



## Representative Town Meeting

September 11, 2024

### Meeting Minutes

<b>Moderator: Maryann Amore</b>	<b>Clerk: Frank Twohill</b>
<b>Majority Leader: Tracy Everson</b>	<b>Minority Leader: Victoria Verderame</b>

The RTM convened on Wednesday, September 11, 2024 at 8:00 pm  
at Branford Fire Headquarters, 45 North Main Street,  
to consider and act upon the following matters:

#### 1. Call to Order

Moderator Amore called the meeting to order at 8:06 p.m.

#### 2. Pledge of Allegiance

Moderator Amore led the Body in the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### 3. Call of the Roll

**Representatives Present:** Adams, Adelman, Alfone, Amore, Anderson, Bonenberger, Brooks, Dahill, Everson, Greenberg, Hartwell, Hentschel, Hynes, Ingraham, Laich, Larsson, Maresca, Popolizio, Soomro, Twohill, Verderame, Waterman.

**Representatives Absent:** Black, Keefe, Loffredo, McCall, McCormack, Neupane, Sharkey, Shrestha.

**Ex-Officios Present:** First Selectman Cosgrove, Selectwoman Higgins, Town Clerk Arpin.

#### 4. Approval of the Minutes of the July 10, 2024, Meeting

Motion to amend Item #13 made by Rep. Hentschel, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Rep. Hartwell. Line 2 "He" amended to Mr. Jerolman. Line 5 "He stated that he recommended" amended to Rep. Hentschel stated that the Rules & Ordinances Committee recommended. Motion to amend approved in voice vote, 19-0-1 with one abstention, (Adelman.) (Rep. Larsson not present.) Motion to approve July 10 minutes as amended made by Rep. Hentschel, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Rep. Everson. Approved in voice vote, 19-0-1 with one abstention, (Adelman.) (Rep. Larsson not present.)

#### 5. Receipt of Communications, Reports of Committees, and Citizen Petitions:

None

#### 6. To consider, and if appropriate, create an ordinance to change the position of Town Clerk from an elected position to an appointed one.

Rep. Hentschel stated Rules & Ordinances Committee heard this item in July and voted unanimously to approve. He put the item forward to the full RTM in the form of a motion. Town Clerk Arpin spoke. A Roll call vote was held, and the ordinance passed unanimously, 21-0.

**7. To consider, and if appropriate, create an ordinance protecting licensed home daycare providers from restrictive HOA bylaws.**

Rep. Hentschel stated Rules and Ordinances did not meet in August and he made a motion, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Rep. Brooks, to rerefer the item. The full RTM approved unanimously to rerefer in a voice vote.

**8. To consider, and if appropriate, approve a transfer request from Planning & Zoning for FY2024 as follows:**

<b>From:</b>		
10141130-588090	Travel	(\$ 850)
<b>To:</b>		
10141130-555400	Advertising, Printing, Binding	\$ 850

Rep. Hentschel stated Rep. Hentschel Rules & Ordinances did not meet in August and made a motion, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Rep. Ingraham, that RTM Rule 4.4.1 be waived. The motion passed unanimously in a voice vote. Rep. Hentschel made a motion, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Rep. Popolizio, to approve. Rep. Hentschel explained the expense is for legal ads in local newspapers. The full RTM voted unanimously to approve the transfer.

**9. To consider and, if appropriate, create an ordinance to establish a harbor management commission, pursuant to CGS 22a-113k.**

Rep. Hentschel reported Rules and Ordinances did not meet in August and he made a motion, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Rep. Alfone, to rerefer the item. The full RTM approved unanimously to rerefer in a voice vote.

**10. To consider, and if appropriate, create an ordinance which will encode reasonable restrictions on short-term rentals in Branford.**

Rep. Hentschel stated a community survey has been posted on the Town website for residents to provide input. Rules & Ordinances did not meet in August, and he made a motion, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Rep. Anderson, to rerefer the item. The full RTM approved unanimously to rerefer in a voice vote.

**11. To consider, and if appropriate, approve a request from Evgenia Pekarskaya, CEO of Supercool Metals for the Town of Branford to "reconsider the imposition of property tax on [their] manufacturing equipment for this year and to ask the RTM to approve a request for an exemption on the 2023 Grand List as provided for in General Statutes §12-94e."**

Rep. Adelman stated Administrative Services Committee heard this item. The Committee unanimously approved the request. He put the matter forward to the full RTM in the form of a motion. Several Representatives made comments and Ms. Pekarskaya answered questions. The full RTM approved the item unanimously in a voice vote.

**12. To consider, and if appropriate, approve a transfer request from the Assessor for FY2024 as follows:**

<b>From:</b>		
10141050-533290	Appraisal Services	(\$ 400)
<b>To:</b>		
10141050-588210	Dues & Subscriptions	400

Rep. Adelman stated the Administrative Services Committee heard this matter in September. The increased cost is for the pricing book. The item passed unanimously, and he put the item forward to the full RTM. The RTM approved the transfer unanimously in a voice vote.

**13. To consider, and if appropriate, approve a transfer request from the Tax Collector for FY2024 as follows:**

**From:**

10141070-517000	Regular Wages & Salaries	(\$ 1,160)
10141070-555320	Postage	<u>(\$ 7,417)</u>
	Total	(\$ 8,577)

**To:**

10141070-518000	Overtime	\$ 1,160
10141070-588110	State Fees & Testing	150
10141070-533285	Tax Bill Printing & Processing	<u>7,267</u>
	Total	\$ 8,577

Rep. Adelman stated Administrative Services Committee heard this item. The Committee passed the item unanimously and he put the matter forward to the RTM. The full RTM passed the item unanimously in a voice vote.

**14. To consider, and if appropriate, approve transfer requests from the First Selectman for FY2024 as follows:**

**Executive**

**From:**

10141020-533280	Consulting	(\$ 1,875)
10141020-555400	Advertising, Printing, Binding	<u>( 1,115)</u>
	Total	(\$ 2,990)

**To:**

10141020-518250	Seasonal & Part-Time Help	\$ 2,990
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Rep. Adelman stated Administrative Services Committee heard this item at their September meeting. The Committee passed the transfers unanimously. He put the matter forward as a motion to the full RTM. In a voice vote, the RTM approved the transfers unanimously.

**15. To consider, and if appropriate, approve transfer requests from the Finance Director for FY2024 as follows:**

**Conservation Commission**

**From:**

10145100-566900	Other Supplies	(\$ 475)
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**To:**

10145100-517580	Board Clerks	215
10145100-588200	Memberships, Conferences & Meetings	5
10145100-544300	Purchased Services	<u>255</u>
	Total	\$ 475

Rep. Hentschel said Rules & Ordinances did not meet in August. Rep. Brooks made a motion, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Rep. Verderame, to suspend RTM Rule 4.4.1. The RTM passed the motion unanimously in a voice vote. Rep. Hentschel stated these transfers are a result of year end bookkeeping. He made a motion, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Rep. Brooks, to approve. The full RTM approved the transfers unanimously in a voice vote.

**16. To consider, and if appropriate, approve a transfer request from Parks & Recreation for FY2024 as follows:**

**From:**

10149040-538802	Contingency	(\$28,829)
10145010-517000	Regular Wages & Salaries	(12,525)
70045010-579400-23315	Foot Park Splash Pad	(27,400)
70045010-579400-24313	Foot Park Basketball Court Renov.	<u>(24,763)</u>
	Total	(\$93,517)

**To:**

10145010-519030 Accumulated Sick Pay	\$ 28,829
10145010-518000 Overtime	12,175
10145010-526100 Uniform/Clothing Allowance	350
70045010-xxxxxx Foote Park Playground	<u>52,163</u>
Total	\$ 93,517

Rep.Hartwell reported Ways & Means Committee heard this item on September 4. The Committee voted unanimously to recommend approval of these transfers. He put the item forward to the full RTM in the form of a motion. The RTM passed the item unanimously in a voice vote.

**17. To consider, and if appropriate, approve transfer requests from the First Selectman for FY2024 as follows:**

**Branford Cable TV**

**From:**

10149040-588802 Contingency	(\$ 529)
10141180-566900 Other Supplies	<u>( 92)</u>
Total	(\$ 621)

**To:**

10141180-518250 Seasonal & Part-Time Help	\$ 529
10141180-533605 Subcontracting	<u> 92</u>
Total	\$ 621

Rep. Hartwell stated Ways & Means Committee heard this request. The Committee voted unanimously in favor. He put the item forward to the RTM in the form of a motion. The full RTM voted by voice vote in favor of the transfers.

**18. To consider, and if appropriate, approve transfer requests from the Finance Director for FY2024:**

**Municipal Insurance**

**From:**

10149030-555200 Property Insurance	\$23,000
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**To:**

10149030-588140 Insurance Damage	\$23,000
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Rep. Hartwell reported Ways & Means Committee heard this matter. It was unanimously recommended to the RTM to approve. The full RTM in a voice vote, voted unanimously to approve.

**19. To consider and if appropriate, approve the following transfer request from Police Services for FY2024:**

**From:**

10142010-517000 Regular Wages & Salaries	(\$78,266)
10142010-544300 Purchase Services	(4,002)
10142010-579250 Equipment	<u>(727)</u>
Total	(\$82,995)

**To:**

10142010-517520 School Guards	\$ 136
10142010-518000 Overtime	72,344
10142010-533300 Professional Development	5,786
10142010-555300 Communications	3,953
10142010-579300 Furniture & Fixtures	727
10142010-566920 Meal Supplies	<u> 49</u>
Total	\$82,995

Rep. Bonenberger reported Public Services Committee met on September 5. The Committee unanimously voted in favor of these transfers. He put the matter forward to the RTM in the form of a motion. The full RTM voted unanimously to approve.

**20. To consider, and if appropriate, approve a transfer request from the Building Department for FY2024 as follows:**

<b>From:</b>		
10149020-588802	Contingency	(\$14,724)
10142050-526100	Uniform/Clothing Allowance	(278)
10142050-566100	Office Supplies	<u>(387)</u>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>(\$15,389)</b>

<b>To:</b>		
10142050-517000	Regular Wages & Salaries	\$ 5,761
10142050-518000	Overtime	237
10142050-519030	Accumulated Sick	2,711
10142050-533280	Consulting Services	<u>6,680</u>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 15,389</b>

Rep. Bonenberger said Public Services Committee heard these proposed transfers. The Committee voted unanimously to recommend approval to the RTM. He put the matter forward to the RTM in the form of a motion. The full RTM voted unanimously in favor of the transfers.

**21. To consider, and if appropriate, approve a transfer request from Fire Services for FY2024:**

Clerk Twohill made a motion, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Rep. Hentschel, to correct two scrivener's errors on the published RTM Call. 1) Medical supplies, from \$3,732 to \$1,756 and 2) add, under To, Account 10142040-579300, Furniture & Fixtures, \$ 3,732. The full RTM voted unanimously to approve the motion.

<b>From:</b>		
10142040-5170	Fixtures, \$ages & Salaries	(\$94,800)
10142040-517670	Medic Shift PT	( 44,500)
10142040-518000	Overtime	( 4,011)
10142040-518010	Overtime-Public Events	( 11,100)
10142040-518050	Vacation	( 8,000)
10142040-518150	Holiday Pay	( 17,200)
10142040-518500	Special Detail	( 1,000)
10142040-519025	Educational Incentive	( 10,200)
10142040-519050	Stipends	( 12,000)
10142040-533300	Professional Development	( 5,600)
10142040-533530	Employment Testing	( 3,448)
10142040-555300	Communications	( 2,000)
10142040-544170	Hydrants	<u>( 9,000)</u>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>(\$222,859)</b>

<b>To:</b>		
10142040-518200	Replace Sick	\$115,587
10142040-519030	Accumulated Sick Pay	27,224
10142040-533520	Ambulance Billing	22,827
10142040-533900	Other Purchased Services	11,040
10142040-544300	Purchased Services - R & M	21,129
10142040-566600	Medical Supplies	1,756
10142040-579300	Furniture & Fixtures	3,732
10142040-588200	Memberships, Conf. & Meetings	1,564
10150000-599102	Transfer to Fund 203	<u>18,000</u>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 222,859</b>

Rep. Bonenberger stated Public Services Committee heard these proposed transfers. The Committee voted to recommend unanimously to approve the transfers. He put the matter forward as a motion to the RTM. The RTM voted unanimously in favor in a voice vote.

**22. To consider, and if appropriate, approve a transfer request for Solid Waste & Recycling for FY2024 as follows:**

<b>From:</b>		
10143040-517000	Regular Wages & Salaries	(\$10,557)
<b>To:</b>		
10143040-519030	Accumulated Sick Pay	\$10,557

Rep. Bonenberger stated Public Services heard this item. The Committee approved the matter unanimously. He put it forward to the RTM in the form of a motion. The full RTM voted unanimously to approve.

**23. To consider, and if appropriate, approve a transfer request from General Government Buildings for FY2024 as follows:**

<b>From:</b>		
10141170-517000	Regular Wages & Salaries	(\$ 4,363)
10141170-526100	Uniform/Clothing Allowance	( 1,967)
10141170-544300	Purchase Services R & M	( 15,413)
10141170-566100	Office Supplies	( 800)
10141170-566900	Other Supplies	( 5,957)
10141170-566920	Meal Supplies	( 550)
10141170-579250	Equipment	( 3,816)
10141170-579300	Furniture & Fixtures	( 250)
10141170-588200	Memberships, Conf. & Meetings	( 1,200)
	<b>Total</b>	<b>(\$34,316)</b>
<b>To:</b>		
10141170-518000	Overtime	\$ 1,526
10141170-544100	Utilities	32,323
10141170-544110	Fuel Oil	467
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$34,316</b>

Rep. Bonenberger stated Public Services Committee heard this item. The Committee voted to approve the proposed transfers. He put the item forward to the full RTM in the form of a motion. The RTM approved the transfers unanimously in a voice vote.

**25. Any other business to come before the RTM:**

- a) Citizen Sandra Reiners urged attendance at the Tweed-New Haven Airport meeting concerning FAA Rules on Oct. 1, 6:30 p.m., at Nathan Hale School, New Haven;
- b) Citizen Jaycey Wyatt expressed interest in using the former Canoe Brook Senior Center for a crafts fair. First Selectman Cosgrove stated that the Police Department requested use of the building for storage while their HQ is being renovated;
- c) Rep. Twohill thanked recently retired Dagmar Bachman, Senior Center Director, who started work when Matt Brady was Senior Center Director and Assistant Town Clerk Mindy Yester, who started work when Pete Ablondi was Town Clerk. Each served Branford citizens for over 40 years. He also asked for a moment of silence for recently departed Ellsworth McGuigan, who Chaired the Planning and Zoning Commission for over 20 years; and
- d) Rep. Brooks suggested the RTM find a way to streamline transfers from last fiscal year.

**26. Adjournment at 9:30 p.m.**

Rep. Popolizio made a motion to adjourn, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Rep. Verderame.

**See the BCTV recording of this meeting for details of the conversations.**

**Frank Twohill, RTM Clerk**

**Dated this 13<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2024**

