

TOWN OF PORTLAND, CONNECTICUT
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
PUBLIC HEARING
March 12, 2024

First Selectman Ryan Curley called the public hearing to order at 7:00 p.m. Ryan then read the legal notice as follows:

LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Town of Portland, CT

Notice is hereby given that there will be a public hearing on the proposed Budget for 2024-2025 to be held by the Board of Selectmen, pursuant to Section 1201.3 of the Town of Portland Charter, at the following place and time:

Tuesday, March 12, 2024
7:00 p.m.
Buck-Foreman Community Room
265 Main Street, Portland CT
In-person and live streamed on Zoom A

Subject: General Government, Board of Education Budget; and all other Special Revenue Funds

At this hearing, any resident or taxpayer may be heard concerning the proposed budgets. Copies of the proposed budget are available for inspection in the Town Clerk's Office, Public Library and online at www.portlandct.org.

Dated this 1st day of March 2024

Attest: Ryan J. Curley, First Selectman

The meeting format includes a brief review and update, general town government proposal, followed by BOE proposed budget and then public comment.

Ryan presented a summary of the past year. Accomplishments included the new high school track, the Senior Center kitchen, Brainerd Place, Water at the Portland Rec Complex, Sidewalks through a Connectivity Grant, Hilltop Drive Water Main Replacement as well as Freestone Avenue, a Town-Wide Compost Program, 12 Passenger Senior Center Bus, \$500,000 STEAP grant for water mains on High Street, and the Climate Leader Designation. A Fire alarm system was installed in the Public Works Garage, and fuel pumps for gas & diesel at the Town Garage were replaced, a new fuel monitoring system was implemented, and we completed a long-term goal of scanning and digitizing all of Portland's Land Records. Work continued on Phase II of the Air Line Trail, and we continued to work with DEEP for permitting a boat launch; a solar array will be coming to the Portland Land Fill in

2024, a Nordic Spa will be coming to 31 Brownstone Avenue (Quarry View), and Remediation of 248 Brownstone Avenue is complete – with a RFP coming soon.

Ryan then gave the schedule for the budget workshops and the deliberation schedule with the approved budget ready for the April 3rd meeting. It will then be sent to a town meeting with the referendum on Monday, May 13.

He then presented a slide presentation on the proposed budget for 2024-2025. If left unchanged, the increase to the mill rate will be 3.11% (=1.03 mill increase).

Ryan then turned the hearing over to Dr. Britton, Superintendent of Schools. Dr. Britton explained how the budget was developed and gave a slide presentation of what is included in it. It represents a 5.08% increase. Outplacement student support went from 17 students last year up to 24 students now. He shared successes and headwinds. He concluded with the future of the three elementary schools which are now in rough shape and need help.

At this point, the hearing was opened for public comment.

Having received no comments, the hearing was closed at 8:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon R. Hoy, Recording Clerk