

TOWN OF CANTERBURY
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING – MAY 18, 2023

Chris Lippke called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. The meeting was held in the Community Room, 1 Municipal Drive, Canterbury, CT. Mr. Lippke led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Lippke asked for nominations for meeting Moderator. Jeanette Kildea asked for a moment of silence in memory of Robert Droesch, long-time moderator of town meetings who passed away in February 2023. A moment of silence was held. Mark Weeks nominated Chris Lippke as moderation and Michael Lee seconded the motion. No other nominations made. Vote taken and Mr. Lippke voted as moderator.

The clerk read the warning. Mr. Lippke thanked all the board members for their work in putting the budgets together.

Mr. Lippke asked for a motion to approve Items #1 through #3. Jeannette Kildea made a motion to approve and the motion was seconded by Mark Weeks. Item #1: "To hear and discuss the General Government Budget for the fiscal year 2023/2024 and to approve appropriations for such fiscal year in the amount of \$3,287,536.00 as recommended by the Board of Finance"; Item #2: "To hear and discuss the Education Budget for the fiscal year 2023/2024 and to approve appropriations for such fiscal year in the amount of \$12,542,574.00 as recommended by the Board of Finance"; Item #3: "To hear and discuss the Capital Improvement Plan Budget and to approve appropriations in the amount of \$451,502.00 as recommended by the Board of Finance". Discussion followed. Ms. Kildea stated that she thought the BOE increase of \$500,000.00 is out of line with the current financial climate; that there should be standard for requesting monies in the CIP budget; and was concerned that the Fire Department asked for an increase without proper documentation.

NOTE: By order of the Board of Selectmen, a vote on Items 1, 2, and 3 will be adjourned to a Referendum to be held on May 23, 2023 at Town Hall between the hours of 6:00 am and 8:00 pm. Absentee ballots are available in the Town Clerk's office.

Jeanette Kildea made a motion to approve Item #4, which was seconded by Stephanie Trudeau. Item #4: "To consider and act upon the following resolution: "RESOLVED: that the Board of Selectmen are hereby authorized and empowered to enter into an agreement with the State of CT Commissioner of Transportation, for the expenditure of all highway funds and local capital improvement funds to become available to the Town for the fiscal year 2023/2024 per CGS Sec. 13a-175(a) (1)." Vote taken. Motion passed.

Jeanette Kildea made a motion to approve Item #5, which was seconded by Michael Lee. Item #5: "To approve "in principle" the five-year Capital Improvement Plan as adopted by the CIP Committee and the Board of Selectmen." Vote taken. Motion passed.

Jeanette Kildea made a motion to approve Item #6, which was seconded by Michael Lee. Item #6: "To hear and act on an ordinance "Regulating Short-Term Rentals" as recommended by the Board of Selectmen. This ordinance will take effect fifteen (15) days after publication. A full-copy of the proposed text is available in the Town Clerk's Office." Discussion followed. Melissa Gil, Land Use Director, explained the proposed ordinance and answered questions from the audience. Discussion about amending the wording: under definition for Dwelling Unit – add "excluding Commercial Accessory Dwelling Units". Under Section 4.A.4. – delete "Town's". Motion to accept proposed amendments made by Jeanette Kildea and seconded by Stephanie Trudeau. Motion to approve amended ordinance made by Jeanette Kildea and seconded by Tom Dufort. Vote taken. Ordinance approved.

Aaron Spruance made a motion to approve Item #7, which was seconded by Michael Lee. Item #7: "To hear and act on an ordinance "Appointment of the Offices of the Town Clerk and Tax Collector" as recommended by the Board of Selectmen. This ordinance will take effect fifteen (15) days after publication. A full-copy of the proposed text is available in the Town Clerk's Office". Discussion followed. Jeanette Kildea wanted the Board of Selectmen to consider the length of service of the current Town Clerk and Tax Collector, Natalie Ellston, when putting together a contract and not think of her as a new employee. Motion to move the question by Mark Weeks, seconded by Aaron Spruance. Vote taken to move question. Motion approved. Vote taken to approve ordinance. Ordinance approved.

Motion to adjourn at 7:25 made by Jeanette Kildea and seconded by Stephanie Trudeau.

Respectfully submitted,



Natalie Ruth Ellston
Town Clerk

Referendum Results:		Yes	No
General Government		96	21
Education		88	29
CIP		93	23