

**RTM Meeting
March 2, 2021**

The Call

1. To take such action as the meeting may determine, upon the recommendation of the Board of Finance and a request by the Superintendent of Schools, to approve an appropriation in the amount of \$467,927.00 along with Bond and Note authorization to the Municipal Improvement Fund for Roof Projects at Staples and Saugatuck Schools.
2. To take such action as the meeting may determine, upon the recommendation of the Board of Finance and a request by the Superintendent of Schools, to approve a Capital appropriation in the amount of \$280,364.00 for the replacement of the Cooling Tower at Green's Farm Elementary School.
3. To take such action as the meeting may determine, upon the recommendation of the Board of Finance and a request by the Director of Public Works, to approve an appropriation of \$350,000.00 along with bond and note authorization to the Municipal Improvement Fund Account for the maintenance and replacement of sidewalks in the existing network program.
4. To take such action as the meeting may determine, upon the recommendation of the Board of Finance and a request by the Director of Public Works, to approve an appropriation of \$165,000.00 to the Capital and Non-Recurring Account for the replacement of existing sidewalks on Maple Avenue South between Clapboard Hill Rd and Post Road East.

The meeting

Deputy Moderator Jeff Wieser:

Good evening. This meeting of Westport's Representative Town Meeting is now called to order and we welcome those who are joining us the evening. My name is Jeffrey Wieser and I'm the RTM Deputy Moderator sitting in tonight for Moderator Velma Heller who will be back next month. Pursuant to the Governor's Executive Order No. 7B, this meeting is being held electronically. It will be live streamed on westportct.gov, and shown on Optimum Government Access Channel 79 or Frontier Channel 6020. I want to talk to you about public comments: Emails sent before the meeting are sent to RTMmailinglist@westportct.gov, which goes to all RTM members. Those emails that are received before the meeting will not be read aloud during the meeting. Comments to be read aloud at the meeting, during the public comment period for each agenda item, must be emailed to RTMcomments@westportct.gov. We will use our best efforts to read public comments if they are received during the public comment period for each item and if they state your full name and address. Please keep your comments so that they can be read in under three minutes. Please note that meeting materials are available at westportct.gov along with the meeting notice posted on the Meeting List and Calendar page.

Tonight's invocation will be delivered by Karen Kramer, district 5.

Invocation, Karen Kramer, district 5:
This is the Starfish Story.

One day a man was walking along the beach when he noticed a girl picking up and gently throwing things into the ocean.

Approaching the girl he asked: "Young lady, what are you doing?"

The girl replied, "Throwing starfish back into the ocean. The surf is up and the tide is going out. If I don't throw them back, they'll die."

The man laughed to himself and said, "Do you realize there are miles of miles of beach and hundreds of starfish?" "You can't make any difference."

After listening politely, the girl bent down, picked up another starfish and threw it into the surf and then smiling at the man she said: "I made a difference to that one."

That's what we're all about. When I was growing up, my mother would get us up every Thanksgiving and Christmas Day to volunteer at nursing homes. My mother knew that most facilities were short-handed on major holidays. She told me to always volunteer. Thus, I was class mother and grade mother and now the RTM which is on a fully volunteer basis. First, we ask you to elect us and then we put in many hours, sometimes debating into the early morning hours, looking for the right way to help make our town a better place. Last night, I listened in to a meeting of a committee that I'm not even on. Why? Because it interested me. It's important to the town. I knew it to be an important subject and everything about this town, the one that we chose to bring our children up in, is important to me. I've been coming to Westport since the '70s. My family had a summer place here. When we made a decision to leave the city, we looked many places but I absolutely knew we would buy in Westport. Is it a perfect town? No, but the perfect town doesn't exist. I am always amazed at my fellow RTMers and volunteers who often don't agree with one another but we all valiantly spend time and energy in the pursuit of making Westport better. So, at the end of the day, I am fully aware that we can't fix everything but one starfish at a time, we can make a difference.

Mr. Wieser:

Thank you Ms. Kramer. Very nice. Now the Pledge of Allegiance which is a montage of RTM members and we monthly thank Matt Mandell for putting this together. It was so good, we almost saw it twice!

There were 31 members present. Ms. Batteau, Mr. Braunstein and Dr. Heller notified the Deputy Moderator that they would be absent and Ms. Talmadge and Ms. Rea were also absent.

Mr. Wieser:

The minutes of the February meeting have been posted on the town website. Seeing no corrections, the minutes are accepted as submitted. Anyone with corrections, please contact Jackie Fuchs, Tatiana Plachi, Velma Heller or Jeff Wieser.

It is March so it must be Sal Liccione's birthday. Happy birthday Sal!

RTM Announcements

Dick Lowenstein, district 5:

I want to remind the RTM members that tomorrow at 7:30 p.m. the RTM Transit Committee will be meeting to review Peter Gold's presentation to the Board of Finance which will be next week.

Sal Liccione, district 9:

This weekend, I want to thank David Wright for having a great run for the Connecticut Food Bank. Our Deputy Moderator Jeff Wieser ran this weekend. Also, for the month of March, RTM members and the public, please donate a bag of food to Homes for Hope and to the homeless shelter. Please do it. There are a lot of people who are hungry.

Matthew Mandell, district 1:

We're on our way back to normalcy. The first announcement is the Great Westport Sandwich Contest kicked off yesterday. We had a proclamation from the First Selectman, March Sandwich Month in the town of Westport. There are 21 restaurants, delis and markets competing in nine different categories. All of you who love sandwiches, and I'm one who loves sandwiches, go out among them. You can find it in westportwestonchamber.com/sandwiches. You can find all of them. It's a great promotion and it's fun for the community to go out because the community gets to vote. So, you eat a sandwich and vote on who makes the best one, the Great Westport Sandwich Contest all this month, March 1 to March 31. You get to vote. So, go out and eat and then vote.

Also, the Library and the Chamber have teamed up for the Lockdown Music Festival. I believe it was a year ago on March 13 that the country basically locked down because of the pandemic and all of the trials and tribulations that we have been through. We are trying to celebrate our resilience through music. The music was curated by Chris Frantz who was a founding member of the Talking Heads who are in the Rock 'N Roll Hall of Fame. He put the music together and he will be the emcee. This will be on Saturday, March 13. It's \$25/ticket. It's a streaming show. Dan Levinson has offered to match gifts up to \$10,000 and the money will go to Neighborhood Studios which is a group in Bridgeport which helps underprivileged children learn about the arts. They will be able to come into the library and learn about production, make music, make television series, etc. That's where the money will be going to. So, it's a great fundraiser. Twenty-five dollars becomes \$50 into the pockets of Neighborhood Studios. Please do the Lockdown Festival and you can go to the Chamber site or the library site to purchase your tickets to see some great music.

Speaking of music, last Wednesday, the Chamber of Commerce and the Library were given permission to run four more outdoor drive-in concerts. They will take place in April and in May and, hopefully, you will come out to see them. Jimmy Izzo will be out there helping to park cars again so thank you, Jimmy, for all the work that you did for the ones we did last year. But again, we are coming back with the drive-in shows. Hopefully, we won't have to do anymore for May or June because the pandemic will be over. That's a big goal for us to go back inside for music.

So, three things: Sandwich Contest, we have the Lockdown Festival and we have concerts coming. That's brought to you by the Chamber of Commerce.

Upcoming Meetings

Library, Museum and Arts Committee will meet Monday, March 15 to discuss the Earthplace proposed budget.

Finance Committee will meet March 23 at 6 p.m. The meeting will cover some of the things that the Board of Finance is looking at and a bit of a heads up on the budget meeting. On March 9, 10 and 11, the Board of Finance is holding their budget meetings for anyone interested in checking out their meetings.

The next RTM meeting will be April 6 at 7:30 p.m.

As a reminder, the RTM budget meeting will be held on Monday, May 3 and Tuesday, May 4 and May 5 if necessary.

The secretary read item #1 of the call - To approve an appropriation in the amount of \$467,927.00 along with Bond and Note authorization to the Municipal Improvement Fund for Roof Projects at Staples and Saugatuck Schools. By show of hands, the motion passes unanimously, 31-0.

Presentation

Superintendent Tom Scarice:

I'd be happy to start briefly and hand it over to Mr. Longo who has done most of the work on this. We presented this project at the committee level last week and have advanced to the full RTM. So, Mr. Longo, would you mind taking over the presentation, please.

Elio Longo, Schools' CFO:

Thank you for the opportunity this evening for the Board of Education to present two appropriation requests. The first request came out at \$467,927 will assist the Board of Education to secure the architectural design services for two pending capital projects. The projects are roof replacement projects at Saugatuck Elementary School and at Staples High School. The Board of Education, through its Finance and Facilities Committee, identified approximately \$11.8 million worth of near-term capital improvements. As part of our 2022 budget request, you should have all received a budget book at this time, we have capital projects forecasted for five years in a price range of approximately \$60 million; the short-term, first two years, approximately \$12 million. Of the \$12 million, we've identified the soft costs of an estimate of 11 percent. So, we had originally presented a request to the Board of Finance for soft costs totaling \$1.5 million. Subsequently, my department continued to work with the town Department of Public Works under the leadership of Mr. Ratkiewich. I can't give more praise to Mr. Ratkiewich for reaching out to the Board of Education, specifically to my department, and working very collaboratively to identify paving projects for this upcoming summer. The reason I mention the paving projects is that the projects are going to come in at a cost of approximately \$2.2 million and with 11 percent for soft costs, we would request approximately \$220,000. That \$220,000 will be absorbed by DPW in terms of internal

services. It comes as a savings to taxpayers in terms of cost avoidance. So, what remains for us in the near term, the upcoming summer months, are the two roofing projects. When I presented our request to the Board of Finance, the Board of Finance funded our request for the two roofing projects at a slight variance to my original request. My original request was based on the Antinozzi cost estimate for the two roofing projects at 11 percent for design costs. Our year to date experience at Antinozzi operating projects, these are separate from the capital forecast, that the projects are coming in somewhere between 30 to 40 percent below the Antinozzi cost estimate. The Board of Finance took a middle of the road approach on the capital projects, the two roofing projects, and discounted them by 15 percent. Thereafter, they applied a design estimate of seven percent, not 11 percent. After calculating, based on the Board of Finance adjustments, the combined amount is \$467,927. In terms of progress, to date, on the Saugatuck Elementary School roof, we went out to bid last week and we had questions and answers submitted by architectural firms of interest which ended on Friday. Bids are closing this Thursday. Shortly thereafter, we will review the bids and interview an architectural firm. The request before this board this evening is for an amount not to exceed so Mr. Conrad, as the top Finance Director, will manage the funds. The reserves remain on the town side of the ledger. We will only award based on the lowest responsible bidder. That has been our practice all along. While the request this evening is for \$467,000, I can assure you that it is an amount not to exceed. We will only draw, with the permission of town Finance up to that amount based on the lowest responsible bidder.

Committees report

Finance and Education Committees, Christine Meiers Schatz, district 2:

I am presenting this report on Jeff's behalf since he is serving as Moderator tonight. I am actually going to skip some of it because Elio did such a full presentation. He covered a lot of what was in the report. What Elio didn't cover were some of the questions asked at the meeting. Primarily, they were concerned about there were projects that aren't being addressed right now. Mr. Longo pointed out that the schools were spending close to \$2 million/year on an ongoing basis and more deferred maintenance is required and that the schools were getting to those costs including the Long Lots windows. The committees spoke highly of the initiative over the last few years to create an officer to oversee all Town properties. In fact, there were committee members that expressed concern that we are having these requests come to us without having that framework established. We were given some assurances that more of a master plan in terms of having oversight of ongoing maintenance was in the works. The representatives for the Board of Education pointed out that some of the improvements recommended by the Antinozzi Report are eligible to receive State Grant finds and that would be about 20 percent of the cost and, if we do receive those funds, it could delay the projects by up to a year but that might be worth the wait. Superintendent Scarice emphasized that the Antinozzi projects are being layered into the capital expenditures over the next few years, as the Board of Education has placed a high priority on school maintenance issues. Both committees voted unanimously to recommend that the RTM approve this appropriation.

Mr. Wieser:

Now we go to the electorate. With regards to comments from the electorate, Lauren Soloff tonight will make every effort to read your email comments if your full name and address are included and email is received during the comment period for each agenda item. Public comments are limited to three minutes, however. Any comments received prior to this meeting, as I mentioned, have been forwarded to the whole RTM.

Members of the electorate – no comments

Ms. Soloff read the resolution and it was seconded.

RESOLVED: That upon the recommendation of the Board of Finance and a request by the Superintendent of Schools, the sum of \$467,927.00 along with Bond and Note authorization to the Municipal Improvement Fund for Roof Projects at Staples and Saugatuck Schools is hereby appropriated.

Mr. Wieser: It has been moved and seconded to approve the resolution just read.

Members of the RTM

Peter Gold, district 5:

The report mentioned that there were possible grants for some of these proposals. There was an article in [the blog] "06880" mentioning some prior construction projects from past years that have not been properly closed out which might affect our ability to get grants since you're only eligible once every 20 years. Would any of these projects be affected by that?

Mr. Longo:

Good evening Mr. Gold. Yes, the Saugatuck Elementary School project. The roof at Saugatuck has exceeded its useful life. It's beyond the maintenance stage, as well. It's scheduled for replacement this coming summer. When I reached out to the State Office of School Construction Grants and Management in Review, I learned that some Board of Education projects that date back 20 to 25 years, late '90s/early 2000, that the administration at that time did not take the proper steps to close out the applications. Case in point, at Saugatuck, it's my understanding that in early 2000, there were \$18 million of improvements and the actual cost came in at \$19 million. The State released its full commitment of \$18 million and, yet, the prior administration did not close out the contract so the 20 year window never opened. I continue to work now with my contacts at the State Department to determine whether there is an appeal process. I was told last week that it's a statutory requirement. We may have to enlist the assistance of a State Legislator on these projects going forward. The Staples High School roofing project, we can defer that by one year to the summer of 2022. That should give us more than enough time to apply for the proper process for a State Reimbursement Grant. There were also some improvements made at Staples in early 2000. We are reviewing all the architectural drawings at that time to determine whether or not the roof that is in question at this time overlaps the improvements made nearly 20 years ago.

Mr. Gold:

Have steps been taken to close out all the grants that were improperly closed out and find any grants that might have been missed or improperly closed out?

Mr. Longo:

That's in process now. We were able to uncover this approximately a week ago and now we're continuing our communication with our contacts at the State Department to determine what are the proper steps for closing out the contracts.

Mr. Gold: But you've identified all the ones that weren't properly closed out?

Mr. Longo: Yes.

Mr. Gold:

Are there procedures in place to make sure that future ones are properly closed out?

Mr. Longo:

Yes. And I've already discussed that with Ms. Whitney who, as you know, is the Secretary of the Board of Education but also is the Chair of the Board of Education Finance and Facilities Committee meeting. We've discussed next steps in terms of any revisions or needed policies that will solidify the process going forward.

Mr. Gold: Thank you. I appreciate it.

Jimmy Izzo, district 5:

Excellent question Peter. This is for Elio. Have you reached out yet to Representative Tony Hwang or Representative Jonathan Steinberg or Senator Will Haskell on this?

Mr. Longo:

I have not. I have discussed it with Superintendent Scarice. The reason being that I am still learning which projects and what are the processes for appeal, if any.

Mr. Izzo:

We have Representatives and I think they would be a great asset. I know Jonathan is very good. They've all helped me on certain other issues and utilized their intellect and the way they can navigate through Hartford. I think it wouldn't be a bad idea to reach out.

Mr. Longo: Not at all.

Superintendent Scarice:

Great point Mr. Izzo and absolutely on our list. I think Mr. Longo has developed a nice relationship with some of the folks who pointed out these surprising non-closeouts to us. The first step is really getting an accounting of what issues are really there. If we run into resistance there, obviously, the next steps are State Reps. That's their job.

Mr. Izzo: Great. Thank you. Awesome.

By show of hands, the motion passes unanimously, 31-0.

The secretary read item #2 of the call - To approve a Capital appropriation in the amount of \$280,364.00 for the replacement of the Cooling Tower at Green's Farm Elementary School. By show of hands, the motion passes unanimously, 31-0.

Presentation

Mr. Longo:

The request for the capital appropriation is for the replacement of a cooling tower at Greens Farms Elementary School. In less technical terms, the cooling tower is part of the air conditioning system at Greens Farms. Without it, there would be no AC. The unit far exceeds its estimated useful life of 15 to 20 years. It was installed back in 2000. Some of the more current events and condition: Approximately three years ago, our Facilities Department made a large repair to the sump tank using epoxy polymer at a cost of approximately \$9,000 to avoid a major failure due to rust. At this time, the cooling tower is beyond preventive maintenance. It has already been determined to be a sunk cost. The request this evening is for an appropriation of \$280,364. This is for replacement cost and insulation cost. This smaller scaled project was managed and handled by our Facilities Department. We did not incur any design or other related soft costs. The amount of \$280,364, if approved, the contract will be awarded to C.M. Towers, Inc. This was following a formal bid with four respondents to the bid. C.M. Tower was the lowest responsible bidder at the request amount. Other responders ranged anywhere between \$300,000 to almost \$500,000.

Committees report

Finance and Education Committees, Lauren Karpf, district 7:

I won't run through a lot of it. The cooling tower, as Elio just explained so well, is a large radiator type machine, in very simplified terms, takes the hot chiller process water from the basement to the roof. It is cooled and sent back down. It is a major component of the air conditioning system at Greens Farms School; therefore, it is necessary in order for the school to continue to have air conditioning. The unit was installed in 2000; has exceeded its useful life of 15 to 20 years. If it is not replaced and fails, the school will have no air conditioning. If the sump pump fails, there will be flooding on the floors below the unit. As Elio explained, this appropriation is for the actual project, not for the soft costs. The project went out for bid and will be awarded to the lowest bidder. The committees discussed the need for continued updating of the Antinozzi report and to address items not covered in the report. Moreover, members of the committees discussed a desire for an officer to oversee upkeep and maintenance of all Town properties, including school buildings. We discussed the fact that the HVAC systems at all schools, other than CMS, need comprehensive reviews. We also discussed the need for a committee or taskforce to do walk-throughs of the school buildings, and frustration that the Long Lots windows and HVAC replacement have not moved forward despite years of discussion. Finally, we discussed the fact that we would like a better approach for budgeting for and prioritizing capital projects. That said, it was clear that the cooling tower project is necessary and the request passed unanimously by both committees.

Members of the Westport electorate – no comments

Ms. Soloff read the resolution and it was seconded.

RESOLVED: That upon the recommendation of the Board of Finance and a request by the Superintendent of Schools, the sum of \$280,364.00 for the replacement of the Cooling Tower at Green's Farm Elementary School is hereby appropriated.

Mr. Wieser: It has been moved and seconded to approve the resolution just read.

Members of the RTM

Point of order, Mr. Lowenstein, district 5: I don't think you asked for public comment.

Mr. Wieser: Yes. I asked Ms. Soloff.

Mr. Lowenstein:

I don't know if any members of the public are online and they have comments.

Mr. Wieser:

I don't think we have members of the public online. They are all sending in emails.

Mr. Lowenstein: Thank you.

By show of hands, the motion passes unanimously, 31 – 0.

Mr. Wieser: Thank you Board of Education and Dr. Scarice for all you do.

The secretary read item #3 of the call - To approve an appropriation of \$350,000.00 along with bond and note authorization to the Municipal Improvement Fund Account for the maintenance and replacement of sidewalks in the existing network program. By show of hands, the motion passes unanimously, 31 – 0.

Presentation

Pete Ratkiewich, Director of Public Works:

As was stated, this is a request for \$350,000 for maintenance replacement of our existing sidewalk network. This is an ongoing biannual program that was started back in 2002 by my predecessor where every two years he came in with a capital request. I've continued this program at least once in my tenure. This will be the second time I've made such a request. It is for ongoing maintenance over a two year period. This year, out of 23.4 miles of sidewalk, this project will cover about 7,200 linear feet or about 1.3 miles. This is part of approximately 6.3 miles of sidewalk that we have slated for replacement under various programs and grant programs. This year and next, what we would propose to do is to continue the linear run that we started over the last two years on North Avenue from Cross Highway up to the Coleytown complex. This will complete a walking path between the middle schools and the high school and it is approximately the same length as the run

that we completed last year from Long Lots up to Cross Highway. We will be using our normal bidding procedure to do this work. We have not gone out to bid yet but we will put this work out to bid with our normal procedure going forward and will obtain bids before we go for the actual contract.

Committees report

Public Works and Finance Committees, Jay Keenan, district 2:

Both committees met on Thursday, Feb. 18, to review the expenditure by Public Works for the biennial sidewalk replacement for the existing sidewalk network. This project will replace approximately 7,200 linear feet of sidewalk from Cross highway to Coleytown Elementary along North Avenue. These are not new sidewalks. These are maintenance of existing sidewalks. The work will be completed over the next two summers. Some of the other things discussed at the meeting: There are currently 6.3 miles of sidewalks scheduled for replacement within the network. These are previously funded projects, some through State and LOTSIP Grants. This project is being approved with bond and note authorization. This is in the capital forecast. Some of the other things discussed were possibly coming up with some kind of sidewalk policy for the town, overall, applying for sidewalks and an overall plan for proposing future sidewalks. One other thing that was brought up was possibly including this type of expenditure within the overall Public Works budget going forward just like we do with our annual road paving costs. Both committees recommended unanimously to recommend this to the full RTM.

Members of the Westport electorate – no comments

Ms. Soloff read the resolution and it was seconded.

RESOLVED: That upon the recommendation of the Board of Finance and a request by the Director of Public Works, the sum of \$350,000.00 along with bond and note authorization to the Municipal Improvement Fund Account for the maintenance and replacement of sidewalks in the existing network program is hereby appropriated.

Mr. Wieser: It was moved and seconded to approve the resolution just read.

Members of the RTM

Sal Liccione, district 9:

Pete, I have some questions for you and some comments. This winter we had some problems with the sidewalk shoveling. Can you explain to us how many miles of sidewalks and how many crews take care of the sidewalks?

Mr. Ratkiewich:

We have 23 miles of residential sidewalks. Commercial sidewalks are supposed to be maintained by commercial property owners but residential sidewalks are maintained by the town and that includes shoveling. So, if we have a 14" snowfall, after we do all the plowing and removing snow from lots, we get to sidewalks. So, generally, it is two to three days after the storm before we ever start on the sidewalks. We have two what we call "holder units" that are powered large snow blowers. It looks like a little tractor that runs down the sidewalk. I have two crews doing that and, basically, for some of these storms,

two or three days after the storm, it forms 'snow-crete'. After the most recent heavy storm, about 14", which was on the first of February, by the time we got to it, we were able to do maybe a mile or a mile and a half a day. Good math, 23 miles of sidewalk, three miles a day with crew, you don't get very far. We try to prioritize the schools but there are seven schools so not everybody can be first. We're trying to work with the schools on some of the shorter sections and see if we can enlist some of the school maintenance personnel to do those short sections that are always a problem. I don't know if that answers your question, Sal, but that is how it works.

Mr. Liccione:

Do you think we have enough manpower to do these in the winter? I know we hired outside people when we had a lot of snow storms. I know you told me you ran out of money. If we have more snow storms, I think we should ask for more money and more manpower. That's my question to you. We had a lot of complaints this winter.

Mr. Ratkiewich:

This actually is more of a typical winter than what we've been blessed with for the past couple of years. We've had a lot more storms but I'd say this is typical. We do hire outside contractors to assist us, especially in the downtown area. They help us with the sidewalks down there that are otherwise not covered by commercial properties. As far as manpower goes, you can always use more people but we have to balance what we have against our budget, against our expenses. What happens in reality, if we have more storms than we expect, then we will go over our snow budget which is generically \$500,000/year. On a bad year like this, it's expected that we are going to be over the budget and we come in for an appropriation at the end of the year if we can't balance it out with other operating funds.

Mr. Liccione: Thank you Peter.

Harris Falk, district 2: How long do these sidewalks last for?

Mr. Ratkiewich:

It depends on the sidewalk and the usage on it. It can be anywhere from 12 to 20 years, sometimes longer.

Mr. Falk:

It seems, if we have more than 20 miles of road and we're repairing less than one mile of road every year, it will take us over 20 years to fix the roads that we have and if we only have 12 years, you need to fix more roads. How do we get the ability to fix more roads?

Mr. Ratkiewich:

Recognize that this project is one of many. So, really, if I was able to get all of the grant projects that I have on the books done at once, I would actually be doing six miles of sidewalk. I'm not going to get six miles of sidewalk this year but if one or two of these grant projects break, I will be able to get more than one and a half miles so I have two that we have been waiting three years for the State to pull the trigger on. One is on Main

Street between Coffee An' and Daybreak Nurseries. That will add another mile. It also has a spur up to Cross Highway. The other one we have been waiting on forever is on Riverside Avenue. It's a short section but it's very needed. The third one, which is pending, it's the next item on the agenda, it's a State grant on Maple Avenue South. I also have a grant on Hillspoint Road from Greens Farms all the way down to Compo Hill. So, I've got a lot of irons in the fire if I can get some of these. These are State grants. They come with baggage and we have to address all the issues that the State has but, once we do, they pay for 100 percent of the construction. We pay for the design and they pay for the construction.

Mr. Falk:

Great. Because I don't think anybody doesn't want to have good roads and good sidewalks. If there is anything we can do to push it along, let us know.

Mr. Ratkiewich: I will.

Mark Friedman, district 3:

Thanks Pete for bringing this forward. I intend to vote for it. I did want to ask, I thought I heard you say you were doing a piece on Main Street. Is that right?

Mr. Ratkiewich:

Yes. I have a project under the Local Transportation Capital Improvement Project from Coffee An' at the corner of Canal and Main all the way up to Daybreak at Weston Road.

Mr. Friedman:

I'm really glad to hear that. It's a sidewalk that, in some parts, desperately needs attention and is dangerous in some parts. I'm glad it's high on the priority list. Thank you.

Chris Tait, district 1:

Something was brought up in the committee meeting and I wanted to express that one of the challenges is, Peter is coming to us for a capital request on the sidewalks and we spoke about this from the RTM perspective; as we look at this going forward, Peter puts in a budget for roads to be repaved but there is no budget for sidewalks to be done. He has to come to us for a capital request and go to the Board of Finance which could be touchy or whatever. So, as an RTM, I would support having Peter putting that into his yearly budget and make that what he is going to do as a yearly expenditure for the sidewalks. That said, from the sidewalks perspective, and Peter I appreciate you have them in front of the schools and you have the one going down to Coleytown, but there are certain sidewalks that may have more traffic than sidewalks that connect schools. As you said, some of these grants that come down, from Compo Hill to Compo Beach, especially with this pandemic, that's become, how shall I say it, like the Jersey boardwalk. Everybody and their brother has been using that sidewalk. It's pretty beat up. Do we prioritize traffic use, especially compared to certain sections that need to be done for the schools, the traffic they get compared to a particular sidewalk at a particular time? Last thing, as an RTM we spoke about this, through the years, Peter may have wanted some help and other people have wanted help. I think we need to have somebody who does grants.

Grants take a whole lot of time. It takes time away from what he should be doing to help us on a daily basis. I don't know if it's something we can do as an RTM or something we should mention to the administration. I think a grant person who does strictly grants will free up a lot of time and actually get some of those grants more efficiently to us. Peter can talk about how much time it takes him to do one grant that he is not working for us. I think it is something we should discuss with the Board of Finance or something of that nature that could help alleviate some of that; especially, Public Works. There are a lot of grants out there that we can capture but he doesn't have time to fill out all those grants. Is there something that we can do to make the First Selectman aware that this needs to be addressed?

Jessica Bram, district 6:

I'm actually surprised to hear that the town clears residential sidewalks. I always thought the residents had to clear their sidewalks. For example, Whitney Street, which is in district 6, which is a long stretch of sidewalk, the homeowners clear the sidewalk and every once in a while, you'll come upon a spot where the homeowner has not cleared it. I have not seen the town clearing a sidewalk on a residential street. This is news to me. Is it just that the town hasn't gotten to them yet because of clearing the roads first?

Mr. Ratkiewich:

Yes. The reality is we generally don't get all the sidewalks done before they melt on their own. This recent series of storms, we had a storm every couple of days. By the time I get the roads and the parking lots, I don't have time to do the sidewalks before the snow starts coming down again. We are only one of two municipalities that I know of, the other one is Greenwich, out of 169 that does sidewalks for the residents. There's an easy fix to this. I guess it's easy. You have to change the sidewalk ordinance with a couple of inserts of language that requires residents to clear the sidewalk in front of their house. That is really the case in the adjoining towns around here. In reality, you are always going to have some residents that don't clear their sidewalks. The bottom line is most people do the right thing and clear their sidewalk and that takes away 23 miles of uncleared sidewalk. That is the norm in most towns. In this town, it has never been the norm. I'm not suggesting that you change the ordinance to require residents to build the sidewalk or even possibly maintain that sidewalk paving-wise, but just relieve us from snow and ice removal would be a huge step forward. Most towns require the whole thing, that if you have a sidewalk in front of your house, you maintain it. If it's in disrepair, you replace it. Let's take it one step at a time. If I could just get the ice and snow cleared, that would be a great thing. There's a way to help out Public Works on this. We need to take a serious look at the sidewalk ordinance.

Ms. Bram:

I was only referring to snow removal, certainly, not any kind of maintenance or repairs. I just assumed the residents who were doing it and there was some sort of fine if they didn't and I hadn't been aware of that happening. As you said, it's not happening. Our Public Works Department doesn't seem to have the capacity to be clearing residential sidewalks.

They probably should not. I would go along with what the other towns are doing. I'm strictly talking about snow removal. I'm not talking about repair.

Noah Hammond, district 4:

Pete, just a question on the coordination between the paving projects and Aquarion and the gas as they come through and put new water mains in. How do they handle that? I see that they're on Terhune now. Are they going to turn the corner there and come at these new sidewalks that are going to be put in?

Mr. Ratkiewich:

Generally, we meet every year with Aquarion to go over what their capital plan is. We've done it for the past several years and it's worked out fairly well to avoid roads that we have recently paved. Recently is within the last 10 years. They will actually hold off on a project to wait until it's 10 years old. The reason for that is if it is within 10 years, we can make them pave the entire half road that they're in or the whole road from gutter to gutter, so it's much more costly for them to dig into a road. That's how we handle it. We make it very costly for a gas company to come in and dig into a new road (under 10 years). Having said that, there are always anomalies and there are always emergencies so you will see new roads that have been paved that have been cut into for one reason or another. Notoriously, the gas company is the worst as far as coordinating but they are subject to the same rules and if they come in and patch in my new roads, we make them pave 10 feet on either side of the patch and gutter to gutter. That's pretty much how we handle it.

By show of hands, the motion passes unanimously 31-0.

The secretary read item #4 of the call - To approve an appropriation of \$165,000.00 to the Capital and Non-Recurring Account for the replacement of existing sidewalks on Maple Avenue South between Clapboard Hill Rd and Post Road East. By show of hands, the motion passes unanimously 31-0.

Presentation

Mr. Ratkiewich:

This is a grant project. This was announced about two weeks before Tropical Storm Isaias and the deadline was one month away. So, we were a little busy but the grant came out early August and the offer was for a maximum of \$128,205 which is \$7 million divided by 169 municipalities. The grant comes with the requirement that the town put in a substantial amount of matching funds. We're proposing \$36,795 for a total of \$165,000 to do a section of sidewalk on Post Road and Clapboard Hill on Maple Avenue South. This is one of the sidewalks that was on our list. The project was shovel-ready and the grant comes with the requirement that you are supposed to have it done within a year of the commitment to fund. That is where we are. We did get the grant and I think all the other 168 municipalities also got the grant because we only got the \$128,205. It fits into this project fairly well. It's just one more example of efforts we're going for as quickly as we can. When we see a grant opportunity, we do apply for it. We don't always get them. This one here hadn't been available for several years and now that it became available, we didn't want

to miss the opportunity. We will be using our normal purchasing procedure. We anticipate doing this construction over this summer and next, as well. We may do a little bit of this work in house. Again, we're on the hook for the design but the design is pretty straightforward as it is a standard sidewalk. A standard section and a map takes care of what we need to do.

Mr. Wieser:

Mr. Braunstein prepared a report and he told me he would not be here. Is anyone prepared to read his report?

Committees report

Public Works and Finance Committees, Ms. Soloff:

DPW Director Peter Ratkiewich explained that the town has received a "Small Town Economic Assistance Program (STEAP)" grant in the amount of \$128,205 which will be used for the replacement of existing sidewalks on Maple Avenue South. While this appropriation is for a total of \$165,000, the town's true net cost is only \$37,000 as the remaining \$128,205 will be reimbursed to the town as a result of this grant. The reimbursement will occur as the work is completed. As Pete has described, the grant has a one year time limit from the commitment to fund. So the Town will need to get it done quickly. We learned that when replacing 30 year old sidewalks it is essentially the same as putting in new sidewalks. We will need to design the sidewalk in conjunction with the State which will allow us to use our own town guidelines. These will be five feet wide sidewalks made of asphalt with a curb (either extruded concrete or asphalt) and will be similar to what was completed recently on North Avenue. We also had some more general discussion of the way that DPW approaches the upkeep and maintenance of the Town's 23 miles of sidewalks. While there is a limited annual line item in the budget, it is inadequate to do anything more than cover some very basic materials needed for localized patching and repairing. In contrast to the more formalized approach to the evaluation of all roads in Town, the evaluation of the Town's sidewalks is done on a more impromptu basis. Sidewalk evaluation is based on many different factors with proximity to schools as one of the main determinants for where maintenance will occur. There was a general consensus that it would be prudent to seek support from the First Selectman's office and from the Board of Finance and across the broad RTM to support and fund a more proactive plan for planning and maintenance of our sidewalks. The meeting also included discussion of whether it would make sense to hire a grant writer so that DPW Department Head and presumably other department heads could take advantage of more grant opportunities. The motion was passed unanimously by both Public Works and Finance by votes of 8-0.

Thank you, Seth, for writing that report.

Mr. Wieser: Thank you, Lauren, for reading it!

Members of the Westport electorate – no comments

Ms. Soloff read the resolution and it was seconded.

RESOLVED: That upon the recommendation of the Board of Finance and a request by the Director of Public Works, the sum of \$165,000.00 to the Capital and Non-Recurring Account for the replacement of existing sidewalks on Maple Avenue South between Clapboard Hill Rd and Post Road East is hereby appropriated.

Mr. Wieser:

It has been moved and seconded to approve the resolution just read.

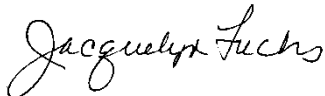
Members of the RTM – no comments

By show of hands, the motion passes unanimously 31-0.

Various members: Thank you Jeff!

The meeting adjourned 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeffrey M. Dunkerton
Town Clerk

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jacquelyn Fuchs".

by Jacquelyn Fuchs

ATTENDANCE: March 2, 2021

DIST.	NAME	PRESENT	ABSENT	NOTIFIED MODERATOR	LATE/ LEFT EARLY
1	Richard Jaffe	X			
	Matthew Mandell	X			
	Kristin M. Purcell	X			
	Chris Tait	X			
2	Harris Falk	X			
	Jay Keenan	X			
	Louis M. Mall	X			
	Christine Meiers Schatz	X			
3	Mark Friedman	X			
	Arline Gertzoff	X			
	Jimmy Izzo	X			
	Amy Kaplan	X			
4	Andrew J. Colabella	X			
	Kristan Hamlin	X			
	Noah Hammond	X			
	Jeff Wieser	X			
5	Peter Gold	X			
	Dick Lowenstein	X			
	Nicole Klein	X			
	Karen Kramer	X			
6	Candace Banks	X			
	Jessica Bram	X			
	Seth Braunstein		X	X	
	Cathy Talmadge		X		
7	Brandi Briggs	X			
	Lauren Karpf	X			
	Jack Klinge	X			
	Ellen Lautenberg	X			
8	Wendy Batteau		X	X	
	Lisa Newman	X			
	Carla Rea		X		
	Stephen Shackelford	X			
9	Velma Heller		X	X	
	Sal Liccione	X			
	Kristin Schneeman	X			
	Lauren Soloff	X			
Total		31	5		

Appendix I – Item #1

RESOLVED: That upon the recommendation of the Board of Finance and a request by the Superintendent of Schools, the sum of \$467,927.00 along with Bond and Note authorization to the Municipal Improvement Fund for Roof Projects at Staples and Saugatuck Schools is hereby appropriated.

TOWN OF WESTPORT, CONNECTICUT

A RESOLUTION APPROPRIATING \$467,927 FOR THE COSTS OF DESIGN, ENGINEERING AND ARCHITECTURAL WORK FOR CERTAIN SCHOOL PROJECTS AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS TO FINANCE SUCH APPROPRIATION.

RESOLVED: That upon the recommendation of the Board of Finance, the Town of Westport (the “Town”) hereby appropriates the sum of Four Hundred Sixty-Seven Thousand Nine Hundred Twenty-Seven and 00/100 Dollars (\$467,927.00) for costs associated with the design, engineering and architectural work related to various roofing systems at Saugatuck Elementary School and Staples High School including administrative, financing, contingency and other related costs (collectively, the “Projects”) in the amount of such appropriation allocated to each project as set forth on **Exhibit A**.

Section 1. As recommended by the Board of Finance and for the purpose of financing Four Hundred Sixty-Seven Thousand Nine Hundred Twenty-Seven and 00/100 Dollars (\$467,927.00) of the foregoing appropriation, the Town shall borrow a sum not to exceed Four Hundred Sixty-Seven Thousand Nine Hundred Twenty-Seven and 00/100 Dollars (\$467,927.00) and issue general obligation bonds for such indebtedness under its corporate name and seal and upon the full faith and credit of the Town in an amount not to exceed said sum.

Section 2. The First Selectman, Selectmen and Finance Director are hereby appointed a committee (the “Committee”) with full power and authority to cause said bonds to be sold, issued and delivered; to determine their form, including provision for redemption prior to maturity; to determine the aggregate principal amount thereof within the amount hereby authorized and the denominations and maturities thereof; to fix the time of issue of each series thereof and the rate or rates of interest thereon as herein provided; to designate the bank or trust company to certify the issuance thereof and to act as transfer agent, paying agent and as registrar for the bonds, and to designate bond counsel. The Committee shall have all appropriate powers under the Connecticut General Statutes including Chapter 748 (Registered Public Obligations Act) to issue the bonds and, further, shall have full power and authority to do all that is required under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, and other applicable laws and regulations of the United States and the state of Connecticut, to provide for issuance of the bonds in tax exempt form, including the execution of tax compliance and other agreements for the benefit of bondholders, and to meet all requirements which are or may become necessary in and subsequent to the issuance and delivery of the bonds in order that the interest on the bonds be and remain exempt from federal income taxes, including, without limitation, to covenant and agree to restriction on investment yield of bond proceeds, rebate of arbitrage earnings, expenditure of proceeds within required time limitations and the filing of information reports as and when required and to execute Continuing Disclosure Agreements for the benefit of holders of bonds and notes.

Section 3. The Bonds may be designated “Public Improvement Bonds” series of the year of their issuance and may be issued in one or more series, and may be consolidated as part of the same issue with other bonds of the Town; shall be in serial form maturing in not more than twenty (20) annual installments of principal, the first installment to mature not later than three (3) years from the date of issue and the last installment to mature not

later than twenty (20) years therefrom, or as otherwise provided by statute. The bonds may be sold at not less than par and accrued interest at public sale upon invitation for bids to the responsible bidder submitting the bid resulting in the lowest true interest cost to the Town, provided that nothing herein shall prevent the Town from rejecting all bids submitted in response to any one invitation for bids and the right to so reject all bids is hereby reserved, and further provided that the Committee may sell the bonds, or notes, on a negotiated basis, as provided by statute. Interest on the bonds shall be payable semiannually or annually. The bonds shall be signed on behalf of the Town by the First Selectman and the Finance Director, and shall bear the seal of the Town. The signing, sealing and certification of said bonds may be by facsimile as provided by statute. The Finance Director shall maintain a record of bonds issued pursuant to this resolution and of the face amount thereof outstanding from time to time, and shall certify to the destruction of said bonds after they have been paid and cancelled, and such certification shall be kept on file with the Town Clerk.

Section 4. The Committee is further authorized to make temporary borrowings as permitted by the General Statutes and to issue a temporary note or notes of the Town in anticipation of the receipt of proceeds from the sale of the bonds to be issued pursuant to this resolution. Such notes shall be issued and renewed at such times and with such maturities, requirements and limitations as provided by statute. Notes evidencing such borrowings shall be signed by the First Selectman and the Finance Director, have the seal of the Town affixed, which signing and sealing may be by facsimile as provided by statute, be certified by and payable at a bank or trust company incorporated under the laws of this or any other state, or of the United States, be approved as to their legality by bond counsel, and may be consolidated with the issuance of other Town bond anticipation notes. The Committee shall determine the date, maturity, interest rates, form and manner of sale, including negotiated sale, and other details of said notes consistent with the provisions of this resolution and the General Statutes and shall have all powers and authority as set forth above in connection with the issuance of bonds and especially with respect to compliance with the requirements of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, and regulations thereunder in order to obtain and maintain issuance of the notes in tax exempt form.

Section 5. Upon the sale and issuance of the bonds authorized by this resolution, the proceeds thereof, including any premium received upon the sale thereof, accrued interest received at delivery and interest earned on the temporary investment of such proceeds, shall be applied forthwith to the payment of the principal and interest of all notes issued in anticipation thereof or shall be deposited in trust for such purposes with a bank or trust company, or shall be applied or rebated as may be required under the provision of law. The remainder of the proceeds, if any, after the payment of said notes and of the expense of issuing said notes and bonds shall be applied to further finance the appropriation enacted herein.

Section 6. In each fiscal year in which the principal or any installment of interest shall fall due upon any of the bonds or notes herein authorized there shall be included in the appropriation for such fiscal year a sum equivalent to the amount of such principal and interest so falling due, and to the extent that provision is not made for the payment thereof from other revenues, the amount thereof shall be included in the taxes assessed upon the Grand List for such fiscal year and shall not be subject to any limitations of expenditures or taxes that may be imposed by any other Town ordinance or resolution.

Section 7. Pursuant to Section 1.150-2 (as amended) of the federal income tax regulations the Town hereby expresses its official intent to reimburse expenditures paid from the General Fund, or any capital fund for the Project with the proceeds of the bonds or notes to be issued under the provisions hereof. The allocation of such reimbursement bond proceeds to an expenditure shall be made in accordance with the time limitations and other requirements of such regulations. The Finance Director is authorized to pay Project expenses in accordance herewith pending the issuance of the reimbursement bonds or notes.

Section 8. The Town of Westport, or other proper authority of the Town, is authorized to take all necessary action to apply to the State of Connecticut, and accept from the State

or other parties, grants, gifts and contributions in aid of further financing the Project. Once the appropriation becomes effective, the First Selectman, or other appropriate official of the town, is hereby authorized to spend a sum not to exceed the aforesaid appropriation for the Project and is specifically authorized to make, execute and deliver any contracts or other documents necessary or convenient to complete the Project and the financing thereof. Section 9. The Committee is hereby authorized to take all action necessary and proper for the sale, issuance and delivery of the bonds (and notes) in accordance with the provisions of the Town Charter, the Connecticut General Statutes, and the laws of the United States.

EXHIBIT A

TOWN OF WESTPORT			
	<u>School</u>	<u>Project</u>	<u>Amount to Specific Project</u>
1	SAUGATUCK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	Design, architecture and engineering work related to various roofing systems	\$153,894.00
2	STAPLES HIGH SCHOOL	Design, architecture and engineering work related to various roofing systems	\$314,033.00
	TOTAL		\$467,927.00

Appendix II – Item # 3

RESOLVED: That upon the recommendation of the Board of Finance and a request by the Director of Public Works, the sum of \$350,000.00 along with bond and note authorization to the Municipal Improvement Fund Account for the maintenance and replacement of sidewalks in the existing network program is hereby appropriated.

TOWN OF WESTPORT, CONNECTICUT

A RESOLUTION APPROPRIATING \$350,000 FOR THE COSTS OF REPLACING SIDEWALKS AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS TO FINANCE SUCH APPROPRIATION.

RESOLVED: That upon the recommendation of the Board of Finance, the Town of Westport, Connecticut (the “Town”) hereby appropriates the sum of Three Hundred Fifty Thousand and 00/100 Dollars (\$350,000.00) to pay costs associated with replacing approximately 7,200 feet of existing sidewalk located on North Avenue between Cross Highway and Coleytown Road including related design, consultant, engineering, administrative, contingency, financing and other soft costs (the “Project”).

Section 10. As recommended by the Board of Finance and for the purpose of financing Three Hundred Fifty Thousand and 00/100 Dollars (\$350,000.00) of the foregoing appropriation, the Town shall borrow a sum not to exceed Three Hundred Fifty Thousand and 00/100 Dollars (\$350,000.00) and issue general obligation bonds for such indebtedness under its corporate name and seal and upon the full faith and credit of the Town in an amount not to exceed said sum for the purpose of financing the appropriation for the Project.

Section 11. The First Selectman, Selectmen and Finance Director are hereby appointed a committee (the “Committee”) with full power and authority to cause said bonds to be sold, issued and delivered; to determine their form, including provision for redemption prior to maturity; to determine the aggregate principal amount thereof within the amount hereby authorized and the denominations and maturities thereof; to fix the time of issue of each series thereof and the rate or rates of interest thereon as herein provided; to designate the bank or trust company to certify the issuance thereof and to act as transfer agent, paying agent and as registrar for the bonds, and to designate bond counsel. The Committee shall have all appropriate powers under the Connecticut General Statutes including Chapter 748 (Registered Public Obligations Act) to issue the bonds and, further, shall have full power and authority to do all that is required under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, and other applicable laws and regulations of the United States and the state of Connecticut, to provide for issuance of the bonds in tax exempt form, including the execution of tax compliance and other agreements for the benefit of bondholders, and to meet all requirements which are or may become necessary in and subsequent to the issuance and delivery of the bonds in order that the interest on the bonds be and remain exempt from federal income taxes, including, without limitation, to covenant and agree to restriction on investment yield of bond proceeds, rebate of arbitrage earnings, expenditure of proceeds within required time limitations and the filing of information reports as and when required and to execute Continuing Disclosure Agreements for the benefit of holders of bonds and notes.

Section 12. The Bonds may be designated “Public Improvement Bonds” series of the year of their issuance and may be issued in one or more series, and may be consolidated as part of the same issue with other bonds of the Town; shall be in serial form maturing in not more than twenty (20) annual installments of principal, the first installment to mature not later than three (3) years from the date of issue and the last installment to mature not

later than twenty (20) years therefrom, or as otherwise provided by statute. The bonds may be sold at not less than par and accrued interest at public sale upon invitation for bids to the responsible bidder submitting the bid resulting in the lowest true interest cost to the Town, provided that nothing herein shall prevent the Town from rejecting all bids submitted in response to any one invitation for bids and the right to so reject all bids is hereby reserved, and further provided that the Committee may sell the bonds, or notes, on a negotiated basis, as provided by statute. Interest on the bonds shall be payable semiannually or annually. The bonds shall be signed on behalf of the Town by the First Selectman and the Finance Director, and shall bear the seal of the Town. The signing, sealing and certification of said bonds may be by facsimile as provided by statute. The Finance Director shall maintain a record of bonds issued pursuant to this resolution and of the face amount thereof outstanding from time to time, and shall certify to the destruction of said bonds after they have been paid and cancelled, and such certification shall be kept on file with the Town Clerk.

Section 13. The Committee is further authorized to make temporary borrowings as permitted by the General Statutes and to issue a temporary note or notes of the Town in anticipation of the receipt of proceeds from the sale of the bonds to be issued pursuant to this resolution. Such notes shall be issued and renewed at such times and with such maturities, requirements and limitations as provided by statute. Notes evidencing such borrowings shall be signed by the First Selectman and the Finance Director, have the seal of the Town affixed, which signing and sealing may be by facsimile as provided by statute, be certified by and payable at a bank or trust company incorporated under the laws of this or any other state, or of the United States, be approved as to their legality by bond counsel, and may be consolidated with the issuance of other Town bond anticipation notes. The Committee shall determine the date, maturity, interest rates, form and manner of sale, including negotiated sale, and other details of said notes consistent with the provisions of this resolution and the General Statutes and shall have all powers and authority as set forth above in connection with the issuance of bonds and especially with respect to compliance with the requirements of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, and regulations thereunder in order to obtain and maintain issuance of the notes in tax exempt form.

Section 14. Upon the sale and issuance of the bonds authorized by this resolution, the proceeds thereof, including any premium received upon the sale thereof, accrued interest received at delivery and interest earned on the temporary investment of such proceeds, shall be applied forthwith to the payment of the principal and interest of all notes issued in anticipation thereof or shall be deposited in trust for such purposes with a bank or trust company, or shall be applied or rebated as may be required under the provision of law. The remainder of the proceeds, if any, after the payment of said notes and of the expense of issuing said notes and bonds shall be applied to further finance the appropriation enacted herein.

Section 15. In each fiscal year in which the principal or any installment of interest shall fall due upon any of the bonds or notes herein authorized there shall be included in the appropriation for such fiscal year a sum equivalent to the amount of such principal and interest so falling due, and to the extent that provision is not made for the payment thereof from other revenues, the amount thereof shall be included in the taxes assessed upon the Grand List for such fiscal year and shall not be subject to any limitations of expenditures or taxes that may be imposed by any other Town ordinance or resolution.

Section 16. Pursuant to Section 1.150-2 (as amended) of the federal income tax regulations the Town hereby expresses its official intent to reimburse expenditures paid from the General Fund, or any capital fund for the Project with the proceeds of the bonds or notes to be issued under the provisions hereof. The allocation of such reimbursement bond proceeds to an expenditure shall be made in accordance with the time limitations and other requirements of such regulations. The Finance Director is authorized to pay Project expenses in accordance herewith pending the issuance of the reimbursement bonds or notes.

Section 17. The Town of Westport, or other proper authority of the Town, is authorized to take all necessary action to apply to the State of Connecticut, and accept from the State or other parties, grants, gifts and contributions in aid of further financing the Project. Once the appropriation becomes effective, the First Selectman, or other appropriate official of the town, is hereby authorized to spend a sum not to exceed the aforesaid appropriation for the Project and is specifically authorized to make, execute and deliver any contracts or other documents necessary or convenient to complete the Project and the financing thereof.

Section 18. The Committee is hereby authorized to take all action necessary and proper for the sale, issuance and delivery of the bonds (and notes) in accordance with the provisions of the Town Charter, the Connecticut General Statutes, and the laws of the United States.