loss of cost savings. Mr. Eaton responded that he is correct. He clarified that a "Morton Building" is a specific manufacturer. If they are going to build twin buildings, they are better off building them together since with the bidding process there is no guarantee of having the same manufacturer. Mr. Jones asked if this also applies to raw materials where the prices may fluctuate given the trade issues. If debt is issued, if prices of raw materials go down, does this impact the overall cost of the project or is it a preset contract. Mr. Eaton explained that it would be a preset contract. Similar to the bonding rates, the cost of building materials fluctuates. If they do all of the buildings under the same contract, the price would be locked in. Mr. Jones asked if the 20% contingency is still built into the proposal and what does it cover? Mr. Eaton explained that the contingency is things that they are unaware of at this time. They do not yet have a hard design and are working off the space program and do not want to spend the money to go into great detail until the town approves the project. The contingency is also in place for soils or other unforeseen items during the project. Mr. Jones asked if there are no issues, they could possibly save \$1M if they do not need to use the contingency. Mr. Eaton explained that there are always items that come up. Mr. Rosen noted that the sum of the 3 contingency buckets is about \$700K and there is also some money built in for design costs.

Mr. Jones motioned:

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Tolland Town Council that it hereby approves as follows:

Resolution authorizing an appropriation of \$5,000,000 for the Firehouse Improvement Project and the financing of said appropriation by the issuance of General Obligation Bonds of the Town and notes in anticipation of such bonds in an amount not to exceed \$5,000,000 or so much as may be necessary after deducting grants therefor, as well as establishing a date for a referendum on May 4, 2021.

A copy of the full text of the resolution is recorded following these minutes.

Mr. Luba seconded the motion.

Discussion: none

A roll call vote was taken.

Motion passed unanimously.

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

7a.1. Birch Grove Building Committee Update

Katie Murray, Chair of the Birch Grove Building committee noted that the project is running on time and on budget. Mr. Jones thanked Ms. Murray for offering the tours. Ms. Falusi expressed her appreciation to Ms. Murray, the Committee and everyone who has worked on the project.

Sustainable CT – no update

CT Tourism – Ms. Falusi provided an update. She is creating a cultural brochure for the region which includes walking areas such as gardens, museums, and historical houses. It is expected to be completed in the next 3 weeks.

7b. REPORTS OF TOWN COUNCIL LIAISONS

- Blight Committee – meeting canceled
- Land Acquisition – no meeting
- Planning & Zoning Commission – Ms. Falusi provided an update.
- Permanent Celebration Committee – no meeting
- Conservation Commission – Mr. Jones provided an update of the March 11th meeting.
- Water Commission – Mr. Jones provided an update of the March 15th meeting. The next meeting is on March 25th.
- WPCA – Mr. Reagan provided an update of the March 16th meeting.
- Birch Grove Building Committee – Mr. Luba deferred to Ms. Murray's comment.

8. NEW BUSINESS (ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS):

8.1 Appointments to vacancies on various municipal boards/commissions.

Mr. Rosen noted that there was an oversight. The term of Daniel Tourtellotte, a member of the Water Commission, expired on January 31, 2021 and this needs to be corrected. Mr. Tourtellotte should be reappointed for a 4-year term (01/31/21 – 01/31/25).

Mr. Jones motioned to reappoint Daniel Tourtellotte for a term of 01/31/21 to 01/31/2025 to the Water Commission.

Ms. Falusi seconded the motion.

Discussion: none

A roll call vote was taken.

Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Luba noted that there was an applicant for the Permanent Celebration Committee, and this is not on the agenda. He requested that this be reviewed for the next agenda. Ms. Nuccio noted that she will speak with Mr. Rosen. Mr. Luba added that he will follow up with the applicant.

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)

- Budget: the next step is the public Annual Budget Presentation on April 19th; Zoom platform
- Two new staff people start on March 29th
 - David Corcoran, Director of Planning and Community
 - Adrienne Ernest, Executive Assistant in the Town Manager's Office
 - Kathy Pagan, Town Clerk
- March 29th, joint meeting of the Town Council and the Mental Health and Substance Use Advisory Task Force; 7PM
- Ms. Kowalyshyn, Senior Center Director, has planned a drive thru event at the Tolland Senior Center for people to meet her. People may register by calling Ms. Kowalyshyn at 860.870.3730 or by e-mailing her at kkowalyshyn@tolland.org; at the event people will wear masks and remain in their vehicles; event date: April 8th; event begins at 10AM; the timing is dependent upon the initial of a participant's last name; further information will be provided upon registration

11. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

- 11.1 March 9, 2021 Remote Special Meeting Minutes
- 11.2 March 9, 2021 Remote Regular Meeting Minutes
- 11.3 March 10, 2021 Remote Budget Meeting Minutes
- 11.4 March 11, 2021 Remote Budget Meeting Minutes

- 11.5 March 16, 2021 Remote Budget Meeting Minutes
- 11.6 March 17, 2021 Remote Budget Meeting Minutes

Mr. Jones motioned to adopt the minute as laid out in 11.1, 11.2, 11.3, 11.4, 11.5, and 11.6.

Ms. Forsythe seconded the motion.

Discussion: none

A roll call vote was taken.

Motion passed unanimously.

12. CORRESPONDENCE TO COUNCIL

- 9 e-mails from residents requesting that the proposed Board of Ed budget go through as proposed
- 12 e-mails in full support of the Tolland Fire Department projects
- 3 e-mails from 1 resident with the following respective topics: glysohates, heat pumps, global warming
- e-mail from a resident with questions about the Tolland Fire Department project; questions were answered via e-mail by a member of the Tolland Fire Department.

13. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Ms. Nuccio asked Mr. Rosen to welcome the new staff and added that it was nice seeing Ms. Kowalyshyn yesterday. She noted that Chair Hours are next Thursday, 6:30PM – 7:30PM.

14. COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS FROM COUNCILPERSONS

- Mr. Jones commented that there is a difference of 2 minutes and 3 minutes for Public Participation at the beginning and end of the agenda. He asked if there would be an objection or if there would be a process to change the format to make it 3 minutes on each side. Ms. Nuccio responded that she believes this is in the Council's Rules and Procedures. Mr. Jones explained that it makes sense to have it the same amount of time to eliminate any confusion.

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

16. ADJOURNMENT

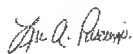
Mr. Jones motioned to adjourn the meeting at 9:20 PM

Ms. Falusi seconded the motion.

A roll call vote was taken.

Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by,



Lisa Pascuzzi
Town Council Clerk

Town Council Chair

TOWN OF TOLLAND

TOWN COUNCIL

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN APPROPRIATION OF \$5,000,000 FOR THE FIREHOUSE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT AND THE FINANCING OF SAID APPROPRIATION BY THE ISSUANCE OF GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS OF THE TOWN AND NOTES IN ANTICIPATION OF SUCH BONDS IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$5,000,000, OR SO MUCH AS MAY BE NECESSARY AFTER DEDUCTING GRANTS THEREFOR, AS WELL AS ESTABLISHING A DATE FOR A REFERENDUM

RESOLVED, (1) That the Town of Tolland (the "Town") appropriate the sum of \$5,000,000 for costs related to certain building repairs, renovations, demolition, remediation work, improvements and/or construction associated with Fire Station 140 located at 64 Crystal Lake Road ("Station 140"), Fire Station 340 located at 247 Gehring Road ("Station 340"), and Fire Station 440 located at 107 Plains Road ("Station 440"), including, without limitation, the costs of (i) the remediation, repair and replacement of crumbling foundations at Station 140, (ii) the expansion of the apparatus bays at Station 140, (iii) the construction of additional building space for storage, sleeping quarters and other purposes at Station 140, (iv) ADA code compliance upgrades to the bathrooms and kitchen at Station 140, (v) electrical, lighting, drainage, HVAC system and other building system improvements to Station 140, (vi) the demolition and replacement of Station 340 with an approximately 3,700 square foot pre-engineered firehouse building having three (3) bays and all acquisition and moving costs related thereto, (vii) the demolition and replacement of Station 440 with an approximately 3,700 square foot pre-engineered firehouse building having three (3) bays and all acquisition and moving costs related thereto, (viii) the purchase and installation of equipment, fixtures, furnishings and other materials, (ix) the preparation and printing of bid documents, grant applications, cost estimate reports and studies, informational materials, schematic drawings, specifications, architect, engineering, construction and other consulting studies and reports, and other preliminary materials, studies and reports, and (x) design, demolition, remediation, construction, site work, engineering, architectural, construction administration, legal, administration, testing, monitoring, temporary and permanent financing and any other costs and expenses related thereto, all of the above with such changes as the Town Council may approve (the "Project"). The Town Council is authorized to determine the scope and particulars of the Project. The Town Council may reduce or modify the scope of the Project, and the entire appropriation authorized hereby may be spent on the Project as so reduced or modified.

(2) That to finance said appropriation for the Project, the Town issue bonds or notes in an amount not to exceed 5,000,000 (or so much thereof as may be necessary after deducting grants received by the Town for said project). The bonds or notes shall be issued pursuant to Chapter 109 of the Connecticut General Statutes, Revision of 1958, as amended (the "Connecticut General Statutes"), including, without limitation, Section 7-369 of the Connecticut General Statutes, and any other enabling acts.

(3) That the Town issue and renew temporary notes from time to time in anticipation of the receipt of the proceeds from the sale of the bonds or notes for the Project or the receipt of grants for the Project. The amount of the notes outstanding at any time shall not exceed \$5,000,000. The notes shall be issued pursuant to Section 7-378 of the Connecticut General Statutes. The Town shall comply with the provisions of Section 7-378a of the Connecticut General Statutes with respect to any notes that do not mature within the time permitted by said Section 7-378.

(4) That the Town Manager and the Treasurer of the Town (the "Officials") be authorized to sign said bonds or notes by their manual or facsimile signatures and to determine the amounts, rates of interest, dates, maturities, dates of principal and interest payments on such bonds or notes, the form of such bonds or notes; the provisions for protecting and enforcing the rights and remedies of the holders of such bonds or notes and all other terms, conditions and particular matters regarding the issuance and securing of such bonds or notes and to execute, sell and deliver the same, and provide all supporting documentation as may be necessary or desirable to accomplish such purposes and to comply with the requirements of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, Securities and Exchange Commission Rule 15c2-12, and in accordance with the Connecticut General Statutes and any other applicable provision of law thereto enabling. The bonds and notes authorized hereby shall be general obligations of the Town secured by the full faith and credit of the Town.

(5) That the Officials are hereby authorized to designate a bank or trust company to be the certifying bank, registrar, transfer agent and paying agent for such bonds and notes; to provide for the keeping of a record of the bonds or notes; to designate a financial advisor to the Town in connection with the sale of the bonds or notes; that the law firm of Updike, Kelly & Spellacy, P.C., Hartford, Connecticut, is designated as the attorneys at law to render an opinion approving the legality of such issue or issues.

(6) That the Officials are authorized to sell the bonds and notes at public or private sale; to deliver the bonds or notes; and to perform all other acts which are necessary or appropriate to issue the bonds or notes, including, but not limited to, entering into a continuing disclosure agreement pursuant to Securities and Exchange Commission Rule 15c2-12. If the bonds or notes authorized by this resolution are issued on a tax-exempt basis, the Officials are authorized to bind the Town pursuant to such representations and covenants as they deem necessary or advisable in order to maintain the continued exemption from federal income taxation of interest on the bonds or notes, including covenants to pay rebates of investment earnings to the United States in future years.

(7) That the Town hereby declares its official intent under Federal Income Tax Regulation Section 1.150-2 that project costs may be paid from temporary advances of available funds and that (except to the extent reimbursed from grant moneys) the Town reasonably expects to reimburse any such advances from the proceeds of borrowings in an aggregate principal amount not in excess of the amount of borrowing authorized above for the Project. The Officials are authorized to amend such declaration of official intent as they deem necessary or advisable and to bind the Town pursuant to such representations and covenants as they deem necessary or advisable in order to maintain the continued exemption from federal

income taxation of interest on the bonds or notes authorized by this resolution, if issued on a tax-exempt basis, including covenants to pay rebates of investment earnings to the United States in future years.

(8) That the Town Manager is hereby authorized, on behalf of the Town, to execute any contracts with engineers, contractors, architects and other persons for the Project, and to apply for and accept state or other grants to finance the appropriation for the Project.

(9) That the Officials and other proper officers of the Town are authorized to take all other actions which are necessary or desirable to complete the Project consistent with the foregoing and to issue bonds or notes to finance the aforesaid appropriation.

(10) That this resolution shall become effective after approval at referendum vote.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,

- (1) That should the Town Council adopt the foregoing resolution, pursuant to Section C9-16 of the Town Charter, said resolution shall be submitted to the voters at referendum to be held on Tuesday, May 4, 2021, between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m., for a yes or no vote, in the designated voting locations in the manner provided by said Charter and the Connecticut General Statutes, Revision of 1958, as amended, and that the Town Clerk is directed to post and publish notice of such referendum in accordance with the provisions of said Charter and the Connecticut General Statutes, which notice shall state the question to be voted on as follows:

“Shall the resolution entitled, ‘RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN APPROPRIATION OF \$5,000,000 FOR THE FIREHOUSE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT AND THE FINANCING OF SAID APPROPRIATION BY THE ISSUANCE OF GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS OF THE TOWN AND NOTES IN ANTICIPATION OF SUCH BONDS IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$5,000,000, OR SO MUCH AS MAY BE NECESSARY AFTER DEDUCTING GRANTS THEREFOR’, be approved?

Yes _____ No _____”

The ballot label for said question shall read as follows:

“Shall the Town of Tolland appropriate \$5,000,000 for the firehouse improvement project and authorize the issuance of general obligation bonds and notes in the same amount to finance said appropriation? Yes _____ No _____”

- (2) That the Town Council hereby authorizes the preparation and printing of explanatory text by the Town Clerk in accordance with Section 9-369b of the Connecticut General Statutes for the question to be voted upon on May 4, 2021 approved above. Subject to the approval of the Town Attorney, the Town Council further authorizes the preparation and printing of materials concerning the question to be voted upon on May 4, 2021 approved above in addition to the explanatory text in accordance with Section 9-369b of the Connecticut General Statutes.

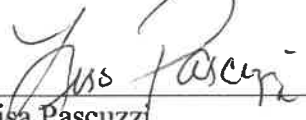
Upon Motion duly made and seconded, the foregoing Resolution was adopted by the following roll call vote:

In Favor: Tammy Nuccio, Steve Jones, Brenda Falusi, Cassandra Forsythe, Lou Luba, John Reagan, Kurt Schenher

Opposed: None

I, Lisa Pascuzzi, duly qualified Clerk of the Town Council of the Town of Tolland, hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of the Resolution adopted at the meeting of the Town Council held on March 23, 2021 authorizing an appropriation of \$5,000,000 for the firehouse improvement project and to finance such appropriation authorizing the issuance of bonds and notes in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed \$5,000,000; that said Council consists of seven members; a quorum consists of four members and the minimum number of affirmative votes required to adopt said Resolution was four; 7 members were present at said meeting; a roll call vote was taken and 7 members voted in favor of said Resolution and 0 members voted against the adoption of said Resolution; the entire meeting exclusive of executive sessions was open to the public and no one was excluded from the portion of the meeting pertaining to the consideration and adoption of said Resolution.

Dated at Tolland, Connecticut, this 24th day of March, 2021.



Lisa Pascuzzi
Clerk
Town Council
Tolland, Connecticut