



THE OLD STONE HOUSE

TOWN OF GUILFORD

31 Park Street
GUILFORD, CONNECTICUT 06437

SETTLED IN 1639

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**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEEING MINUTES
MONDAY, APRIL 20, 2020
8:30 A.M. – ELECTRONIC MEETING
In accordance with Governor’s Executive Order 7B**

First Selectman Matthew Hoey called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

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|----------|-----------------|---|
| Present: | Board Members: | Matthew Hoey, Charles Havrda, Susan Renner, Louis Federici, and Sandra Ruoff |
| | Town Officials: | Finance Director Maryjane Malavasi, Human Resources Director Mitch Goldblatt, In-House Counsel/Purchasing Pam Millman, Town Engineer Janice Plaziak, Environmental Planner Kevin Magee, BOE Director of Operations/Facilities Cliff Gurnham, and Clerk Traci Brinkman |
| | Others: | Mary Alice Lee, Sachem’s Head Association President, Eric Lawton, Thomas Terribile, Doug Jowett and Jeffrey Hocking |

1. Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Havrda led the pledge.

2. Public Forum (limited to 3 minutes on agenda items)

Jeff Hocking spoke regarding the Cost of Living Adjustment on the agenda for the retired pensioners. He noted that they have not had a COLA increase since 2008. He added that in particular the police pensioners have dedicated their life to the Town of Guilford. They worked nights, weekends, holidays, during storms, etc. While residents are home safe they were out risking their safety during crimes and emergencies. He noted that the town does not need to consider all pension groups when considering an increase. Mr. Hocking noted the disparity between pension contributions for among the different unions. He added that they understand that we are in an unchartered fiscal situation, but the market will rebound. If the board does not feel comfortable approving the adjustment he at least requested they delay the decision for six to nine months. His statements which are included at the end of the minutes were approved by 25 other police pensioners.

3. Approve minutes of:

3.1 April 6, 2020 – Regular Meeting

Motion: Upon a motion made by Ms. Renner and seconded by Ms. Ruoff, the board vote unanimously to approve the minutes of the April 6, 2020 Regular Meeting.

Vote: In Favor: Hoey, Havrda, Renner, Federici and Ruoff
Opposed: None
Abstaining: None

4. Finance Director (Maryjane Malavasi):

4.1 Receive monthly report from Finance Director.

Revenues

Ms. Malavasi said revenues are down slightly from this time last year. She listened live to the bond commission meeting and the town will be receiving the \$426,000 that was held up by the commission, which will leave \$300,000 left to collect the rest of the year to meet 100% in revenues. She is confident that they will bring in up to 100% over the next three months and may even be slightly over that.

Expenses

Ms. Malavasi said all the departments are working in some capacity. The board has been looking at large capital expenditures and she expects they will continue to do so. Other departments are moving along as they should be.

Medical Benefits

Ms. Malavasi said in March they were very close to the projected monthly budgeted amount. They have been a little lower than budgeted up until now, but this is expected because this is when the town starts to kick in for anyone on the HSA. Catastrophic claims are at 43% at this time and last year they were at 75%. They still have a few months left. They projected surplus for this year is \$1.25 million and the projected total fund balance is about \$5 million.

Mr. Hoey confirmed that no town employees have tested positive for COVID.

Mr. Goldblatt said that is correct. Several people have had scares and they have worked with those employees, the health director and their physician on the best course of action. Several people self-quarantined for 14 days and used sick leave. The is now emergency paid sick leave for anyone that is out who has tested positive and needs to quarantine or take care of a sick family member they are provided with 10 days paid sick leave. For anyone out of sick leave, the policy allows them to borrow ahead from next year's sick bay.

Mr. Hoey asked about the waiver of testing costs and expenses related to COVID.

Mr. Goldblatt explained that the town has waived testing costs, which became mandatory after that decision. They are also covering the treatment costs related to anyone that tests positive.

5. BOE Director of Facilities/Operations (Cliff Gurnham):

5.1 Discuss and take possible action on award of GHS Stadium Track and Field Design.

Mr. Gurnham said they solicited proposals for the design of the track and field at GHS. They received four proposals, which were reviewed by Standing Fields Committee (SFC) and Parks and Recreation. The SFC did a scope review with the lowest bidder Kaestle Boos. The Town has had a good experience using them in the past. It is recommended that the board contract with them in the amount of \$17,500.

Mr. Hoey asked about the age and condition of the track and field.

Mr. Gurnham explained that the field is over 13 years old and is wearing out where the play is. Normally the useful life is seven to eight years so it has well exceeded that life expectancy. Parks and Recreation has done a great job of maintaining it. The track has been refinished twice since it was installed. There are multiple cracks and seams. The goal was to get the field replaced this summer, but that has been pushed off to next year and they are looking to do the engineering in the meantime so the BOS and BOF can have good construction numbers.

It was noted that the money for this is coming from a previous bond authorization.

Mr. Gurnham noted that the work can be pushed off to the Summer of 2021, but he wouldn't go out any further than that because that field is at the end of its life cycle.

Ms. Ruoff asked if the town has the cost for construction as well or if that is new money.

Mr. Hoey said it would be new money.

Ms. Ruoff asked if it is dangerous to use the field in its current state.

Mr. Gurnham said if it was dangerous it would be closed. The field is tested every year to make sure it meets the requirements. It is really worn out, but they can get through next year.

Ms. Renner noted the range of proposals is enormous. The second lowest is twice the amount of the lowest.

Mr. Gurnham thinks the primary reason is that Kaestle Boos is familiar with Guilford and the facility. They want to continue working with Guilford and gave a great price.

Mr. Havrda asked what type of materials they might use in this field.

Mr. Gurnham said with regards to the infill the engineering firm will give them some options and then the SBC and SFC will review those options with the BOE to determine which one best suits the nature of that field. All options will be investigated.

Motion: Upon a motion made by Ms. Renner and seconded by Mr. Federici, the board voted unanimously to contract with Kaestle Boos for design of the GHS Stadium Track and Field Design in the amount of \$17,500.

Vote: In Favor: Hoey, Havrda, Renner, Federici and Ruoff
 Opposed: None
 Abstaining: None

5.2 Discuss and take possible action to waive the bidding and award repairs to the 1936 addition windows at Adams Middle School to Millenium Builders through the Gordian Group EZIQC state program.

Mr. Gurnham noted that in 2009 the windows in the 1936 addition were replaced and the town used Fletcher Thompson who is no longer in business. He added that he was working with Jeff Donofrio to get reimbursement based on the failure in the windows, but there has been no success. Mr. Gurnham explained that the window balancers are failing. These are large heavy windows that can drop or move as a result of those failures. Some windows have been sealed shut because this is a safety issue. They have a proposal from Millenium Builders off of the State Bid to repair the windows in the amount of \$53,113.86.

Mr. Havrda asked if this included new windows or just repairs to the existing windows and how many windows are affected.

Mr. Gurnham said these are just repairs to the existing windows. They need to take them apart and install new balancers. He added that it is quite a bit of work. There are 123 balancers being put in and there are two per window so the amount of windows affected is about half of that.

Mr. Federici said while this is another item that feels like it could be pushed off, it is being funded through an existing bond referendum. Doing the work now maintains the integrity of the windows.

Mr. Havrda said the money has been bonded already and it was planned for the summer.

Mr. Gurnham said they would start the work as soon as possible to take advantage of down time. It will take two to three weeks to get the parts.

Motion: *Upon a motion made Mr. Federici and seconded by Ms. Ruoff, the board voted unanimously to contract with Millenium Buildings through the Gordian Group EZIQC State Program for repairs to the 1936 addition windows at Adams Middle School in the amount of \$54,113.86.*

Vote: In Favor: Hoey, Havrda, Renner, Federici and Ruoff
 Opposed: None
 Abstaining: None

6. Environmental Planner (Kevin Magee):

6.1 Consider and take possible action on contractor for tree removal of dead and/or hazardous trees on County Road between Long Hill Road and West Street.

Mr. Magee explained he received quotes for the removal of 25 dead trees on County Road between Long Hill Road and West Street. A&L provided the lowest quote at \$8,640. The quotes ranged from \$8,649 to \$13,525. He added that the town has used A&L before and they do good work.

Mr. Hoey said this is an area where they receive the most calls and complaints during storms. That area is prone to extended outages. Eversource has contributed a significant amount of tree work in this area as well.

Mr. Magee said in the beginning of January Eversource has removed 20 trees close to the power lines on the opposite side of the road. The town is responsible for the other side of the road. After this work is done there would be a total of over 45 trees removed in this area between the town and Eversource.

Mr. Havrda asked if any complaints have been received because these trees are being removed.

Mr. Magee said all the trees are marked and he doesn't usually get complaints on the removal of dead trees.

There was discussion about how much was left in the tree removal account.

Motion: Upon a motion made by Mr. Havrda and seconded by Ms. Ruoff, the board voted unanimously to contract with A&L Tree Experts for the removal of 25 dead and/or hazardous trees located on County Road between Long Hill Road and West Street in the amount of \$8,640.

*Vote: In Favor: Hoey, Havrda, Renner, Federici and Ruoff
Opposed: None
Abstaining: None*

7. Director of Human Resources (Mitch Goldblatt):

7.1 Consider and take possible action on Revised Donated Sick Leave Policy.

Mr. Goldblatt explained that one of the changes in the policy is to give the first selectman the authority to decide administratively on sick leave requests if they meet the criteria in the policy. The first selectman has the authorization and ability to tap into information from the department head or the selectmen if he feels it is necessary.

Mr. Goldblatt said the other change is regarding new employees. They would no longer have to be employed for 12 months prior to being eligible for donated sick leave.

Mr. Federici asked if this revision came up in response to recent meetings on the subject.

Mr. Goldblatt said that was correct.

Motion: Upon a motion made by Ms. Ruoff and seconded by Mr. Havrda, the board voted unanimously to adopt the Revised Donated Sick Leave Policy as presented by the Human Resources Director.

*Vote: In Favor: Hoey, Havrda, Renner, Federici and Ruoff
Opposed: None
Abstaining: None*

7.2 To consider and act on a recommendation from the Pension Committee regarding a Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) for current Pensioners.

Mr. Goldblatt explained that the board heard from Mr. Hocking during public forum. He explained that it is the police retirement plan that dictates the COLA needs to be looked at every two years. Pensioner Hocking suggested the board just look at the police plan. He added that they have always asked Milliman to do a complete study of all plans. Milliman has prepared a report and financial impact on a COLA. The Pension Committee determined not to recommend a COLA at this time.

Mr. Hoey noted the estimated impact is on the back to pages of the report the board received. Adjustments to all three plans would total \$108,000. He asked if there would be any employee contributions relative to that.

Mr. Goldblatt said there would not be unless there were changes made to employee contracts. Any increase would be picked up by the Town. They also do not require pensioners to contribute once they retire.

Ms. Renner asked about the timeframe for deciding.

Mr. Goldblatt said he was not aware of a deadline. Just that they are required to look at it and this is their normal two-year cycle.

Ms. Renner said she doesn't feel she is knowledgeable enough about this to make a decision and would like more time to consider this.

Mr. Goldblatt explained that the police contract is what triggers the two-year cycle. Traditionally when COLA's have been given, like in 2008, it has been across the board to all active pensioners. He added that the costs/impacts are broken up among the different groups. Mr. Goldblatt noted the \$108,000 impact would be amortized over 19 years. It was noted that \$68,000 of that \$108,000 cost is the police group.

Ms. Renner wanted more information as to why the Pension Committee did not recommend.

Mr. Hoey said he participated in that pension meeting and the committee did not get into the substance or efficacy of it, they were looking at it from a strictly financial standpoint. He added that they might want to take some time to get more information and query some members. Mr. Goldblatt can provide a historical perspective on what was done in the past and those impacts.

Mr. Havrda said he would be in favor of tabling to determine not only the general impacts, but impacts from the pandemic as well.

Mr. Hoey recommended they could have a joint meeting with the Pension Committee to work through the questions and issues. Mr. Goldblatt noted that if an increase is granted the impact would not take place until the July 1, 2021 budget.

Mr. Federici said the last time a COLA was granted was in 2008. He asked how long it took to get the pension funding levels back to the pre-COLA levels.

Mr. Goldblatt said it is difficult to determine that because they had the crash soon after>

Ms. Malavasi said they could put the numbers together and the board could take that information for what it's worth.

Motion: Upon a motion made by Ms. Renner and seconded by Mr. Havrda, the board voted unanimously to table a decision on the COLA until they are comfortable making a decision.

Vote: In Favor: Hoey, Havrda, Renner, Federici and Ruoff
Opposed: None
Abstaining: None

8. Town Engineer (Janice Plaziak):

8.1 Discussion and possible action on the Replacement of Noble Pedestrian Bridge.

Ms. Plaziak said she included this item in her capital plan presentation. She explained that in early summer there were concerns about the condition of the bridge. She did an inspection by boat and later in the summer had a structural engineer look at it. Ms. Plaziak said over those two months there was significant deterioration and it was closed due to safety concerns.

Ms. Plaziak explained that historically this was a vehicle bridge until 1983 it was replaced as a strictly pedestrian bridge with a six foot width. It was a pre-manufactured bridge that used the existing abutments from the old vehicle bridge. The overall budget for the project is \$200,000. She received a quote from the manufacturer (Contech Engineered Solutions) of the existing bridge and got a quote of \$122,000 for just the steel bridge purchase. There may be some minor costs so she is asking for a bid waiver to purchase the bridge of up to \$127,000 to include a \$5,000 contingency.

Ms. Plaziak said she met with the Sachem's Head Association (SHA) and they recommended she look at the fiberglass option. This would cost \$165,800 and require them to change the abutments instead of using the existing ones, which would increase the costs even more. The existing abutments have been inspected and are reusable with some minor repointing at the center of the base. She noted that they did some research and old minutes show that when this was replaced as a pedestrian bridge in 1983 the Sachem's Head Association provided a 50% match for the bridge replacement cost.

Ms. Plaziak said there is funding in this fiscal year for this. She is asking for an amount not to exceed \$127,000 for the bridge purchase. Ms. Plaziak also gave the board a breakdown of the remainder of the other costs associated with the project just as the demolition and removal of the existing structure and installation of the new bridge. They will need to get the permitting through DEEP and complete survey work as well as as-builts, permitting and materials testing through construction.

Ms. Millman read excerpts from SHA's Charter and Bylaws as well as some old BOF and BOS historical minutes about past responsibilities and cost sharing for the previous bridge replacement between the Town and Sachem's Head Association.

Mr. Hoey said he believes the Town has a shared responsibility with the Sachem's Head Association to continue to provide access. He recommends the board approve this, but there is still more discussion related to the contribution level of the association. He recommended the board could move forward on the purchase with the intent that not less than 50% of the bridge cost would be shared with the association and possibly 50% of the remaining costs of the project.

Ms. Plaziak explained that she is asking today just for approval to purchase the bridge, all of the other numbers are estimates and she will get proposals or put those out to bid when the time comes.

Mr. Havrda asked how people get through the area with the bridge being closed now.

Ms. Plaziak said they walk along Falcon Road to Prospect and then to Chimney Corners. It was closed in September of 2019.

Mary Alice Lee, Sachem's Head Association President, said this bridge issue is a safety issue. There are 11 houses on Chimney Corners with children and elderly people. The intersection is flooded during high tides and extreme storms. The bridge is used by everyone in town as well as by the Sea Legs Shuffle, which raises money for the Guilford Childcare Center.

There was discussion about the location of public parking near the bridge.

Ms. Renner asked if the SHA (Sachem's Head Association) has acquired the 50% At this point.

Ms. Lee said they were under the mistaken impression that the SHA had just funded half of the bridge in 1983 and not half of the total project. Their entire budget is \$150,000 and they would not be able to pay \$100,000 in a single year. They only way for them to do it is to make payments over time. It is a challenge for them, but they believe it is a safety issue and a quality of life issue for SHA and the entire town so that is why they are willing to step up and partner with the town on this.

Ms. Plaziak said the bridge has a 10-year warranty so they did get more than the useful life out of the previous one.

Motion: Upon a motion made by Mr. Hoey and seconded by Ms. Ruoff, the board voted unanimously to waive the bidding and purchase a replacement Nobel Pedestrian Bridge for Colonial Road from Contech Engineered Solutions in an amount not to exceed \$127,000, which includes \$125,000 for the bridge and \$5,000 in contingency costs and to authorize the first selectman to continue discussions with the SHA relative to their contribution level which should be not less than 50% of the cost of the bridge, but with the expectation that the SHA pick up its share of the additional project costs.

*Vote: In Favor: Hoey, Havrda, Renner, Federici and Ruoff
Opposed: None
Abstaining: None*

9. Discuss and take possible action on Tax Deferment Program and/or Low Interest Rate Program as outlined by Governor Lamont's Executive Order 7S Section 6.

Mr. Hoey noted that the selectmen are required to assess these two programs and report back to the governor. The first is a Tax Deferment Program for 90 days that allows the taxpayer to defer their payment for up to 90 days without incurring penalties. They can therefore defer their July 1 tax payment to October 1. He added that there are options requiring those who would like to take advantage of the program to submit an application which has to meet certain criteria. The application is not mandatory and towns have the ability to waive it. Mr. Hoey noted that the application process could be unwieldy and might result in a group having to make subjective decisions about who does and doesn't qualify.

The second option is a Low Interest Rate Program, which would lower the interest rate on late payments from 18% to 3%. He added that this would apply to those who are already overdue on their tax bills and have started to incur interest for delayed payments. Mr. Hoey noted that this could include people late on January 1, 2020 payments and maybe even July 1, 2019.

Mr. Hoey said he thinks the board should consider implementing the deferment program, because there are a lot of people in the community impacted by the pandemic. He added that there are also some that have not been impacted. Mr. Hoey said he is not in favor of the interest rate program because those tax payments were due prior to the onset of the crisis.

Mr. Hoey then went over the cash flow situation if they do implement this and allow everyone to take advantage of the deferment. He noted that the town has the ability to withstand the challenges associated with this due to the receipt of escrow payments and the amount in the undesignated fund balance.

Mr. Federici asked if they know how many people might take advantage of this.

Mr. Hoey said this community has a giving nature and he is hopeful that the people who truly need this will take advantage of it and that others who are not impacted will still pay their taxes when they are due.

Ms. Millman explained that one additional aspect to the deferment program is that landlords must provide documentation proving that they have or will suffer a "significant income decline" or "commensurate forbearance was offered to tenants" in order to be eligible for the program. This was to create the incentive for landlords to provide a deferral to its tenants. She added that with respect to the bank escrows which normally get paid directly from bank to the municipality, under this EO if a resident is in default of a mortgage, the bank may have rights to that escrow and may not have to forward it to the municipality.

Mr. Havrda said he would like to have the optimism Mr. Hoey has. He doesn't think we fully appreciate the financial impacts the pandemic will have. In hindsight they will figure it out. He is comfortable the town is in a position to weather the worst case scenario. He thinks it is something they have to do.

There was further discussion about landlord eligibility. Ms. Millman clarified that landlords still have to meet eligibility requirements even if the town opens the program to all residents.

Motion: Upon a motion made Mr. Hoey and seconded by Mr. Havrda, the board voted unanimously to approve the Tax Deferment Program as outlined by Governor Lamont's Executive Order 7S Section 6.

Vote: In Favor: Hoey, Havrda, Renner, Federici and Ruoff
Opposed: None
Abstaining: None

10. To consider and take action to correct BOS vote regarding setting the date for final budget adoption by the budget making authority (BOF) pursuant to Governor Executive Order #7C.

Ms. Millman said at the last meeting she needed to further research whether the selectmen had the authority to set the budget vote date or recommend the date to the budget making authority. She determined that it is within the Board of Selectmen's authority to set that date. The motion two weeks ago was to recommend the date and now the board is going to set that date.

Mr. Hoey said the original discussion the board had ranged from giving the Board of Finance a full 30 days to setting the date this evening. They settled on May 5 and he is still comfortable with that date. In addition they have one more meeting prior to May 5 where they can extend it beyond that date. The governor gave them 30 days from the normal process so the budget must be adopted no later than May 21. He added that the state lockdown is currently through May 20 and the governor moved the primary date to August 11. Mr. Hoey said it is likely the State Department of Education will shut down schools for the balance of the year. It is therefore not likely that they would have the ability to have a referendum prior to May 21st. He recommended the board correct their previous vote to state the Board of Finance shall adopt a final budget by May 5. The selectmen can always extend that at its regular meeting on May 4 if necessary.

Mr. Havrda said he is comfortable with May 5. It gives citizens the opportunity to provide input. Mr. Federici said there has already been a lot of input and people are aware of the issue and have an opportunity to be heard. There is a safety valve on May 4 if they want to extend it.

Ms. Ruoff agreed as well.

Mr. Hoey read a letter into the record from Board of Finance Member Jonathan Trotta on this topic. A copy is attached to these minutes. With regard to Mr. Trotta's comments about drive-thru voting in Vernon, Mr. Hoey said anyone has the potential to legally challenge that type of vote. It is contradictory to the executive order. He added that Mr. Trotta also wrote a letter to The governor to reexamine his executive order and he doesn't know if he received a response.

Ms. Ruoff said she looked at the video Mr. Trotta also sent to the board and she believed it wasn't a town budget that the people were voting for, but rather a transfer of funds. She did not think it was an accurate comparison.

Mr. Federici said in response to Mr. Trotta's previous comments and letter, if they are going to have a discussion and debate greater access to voting in the future that is fine, but to use it as something to side track the budget process, it is not helpful.

Motion: Upon a motion made by Mr. Hoey and seconded by Mr. Federici, the board voted unanimously to correct the Board of Selectmen vote regarding setting the date for final budget

adoption by the budget making authority (Board of Finance) pursuant to the Governor Executive Order #7 to state that the Board of Finance shall adopt a budget by May 5, 2020.

*Vote: In Favor: Hoey, Havrda, Renner, Federici and Ruoff
Opposed: None
Abstaining: None*

11. Committee Reports

Ms. Ruoff said Patriquin Associates is in the process of getting project approvals for the affordable housing development on the Woodruff Property. They were hoping to meet with the Historic District Commission on April 13.

12. Correspondence

12.1 Building Department Report

Received without comment

13. Old Business

None

14. New Business

None

15. Public Forum (limited to 3 minutes on any issue)

Jeff Hocking thanked the board for tabling the COLA matter. He will forward a copy of his letter to the board. He noted that the membership of the Pension Committee is constantly changing and there are different members when these COLA increases are voted on, which lends to a lack of continuity. In total the police pensioners have over 800 years of service to the Town of Guilford and he asks that they be included as part of future decisions on the matter.

Motion: Upon a motion made by Mr. Federici and seconded by Ms. Ruoff, the board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 10:31 a.m.

*Vote: In Favor: Hoey, Havrda, Renner, Federici and Ruoff
Opposed: None
Abstaining: None*

Respectfully submitted,

Traci K. Brinkman
Clerk
Board of Selectmen

April 20, 2020

RE: Public Comments at Selectman Meeting 4/20/2020 at 8:30 am

To the Board of Selectman,

My name is Jeffrey Hocking, I am a lifelong resident of Guilford and a thirty-two year Veteran of the Guilford Police Department, retiring in 2012. I am speaking on my behalf and also many other Pensioners, some who were able to attend this virtual meeting and many that were not.

We are here requesting a COLA to our Pension, something that has not been granted since 2008, 12 long years ago. We are not just names on a spreadsheet or numbers in an Actuarial algorithm, we are mothers, fathers, brothers, sisters, husbands and wives. Most of us have dedicated the majority of our adult life to the Town of Guilford Police Department. We were on the front line, donned a bullet proof vest daily to protect the citizens of our great Town. We worked nights, weekends and holidays, not a 9-5 like most people. When the storms, disasters, crimes and other tragedies occurred, most citizens were safely home with their family while we left our families behind to protect & serve them. We all served with pride and were always told that our personal sacrifices would not be forgotten. Going twelve years without a penny of a COLA has left us feeling slighted, disappointed and frankly abandoned. If the active employees of the Town of Guilford were not given a raise for twelve years I can guarantee you there would be an uprising. We have experienced the same increases in expenses over the past twelve years as all of them and all of you, we are just asking for what we were promised over the years.

We strongly believe that the consideration of the COLA should be for our group only as outlined in the Police bargaining agreement. Instead of considering this for just our group of Pensioners, the Town has added (7) other bargaining units. Why is it not a level playing field ? here's why. Police contribute 8% of their pay, the (4) Town employee bargaining units contribute between 3-3.75% of their pay and the school unit contributes nothing. Comments of the Pension Board chairman last Wednesday were that addressing a COLA for just one union would be unfair. I would suggest that looking at the financial impact for (8) unions not just one, as negotiated and outlined in the Police contract, is what is unfair. Comparing employees contributing 8% of their pay to employees contributing less than half of that and in one instance paying nothing is unfair.

I would ask for myself and my fellow Pensioners that you grant us (Police) one of the two Millman COLA recommendations. We are sensitive to the present financial situation but understand that the market will rebound to the pre Covid-19 levels. If needed, consider delaying the COLA award for 6-9 months, but please don't forget the men & women who have risked their lives for the citizens of the Town of Guilford.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Hocking
Guilford Police Pensioner
(203) 214-4670
Email: babson55@yahoo.com

This letter was read by and approved by the specific Pensioners listed below:

Sandra Brooks
Robert Norman
Patrick Leary
Daniel Leary
Thomas Terrible
William Maisano
Robert Robinson
Steve Renchy
Jeffrey Reyka
Linda Bouchard
Jackie Cipollini
Mike Denison
Larry Ruggiero

Henry Lindgren
Victor Duphily
John Dunn
Robert Dube
Edward Bohan
Al Magriz
Bruce Denison
Donald Thompson
Rick More
Eric Robinson
Doug Jowett
Charles Korn

Dear Board of Selectmen,

I may be unable to attend the BOS meeting on April 20th, 2020 and would like these comments be included in public forum.

1. Like selectman Havrda I am in support of Selectmen Renner's comments from the 4/6/2020 BOS meeting. I too would like to utilize the 30 day extension allowed in accordance with EO 7c section 5 such that the BOF would have more time to consider public comment on the budget and have more time to determine the effect of the pandemic on the budget. In addition I would like more time so that the BOS and the BOF can consider if there are safe alternatives like drive thru voting which I suggested in the BOF meeting on 4/13 that would allow Guilford to reschedule and conduct it's budget referendum in accordance with the town charter.

4/6/2020 BOS meeting minutes: *"Ms. Renner said she would like to utilize the 30-day extension to allow more time for the public to comment and to give the Board of Finance more time to determine the effects of the pandemic on the budget. She has no problem with the process, she just thinks they should allow more time. Mr. Havrda said he supported Ms. Renner's position."*

2. I believe that canceling the annual town meeting and town budget referendum in accordance with [executive order 7i section #13](#) usurps voter rights. Other towns have chosen to conduct referendums and town meetings within the frame work of the existing executive orders. I believe Guilford should do the same. I respectfully request that the board of selectmen reschedule the annual budget meeting and budget referendum by first consulting with local or state public health officials and then conducting such meeting and or referendum in a way that significantly reduces the risk of transmission of COVID-19. Conducting in-person meetings, approval processes, or referendums in this way aligns with the language in the last sentence of [executive order 7s section #7](#) . Vernon CT has conducted in-person meetings that require public voting using drive thru voting. I believe Guilford can conduct its annual budget meeting and budget referendum safely as well using this technique or others which significantly reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19 and other dangerous contagions. **Check out this brief video to see how Vernon CT was able to implement drive up voting!**
<https://link.zixcentral.com/u/bfe39557/xBpPRrOC6hGcesC2hns0Mg?u=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.nbcconnecticut.com%2Fnews%2Flocal%2Fvernon-town-meeting-goes-digital-includes-drive-up-vote%2F2245233%2F>

Respectfully submitted
Jonathan Trotta
Guilford Board of Finance