

**Town of Stafford
Special Town Meeting
July 19, 2023**

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2 pages

Karen G. Troiano
TOWN CLERK

First Selectman Salverio "Sal" Titus called the Special Town Meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Veteran's Meeting Room of the Charles Warren Memorial Town Hall at 1 Main Street, Stafford, Connecticut. Approximately 15 electors and those eligible to vote in Town Meetings were present. Board of Finance Member David Walsh, Acting Interim CFO Lynn Nenni, Selectman Richard F. Hartenstein Jr., School Superintendent Steven Moccio, Board of Education Chair Laura Lybarger, Tax Collector Stephanie Irving, and Director of Public Works Devin Cowperthwaite were in attendance. First Selectmen Titus lead the assemblage in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

David Walsh made a motion to name Richard F. Hartenstein, Jr. as Moderator of the Town Meeting. Stephanie Irving seconded the motion which passed unanimously. Richard F. Hartenstein, Jr. was named Moderator of the Town Meeting.

Laura Lybarger made a motion to waive the reading of the call of the meeting which was posted in the office of the Town Clerk on July 12, 2023, and published in the Journal Inquirer on July 14, 2023. Stephanie Irving seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Moderator Hartenstein asked Town Clerk Karen G. Troiano to read the resolution unanimously approved by the Board of Selectmen at their July 10, 2023, Meeting:

"BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN THAT, pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes Section 7-7, the Board of Selectmen hereby removes item number one (1) of the call of the Town Meeting properly noticed for July 19, 2023 at 6:00 P.M. in the Warren Memorial Town Hall, Stafford Springs, Connecticut, for submission to the voters at a referendum to be held on July 26, 2023 between the hours of 6:00 A.M. and 8:00 P. M. in the Stafford Public Library, 10 Levinthal Run, Stafford Springs, 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 \$45,443,632 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 Hartenstein called for discussion on the proposed budget. Taxpayers and electors expressed their concerns regarding rising costs, increased taxes, and the setting of the mill rate by the Board of Selectmen.

After discussion concluded, Moderator Hartenstein stated that Item #2, appropriating the funds necessary to administer the Town of Stafford FY 2023/2024 budget, would not be acted upon until that time that the budget is adopted.

Laura Lybarger proposed the following motion:

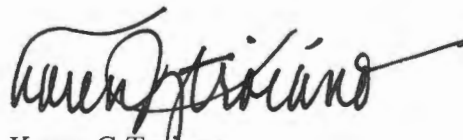
"I move that the Town of Stafford approve a transfer of \$2,850.00 from Trash Disposal 280-4125 to Tree Warden 240-4400 as recommended by the Board of Finance at their June 7, 2023, meeting".

Salverio "Sal" Titus seconded the motion, which passed by unanimous vote.

Moderator Hartenstein then stated:

"I will now adjourn this meeting to July 26, 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 6:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. This meeting will reconvene at 8:20 p.m. in the Veteran's 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 the meeting".

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Karen G. Trovato", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Karen G Trovato
Stafford Town Clerk