

**ANNUAL TOWN BUDGET MEETING  
TUESDAY, JUNE 2, 2015  
7:30 PM  
TOWN HALL AUDITORIUM**

The Annual Town Meeting of electors and citizens qualified to vote in Town Meetings in the Town of Burlington, CT was called to order at 7:31 pm by First Selectman Theodore C. Shafer. Selectmen James Chard, Roger Powell and Carl Salsedo were present.

One hundred and ten (110) individuals were present.

First Selectman Shafer called for nominations for moderator. Selectman Chard nominated and Selectman Powell seconded Ted Shafer as moderator of the meeting. Upon no further nominations a motion to close nominations was made by Chard and Salsedo. Ted Shafer was voted moderator by unanimous voice vote.

Call of the meeting was read by Mary-Jane Ugalde, Town Clerk.

**ITEM #1: To consider and act upon the acceptance of the Town Budget in the amount of \$33,741,150 for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2015.**

First Selectman Shafer asked for a motion to accept the 2015-2016 budget of \$33,741,150. Anthony DiNicola moved to accept the 2015-2016 budget; Ellie Parente seconded. Anthony DiNicola, Chairman of the Board of Finance gave a brief summary of the budget. The budget will be increasing approximately \$1.6 million; \$1 million is from the increases to the Region #10 School budget. Town expenditures include an extra payroll cycle (\$78,000), a grant administrator position, litigation fee increases, \$30,000 increase to the Senior Citizens budget. Snow removal went over budget this year by more than \$103,000. A 29% increase has been added to snow removal this year. Other significant expenditures include a new roof on the salt shed at the Highway Department and the \$100,000 payment into the BVFD reserve fund toward a new fire truck. A new reserve fund will be established to fund a future cold storage building for Highway Department equipment. The mill rate could increase up to 1.4 mills.

The moderator opened Item #1 to questions or discussion.

John Stiefel, 35 Saw Mill Rd questioned the BVFD line item and if this amount was enough to cover maintenance and updating of equipment. Shafer and DiNicola addressed this question. The Board of Finance and Selectmen approve this long term approach to monies going to the reserve fund for new equipment/vehicles.

Clarence Murdock, 33 Main Street asked about the car tax bill being proposed on at the State level. Shafer noted the BOF and BOS have discussed the proposed Senate Bill #1 for a uniform mill rate on car taxes for the entire state. The state would cover any shortfall of taxes to the

Town that results from this Bill should it be passed. The BOS is not in favor of this Bill and have sent a letter to our State Representative and Senator.

Ginger Doherty, 52 Case Road asked about the amount funding the Grant Writer and shouldn't those fees be included in the grant amount. Shafer noted that Robin Bugbee in the new grant administrator not a grant writer. She works one day a week and is currently maintaining the grants the Town has already been awarded. This line item is \$12,000.

Lucille Via, 6 Hart Ridge Drive asked for clarification on the \$30,000 increase to the Senior Citizen's budget. She noted the lack of transportation and events offered to the Seniors currently. Shafer agreed that based on a senior citizen survey and the local demographics of seniors in Burlington's population, the dial-a-ride program would get an influx of funding to cover the cost of more drivers. Also this funding will cover the cost of a new part time senior citizen program coordinator.

Carol Marsh 4 Barnes Hill Road commented on the lack of senior citizen programming.

Benjamin Kratzert 6 Highfields Drive commented on the safety of the BVFD '89 Rescue Truck.

Upon no further questions, Mr. Shafer called for a voice vote. Item #1 passed with a unanimous voice vote.

**ITEM #2: To authorize the requisition from the State of CT LOCIP Funds the sum of \$75,000 and to use those monies for Capital Improvement to the Town.**

A motion was made and seconded to accept Item #2 by Chard and Powell.

No discussion was presented. The vote was called by Mr. Shafer and the motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

**ITEM #3: To authorize the Town to purchase the Taine Mountain parcel for open space in the amount of \$800,000 where the purchase will be contingent on the receipt of a \$520,000 CT DEEP Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Grant and \$50,000 from the Burlington Land Trust; the Town's share of the purchase not to exceed \$250,000 from the Town's unassigned surplus.**

A motion was made and seconded to accept Item #3 by Chard and Powell.

Paul Rochford, Chairman of the Burlington Land Trust answered questions from the residents in attendance.

A resident asked the size of the parcel. Rochford responded this purchase would be 105 acres and would attach to another parcel of 200 acres that is partially owned by the Land Trust and the majority owned by The Nature Conservancy.

Edward Yescott 234 Johnnycake Mountain Road, asked who would own the land, the Town or the Burlington Land Trust. Rochford responded that the Town would own the land but the Land Trust would manage the land. Yescott also asked about timber value on the land. Rochford deferred the question to Kate Brown of the Trust for Public Land. The land has not been assessed for timber value, but is based on residential development value. Two different assessments gave the property an assessed value of \$900,000 and \$1 million.

Bob Coates, 10 Saw Mill Road was not in favor of the purchase feeling \$250,000 could be better spent on something that supports more of the general public (sport fields, town center).

Steve Davino, 47 Woodhaven Drive spoke in favor of the purchase noting the advantage to the Boy Scouts to hike on the trails this area would supply.

John Hebert, 168 Stone Road, Chairman of Conservation Commission spoke in favor of the purchase and the importance of preserving this land.

Jim McCusker, 3 Burlington Drive spoke in favor of the purchase. The land will be owned in perpetuity and available to all residents now and in the future.

Upon no further questions, Mr. Shafer called for a voice vote. Item #3 passed by voice vote. There was one nay vote.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Carl Salsedo, seconded by Roger Powell. The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary-Jane Ugalde  
Town Clerk