

First Selectman Glenn Pianka called to order a Town Meeting on Wednesday July 20, 2022, at 7:00 pm at Fields Memorial School 8 Bozrah Street Ext. Bozrah, CT. With sixty-five people in attendance. First Selectman Pianka announced there are copies of the two town meetings in the back as you come into the room. Town meetings are to be approved moving forward. There are only ten or twelve copies, if you were here you can vote yes or no to accept the minutes. If you were not here, you should abstain. The Board of Selectman has reviewed the minutes to check if they are accurate. We feel confident that they are. So that helps make a decision on your part. However, if you do see something that was brought to your attention, we have no problem as dealing with that as well.

First Selectman Pianka made a motion for Michael Betten: of Wawecus Hill Road to act as moderator for this meeting. Selectman Jeremy Tarasevich: of Fitchville Road seconded the motion for Michael Betten to act as moderator for this town meeting. All in Favor; Aye opposed: any opposed? Any abstain? Motion carried. Moderator Michael Betten: First Selectman Glenn Pianka: mentioned that there will be four items. I'm going to read the agenda to you then we're going have a discussion one through four. The votes will be individual. Moderator Betten read the agenda for tonight's meeting. Moderator Betten: Do I have a motion to accept the town meeting held April 20, 2022?

Selectman Jeremy Tarasevich: Fitchville Road made a motion to accept the town meeting minutes of April 20, 2022. Mary Elizabeth Lang: of Gifford Lane seconded the motion to accept the town meeting minutes dated April 20, 2022.

Moderator Betten: Now the motion is up for discussion, comments.

Carolyn Dziengiel: Bashon Hill Road to my recollection, in the minutes it does not show the caterpillar as already been purchased. That should be noted in the minutes.

First Selectman Pianka: The motion to accept has failed unless the moderator notes that a correction will be made. Moderator Betten Does everyone understand? There's going to be an addition to the minutes, and we can vote on it if everyone wants, with the understanding that an addition will be made, or it will be delayed then it would have to come to another meeting. Carolyn Dziengiel: Bashon Hill Road I'm asking for a correction because to my recollection, at the town meeting it was noted that the caterpillar was already purchased before the meeting. Selectman Bill Ballinger of Lake Road I will move that we amend the April 20, 2022, town minutes. Moderator Betten: do I have a second? Nancy Taylor: Salem Tpke seconded the motion to amend the town minutes held on April 20, 2022. Moderator Betten we have a second on the correction it will stand now. All in favor raise your hand to accept the town meeting April 20, 2022, with the addition as we mentioned. All opposed? An Abstain? So Authorized. Thank you.

Moderator Betten: Let's move on to the town meeting June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2022. Do I have a motion? Selectman Jeremy Tarasevich: Fitchville Road made a motion to accept the minutes of the town meeting held on June 8, 2022. Nancy Taylor Salem Tpke seconded the motion to accept June 8, 2022, town meeting minutes. Moderator Betten Any corrections? Discussion? All in favor for accepting the town minutes raise your hand. Selectman Bill Ballinger, Mr. Moderator if you were not at the meeting, you shouldn't vote, you must abstain. Moderator Betten let's put it this way, if you were there to accept the minutes raise your hand. All those opposed who were at the meeting raise your hand. Abstain? So Authorized.

Moderator Betten: before we move on to number three you should have two ballots. Blue and Lemon color. Your ballot for number three is the blue ballot. Number three do we have a motion to put number three on the floor? Selectman Jeremy Tarasevich: Fitchville Road made a motion to approve the expenditure of \$1,335,374.00 for the purchase of a GSO 11209 KME Severe Service 103' Aerial Rear Mount Ladder Fire Truck. John Way: Browning Road seconded the motion to approve the expenditure of \$1,335,374.00 for the purchase of a GSO 11209 KME Severe Service 103' Aerial Rear Mount Ladder Fire Truck.

Moderator Betten: We are now open for discussion. Jack Sullivan: Fitchville Road asked the following questions to Chief Ryan Sholes. What's going to be the yearly cost on this ladder truck? Does the price include training? How many fire personal do you need to operate. Chief Sholes: Maintenance will be five to seven thousand dollars, you need one person to drive, and that same person can also operate it. Training will be provide.

Jack Sullivan: Fitchville Road Where did you get those figures? Chief Choles: That's what is cost for maintenance now. The current truck cost more because it's old and parts are hard to find. Jack Sullivan Fitchville Road We have two paid firemen now? Are these two guys respobile to operate the truck? Chief Sholes Yes, we have two paid firemen now they work Monday thru Friday seven am to four pm. Yes, they will be able to operate the truck. Jack Sullivan: Fitchville Road Why can't we call Montville? Chief Sholes We can ask for their assistance but there's no guarantee. We have to protect our town. The current ladder truck does not meet our needs anymore. The current truck is almost twenty years old. The buildings are getting bigger. Elmbrook is almost five stories high. The building from the ground up is about sixty feet up. Jack Sullivan Fitchville Road Why do we need a three-hundred-footer when Norwich has one? We are going to spend money on maintenance then have to spend money again in twenty years. I'm concerned about the maintenance cost and replacement cost.

Jack Sullivan: Fitchville Road I was told that this truck is a good deal because it's a demo truck. Why are not other departments bidding on this truck? What are their bids? Chief Sholes We are not bidding this is the cost of the truck. It's not a bidding contest. This is the cost of the truck. There are two other town looking at this truck. One town in Massachusetts and one in New York. They are in the same position as we are. Jack Sullivan: Fitchville Road: Why can't we come in with a lower bid? Chief Sholes: This is not a bidding contest. Just like when you buy a car there's no bidding. Resident of Blue Hill Road asked Chief Sholes What's the closest mutual aid and if they had to come to us how long would it take? Is that a guarantee? When you set up, you said Elmbrook was five feet, ten feet, fifty feet. That's vertically from the basement up-straight up. Do you set up away from the building? Chief Sholes: Salem is the closest to us it would take about ten to twelve minutes. There's no guarantee that they are coming. It depends on staffing. The other town is Norwich which would take about five to ten minutes depending on what side of town. Yes, we set up away from the building. It's the reach not the height we need.

Carolyn Dziengiel: Bashon Hill Road I was wondering about the finance. Where does the money come from? Mike O'Connor Chair of the Board of Finance: We approved this at a town meeting for your authorizing to make this purchase. We specially looked into financing. If you note the first payment would not be until next fiscal year. So that will be in next years budget. The one we all vote and approve on. If everything stayed the same, we would have to pay for this fire truck it would be about 7 mils increase in taxes. We have not raised property taxes in four years.

Herb Nordgren: Rosemarie Lane: Explained how the ladder fire truck functions. It's not the height but the reach you have to reach to get over the house or building. Like the egg farm, sometimes you cannot get close to the building. The ladder truck is very important. A lot of houses we cannot even get up the driveway. Bozrah also gives mutual aid to other towns. Resident Fawn Place, this is not a question but a request. Did someone make a sale pitch and what they have now and what they are lacking. The safety and well-being of our residents is very important. Chief Sholes: the truck we have now is reaching its twenty-year mark that's when most fire companies look into purchasing. Right now, the truck is a 2003 American LaFrance it's a brand that has a sixty-five-foot ladder. As the town is getting bigger, the chicken farms are growing, the data center on Houghton Road is going to be a big building. The new truck will meet our needs. There are new safety features on the new truck, there are cameras all around the truck so you can see without getting out of the truck. The new truck will also have another two-thousand-gallon water pump. You can do everything; you can put the ladder up and do rescue and this truck we can have in six months. The brand is Quinn. If we went out and purchased a new truck it would cost one point six million dollars and it would take three years. Chief Sholes also explained mutual aid., also if any town in new London County requested our help, we would do the same as if we needed help. Not everyone is available due to them being on a call. Carolyn Dziengiel: Bashon Hill Road what would happen to the old truck? Chief Sholes: it would be traded or sold. The town owns the truck so they would get the money.

Colin Laffey: Fitchville road explained the difference between a seven hundred and a hundred-foot aerial truck. Tom Main Jr.: Former Fire Chief explained that when Airgas was built, the ladder truck at the time met our needs. With the ladder truck we have now we can only reach the second floor at Elmbrook. The new truck has new technology, plus the truck can hold more water and you have a longer reach.

Moderator Betten: Please vote with your ballot now.

Shelly LaValle: Lake Road and Tax Collector Nancy Renshaw: Bashon Hill Road counted the ballots.

Moderator Betten: I would like to move on to item number four while the ballots are being counted.

Selectman Jeremy Tarasevich made a motion to approve the acceptance of the State of Connecticut (DEEP) Open Space and Watershed Acquisition (OSWA) Grant in the amount of \$300,000 toward the \$400,000 purchase price. That the balance be funded by the use of the Town of Bozrah Open Space fund (\$47,000) and the remainder of the \$53,000 to be funded from the General Fund. Scott Taylor: of Wawecus Hill Road seconded the motion to approve the acceptance of the State of Connecticut (DEEP) Open Space and Watershed Acquisition (OSWA) Grant in the amount of \$300,00 toward the \$400,000 purchase price. That the balance be funded by the use of the Town of Bozrah Open Space Fund (\$47,000) and the remainder of \$53,000 to be funded from the General Fund. Moderator Betten Motion on the floor, open for discussion.

Mary Elizabeth Lang: Gifford Lane it doesn't state in the motion that we just made, four hundred thousand purchase price. For what? First Selectman Pianka: it's for the purchase of 169 acres between Bozrah and Montville. Mary Elizabeth Lang: Gifford Lane I would like to suggest that we amend the motion to state what the Four hundred thousand dollars is paying for. Just for the record.

Moderator Betten: what we are doing is just putting into the description what we are purchasing. Resident does voting to accept this three hundred thousand, does that put us on the hook for the extra hundred thousand dollars to our purchase?

First Selectman Pianka: No, it puts us on obligation to pay the other hundred thousand. Fifty-three thousand dollars more from the general fund also the Forty-seven thousand dollars from the open space fund.

Moderator Betten: Once again just by hand to add what the Four hundred thousand is for 169 acres of land that are virgin land, there's no houses, just land. All in favor of putting that in for number four please raise your hand. Opposed? Abstains? So Authorized.

Jim Bonanno: South Road Isn't some of that property in Montville? Is Montville doing anything at all as far as purchasing? First Selectman Pianka: Yes, Montville offered twenty-five thousand, that has not come through. It's still in motion.

Jeanne Goulart: Bishop Road Will the Town lines change? First Selectman Pianka: No, the history of this is Avalonia was looking at this property some time ago in preserve and Avalonia the president of Avalonia is Denis Main who I have frequent conversations with. Because I believe in preservation and conservation. We were presented with the fact that Avalonia has inquired a lot of properties in Connecticut. When this grant money opportunity came along, somebody at DEEP said to them you know, you are all getting the lion's share of the funding that's out there. Isn't it time for someone else to step up to the plate? Someone stepped up to the plate and said I have a candidate. I was asked if this piece of property was on my radar. Well, that particular property is not on our radar. Unfortunately, we have no preserved land, we have no open space that has been saved. Years ago, when subdivision was done, we got money in lieu of open space. We have open space, I mean we have open space parcels instead of money. When I got into office in 2015, I looked at some of our records. There are open parcels all over town. We need to do something more positive with our money. The same time Planning and Zoning changed their thinking about taking money instead of open space. So that's how the open space started to build up. Some of the open space money was used when the Maple farm park trails were created. Fifty-four thousand as I recall, and the voters decided to do that. At the time it was a great idea and since we have been able to build up another forty-seven thousand dollars. The information from the original looked like we approve for it. Well, I think we have a deadline of Sept. 30<sup>th</sup>. We worked hard to get all the information to get it under the radar. At that time, the State application was asking for 65% towards the purchase price. Norwich utilities also walked the property with us, and they thought it was part of their watershed. As it turns out, it's not. So, they withdrew what they thought was going to be their contribution. Seventy-five thousand dollars, at the same time, our own open space fund started growing. We thought our contribution was going to be forty-five thousand dollars. Well, it increased by thirteen thousand dollars. But, instead of getting 65% it went to 75%. We have an opportunity to do a land preservation effort even if it goes through two town line. Not a lot of taxpayers' investment. Anytime we have worked on the building, upgrades around town we are always thinking of maintenance cost. It's a wonderful opportunity, I think it's a win-win down the line.

Moderator Betten: any questions? Comments? Ok everyone please take your ballot and vote.

Lindsay LaFlash: Rosemarie lane and Nancy Renshaw: Bashon hill road counted the ballots.

Results Firetruck: 59 Yes 6 No Passed

Land: 53 Yes 3 No

Moderator Betten read the results everything passed. This meeting is now adjourned at 8:04 pm

Lynne A. Skinner CCTC

Bozrah Town Clerk

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