

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  
TOWN MANAGER (203) 484-6000 TOWN HALL FAX (203) 484-6025

## MINUTES TOWN COUNCIL MEETING OF NORTH BRANFORD, CONNECTICUT

Tuesday, May 16, 2023

Town Council Chambers  
**7:00 p.m.**

Mayor Macmillen called the meeting to order at 7:05 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, and Town Attorney LeClerc.

### 2. Minutes of Previous Meeting:

- a. May 2, 2023 — WPCA & Town Council Meeting

**Motion:** To approve the WPCA & Town Council Meeting minutes dated May 2, 2023;

**Moved:** Councilor Angeloni

**Second:** Councilor Diamond

**Discussion:** None

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

**Abstain:** Councilor Palladino

## REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

### 3. Community Events and Presentations:

- a. Presentation from Town of Branford: Dan Cosgrove Animal Shelter

First Selectman Jim Cosgrove introduced Ms. Laura Burban and Mr. Jim Finch and the changes in the amendment with North Branford that occurred in 2013 and again in 2019. A decision was made to wait until the conclusion of the Capital Campaign until final

numbers were available. Town Manager Downes, Mayor Macmillen, Mr. Cosgrove, Ms. Burban, and Mr. Finch met to discuss the agreement and prospective amendments.

The agreements were based on per capita and shared between Branford and North Branford. The most recent discussion proposed to waive the capital contribution for the expansion project and the bill will be based on actual expenses per capita. The amount for FY2023 would be held flat to establish a baseline. This baseline would change yearly based on the CPI. This agreement has not been finalized.

Ms. Burban discussed the changes that were made to improve the facility, minimize any stress that the animals may feel in response to individual circumstances, and the appreciation that is shared with the Dan Cosgrove Animal Shelter staff by people that have benefitted from services provided. She shared a video of the many varied critters that were helped by the shelter.

Ms. Stephanie Malkin introduced herself and explained that she had been scheduled to attend and provide a report quarterly. This schedule was disrupted by COVID. The Cosgrove Shelter has provided more care than would be provided by other shelters.

Hunter Provicher of Old Post Road, Northford and 2021 North Branford graduate, shared his experience working at the Dan Cosgrove Animal Shelter given the numerous opportunities and hands-on interactive experiences provided to residents of Branford and North Branford. He encouraged everyone to vote in favor of maintaining the agreement between North Branford and the Dan Cosgrove Shelter.

State ACO of the area, Charles DellaRocco, is an “outsider looking in” and believes the Shelter is a cutting edge facility. He does not believe that stepping away from the Dan Cosgrove Animal Shelter is a good move for North Branford.

Mayor Macmillen indicated that work needs to be done on the Council’s behalf. The primary consideration, at this time, is the economic aspect. He would suggest that a proposal be developed for our Town Attorney’s review.

b. Presentation on Community Dining Room by Judy Barron and Dan Armin

Mr. Dan Armin, the Chair of the Community Dining Room introduced Judy Barron who explained the services provided. This is a local soup kitchen that has been working for 23 years to support those in need. 500 meals per week are served and over 40 residents in North Branford are utilizing the services at no cost to them.

c. Presentation by Charles Larkins on “Honor Them with a Flag”

Charles Larkin introduced himself and outlined the “Honor Them with a Flag” celebration to be held at 7:00 p.m. on June 14, 2023 on the lawn of the Town Hall. This celebration is designed to recognize and demonstrate the appreciation for our Veterans, First Responders and other public service members.

d. Proclamation on “Older Americans Month”

This Proclamation is to name the month of May 2023 Older Americans Month and to recognize the contributions of older citizens to help create an inclusive society and to support the choices available for the older Americans of our community.

Mayor Macmillen proclaimed May 2023 to be Older Americans Month. He urged every resident to recognize the contributions of our older citizens, help to create an inclusive society, and join efforts to support older Americans' choices about how they age in their communities.

**Motion:** To Amend the Agenda to add item 7.a. Appointment of Adam Canosa to the Permanent Project Building Committee, term to expire 11/30/2025.

**Moved:** Councilor Palladino

**Second:** Councilor Mase

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

4. Reports of Committees, Boards and Commissions:

- a. Economic Development Commission: Councilor Palladino reported that he was unable to attend and will present from the minutes at the next meeting.
- b. Park & Recreation: Councilor Angeloni reported that there was no meeting due to lack of quorum.
- c. Police Commission: Councilor Diamond was not able to attend. Information will be provided at an upcoming meeting.
- d. Fire Commission: Councilor Pelliccia reported that this week is Law Enforcement Week and thanked our outstanding Police Department. He reported a number of members of the Fire Department and EMT that were recognized for outstanding work.
- e. Planning & Zoning Commission: Deputy Mayor Zampano reported that the next meeting will be held on May 18, 2023.
- f. Finance Subcommittee: Councilor Angeloni indicated that the next meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 13, 2023.
- g. Public Safety Communications Sub-Committee: Councilor Diamond explained that there are difficulties with the Northford Tower. Town Manager Downes reported that the tower is on property that was probated. A discussion with Wallingford Electric is underway and will, hopefully, resolve any issues so that electricity can be provided to the Tower.
- h. CIWWA: Councilor Diamond shared the brochure developed by the CIWWA to help inform people regarding the responsibilities and regulations required to protect the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses. The next meeting is scheduled for next Wednesday.

5. Town Manager's Report

a. General Report

The town of North Branford 's Budget Referendum was held on May 9th, 2023. The question was “shall the Town Council Recommended Budget of \$59,874,502, which requires a rate of 34.52 mills be adopted?” Voters are given three choices- to accept the budget, to reject it because it is too high, and to reject it because it is too low.

196 voters cast ballots in the referendum. 138 rejected it as too high, 13 rejected it as too low, and 47 accepted the budget. 15% of registered voters must turn out for the referendum to be binding, and in this instance 2.1% of voters turned out, therefore, the budget as recommended by the Council has passed.

The COVID-19 pandemic has been declared over as a public health emergency, and we have officially entered an endemic phase. This, of course, does not mean that there is no longer a threat from the virus- it remains a leading cause of death in the United States with approximately 250 deaths due to the disease recorded daily. Our infection rate in North Branford has thankfully been extremely low for several months running.

The end of the public health emergency means that free test kits from state, local and federal resources will be drying up, and after June 30th, COVID testing will no longer be free, but paid for by an individual's health insurance.

Here in North Branford we just received a new shipment of COVID-19 rapid home tests from East Shore District Health Department, and this is likely the last free round we will have available. These tests are available at my office in Town Hall, the Park and Rec front desk, and our Libraries. These tests are the Intelliswab home tests with two per box, and they expire in August of this year, so any resident interested in picking them up should do so soon.

The town's Memorial Day Parade will be held on Monday May 29th at 10:00 AM in the North Branford section of town.

The committee has selected Zac Canada as our Grand Marshal for this year's parade. Mr. Canada is a distinguished Army National Guard veteran of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, and is also, as you all know, a member of the North Branford Board of Education. Among his numerous decorations are the Bronze Star, Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal and the Army Achievement Medal.

For such a patriotic event, Town Manager Downes suggests that Zac Canada change his name to “Zac America”. He refused for some reason. But we will be honored to have him serve as our Grand Marshal during this year's parade.

The invitation is extended to everyone who wishes to March on that day. Groups will form on commerce drive off of route 80 at 9:00 o'clock AM the parade line will start at 9:30 AM and step off at 10:00 AM sharp. The parade will proceed East on route 80 toward the North Branford Congregational Church. Anyone who has a family member or acquaintance who is a deceased veteran is invited to carry a picture of that person in our Memorial Day parade to honor their memory.

All are invited to company #1 Firehouse at 1531 Foxon road after the ceremony for refreshments. Again, special thanks go to Kathy Poston and Gina Cox who are once again organizing the parade with the critical support of our public works police and fire department

who are all working to make this event a success.

This week marks National Police Week- Town Manager Downes and the Council thanks those who serve North Branford and our region in law enforcement- we are lucky enough to have two law enforcement officers here as members of the Council. The week began with Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Day on May 15th – this day was established under President Kennedy as a day to pay special recognition to those law enforcement officers who gave their lives in the line of duty for the safety and protection of others.

Congratulations are in order for the North Branford Land Conservation Trust, Inc. who successfully applied for a \$385,450 state grant for the preservation of 37 acres. The funds are intended to obtain and preserve two Regional Water Authority Class II forested watershed parcels on Beech Street and Poms Lane. The Trust will create trails and an 8-12 car parking area with a bike rack. At the Beech Street property two ADA accessible parking spaces and a wheelchair accessible path leading to a vernal pool will be built.

Our Park and Rec Department is sponsoring our annual touch a truck event on May 20th from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM with a quiet time of 12:30 to 1:00 o'clock PM at the Stanley T. Williams parking lot.

There are two items in your folders this evening- a copy of our new Abuse and Molestation Prevention Policy for Municipal Employees for your information, and a collection of some clips relative to the North Branford Sesquicentennial of 1981. At the last Council Meeting, Town Manager Downes was asked to put together some of the items the Town Clerk's office has in their vault about the organization that was done for this celebration of North Branford's 150th anniversary as you consider how to structure the observances of our upcoming 200th. The packet in Council members' folders has some news clips as well as a schedule of events that took place. There is much more in our holdings including minutes from all of the committee meetings, receipts, contracts, a program souvenir book, photos and more.

b. PPBC

Stanley T Williams Community Center – project remains 90% complete and the roof is finished. We are still awaiting the fascia and caps. Project is expected to be fully complete in mid June.

Police Department in EOC -site work at the location continues.

North Branford Intermediate School -this project has been advertised and the bids will be open tomorrow.

North Branford High School - items on the punch list continue to be worked through. All the old furniture has been removed, and any excess will be removed the week of May 22. The abatement work continues at the remaining portion of the old high school and the demolition is expected toward the end of the month.

6. Citizens' Statements and Petitions and Correspondence:

Clifford Potter of Northford commented that people were comfortable with the budget that was

presented, given the efforts of the Council, especially Councilor Angeloni. This may be why a large number of people did not turn out to vote. He also thanked David Palumbo and Andy Bozzuto for their efforts in moving the furniture from the High School. Mr. Potter would like Senator Cohen to be present and to acknowledge the issues and crime taking place.

He reported that State Representative Candelora discussed the decreasing bail required by alleged criminals. He is unhappy with the Democratic Party's lack of commitment towards reducing crime.

7. Resignations and Appointments:

- a. Appointment of Adam Canosa to the Permanent Project Building Committee, term to expire 11/30/2025.

**Motion:** To appoint Adam Canosa to the spot vacated by Robert Whitworth to fulfill the remainder of the term to expire 11/30/2025.

**Moved:** Councilor Palladino

**Second:** Councilor Abelson

**Discussion:** Councilor Mase thanked Paladino for bringing Mr. Canosa forth.

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

8. 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.

**Motion:** To create a Town Blueprint Committee as set forth by Resolution No. 1-23 with the date to report findings extended to March 31, 2024;

RESOLUTION NO. 1-23

**A RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH A TOWN BLUEPRINT COMMITTEE**

**WHEREAS**, the Town Council of North Branford is establishing a Blueprint Committee for the purpose of evaluating previous Town land use studies, developing a scope for the future land use study requested by the Town Council, and to recommend a plan for the comprehensive use of all Town properties to the Town Council; and

**WHEREAS**, it is desired that this committee should be composed of two (2) members of the Town Council, one (1) member from the Planning and Zoning Commission, one (1) member from the Parks and Recreation Commission, one (1) member from the Economic Development Commission, and two (2) electors from the Town, one each from Northford and North Branford. The following individuals will serve as ex officio members without a vote: the Mayor, the Town Manager (or his/her designee) and the Director of Public Works (or his/her designee); and

**WHEREAS**, this committee, once convened, shall at its organizational

meeting elect its Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary, and establish its schedule of meeting times; and

**WHEREAS**, this committee is directed to report out its findings to the Town Council no later than March 31, 2024; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the North Branford Town Council that there is hereby created a Blueprint Committee;

**AND, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Town Council is empowered to appoint the membership of this committee. All members of the committee shall serve without compensation. The committee may appoint sub-committees if it deems it necessary.

**AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Blueprint Committee shall not enter into any contract that binds the Town of North Branford. The committee shall meet at least quarterly and provide reports and updates to the Town Council as necessary.

**AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that this action shall be effective upon the date of its passage.

**PASSED** this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2023.

**ATTEST:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Lisa A. VALENTI**  
Town Clerk

**Moved:** Councilor Angeloni  
**Seconded:** Deputy Mayor Zampano  
**With all in favor, the motion passed.**

b. Discussion: Creation of an 1831 Committee

This item will be discussed at the meeting on June 20, 2023.

9. New Business: Discussion and Action:

a. Discussion and action on Inter-Municipal Animal Control Agreement:

**Motion:** To postpone this to the next meeting;

**Moved:** Councilor Goad

**Seconded:** Councilor Angeloni

**Discussion:** Councilor Diamond believes this should be moved to the June 2, meeting.

Councilor Abelson would like a report from the Shelter. Also, he would like a year contract.

Deputy Mayor Zampano asked for amounts from East Haven and Branford.

2023

three

two  
used to  
side

Town Manager Downes indicated that East Haven proposed \$135k for the next years and Branford proposed \$157, 600 for 2023 and then the CPI will be determine amounts. Once the proposal from Branford is outlined, a side by side comparison will be brought forward.

b. Discussion and action on Trash/Recycling Contract — John's Refuse

**Motion:** To authorize the Town Manager to sign the proposed contract amendment to the June 30, 2021, refuse collection contract with John's Refuse adjusting the bulky waste collection for years three, four, and five of the contract, for a total amount each year for refuse collection as indicated:

Year 3: \$1,408,281

Year 4: \$1,451,113

Year 5: \$1,494,766

**Moved:** Councilor Angeloni

**Seconded:** Deputy Mayor Zampano

**Discussion:** This is keeping the bulky waste collection at twice per year.

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

\*See Attachment #1, pages 1 and 2.

c. Financial Report 04-30-23

Town Treasurer/ Financial Director Esposito reviewed the report and explained that this is now being done electronically for the auditor.

d. Appropriation Transfers

**Motion:** To accept the appropriation transfers as presented;

**Moved:** Councilor Angeloni

**Seconded:** Deputy Mayor Zampano

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

e. Approval of Tax Refunds

**Motion:** To approve the tax refunds;

**Moved:** Councilor Angeloni

**Seconded:** Deputy Mayor Zampano

**Discussion:** This is keeping the bulky waste collection at twice per year.

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

f. Setting the Mill Rate for FY 2023-2024 and signing of the Rate Book

Based on the outcome of the referendum Tuesday, May 9, 2023, the Town Council Recommended budget can be adopted "as is".

**Motion: BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED** that the North Branford Town Council



hereby sets the mill rate for the 2023-24 fiscal year at 34.52 mills for real estate and personal property and 32.46 mills for motor vehicles; and further authorizes Michael P. Downes, Town Manager, to sign the Rate Book for the collection of taxes on July 1, 2023 and January 1, 2024.

**Moved:** Councilor Angeloni

**Second:** Councilor Diamond

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

**Abstained:** Councilor Mase

10. Citizens' Statements and Petitions:

Mr. Potter is concerned that the State wants more control over our money.

Robert Whitworth thanked the Council for entrusting him to the CIWWA.

11. Adjournment:

**Motion:** To adjourn at 9:05 p.m.;

**Moved:** Councilor Diamond

**Second:** Councilor Abelson

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

Respectfully Submitted by;

Michele Pollock

5-18-2023

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Town Council Clerk

Date