

Town of Windsor Locks
MINUTES OF TOWN MEETING
July 21, 2025
Windsor Locks Town Hall
50 Church Street
Windsor Locks, CT 06096

Pursuant to the foregoing notice, a Town Meeting of the electors and those qualified to vote at Town Meetings of the Town of Windsor Locks, Connecticut was held at the Windsor Locks Town Hall in the Gymnasium on **Monday July 21, 2025**, at 7:30PM.

I. Call to Order

- a. The Honorable First Selectman Scott Storms called the Town Meeting to order at 7:30PM in the Gymnasium located at the Windsor Locks Town Hall.

II. Reading of the Call

- a. Christopher Latournes, Town Clerk read the reading of the Call.

III. Nomination of a Moderator

- a. First Selectman Scott Storms entertained the nomination of a moderator at which time Michael Ciarcia (*15 Meg Way*) **MOVED** to nominate Mr. Joseph Calsetta (*121 Orchard Hill Drive*) **SECONDED** by Daniel Flanagan (*168 Taft Lane*). First Selectman Scott Storms entertained any other nominations at which time Linda Palmer (*15 North Main Street*) **MOVED** to nominate Mr. Kevin Knapp (*6 West Street*) **SECONDED** by Lori Buch (*27 Darien Drive*). Kylee Christianson (*103 Michelle Drive*) **MOVED** to close the Moderator nominations seconded by Mark Whitten (*31 Acorn Drive*). A voice vote was held and Mr. Joseph Calsetta won the nomination for Moderator. **MOTION CARRIES**

IV. New Business

1. Moderator Joseph Calsetta explained that the Registrar of Voters are here tonight to conduct a paper ballot for the vote on tonight's resolution.
2. Moderator Joseph Calsetta asked for the introduction of a resolution coming before the floor at which time First Selectman Scott Storms **MOVED** for the adoption of the following resolution **SECONDED** by Peggy Sayers (*477 Denslow Street*).

"BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town of Windsor Locks, acting herein by its Legislative Body, the Town Meeting, hereby adopts, pursuant to C.G.S. 12-62c, a two-year phase-in of the incremental increase of the Grand List resulting from the town-wide revaluation which became effective on October 1, 2024."

- a. The Moderator opened the floor for discussion.
- b. Resident Kurt Brace (*47 Elm Street*) moved to amend the resolution to:

"To introduce, discuss and act on a resolution to adopt, pursuant to C.G.S. §12-62c, a four-year phase-in of the incremental increase of the Grand List resulting from the town-wide revaluation which became effective on October 1, 2024."

- c. Carl Landolina (*Windsor Locks Town Attorney*) explained that a notice was published five days before this meeting in the newspaper and on the signpost outside of Town Hall. If we amend the question to a four-year phase this would be inappropriate and improper and if this proposed amendment was adopted at some point in the future, in his opinion, this would be a void action. The town would make itself liable for holding a meeting of a question that wasn't properly noticed.
- d. Resident Gail Burrington (*6 Reed Circle*) wanted clarification if they considered anything more than a two-year phase in, they would need to vote down the two-year phase in? Did the Board of Finance only want to open the door to a two-year phase in?

- e. Board of Finance Chairperson Lori Quagliaroli (*4 Norman Avenue*) stated that the Board of Finance recommended a two-year phase in, and the Board of Finance did not agree to a four-year phase in.
- f. Resident Kevin Knapp (*6 West Street*) put on notice that the Town of Windsor Locks has discriminated against Veterans and Disabled people. Knapp believes that John Creed admitted that he taxed people incorrectly.
- g. Moderator Joseph Calsetta asked Mr. Knapp to explain how his statements were relevant to the proposed resolution.
- h. Resident Kevin Knapp (*6 West Street*) explained that Seniors need money to pay their way. A four-year option is the only way for Seniors to stay in their home. Knapp stated that Jason Lathrop and the Board of Finance presented that there is only \$5600 in exemptions and it's probably millions. Knapp has a list of five hundred Veterans that have not been given the tax exemptions that they are supposed to be getting by state law. The town has millions of dollars of our money.
- i. Resident Mary Campbell (*24 Center Street*) thinks it's not the budget, but it is the reassessment that has raised their tax liability, and it may be difficult for a lot of people in town to handle in a one-to-two-year time frame. Campbell expressed that they are a small-class town and this would be a hardship for many and insurance premiums will also increase. She believes the business sector in this town received such a good tax break, now the private sector in this town has to make up the difference. She gives credit to the Town for one of the lowest mill rates in the state. Campbell believes they have done a marvelous job, and she does enjoy the many perks Windsor Locks has to offer such as our garbage pickup, plowing and so on and so forth. She believes the town's people are asking for help in managing this tax increase.
- j. Resident John Kreidel (*21 Anthony Street*) shared that most people are retired in this crowd, and some have pensions and only Social Security as only sources of income. He believes the four-year phase in is the way to go. He doesn't believe the average income is \$90,000 per person. Kreidel is not sure who is making all that money and can afford it.
- k. Resident William Rousseau (*407 Elmwood Drive*) has attended most of the Board of Finance Meetings and is frustrated and a little disgusted that we are called here to vote on a two-year phase in. Mr. Rousseau feels that our voices have not been acknowledged and have been ignored. He stated a four-year phase in may have some financial difficulties that the Town may face. He doesn't want to have to dig into his pocket for additional tax fund and that we are an ageing town and there is only one option tonight and that's to vote no. He is very disappointed with First Selectman Storms and the Board of Selectman that they would put us through this and he's disappointed in the Board of Finance for not listening. He believes Michael Ciarcia and Con O'Leary got the message and Board of Finance Chairperson Lori Quagliaroli expects the residents to suck up the tax increase. He believes the Board of Finance refused to listen and hopes the Board of Finance will have the common sense to implement a four-year phase in. Rousseau also believes in the next election we need to vote a lot of people out.
- l. Richard Albert (*42 John Street*) inquired about what has changed from a couple of years to now? What caused this big change in money?
- m. John Creed (*Windsor Locks Town Assessor*) explained how there are two main issues with the reevaluation. The housing market has gone way up. The average housing evaluation has increased sixty-eight percent. The commercial values decreased during Covid and have only increased a little bit but have not fully recovered.
- n. Resident Charles Campbell (*24 Center Street*) wanted to know how come the mil rate hasn't been dropped to around 15? He believes the mill rate always sticks around 20 or 21 percent. He believes the Finance Board should do something about that.
- o. Resident Eric Marsh (*94 South Elm Street*) believes there are three choices. You could cut services even though he doesn't want services cut. Marsh believes we

need road repairs and education. The second option the town can do is evict the poor and the elderly and if you can't pay for these services and if you can't afford these services, you can leave town. The third option is the phase in. Marsh believes the two-year phase in only buys the residents ten months and does not ease the burden enough for the poor, elderly or people on fixed incomes.

- p. Resident Kurt Brace (*47 Elm Street*) believes we've been robbed from the beginning of this process. He believes people knew there would be some kind of increase, but the people were told not to worry because the mil rate would come down and it will all average and this is not happening. Brace stated there is a seven percent reduction in the amount of taxes paid by the commercial property owners. Brace says the only tool we have in our toolbox is a phase in and the Board of Finance did not want to consider that, and a thirty percent increase is too much. Brace petitioned for a referendum, and he got two hundred thirty signatures and people wanted to sign his petition. Brace stated Social Security went up \$51 dollars a month on average and it is unconscionable to want our resident to have to come up \$1000 or \$2000 more a year in taxes. Brace believes we didn't hop on the phase in early enough and believes it's not too late to have a phase in. He thinks the Board of Finance ran out the clock on us. Brace went to the Town Hall to look at the ballots from the recent referendum and a stipend employee was taking pictures of him and he didn't think that was appropriate. He reported one ballot said bring back the original budget and he saw one ballot said "lower the taxes". Brace spoke about the reason for the no votes is people can't afford the taxes, and they want to stay in town. He believes the Selectmen are going to step in and take away their voting rights and phase in would be done.
- q. Resident Angel Carrasquillo (*57 West Street*) stated he is also a vet and understands his taxes maybe lower because of his military benefits. His DD214 has been on file with the Town of Windsor Locks since the 90s and none of the people in the Assessors Office ever questioned it because every two years he provided a certificate from the Department of Veterans Affairs. Carrasquillo pointed to the Assessor and stated that the Assessor wanted to see his original DD214 even though he provided the letter every two years. He believes there are a lot of injustices in this town. He also has voted yes in every referendum. Carrasquillo spoke about how his daughter's rights were violated when she was in Middle School and the First Selectman was on the Board of Education and the Superintendent lied to him. He urged people to remember this moment next election. He has a beef with a disrespect for Democracy.
- r. Resident Inaudible name (*33 Dale Street*) wanted to know when we are getting the mill rate calculation for this phase in.
- s. Moderator Joseph Calsetta explained that the mil rate is set by the Board of Selectmen because there is no budget set. The Selectmen have to set the mil rate because there are financial obligations that the town needs to pay.
- t. Resident Inaudible name (*33 Dale Street*) questioned if there will there be a mil rate calculation sheet supporting the mil rate of 24.3 with the two-year phase in?
- u. Moderator Joseph Calsetta explained that usually the mil rate is set at the next Board of Finance meeting after the budget has been set.
- v. Resident Inaudible name (*33 Dale Street*) wants to know what happens if the two-year phase in is voted down tonight?
- w. Board of Finance Chairperson Lori Quagliaroli (*4 Norman Avenue*) stated that there is a Board of Finance meeting tomorrow night, and with the results of this meeting, a budget will be created. When a budget is created, a mil rate is created and that will go to referendum on July 29.
- x. Resident Rob Shepard (*154 Spring Street*) believes the Board of Finance could make another recommendation for a longer phase in, vote amongst themselves and propose to the Selectmen to come back to a forum like this.
- y. Moderator Joseph Calsetta said the Referendum is set by the Town Charter and he doesn't believe there is enough time for the July 29th referendum for Mr. Shepard's proposal. The Town Attorney also agreed.

- z. Resident William Buch (*47 Darien Drive*) inquired if the two-year phase in fails tonight and the budget fails on July 29, will we be assessed on the 23 grand list assessment?
- aa. Moderator Joseph Calsetta answered that the calculations will be on our new evaluations if the mil rate is set by the Board of Selectmen.
- bb. Resident William Buch (*47 Darien Drive*) wanted everyone to know that if the budget doesn't get passed on July 29th, our taxes are all going to go up to the new assessments and the mil rate our Board of Selectmen sets.
- cc. Resident Belynda Goldstein (*34 School Street*) questioned if the Board of Finance knows that the town wants a four-year phase in?
- dd. Board of Finance Chairperson Lori Quagliaroli (*4 Norman Avenue*) responded that the Board of Finance has discussed the phase in over the last month or two and the Board of Finance decided to push forward a two-year phase in.
- ee. Resident Joseph Brochu (*6 Arbor Lane*) questioned if the mill rate gets set, is that temporary until the budget passes?
- ff. Carl Landolina (*Windsor Locks Town Attorney*) responded that Mr. Brochu is incorrect. The Connecticut Supreme Court had decided a few years ago that the authority to set a mill rate by the Board of Selectman under C.G.S. 12-123 takes place that there will not be a change in the mill rate.
- gg. Resident Rich Benson (*1 Chamberlain Crossing*) stated that he has been a resident in town for about twenty years. He received a letter from Tyler Technologies (vendor for the town) that conducted his assessment. He doesn't believe the town is giving "breaks" because a third-party vendor conducted his assessment. He urged people that if you think your assessment is in correct, you can call and have a meeting with Tyler Technologies. Benson was a ballot clerk for the last three referendums and believes the voter turnout has been pretty pitiful since one out of every seven eligible voters has come to vote. He encouraged people to vote. Benson said he heard at a Board of Finance meeting that every month we don't have a budget passed, we lose about \$100,000 in interest per month as revenue for the town. Benson shared that about a month ago in the Windsor Locks Journal, former First Selectman Chris Kervick wrote an article titled "Your too late Windsor Locks" and he thought it was a good article. The article wanted to know where you were when the union contracts took place in town? Did anyone raise questions about the increases? Benson believes we need to get more involved in the next round of negotiations. He also shared there was an article about Thompson Connecticut in the Hartford Courant. Their budget failed three times in referendum and the First Selectwoman decided no more road repairs, sidewalk repairs until a budget is passed unless it's an absolute safety issue. There were also twenty staff layoffs.
- hh. Moderator Joseph Calsetta clarified that residents could revisit their home assessment through the Assessors Office and not Tyler Technologies.
- ii. Resident Gary Merrigan (*560 Halfway House Road*) wanted clarification if you want a phase in tonight, we are voting on a two-year phase in or there will not be an opportunity for a four-year phase in?
- jj. Carl Landolina (*Windsor Locks Town Attorney*) explained that the question of a phase in must be voted by the legislative body of the town. There are two ways to get a question to a town meeting. The first way is for the Board of Selectmen to send a resolution to Town Meeting. The other way is to have a petition to receive a Town Meeting. The issue is if the Board of Selectmen sets a mill rate that will be the mill rate and if a phase in isn't voted in before that occurs, a phase in will probably not happen. Attorney Landolina explained the town is operating under last year's budget since the town budget has not yet passed.
- kk. Resident Gary Merrigan (*560 Halfway House Road*) stated that if we want the phase in, it's tonight or never.
- ll. Resident Kevin Knapp (*6 West Street*) pointed out that Carl Landolina said the word "probably" and did not say "definitely". He believes that the town is misleading us that there is no way for a four-year phase in is "bs" and it is manipulation and this is what Lori Quagliaroli has been doing the entire time.

- Knapp voiced concerns about Ms. Quagliaroli holding multiple offices in town as well as Jason Lathrop holding multiple job positions in town and this is a sham. He plans on going to the elections committee tomorrow to crush this entire process. He urged the audience to vote no and that they will get a four-year phase in.
- mm. Resident Gail Burrington (*6 Reed Circle*) wanted to know why the Board of Selectmen limited the question tonight only to a two-year phase in?
- nn. First Selectman Scott Storms explained it's the belief of the Board of Selectmen that the fiscal authority rests with the Board of Finance. The Board of Selectmen took a recommendation from the Board of Finance and brought it to the Town Meeting.
- oo. Resident Gail Burrington (*6 Reed Circle*) believes for over a month the Board of Finance has been aware of a four-year phase in. She urged people to ask questions. She feels that we can only have a two-year phase in or nothing, "my way or no way". What other ways can the town explore to meet this financial obligation? She wanted a longer phase in because commercial values may increase. She would like a different mill rate for commercial and residential properties. Burrington also shared that her property insurance doubled.
- pp. Carl Landolina (*Windsor Locks Town Attorney*) wanted to make some clarifications. He spoke with other Town Attorneys through an association he belongs to as well as the Undersecretary of OPM (Office of Policy Management), the number two person in charge of interpreting assessment statutes. Attorney Landolina asked if we could treat different classes of property differently (different mil rate) and phase in commercial and residential properties differently. The Undersecretary of OPM said this would not be legal.
- qq. Resident Eric Marsh (*94 Elm Street*) asked the Town Attorney if the Board of Selectmen is required to set a mil rate?
- rr. Carl Landolina (*Windsor Locks Town Attorney*) confirmed that nothing is required by the Board of Selectmen to set a mil rate.
- ss. Resident Eric March (*94 Elm Street*) said he has heard that the voters by voting no are causing the town all of this money. He rejects that characterization and believes that the Board of Finance repeatedly proposed nonsense budgets forward. Marsh believes they should have put forth a meaningful attempt into solving the problem with implementing a phase in or cutting something and the Board of Finance is costing the town money.
- tt. Resident William Buch (*47 Darien Drive*) questioned if the budget isn't adopted by July 20th, we do not have time to come up with a proposal for a petition for a four-year phase in?
- uu. Carl Landolina (*Windsor Locks Town Attorney*) clarified that he did not say there is not enough time for a petition and Town Meeting. What he did say is there is not enough time for a petition and Town Meeting before the next referendum on July 29th.
- vv. Resident Charles Campbell (*24 Center Street*) suggested to postpone the referendum, so they have enough time to vote for a four-year phase in.
- ww. Moderator Joseph Calsetta explained that by charter, a referendum takes place every two weeks.
- xx. Resident Willaim Rousseau (*407 Elmwood Drive*) wanted to remind this assembly that three hundred people spoke when they authorized the Board of Finance to seek thirty-two million dollars in funding for a much-needed Senior Center and a Police Department. He believes there are many other buildings in town that could have been repurposed into a Police Station. Mr. Rousseau stated there is a Board of Finance meeting tomorrow night and will they listen to the people and suggest a four-year phase in on the referendum on July 29th?
- yy. Board of Finance Chairperson Lori Quagliaroli (*4 Norman Avenue*) reiterated that the Board of Finance will create a budget based on the vote tonight of a two-year phase in or no phase in.
- zz. Resident Jay Cutler (*16 Woodridge Drive*) wanted to offer a different perspective as a parent of a student in the schools and a lifelong resident of Windsor Locks.

Cutler spoke about remembering in 1994 and 1995 sitting in this room when they were cutting sports and we're doing this once again. Cutler explained if you look at your tax history, it has not gone up a lot and his taxes have gone up one percent per year if that over the last fifteen years. To him, this tells him that our Board of Finance is extremely conservative, and he believes if a four-year phase in would have worked, the Board of Finance would have done it. Cutler believes the reason why the four-year phase in isn't being considered is because it causes major cuts in services such as schools, roads, safety in the Police Department, and cuts to everything. He wants everyone to keep that in mind.

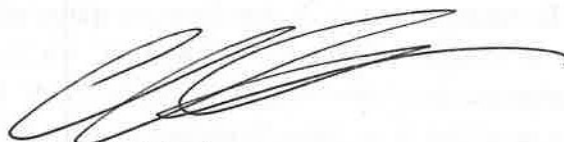
- aaa. Resident Angel Carrasquillo (*57 West Street*) inquired if the First Selectmen increase the mill rate for the money needed regardless of these meetings and the referendum.
- bbb. Moderator Joseph Calsetta told Mr. Carrasquillo you're hearing silence and that's an answer.
- ccc. First Selectmen Scott Storms explained that the town is operating on a budget of \$59 million at a 28.71 mil rate based on the 2023 Grand List. The Board of Selectmen needs the funds to support the \$59 million. Storms explained that once the budget passes, this does not mean the budget will be \$59 million.
- ddd. Resident Josh Nesovich (*35 Fairfield Drive*) stated that our taxes will go up period. He explained that the phase in transitions our increased values over a period of time as we transition from commercial properties paying a bulk of our taxes to residential. If staffing makes the same dollars as last year, they have to make cuts because unions get raises. In his opinion, people voted no on the first budget because of the increase. The second referendum got voted no because they played games with the money and trash and the third budget was the first budget all over again. The fourth budget was just some little cuts. As a town, Nesovich believes we do a great disservice to present the two year and not the four-year phase in. He believes those that are voting are looking for the four-year phase in. He believes we should let the town speak. He wants to get the four-year phase in on the table.
- eee. Resident Mark Whitten (*31 Acorn Drive*) **MOVED** the question to have a vote on this budget question **SECONDED** by several.
- fff. Resident Kurt Brace (*47 Elm Street*) feels that we should not end discussion now. He believes you do not get answers from the Board of Finance or the Board of Selectmen. Brace believes this is our one opportunity to get answers. This is people's houses and their kids' education.
- ggg. Being no further discussion, Moderator Joseph Calsetta called for a vote to move the question which was passed by voice vote. **MOTION CARRIES**
- 3. Windsor Locks Registrars of Voters held a paper ballot vote on the original resolution. The results were:

Yes: 60 No: 49 **MOTION CARRIES**

V. Adjournment

There being no more business to come before the meeting, the Moderator announced adjournment at 9:38PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Christopher Latournes

Town Clerk