

MAYOR  
JEFFREY A. MACMILLEN

DEPUTY MAYOR  
THOMAS ZAMPANO

TOWN MANAGER  
MICHAEL P. DOWNES



COUNCIL MEMBERS  
BRUCE ABELSON  
ROSE MARIE ANGELONI  
MARIE E. DIAMOND  
WALTER GOAD  
VINCENT J. MASE, SR.  
NICHOLAS PALLADINO  
RONALD PELLICCIA, JR.

# TOWN OF NORTH BRANFORD

TOWN HALL, 909 FOXON ROAD, NORTH BRANFORD, CONNECTICUT 06471

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## MINUTES TOWN COUNCIL MEETING OF NORTH BRANFORD, CONNECTICUT

Tuesday, April 18, 2023

Town Council Chambers  
7:00 p.m.

Mayor Macmillen called the Town Council meeting to order at 7:00 p.m..

### Salute to the Flag

#### 1. Roll Call:

**Present:** Mayor Macmillen, Deputy Mayor Zampano, Councilor Abelson, Councilor Angeloni, Councilor Diamond, Councilor Goad, Councilor Mase, Councilor Palladino, and Councilor Pelliccia

**Also Present:** Town Manager Downes, Town Treasurer/ Finance Director Esposito, Public Works Director Merola, Superintendent Schoonmaker, Police Chief Halloran, Deputy Chief Lovelace, Town Clerk Valente, Town Assessor Ambrose, and Town Attorney LeClerc.

#### 2. Budget Deliberations FY 2023-2024

At the April 6, 2023 Budget Workshop, the Town Council requested that Department heads find reductions in their proposed budgets.

##### a. Government Services

DEPARTMENT	CHANGE	TOTAL
<b>Town Manager's Budget</b>		
Reduce Full Time Account 1000-00041-4113-51610-000000-0000-000	(\$6,000)	(\$6,459)
Reduce Social Security on above cut 1000-00041-4113-51620-000000-0000-000	(\$459)	
<b>Central Services Budget</b>		(\$6,000)

Remove 4 wall HVAC units 1000-00041-4129-57200-000000-0000-000	(\$6,000)	
<b>Town Attorney's budget</b>		
Reduce Litigation 1000-00041-4139-58200-000000-0000-000	(5,000)	<b>(\$5,000)</b>
<b>Employee Benefits Budget</b>		
Eliminate Agent of Record cost 1000-00041-4199-55990-000000-0000-000	(\$20,000)	<b>(\$20,000)</b>
<b>Police Budget</b>		
Hire 2 grade C officers ½ way through the year 1000-00042-4201-51610-000000-0000-000	(\$19,043)	
Delay hiring a records clerk by 4 months 1000-00042-4201-51610-000000-0000-000	(\$19,751)	
Reduce social security on these cuts 1000-00042-4201-52200-000000-0000-000	(8,037)	
No pension on this cut - no pension for first year		<b>(\$65,736)</b>
<b>Communications Budget</b>		
Reduce overtime budget 1000-00042-4221-51630-000000-0000-000	(\$16,207)	
Reduce social security on this cut 1000-00042-4201-52200-000000-0000-000	(\$1,240)	
Reduce pension on this cut 1000-00042-4221-52300-000000-0000-000	(\$1,459)	
<b>Fire Department Budget</b>		
Reduce part time budget 1000-00042-4203-51620-000000-0000-000	(\$6,000)	
Reduce social security alternative on this cut 1000-00042-4203-52200-000000-0000-000	(\$87)	
Reduce Technical Supplies 1000-00042-4203-56900-000000-0000-000	(\$3,000)	<b>(\$15,087)</b>
Reduce Professional Development 1000-00042-4203-53200-000000-0000-000	(\$3,000)	

Reduce Other Contractual 1000-00042-4203-55990-000000-0000-000	(\$3,000)	
<b>Ambulance Budget</b>		
Reduce Subsidy to Ambulance Service Fund 1000-00042-4209-58910-000000-0000-000	(\$100,000)	<b>(\$100,000)</b>
<b>Public Works Department</b>		
Reduce Construction Materials 1000-00043-4301-56290-000000-0000-000	(\$40,000)	<b>(\$60,000)</b>
Reduce Other Contractual 1000-00043-4301-55990-000000-0000-000	(\$20,000)	
<b>Library Budget</b>		
Reduce Data Processing 1000-00045-4501-53510-000000-0000-000	(\$3,000)	
Reduce Building Maintenance 1000-00045-4501-54301-000000-0000-000	(\$3,200)	
Reduce Other Purchased Services 1000-00045-4501-55990-000000-0000-000	(\$3,000)	<b>(\$15,000)</b>
Reduce Cleaning Supplies 1000-00045-4501-56010-000000-0000-000	(\$700)	
Reduce Technical Supplies 1000-00045-4501-56900-000000-0000-000	(\$1,500)	
Reduce Technical Equipment 1000-00045-4501-53510-000000-0000-000	(\$3,600)	
<b>Recreation Budget</b>		
Reduce Memorial Field Water (not billed to Rec) 1000-00045-4503-54411-000000-0000-000	(\$13,187)	<b>(\$15,000)</b>
Reduce Professional Development (NRPA) 1000-00045-4503-54411-000000-0000-000	(\$1,183)	
<b>Refuse Removal Budget</b>		
Add Bulky Waste per John's Refuse Proposal 1000-00084-8403-54101-000000-0000-006	\$95,000	
<b>TOTAL EXPENSE REDUCTIONS (NET)</b>		<b>(\$213,282)</b>

REVENUE	CHANGE	TOTAL
Increase Fund Balance Contribution 1000-00041-4117-49100-000000-0000-000	\$125,000	
<b>TOTAL REVENUE INCREASE</b>	<b>\$125,000</b>	

**NET GENERAL FUND BUDGET IMPACT: \$338,282**

**MOTION:** To reduce the Town Manager's Budget by reducing the Full time account (to reflect ATM Salary account 1000-00041-4113-51610-000000-0000-000 by (\$6,000);

**Moved:** Councilor Angeloni

**Second:** Deputy Mayor Zampano

**With all in favor, the motion passed.**

**MOTION:** To reduce the Town Manager's Budget by reducing Social Security on this cut account 1000-00041-4113-51620-000000-0000-000 by (\$459);

**Moved:** Councilor Angeloni

**Second:** Deputy Mayor Zampano

**With all in favor, the motion passed.**

**MOTION:** To reduce the Central Service's Budget by removing 4 wall HVAC units (take out of maintenance reserve) account 1000-00041-4129-57200-000000-0000-000 by (\$6,000);

**Moved:** Councilor Angeloni

**Second:** Deputy Mayor Zampano

**With all in favor, the motion passed.**

**MOTION:** To reduce the Town Attorney's Budget by Reducing Litigation account 1000-00041-4139-58200-000000-0000-000 by (\$5,000);

**Moved:** Councilor Angeloni

**Second:** Deputy Mayor Zampano

**With all in favor, the motion passed.**

**MOTION:** To reduce the Employee Benefits Budget by Eliminating the Agent of Record cost account 1000-00041-4199-55990-000000-0000-000 by (\$20,000);

**Moved:** Councilor Angeloni

**Second:** Deputy Mayor Zampano

**With all in favor, the motion passed.**

**MOTION:** To reduce the Police Budget by Hiring two (2) grade C officers ½ way through the year, account 1000-00042-4201-51610-000000-0000-000 by (\$19,042);

**Moved:** Councilor Angeloni

**Second:** Councilor Diamond

**Discussion:** Councilor Mase pointed out that, between the Police Budget and the Communications Budget, which are not separated in his records, when added together, there is a \$1.00 discrepancy.

Town Treasurer/ Finance Director Esposito explained that the \$1.00 difference is due to numbers that were rounded up. The (\$19,043) was changed to (\$19,042).  
**With all in favor, the motion passed.**

**MOTION:** To reduce the Police Budget by delaying the hiring of a records clerk by 4 months, account 1000-00042-4201-51610-000000-0000-000 by (\$19,751);

**Moved:** Councilor Angeloni

**Second:** Councilor Diamond

**With all in favor, the motion passed.**

**MOTION:** To reduce the Police Budget by Reducing social security on these cuts, account 1000-00042-4201-52200-000000-0000-000 by (\$8,037) with No pension on this cut because there is no pension for first year;

**Moved:** Councilor Angeloni

**Second:** Councilor Diamond

**With all in favor, the motion passed.**

**MOTION:** To reduce the Communications budget by reducing the overtime budget, account 1000-00042-4221-51630-000000-0000-000 by (\$16,207);

**Moved:** Councilor Angeloni

**Second:** Councilor Diamond

**With all in favor, the motion passed.**

**MOTION:** To reduce the Communications budget by reducing social security on this cut, account 1000-00042-4201-52200-000000-0000-000 by (\$1,240) and by reducing pension on this cut,

**Moved:** Councilor Angeloni

**Second:** Councilor Diamond

**With all in favor, the motion passed.**

**MOTION:** To reduce the Communications Budget by reducing account 1000-00042-4221-52300-000000-0000-000 by (\$1,459);

**Moved:** Councilor Angeloni

**Second:** Councilor Diamond

**With all in favor, the motion passed.**

**MOTION:** To reduce the Fire Department Budget by reducing part time budget, account 1000-00042-4203-51620-000000-0000-000 by (\$6,000),

**Moved:** Councilor Angeloni

**Second:** Councilor Diamond

**With all in favor, the motion passed.**

**MOTION:** To reduce the Fire Department Budget by reducing the Social Security alternative on the previous motion, account 1000-00042-4203-52200-000000-0000-000 by (\$87),

**Moved:** Councilor Angeloni

**Second:** Councilor Abelson

**With all in favor, the motion passed.**

**MOTION:** To reduce the Fire Department Budget by reducing Technical Supplies, account 1000-00042-4203-56900-000000-0000-000 by \$3,000),

**Moved:** Councilor Angeloni

**Second:** Councilor Diamond

**Discussion:** Councilor Abelson asked what supplies are being reduced.

Town Treasurer/ Finance Director Esposito explained that this relates to disposable items not related to technology.

**With all in favor, the motion passed.**

**MOTION:** To reduce the Fire Department Budget by reducing Professional Development, account 1000-00042-4203-53200-000000-0000-000 by (\$3,000),

**Moved:** Councilor Angeloni

**Second:** Councilor Diamond

**With all in favor, the motion passed.**

**MOTION:** To reduce the Fire Department Budget by reducing Other Contractual, account 1000-00042-4203-55990-000000-0000-000 by (\$3,000);

**Moved:** Councilor Angeloni

**Second:** Councilor Abelson

**With all in favor, the motion passed.**

**MOTION:** To reduce the Ambulance Budget by reducing the Subsidy to Ambulance Service Fund , account 1000-00042-4209-58910-000000-0000-000 by (\$100,000);

**Moved:** Councilor Angeloni

**Second:** Councilor Abelson

**With all in favor, the motion passed.**

**MOTION:** To reduce the Public Works Budget by reducing Construction Materials, account

1000-00043-4301-56290-000000-0000-000 by (\$40,000);

**Moved:** Councilor Angeloni

**Second:** Councilor Diamond

**With all in favor, the motion passed.**

**MOTION:** To reduce the Public Works Budget by reducing Other Contractual, account 1000-00043-4301-55990-000000-0000-000 by (\$20,000), for a total reduction of (\$60,000);

**Moved:** Councilor Angeloni

**Second:** Councilor Diamond

**With all in favor, the motion passed.**

There is no itemized list, as these are Department reductions.

**MOTION:** To reduce the Library Budget by reducing Data Processing, account 1000-00045-4501-53510-000000-0000-000 by (\$3,000),

**Moved:** Councilor Angeloni

**Second:** Councilor Diamond

**With all in favor, the motion passed.**

**MOTION:** To reduce the Library Budget by reducing Building Maintenance, account 1000-00045-4501-54301-000000-0000-000 by (\$3,200);

**Moved:** Councilor Angeloni

**Second:** Councilor Diamond

**With all in favor, the motion passed.**

**MOTION:** To reduce the Library Budget by reducing Other Purchased Services, account 1000-00045-4501-55990-000000-0000-000 by (\$3,000),

**Moved:** Councilor Angeloni

**Second:** Councilor Diamond

**With all in favor, the motion passed.**

**MOTION:** To reduce the Library Budget by reducing Cleaning Supplies, account 1000-00045-4501-56010-000000-0000-000 by (\$700)

**Moved:** Councilor Angeloni

**Second:** Councilor Diamond

**With all in favor, the motion passed.**

**MOTION:** To reduce the Library Budget by reducing Technical Supplies 1000-00045-4501-56900-000000-0000-000 by (\$1,500)

**Moved:** Councilor Angeloni

**Second:** Councilor Diamond

**With all in favor, the motion passed.**

**MOTION:** To reduce the Library Budget by reducing by reducing Technical Equipment, account 1000-00045-4501-53510-000000-0000-000 by (\$3,600);

**Moved:** Councilor Angeloni

**Second:** Councilor Diamond

**With all in favor, the motion passed.**

**MOTION:** To reduce the Recreation Budget by reducing Memorial Field, which is not billed to the Recreation Department, account 1000-00045-4503-54411-000000-0000-000 by (\$13,187);

**Moved:** Councilor Angeloni

**Second:** Councilor Diamond

**With all in favor, the motion passed.**

**MOTION:** To reduce the Recreation Budget by reducing Professional Development (NRPA), account 1000-00045-4503-54411-000000-0000-000, by (\$1,183);

**Moved:** Councilor Angeloni

**Second:** Councilor Diamond

**With all in favor, the motion passed.**

**MOTION:** To add to the Refuse by adding the Bulky Waste Proposal per John's Refuse, account 1000-00084-8403-54101-00000-0000-006, for a total of \$95,000;

**Moved:** Councilor Angeloni

**Second:** Councilor Palladino

**With all in favor, the motion passed.**

Mayor Macmillen indicated that this secures the second bulky pickup for this year.

Town Manager Downes reported that the contracted years 3, 4, and 5 will be negotiated.

Councilor Mase indicated that, when this is added, he comes up with a different number.

Councilor Angeloni explained that this is for the addition of this service only.

**MOTION:** To increase Revenue by increasing the Fund Balance Contribution, account 1000-00041-4117-49100-000000-0000-000, for a total of \$125,000;

**Moved:** Councilor Angeloni

**Second:** Councilor Abelson

**With all in favor, the motion passed.**

b. Capital Improvement Plan

<b>Capital Budget (No Impact on MIL Rate)</b>	
Reduce Fire Reserve from Fund Balance (No Engine 1)	(\$175,000)
Reduce Public Works Reserve from Fund Balance (from current savings)	(\$200,000)
Move Police Vehicles from Municipal Project to Other Funding	\$86,000
Add Public Works Building Additional Appropriation - Other funding	\$100,000
Add Temporary Parking Lot at TVP - Other funding	\$50,000
Chipsealing - \$369,000 total (\$75k Fund Balance, \$94k TAR, and \$200k Municipal Project)	\$369,000
Partial Road Reconstruction - move \$50k from LoCIP to Municipal Project	\$0
Drainage- move \$30k from LoCIP to Municipal Project	\$0
Add Atwater Park Rehab (lift) - Other funding	\$75,000



Add Northford Park Rehab - Other funding	\$50,000
Add resurface Memorial Courts	\$77,000

**MOTION:** To approve the items listed in the table above;

**Moved:** Councilor Angeloni

**Second:** Deputy Mayor Zampano

**With all in favor, the motion passed.**

c. Education

Questions were provided to the Superintendent and returned to the Town Hall today. Of interest were the split of utilities, the Special Education PreK program, three years of line item transfers, budgeting for field maintenance, (which, Superintendent Schoonmaker indicated was a “no”), and the possible option to rent the old Silly Putty factory.

Councilor Abelson asked who would maintain the building.

Superintendent Schoonmaker indicated that the Board of Education would.

**MOTION:** To appropriate any funds received from the Special Education Cost Grant will be provided to the Board of Education Operating Budget, for the use in the FY 22-23, account #1000-0047-4700-0000-0000-5590;

**Moved:** Councilor Angeloni

**Second:** Deputy Mayor Zampano

**With all in favor, the motion passed.**

Councilor Angeloni indicated that 75% of this was distributed in February, which was just over \$200k. The remaining 25% should be delivered in May.

**MOTION:** To appropriate any funds received from the Special Education Cost Grant will be provided to the Board of Education Operating Budget, for the use in the FY 23-24, account #1000-0047-4700-0000-0000-5590;

**Moved:** Councilor Angeloni

**Second:** Deputy Mayor Zampano

**With all in favor, the motion passed.**

It is impossible to know what the exact amount of the Special Education Cost Grant will be in future years.

**MOTION:** To increase the Board of Education Budget, account #1000-00047-4700-00000-000-55990, by \$665,000;

**Moved:** Councilor Angeloni  
**Second:** Deputy Mayor Zampano

Councilor Mase asked why there is a reduction for the Board of Education.

Councilor Angeloni explained that each Department was asked to reduce their budget proposals to help minimize the tax burden on residents. This was discussed with the Board of Education stakeholders, and given the previous two motions, the Board of Education is receiving about a million dollars.

Mayor Macmillen thanked all of the Departments for going through their budgets.

Councilor Mase asked that more be provided to the Board of Education, as he believes a million and a half would be best.

Mayor Macmillen responded that a great deal of time and thought went into these decisions and a happy medium was found. The reality is, this Council needs to be judicious.

Councilor Goad provided perspective on the Board of Education Budget as compared to the entire Town Budget. The entire Town Budget is \$62,911,822 and the Board of Education Budget is \$35,600,000, which is over half of the entire budget. Additionally, the Town is building a brand new high school, which will cost \$75,000,000.

Councilor Mase countered that the State provided some funds, and this project is bonded.

Councilor Diamond responded that she discussed concerns regarding any cuts made to the Board of Education Budget and appreciates that she was not only heard, but her concerns were taken into consideration. She indicated that the Board of Education is okay with this Budget and she thanked the Council members for their due diligence.

Councilor Abelson commented that approximately a million dollars is going to the Board of Education.

Councilor Angeloni called to question.

**Vote:** 8-1

**Yes:** Mayor Macmillen, Deputy Mayor Zampano, Councilor Abelson, Councilor Angeloni, Councilor Diamond, Councilor Goad, Councilor Palladino, and Councilor Pelliccia

**No:** Councilor Mase

**The motion passed.**

### 3. Minutes of Previous Meeting

- a. April 4, 2023 - Special WPCA & Town Council Meeting (7:00 p.m.)

**MOTION:** To approve the April 4, 2023 - Special WPCA & Town Council Meeting (7:00 p.m.)

**Moved:** Councilor Angeloni

**Second:** Deputy Mayor Zampano

**With all in favor, the motion passed.**

- b. April 4, 2023 - Budget Hearing (8:00 p.m.)

**MOTION:** To approve the April 4, 2023 - Special WPCA & Town Council Meeting (7:00 p.m.)

**Moved:** Councilor Angeloni

**Second:** Deputy Mayor Zampano

**With all in favor, the motion passed.**

- c. April 6, 2023 - Special Town Council Meeting

**MOTION:** To approve the April 4, 2023 - Special WPCA & Town Council Meeting (7:00 p.m.)

**Moved:** Councilor Angeloni

**Second:** Deputy Mayor Zampano

**With all in favor, the motion passed.**

4. Reports of Committees, Boards and Commissions:

- a. Economic Development Commission: Councilor Palladino reported that the next meeting is Monday, May 1, 2023.
- b. Park & Recreation: Councilor Angeloni reported that the next meeting is April 25, 2023.
- c. Police Commission: Councilor Diamond indicated that the meeting was canceled. The Chief asked her to share that, on April 3, Dispatcher Zercie received a call regarding a 9-month old infant that was unresponsive. He provided pre arrival CPR instructions to the caller, while dispatching the Police, Fire, and EMS to the scene. Fire Chief Anthony Esposito and Officer Timothy Cunningham are credited with performing life-saving measures on the infant, who was taken to the hospital and is expected to make a full recovery.

Additionally, on April 6, the 911 Center was called reporting a woman in active labor. Dispatcher Zercie was able to talk the callers through the delivery.

- d. Fire Commission: Councilor Pelliccia reported that there are no updates, currently. He will provide and update at the next meeting.

- e. **Planning & Zoning Commission:** Deputy Mayor Zampano indicated the April 21, 2023.
- f. **Finance Subcommittee:** Councilor Angeloni reported there was no meeting. The next meeting will be held on the 2nd Tuesday in May.
- g. **Public Safety Communications Sub-Committee:** Councilor Diamond indicated that March 29, 2023 meeting. They are waiting on a notice to proceed for the towers. They are on schedule, but need to wait for the notice.
- h. **CIWWA:** Councilor Diamond reported that there was a meeting on March 22, 2023. A Cease and Desist was lifted after the homeowner agreed to make the necessary changes. There is a culvert that needs to be replaced. There is a homeowners guide being developed to help people understand the responsibilities involved in protecting the inland wetlands and watercourses. The South West Conservation has completed the report for Disc Golf.

## 5. Town Manager's Report

### a. General Updates

Our New Tax Collector Gerri Winnick started work with us effective April 10th. That was 8 days ago and she is still here so that's a good sign. Town Manager Downes introduced her to the Council.

**Website:** Town Manager Downes is pleased to report that the new Town website is complete and will be launched tomorrow.

Last night there was a public tour of the new high school building. It was terrific to see so many members of the public and so many fellow NBHS alumni coming to bid farewell to the old and to witness the impressive brand new building. Tours were given to visitors by students over the course of two hours.

Our Park and Rec Department is sponsoring our annual Junk in your Trunk event on Saturday, April 29th, from 8:30am to 12:30 pm at the STW parking Lot where you can sell tag sale items from the trunk of your car. You can bring your own table to display your goods- register by April 26 at nbrecreation.com – fee is \$10 per parking space.

Park and Rec is also sponsoring a Touch-A-Truck event on May 20th from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm (with a quiet time of 12:30 – 1:00 pm) at the STW Parking Lot.

Our springtime bulky waste collection is underway this week, on the date of your regular collection. Items can be placed curbside up to a week before your collection date. Bulky waste includes tree limbs, tree branches, scrap wood, rugs (these items and rugs all need to be less than 4 feet long, no thicker than 4 inches

and need to be bundled and tied), couches, mattresses, box springs, picnic tables and wooden furniture. No scrap vehicle parts, No home cleanouts.

The North Branford Rotary Club is sponsoring a paper-shredding event on May 6th at Town Hall between the hours of 9 am and 12 pm. If you have old documents or clutter you need to dispose of the cost is \$10 a banker's box.

b. **Permanent Project Building Committee**

**Stanley T. Williams Community Center** – The job is proceeding with an anticipated conclusion April 30th, which is ahead of schedule. As noted previously to the Council, there were some disruptions to programs there last week as a result of debris from the roof rips, but the facility is open and programs taking place as scheduled now.

**Police Department and EOC** - Sitework at the location continues and the concrete slab is expected to be poured on May 1st.

**North Branford Intermediate School** -the project has been advertised with the opening date extended to May 3rd.

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**North Branford High School** – students had their first day of school in the new high school yesterday, and as mentioned earlier a tour of the new facility for the public was provided from 6-8pm. The punch list is being worked through. Phase 2 abatement will be performed the remainder of this month and into May, with the demo of the remaining section of the high school to begin at the end of May.

6. **Community Events and Presentations:**

a. **Earth Day Proclamation:**

Mayor Macmillen, with the Town Council, proclaimed April 22, 2023 as Earth Day in the Town of North Branford and .

7. **Citizens' Statements and Petitions and Correspondence:**

Bill Savastano, Northford, announced that on Opening Day at Wall Field, an Earth Day Awareness booth will be set up giving away 6-packs of sunflowers which can be planted around Mother's Day. He carried a sign reminding people to resist mowing their lawns during May when dandelions help pollinate.

Jeanie Salzo, Northford, requested, with respect, that the Town Council considers freezing taxes for senior citizens who are struggling to make ends meet given the increases. She provided Town Manager Downes a petition with 60 signatures requesting this freeze.

Councilor ase agreed with Ms. Salzo.

Mr. Savastano added that he would like to see a cap for taxing the elderly. Also, he finds it disheartening when people use the bulky waste for mattresses when a free service, manned by volunteers, is provided three times a year. The cost of bulky waste may not be so prohibitive if people followed the guidelines.

Councilor Mase requested information on the procedure for the petition.

Mayor Macmillen indicated that a Committee may be useful and asked if Councilor Mase would chair this Committee.

Councilor Mase will do so and would need to know the procedures.

Town Attorney LeClerc indicated that according to the Charter, an Ordinance would need to be proposed. At this point, it is just a petition. Within a specific time frame, an Ordinance request would need to be submitted.

Previous Mayor, Bob Viglione shared that he speaks with elderly people at his shop often, as 80% of his clientele are seniors. Many are having trouble paying for food, medicine and their rent. Most have been in Town for over 50 years and will need to leave unless something is done to help.

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Cliff Potter, Northford, is concerned about Commission members and asked if any training is provided.

Mayor Macmillen explained that people are recommended by the DNC and RNC and voted in by the Town Council. There is no formal training.

Councilor Angeloni indicated that classes were given in the past, but mainly explained procedures.

Mr. Potter indicated that he would like people to step up and help rather than chastising residents.

Councilor Diamond offered that a note can be sent to the Chairs to review procedure and expectations of new members.

Mayor Macmillen thought this was a good idea and suggested that this be shared with the DNC and RNC, also.

#### 8. Resignations and Appointments:

- a. Reappointment of Frank Brigano (R) to the Conservation & IWWA (term to expire 12-31-2024)

**MOTION:** To approve the reappointment of Frank Brigano (R) to the Conservation & IWWA (term to expire 12-31-2024);

**Moved:** Councilor Angeloni

**Second:** Councilor Goad

**With all in favor, the motion passed.**

- b. Reappointment of Ron Siena (R) to the Planning & Zoning (term to expire 05-31-2026)

**MOTION:** To approve the reappointment of Ron Siena (R) to the Planning & Zoning (term to expire 05-31-2026);

**Moved:** Councilor Angeloni

**Second:** Councilor Goad

**With all in favor, the motion passed.**

9. Unfinished Business: Discussion and Action:

- a. Discussion and action to create a Town Blueprint Committee to advise, assist, and formulate execution of the Town Plan and Blueprint

This will be put on the Agenda for the second meeting in May.

- b. Review of Trash/Recycling Contract - John's Refuse

This will be put on the Agenda for the first meeting in May.

- c. Review of Inter-Municipal Animal Control Agreement

This will be put on the Agenda for the first meeting in May.

- d. Discussion: Creation of an 1831 Committee

This will be put on the Agenda for the first meeting in May.

10. New Business: Discussion and Action

- a. Proposed Ordinance #2023 - 1 amends Chapter 213 of the Code of North Branford entitled "Taxation"

At a few prior meetings, the Town Council discussed, held a public hearing in February on proposed changes and referred this item to the Finance Committee for review. The recommended change is in Section 213-9 D, concerning qualifying income threshold was recommended to be moved from \$42,500 to \$50,000 for individuals, and from \$52,50 to \$61,000 for joint filers. Also, recommended is a change in Section 213-10.

**MOTION:**

**BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED** that the amendments to Section 213-9D, 213-10, and 213-17 be and are hereby approved, with the amount of tax relief set forth in Section 213-10, increased from \$300 per property to \$500 per property effective July 1, 2023, and increase to \$700 per property effective July 1, 2024.

**Moved:** Councilor Angeloni

**Second:** Deputy Mayor Zampano

**Discussion:** Councilor Goad asked if this would go away if a tax freeze was done.

Councilor Angeloni indicated that it would depend on the circumstance.

Town Attorney LeClerc indicated that this is not a simple discussion and there are a great number of possibilities and options.

**Roll Call Vote: 9-0**

**With all in favor, the motion passed.**

b. Discussion and Action: Disposal of Surplus BOE Property

According to the Capital Assets Policy of the Town of North Branford, Disposal of Assets "will require approval of the Town Manager and completion of the Fixed Asset Disposal Form. In no circumstances may an asset be disposed of without prior approval."

Building Maintenance Supervisor Florio explained that the circumstances changed and all of the items in the gymnasium needed to be removed from the building. Whatever could be disbursed to other schools and Town Departments was done. Organizations were contacted to help liquidate, without response. East Haven High School took 100 students' desks. Hamden took the old, Version 1, SmartBoards, which we would have to pay to get rid of. Parochial school took some white boards. Friends of Kenya, though, looked at the library furniture. Currently, there are student chairs and the like. Building Maintenance Supervisor Florio will provide the tags for the remaining.

Councilor Angeloni indicated that the paperwork should have been filled out.

Councilor Abelson indicated that there is another organization that he will contact.

Town Manager Downes appreciates the position that Building Maintenance Supervisor Florio was put in. He has not received any documentation at this point.



Deputy Mayor Zampano asked that the Town Manager reach out to Superintendent Schoonmaker, which the Town Manager indicated that he had done.

c. Purchasing Policy - Piggyback Bid for Pavement Preservation

Town Engineer Benni explained that the Town of North Branford Ordinances, specifically, Purchasing, Section 84-12, which provides for the Town Council by majority vote, to authorize the Purchasing Agent to purchase nonprofessional services from a vendor who is the lowest bidder for a like purchase by another public agency. The Connecticut Department of Transportation solicited a bid for Rubberized Chip Seal using competitive bid procedures like those of the Town. Town Engineer Benni recommends utilizing the bid results for the work proposed in the upcoming paving season. Based on the quote, the Rubberized Chip Seal process would be in excess of \$265,000.

**MOTION:** That the North Branford Town Council authorizes the Purchasing to purchase nonprofessional services from Comer Contracting, Inc. to complete a Rubberized Chip Seal pavement preservation process on town wide roads, utilizing the low bid rate provided through the competitive bid process by CT DOT for Rubberized Chip Seal (Project 0174-0460), for the 2023 paving season.

**Moved:** Councilor Angeloni

**Second:** Deputy Mayor Zampano

**Discussion:** Councilor Mase indicated that the motion issues "town wide roads", but should provide the specific roads.

Town Engineer Benni indicated that he can provide road lists, however, this is going to change.

**With all in favor, the motion passed.**

d. Confirmation of the appointment of Mr. Rory Burke as Assistant Town Manager

**MOTION:** Motion by Councilor Angeloni: Pursuant to Article VI, Sec. 3 of the Charter of the Town of North Branford, the Town Council hereby confirms the Town Manager's appointment of Rory Burke of New Haven, Connecticut, to serve as Assistant Town Manager with an annual salary of \$94,000, and a start date of May 1, 2023.

**Motion:** Councilor Angeloni

**Roll Call Vote:** 7-1

**Yes:** Mayor Macmillen, Deputy Mayor Zampano, Councilor Abelson, Councilor Angeloni, Councilor Diamond, Councilor Goad, and Councilor Palladino

**No:** Councilor Mase

**Absent:** Councilor Pelliccia

e. Financial Report 03-31-23:

Town Treasurer/ Finance Director Esposito indicated that the numbers are typical. The auditor can be scheduled for a May meeting. The report is unremarkable.

f. Contingency Appropriation

**MOTION:** That the Town Manager is hereby authorized to appropriate from reserve for contingency, Account #1000-00098-9800-0000-0000-59510-000000-00000-000 for \$36,000;

**Moved:** Councilor Angeloni

**Second:** Councilor Palladino

**Discussion:** Councilor Abelson asked if this was handled.

Councilor Angeloni indicated that nothing was moved forward, although there was a discussion.

**With all in favor, the motion passed.**

g. Appropriation Transfer

**MOTION:** That the North Branford Town Council hereby approves the following \*appropriation transfers, as recommended by the Town Manager and the Treasurer/ Finance Director;

**Moved:** Councilor Angeloni

**Second:** Deputy Mayor Zampano

**With all in favor, the motion passed.**

\*Zoning Board of Appeals: from #10000-4155-53200 for \$300 and #1000-4155-56900 for \$50, to #100-4155-5540 for a total of \$350.

h. Tax Refunds

**MOTION:** To approve the Tax Refunds presented;

**Moved:** Councilor Angeloni

**Second:** Deputy Mayor Zampano

**Discussion:** Councilor Diamond asked why there is so much being given back to Frontier.

Frontier overpaid a few years ago and is due this refund.

**With all in favor, the motion passed.**

i. Finalization of the 2023 - 2024 Operating Budget

i. Ratification of Town Recommended Budget 2023-2024 FY

**MOTION: BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED** that the North Branford Town Council hereby adopts the proposed Operating Budget for the 2023-24 fiscal year, as amended, and recommends that same to the Budget Referendum at the attached appropriation levels and be it hereby further resolved that the Treasurer/ Finance Director is authorized to make any mathematical adjustments that be required to balance the budget. The numbers are as follows:

Town Government Operations:	\$20,712,633
Board of Education:	\$33,400,714
Capital Improvements:	\$222,304
Debt Service:	\$4,886,851
Fund Balance for Capital:	\$652,000

**TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS: \$59,874,502**

Non-tax Revenue:	\$4,250,272
State Grants for Education:	\$7,112,086
Fund Balance Applied:	\$725,000
Fund Balance - Capital Appropriation:	\$652,000
Local Elderly Tax Credit:	-\$100,000
Amount to Be Raised by Taxes: Assuming a 98.5% collection rated	\$47,235,144

**TOTAL REVENUES: \$59,874,502**

**Motion:** Councilor Angeloni

**Second:** Deputy Mayor Zampano

**Vote:** 8-1

**Yes:** Mayor Macmillen, Deputy Mayor Zampano, Councilor Abelson, Councilor Angeloni, Councilor Diamond, Councilor Goad, Councilor Palladino, and Councilor Pelliccia

**No:** Councilor Mase

**The motion passed.**

\*Councilor Pelliccia left the meeting during a break in the meeting.

ii. Approval of advisory Budget Referendum Question 2023-2024 FY

**MOTION:** In accordance with Section C8-5 of the Charter of the Town of North Branford, the Town Council hereby approves the following advisory referendum question for the FY 2023-2024 Budget:

“Shall the Town Council Recommended Budget of \$59,874,502, which will require a mill rate of 34.52 mills, be adopted?”

**Vote: 7-1**

**Yes:** Mayor Macmillen, Deputy Mayor Zampano, Councilor Abelson, Councilor Angeloni, Councilor Diamond, Councilor Goad, and Councilor Palladino.

**No:** Councilor Mase

**Absent:** Councilor Pelliccia

**The motion passed.**

11. Citizens' Statements and Petitions:

Cliff Potter of Northford would like to recommend the East Haven Dog Pound.

Bill Savastano of Northford thanked the Council for the efforts put forth in the budget. He would like the tax to be \$700 beginning this year. He watched Guilford meetings, and they revisit this issue every January. He would like this to be the policy in North Branford.

Councilor Goad thanked Councilor Angeloni for all of her work on the budget.

**MOTION:** To move into Executive Session to include the Town Manager and Town Attorney at 9:40 p.m.

**Moved:** Councilor Angeloni

**Second:** Councilor Abelson

**With all in favor, the motion passed.**

**Absent:** Councilor Pelliccia

12. Executive Session: CGS: 1-200 (C) (6) (A) Personnel

**MOTION:** To exit Executive Session to include the Town Manager and Town Attorney at 10:01 p.m.

**Vote to exit Executive Session - 10:01 p.m.**

**Motion:** Councilor Diamond

**Second:** Deputy Mayor Zampano

**VOTE:** 8-0

**Absent:** Councilor Pelliccia

**The motion passed.**

13. Adjournment:

**MOTION:** To adjourn at 10:03 p.m.;

**Motion:** Councilor Diamond

**Second:** Councilor Palladino

**With all in favor, the motion passed.**

**Absent:** Councilor Pelliccia

Respectfully Submitted by;

*Michele Pollock*

*4-19-2023*

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**Town Council Clerk**

**Date**