

**TOWN OF WEST GREENWICH
FINANCIAL TOWN MEETING**

June 9, 2014

The Town of West Greenwich held its annual Financial Town Meeting on Monday, June 9, 2014 at the Exeter-West Greenwich Jr. /Sr. High School, 930 Nooseneck Hill Road, West Greenwich, RI. The Board of Canvassers reported 33 voters were present.

Moderator Elaine Eccleston called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. with the Pledge of Allegiance. A moment of silence was observed for the following:

EDITH L. BONNER
NORMAN R. BRIGGS, SR.
ELIZABETH A. FISH
ROY A. JOHNSON
RAYMOND MOFFITT

Town Moderator Eccleston introduced the Town Officials: Town Council President Mark Tourgee, Town Council Vice-President Susan Woloohojian, Councilman Robert Andrews, Councilman Gregory Coutcher, Councilman Thomas Mulcahey, Town Solicitor, Michael Ursillo, Town Administrator, Kevin Breene, Town Clerk, Erin Liese, and Town Treasurer, Danielle Andrews.

Moderator Eccleston noted the meeting would be conducted according to Robert's Rules of Order and noted other procedures to be followed.

Council President Tourgee made the following remarks: With the audience present this may be speaking to the choir, for many of you attend Town Council meetings regularly, but I wanted to review the year. This has been a good year for West Greenwich. In the fall we dedicated the new pavilion at Celebrate West Greenwich Day with several hundred people present. This building was built using the open space and recreation fees paid by developers. The income from the engraved bricks covered the expense of laying the walkway and purchased the lighting. Bricks can still be purchased and the funds will go towards the maintenance of the pavilion. The Town's bond rating was increased from AA- to AA+. West Greenwich was one of two towns to receive an increase and the only town to be upgraded by two points. Distressed sales are down from 50% in 2011 to 30% in 2013 and there were 7 new homes built last year. Currently there are several subdivisions going through the approval process. A new trail was added at Tillinghast Pond Management Area where you can hike as little as 2 miles or up to 10 miles. Although the highway was slightly over budget on sand, our roads remained some of the best maintained in the State this winter and we were one of the few communities that did not run out of salt. I want to give accolades to the Public Works Director Wright. Our highway department has also done a great job with the landscaping at the town hall, library and pavilion. Chief Ramsay and the police department is working hard keeping our neighborhoods safe patrolling more vigilantly and as a result, compared to last year, burglaries are down 60%, larcenies are down 71%, vandalism is down 56% and DUI's up 475% sending the message that we won't tolerate drunk drivers on our streets. I will ask Chief Ramsay to explain those numbers at Wednesday's Council Meeting. For the first time in many years, the police department will end the current fiscal year with money left in the police budget. The state mandated revaluation was conducted as of 12/31/13 and showed about half of our homes increasing slightly in value. The proposed tax rate and homestead exemption will remain the same. (Rate at 22.55 per thousand and homestead at 14%). Following the 2010 reval, 60% of homeowners saw a reduction in their taxes. There was no increase in taxes from 2011 to 2012 and this year about half of homeowners will see no increase or a reduction in taxes. I want to thank Councilman Mulcahey for thinking out of the

TOWN OF WEST GREENWICH

FINANCIAL TOWN MEETING

June 9, 2014

box for this year we will budget up to \$60,000 in addition to the \$406,771 fire department budget for equipment purchases. The Fire Board of Engineers will determine which fire companies are most in need of equipment and dispense the funds appropriately. Our first ever summer concert series kicked off last Wednesday and was very well attended. There are flyers available outlining the concert schedule. These concerts are not funded through taxes because of the generosity of the following businesses: American Welding, K. Wilcox Landscaping / Hopkins Hill Nursery, Farm Family Insurance / John Howard, Inman, Tourgee & Williamson Law Firm, Centreville Bank, Ursillo, Teitz & Ritch Law Firm, Opus Acupuncture and Roch's Fresh Foods. We'd like to thank these sponsors for their generous contributions. The next concert is Wednesday the 18th and Big River Stomp, a local blue grass band, will be performing. The concerts start at 6 pm and the EWG boosters will be selling hamburgers and hot dogs. The Town of West Greenwich is in good financial shape and we are working hard to limit increases in taxes all the while continuing to provide services to our residents.

Moderator Eccleston read the following General Resolutions:

GENERAL RESOLUTIONS

RESOLVED, THAT THE TOWN SOLICITOR, MEMBERS OF THE PRESS AND GUESTS BE ADMITTED TO THE MEETING WITHOUT VOTING PRIVILEGES.

RESOLVED, THAT THE READING OF THE WARRANT AND THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING BE OMITTED, SINCE THE MINUTES AND WARRANT HAVE BEEN ON FILE IN THE TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE AND AVAILABLE FOR REVIEW BY ANY REGISTERED VOTER OF THE TOWN OF WEST GREENWICH DURING OFFICE HOURS.

RESOLVED, TO OMIT READING OF THE TOWN TREASURER'S REPORT, SINCE COPIES OF THE CURRENT STATUS AND THE OFFICIAL AUDIT ARE AVAILABLE AT THE TOWN HALL.

RESOLVED, THAT THE TOWN TREASURER BE, AND SHE IS HEREBY AUTHORIZED AND EMPOWERED TO PAY SUCH SUMS OF MONEY AS REQUIRED TO MAKE BOND PAYMENTS COMING DUE DURING THE FISCAL YEAR, AND THE INTEREST ON THE BONDS AS THE SAME BECOME DUE.

RESOLVED, THAT THE TOWN TREASURER BE, AND SHE IS HEREBY AUTHORIZED AND EMPOWERED TO CREDIT TO ANY APPROPRIATION FUND ANY RECEIPTS OR DONATIONS WHICH APPLY AGAINST THAT FUND.

RESOLVED, THAT THE ACTIONS OF THE TOWN TREASURER IN EXPENDING SUMS OF MONEY IN EXCESS OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2014, BE RATIFIED AND APPROVED, SUCH OVER-EXPENDITURES NOT TO BE CHARGED TO THE APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2015.

RESOLVED, THAT THE TOWN TREASURER BE, AND SHE IS AUTHORIZED TO HIRE SUCH SUMS OF MONEY, IF ANY BE NECESSARY, IN ANTICIPATION OF TAXES, IF AT ANY TIME IT BECOMES NECESSARY TO TAKE THIS ACTION TO MEET CURRENT EXPENSES.

TOWN OF WEST GREENWICH

FINANCIAL TOWN MEETING

June 9, 2014

On a motion duly made and seconded, the above General Resolutions were passed on a voice vote.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

RESOLVED, THAT THE SUM OF ONE MILLION, THREE HUNDRED TWO THOUSAND AND THIRTY SEVEN (\$1,302,037.00) DOLLARS, BE AND THE SAME IS HEREBY APPROPRIATED FOR THE RESPECTIVE LINE ITEMS AS PRESENTED FOR GENERAL GOVERNMENT.

On a motion duly made and seconded, the above General Resolutions was passed on a voice vote.

RESOLVED, THAT THE UNEXPENDED BALANCE FOR FY 2014 IN THE REVALUATION/TAX ASSESSOR FUND (INCLUSIVE OF STATE REIMBURSEMENT MONIES) BE TRANSFERRED INTO A DEDICATED ACCOUNT TO BE CALLED WEST GREENWICH REVALUATION FUND.

On a motion duly made and seconded, the above General Resolution was passed on a voice vote.

RESOLVED, THAT THE UNEXPENDED BALANCE FOR FY 2014 IN THE COMPUTER EQUIPMENT FUND/SERVER REPLACEMENT FUND BE TRANSFERRED INTO A DEDICATED ACCOUNT TO BE CALLED WEST GREENWICH SERVER REPLACEMENT FUND.

On a motion duly made and seconded the above resolution was passed on a voice vote.

EDUCATION

RESOLVED, THAT THE SUM OF TWELVE MILLION, SIX HUNDRED FIFTEEN THOUSAND, FIVE HUNDRED NINETY- SIX (\$12,615,596.) DOLLARS, BE AND THE SAME IS HEREBY APPROPRIATED FOR THE RESPECTIVE LINE ITEMS AS PRESENTED FOR EDUCATION.

On a motion duly made and seconded the above Education Resolution was passed on a voice vote.

PUBLIC SAFETY

RESOLVED, THAT THE SUM OF TWO MILLION, SIX HUNDRED NINETY- FOUR THOUSAND, FOUR HUNDRED TWENTY-SEVEN (\$2,694,427) DOLLARS BE AND THE SAME IS HEREBY APPROPRIATED FOR THE RESPECTIVE LINE ITEMS AS PRESENTED FOR PUBLIC SAFETY.

On a motion duly made and seconded, the above Public Safety Resolution was passed on a voice vote.

RESOLVED, THAT REVENUES RECEIVED IN FY 2014/ 2015 AS A RESULT OF BILLINGS FOR USE OF POLICE DEPT. VEHICLES ON SPECIAL DETAIL DUTY, BE TRANSFERRED INTO A DEDICATED ACCOUNT TO BE CALLED THE POLICE/VEHICLE PURCHASES FUND.

On a motion duly made and seconded, the above Public Safety Resolution was passed on a voice vote.

TOWN OF WEST GREENWICH

FINANCIAL TOWN MEETING

June 9, 2014

BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE SUM OF NOT MORE THAN SIXTY THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$60,000.00) BE HEREBY APPROPRIATED FROM THE RESERVE FUND BALANCE TO THE FIRE APPARATUS FUND FOR THE REPAYMENT OF NOTES OR LOANS SECURED BY THE THREE (3) TOWN VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANIES, FOR THE PURCHASE OF NEW OR USED FIRE OR RESCUE VEHICLES. THE DIVISION OF SAID APPROPRIATION SHALL BE APPROVED BASED ON NEED AS DETERMINED BY THE FIRE BOARD OF ENGINEERS. SAID BOARD OF ENGINEERS SHALL EVALUATE ALL REQUESTS AND FORWARD A RECOMMENDATION TO THE TOWN COUNCIL FOR FINAL APPROVAL. ALL VEHICLE NOTES OR LOANS SHALL BE IN THE NAME OF THE FIRE COMPANY TAKING POSSESSION OF SAID VEHICLE.

On a motion duly made and seconded the above Public Safety Resolution was passed on a voice vote.

PUBLIC WORKS

RESOLVED, THAT THE SUM OF ONE MILLION, ONE HUNDRED SEVENTY THOUSAND AND FORTY-SEVEN (\$1,170,047) DOLLARS, BE AND THE SAME IS HEREBY APPROPRIATED FOR THE RESPECTIVE LINE ITEMS AS PRESENTED FOR PUBLIC WORKS.

On a motion duly made and seconded the above Public Works Resolution was passed on a voice vote.

COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL SERVICES

RESOLVED, THAT THE SUM OF SEVEN HUNDRED EIGHTY- EIGHT THOUSAND AND EIGHTY TWO (\$788,082) DOLLARS, BE AND THE SAME IS HEREBY APPROPRIATED FOR THE RESPECTIVE LINE ITEMS AS PRESENTED FOR COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL SERVICES.

On a motion duly made and seconded, the above Community & Social Services Resolution was passed on a voice vote.

RESOLVED, THAT THE SECOND TWENTY-FIVE THOUSAND (\$25,000.00) DOLLARS OF THE FY 2014 FUNDS ANNUALLY COLLECTED THROUGH THE REAL ESTATE CONVEYANCE FEE PAID ON REAL ESTATE TRANSFERS SHALL BE DEPOSITED INTO A DEDICATED ACCOUNT TO BE CALLED THE OPEN SPACE PROTECTION FUND. ALL MONIES COLLECTED WITHIN FY 2014 EXCEEDING FIFTY-THOUSAND (\$50,000.00) TO BE DIVIDED BETWEEN THE TOWN OF WEST GREENWICH GENERAL FUND REVENUES AND THE OPEN SPACE PROTECTION FUND.

On a motion duly made and seconded, the above Community & Social Services Resolution was passed on a voice vote.

TOWN OF WEST GREENWICH
FINANCIAL TOWN MEETING
June 9, 2014
UNRESERVED FUND

RESOLVED, THAT THE SUM OF NOT MORE THAN FOUR HUNDRED THOUSAND (\$400,000) DOLLARS OF UNRESERVED FUND BALANCE, BE AND THE SAME IS HEREBY APPROPRIATED TO THE FUND FOR THE PURPOSE OF ADJUSTING THE TAX LEVY TO SET THE TAX RATE.

On a motion duly made and seconded, the above Unreserved Resolution was passed on a voice vote.

RESOLVED, THAT THE SUM OF NOT MORE THAN THIRTY-FIVE THOUSAND (\$35,000.00) DOLLARS BE, AND THE SAME IS HEREBY ENCUMBERED TO BE REFLECTED WITHIN THE FY14 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR PURCHASE OF A ONE TON PUBLIC WORK'S TRUCK IN FY 2014/2015.

On a motion duly made and seconded the above Unreserved Resolution was passed on a voice vote.

SPECIAL REVENUES

It was noted that this current fiscal year did not have any Special Revenues.

The final count of voters obtained from the Board of Canvassers was 34 registered voters.

TAX RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, THAT THE ELECTORS OF THE TOWN OF WEST GREENWICH QUALIFIED TO VOTE ON ANY PROPOSITION TO IMPOSE A TAX OR FOR THE EXPENDITURE OF MONEY, IN TOWN MEETING ASSEMBLED ON THE NINTH DAY OF JUNE, A.D. 2014, HEREBY ORDER THE ASSESSMENT OF COLLECTION OF A TAX ON A RATABLE REAL ESTATE AND TANGIBLE PERSONAL PROPERTY IN A SUM

NOT LESS THAN \$17,817,724.00
NOT MORE THAN \$18,087,724.00

SAID TAX IS FOR ORDINARY EXPENSES AND CHARGES AND SINKING FUNDS, FOR THE PAYMENT OF INTEREST AND INDEBTEDNESS IN WHOLE OR IN PART OF SAID TOWN AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES AUTHORIZED BY LAW. THE TAX ASSESSOR SHALL ASSESS AND APPORTION SAID TAX ON THE INHABITANTS AND RATABLE PROPERTY OF SAID TOWN AS OF THE THIRTY-FIRST DAY OF DECEMBER, 2013 AT TWELVE O'CLOCK MIDNIGHT ACCORDING TO LAW (THE DATE OF ASSESSMENT), AND ON COMPLETION OF SAID APPORTIONMENT DATE, VERIFY AND SIGN THE SAME AND DELIVER THE SAME TO THE OFFICE OF THE TOWN CLERK ON OR BEFORE THE THIRTIETH DAY OF JUNE, 2014.

TOWN OF WEST GREENWICH

FINANCIAL TOWN MEETING

June 9, 2014

SAID TAX SHALL BE DUE AND PAYABLE ON AND BETWEEN THE FIRST DAY OF AUGUST, 2014 AND THIRTY- FIRST DAY OF AUGUST, 2014 AND ALL TAXES REMAINING UNPAID ON THE LAST NAMED DAY SHALL CARRY, UNTIL COLLECTED, A PENALTY AT THE RATE OF TEN (10%) PER CENTUM UPON SAID UNPAID TAX.

SAID TAX MAY BE PAID IN FOUR INSTALLMENTS, THE FIRST INSTALLMENT OF TWENTY-FIVE PER CENTUM ON OR BEFORE THE THIRTY- FIRST DAY OF AUGUST, 2014; TWENTY-FIVE PER CENTUM OR BEFORE THE THIRTIETH DAY OF NOVEMBER, A.D. 2014; TWENTY-FIVE PER CENTUM OR BEFORE THE TWENTY-EIGHTH DAY OF FEBRUARY, A.D. 2015; TWENTY-FIVE PER CENTUM OR BEFORE THE THIRTY-FIRST DAY OF MAY, A.D. 2015.

SAID INSTALLMENT OF TAXES IF PAID ON OR BEFORE THE LAST DAY OF EACH INSTALLMENT PERIOD SUCCESSIVELY AND IN ORDER, SHALL BE FREE FROM ANY CHARGE OF INTEREST. IF THE FIRST INSTALLMENT OR ANY SUCCEEDING INSTALLMENT OF TAXES IS NOT PAID BY THE LAST DATE OF THE RESPECTIVE INSTALLMENT PERIOD OR PERIODS AS THEY OCCUR THEN THE WHOLE TAX OR REMAINING UNPAID BALANCE OF THE TAX, AS THE CASE MAY BE, IMMEDIATELY BECOME DUE AND PAYABLE AND SHALL CARRY UNTIL COLLECTED A PENALTY AT THE RATE OF TEN (10%) PER CENTUM PER ANNUM ON ANY UNPAID QUARTERLY INSTALLMENT(S) AND ONLY THE UNPAID QUARTERLY INSTALLMENT(S) SHALL BE DUE AND PAYABLE. INTEREST RATE ON EXCISE TAX ON MOTOR VEHICLES TAX SHALL BE ASSESSED AT THE RATE OF TEN (10%) PER CENTUM PER ANNUM.

Martha Mulcahey, 315 Fry Pond Road requested clarification on the Tax Resolution.

Moderator Eccleston stated she miss read the Resolution and reread the following:

HEREBY ORDER THE ASSESSMENT OF COLLECTION OF A TAX ON A RATABLE REAL ESTATE AND TANGIBLE PERSONAL PROPERTY IN A SUM

NOT LESS THAN \$17,817,724.00

NOT MORE THAN \$18,087,724.00

On a motion duly made and seconded the above Tax Resolution was passed on a voice vote.

A motion to adjourn at 7:27 p.m. was duly made and seconded and passed on a voice vote.

Attest:

Erin F. Liese, CMC
Town Clerk