

Annual Town Meeting
Town of Stafford
May 9, 2023

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4 pages

Anna J. Titus
TOWN CLERK

First Selectman Salverio "Sal" Titus called the Annual Town Meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. in the John Julian Great Room of the Stafford Community Center. Approximately thirty-five electors and those eligible to vote in Town Meetings were present.

First Selectman Titus led the assemblage in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

Beth Dadalt nominated Edward Muska as Moderator of the Town Meeting. David Walsh seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote, and Edward Muska was named Moderator of the Town Meeting.

Joseph Lorenzetti made a motion to waive the call of the meeting, which was duly posted on April 26, 2023 in the Journal Inquirer and with the Town Clerk on that same day. A copy of the call of the meeting was also made available to the residents upon entering the Town Meeting. Fran Moriarty seconded the motion. With no dissension noted, Moderator Muska declared the motion adopted.

Moderator Muska presented the following resolution unanimously approved by the Board of Selectmen at their April 24, 2023 meeting:

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN THAT, pursuant to Connecticut General Statute Section 7-7, the Board of Selectmen hereby removes item number 1 of the call of the Town Meeting properly noticed for May 9, 2023 at 6:30 pm in the Stafford Community Center, Stafford, Connecticut, for submission to the voters at a referendum to be held on May 16, 2023 between the hours of 6:00 am and 8:00 pm in the Stafford Public Library, 10 Levinthal Run, Stafford, Connecticut. Persons qualified to vote in Town Meetings who are not electors shall also vote in the Stafford Public Library. Absentee ballots will be available from the Town Clerk's Office.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that said Resolution shall be placed upon the voting machines or the ballot under the following heading:

QUESTION 1. SHALL THE TOWN OF STAFFORD APPROVE A BUDGET IN THE AMOUNT of \$47,151,285.00 AS APPROVED AND RECOMMENDED BY THE BOARD OF FINANCE FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2023 AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2024

Voters approving said Resolution will vote "YES" and those opposing said Resolution will vote "NO".

Moderator Muska opened the floor for discussion. Hearing no discussion, Moderator Muska then stated that Item #2 to appropriate the funds necessary to administer the Town of Stafford FY 2023/2024 budget would be tabled until the reconvened Town Meeting following the referendum vote on May 16, 2023.

Richard Hartenstein Jr. proposed the following motion:

“I move that the Town of Stafford approve two semi-annual installments on the Town of Stafford real estate list, motor vehicle list, and personal property list of October 1, 2022, payment due July 1, 2023 and January 1, 2024. Taxes due under \$200.00 to be paid in one installment due July 1, 2023.”

Beth DaDalt seconded the motion. After a voice vote, Moderator Muska declared the motion approved.

Stephanie Irving proposed the following motion:

“I move that the Town of Stafford authorize the Tax Collector pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes 12-144c to waive the payment of any property tax due in the amount of \$2.00 or less due to the costs of collecting such tax (including the time expenditure required) are reasonably likely to equal or exceed the amount due.”

Beth DaDalt seconded the motion. After a voice vote, Moderator Muska declared the motion approved.

Beth DaDalt proposed the following motion:

“I move that the Town of Stafford accept the grant and authorize the expenditure of Town Aid Road Funds for FY 23-24 from Fund # 64 in the amount of \$392,989.00.”

Richard Hartenstein Jr. seconded the motion. After a voice vote, Moderator Muska declared the motion approved.

Beth Dadalt proposed the following motion:

“I move that the Town of Stafford accepts the grant and authorize the expenditure of LoCip (Local Capital Improvement Project) funds for FY 2023-2024 from Fund # 32 in the amount of \$105,827.00.”

Jane LaMorte seconded the motion. After a voice vote, Moderator Muska declared the motion approved.

Beth DaDalt proposed the following motion:

“I move that the Town of Stafford approve the Water Pollution Control Facility budget in the amount of \$1,994,326.00 for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023 and ending June 30, 2024.”

Jane LaMorte seconded the motion. After a voice vote, Moderator Muska declared the motion approved.

Beth DaDalt proposed the following motion:

“I move that the Town of Stafford appropriate the funds necessary to administer the FY 2023/2024 Water Pollution Control Facility budget as approved.”

Richard Hartenstein, Jr. seconded the motion. After a voice vote, Moderator Muska declared the motion approved.

Jane LaMorte proposed the following motion:

“I move that the Town of Stafford approve the Service District budget in the amount of \$460,450.00 as approved and recommended by the Board of Finance for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023 and ending June 30, 2024.”

Laura Lybarger seconded the motion. After a voice vote, Moderator Muska declared the motion approved.

Jane LaMorte proposed the following motion:

“I move that the Town of Stafford appropriate the funds necessary to administer the FY 2023/2024 Service District budget as approved.”

Beth DaDalt seconded the motion. After a voice vote, Moderator Muska declared the motion approved.

Tami Rossi proposed the following motion:

“I move that the Town of Stafford approve a transfer of \$23,591.25 from 20-220-7220 to 20-240-4400 as recommended by the Board of Finance at the March 6, 2023 meeting.”

Richard Hartenstein Jr. seconded the motion. After a voice vote, Moderator Muska declared the motion approved.

Laura Lybarger proposed the following motion:

“I move that the Town of Stafford elect Richard F. Hartenstein Jr to the Hyde Park Commission for a four (4) year term, term to expire March 23, 2027.”

Roger Ingraham seconded the motion. After a voice vote, Moderator Muska declared the motion approved.

Laura Lybarger proposed the following motion:

“I move that the Town of Stafford elect Christina Spallacci to the Hyde Park Commission for a four (4) year term, term to expire March 23, 2027.”

Richard Hartenstein Jr. seconded the motion. After a voice vote, Moderator Muska declared the motion approved.

There being no other business to come before the Town Meeting, at 6:42 p.m., Moderator Muska stated:

“I will now adjourn this meeting to May 16, 2023 to allow for the Referendum to be held on that day at the Stafford Public Library, 10 Levinthal Run, Stafford, Connecticut between the hours of 6 am and 8 pm. This meeting will reconvene at 8:30 pm in Veterans Room of the Town Hall, at which time the Town Meeting will receive and record the vote of the referendum and consider and take action upon item #2 of the call of this meeting.”

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Karen G Troiano", written in a cursive style.

Karen G Troiano
Stafford Town Clerk