

TOWN OF VOLUNTOWN

**Special Town Meeting Tuesday, July 8, 2025
And Adjourned Referendum Tuesday, July 15, 2025**

The electors and citizens qualified to vote in the annual town meeting are hereby warned that the Special Town Budget meeting will be held on Tuesday July 8, 2025 at the Voluntown Elementary School, 195 Main St, in Voluntown, CT, at 7:00 pm for the following purposes.

1. To appropriate the funds necessary for the Board of Education Budget for the fiscal year 2025-2026 in the amount of \$7,379,927.
2. To appropriate the funds necessary for the Board of Selectmen's Budget for the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 in the amount of \$2,775,417.

At their special meeting held on June 26, 2025, the Board of Selectmen voted, pursuant to CGS § 7-7, that items #1-2 of the Call of the Annual Town Meeting be submitted to a referendum vote at an Adjourned Town Meeting to be held on Tuesday July 15, 2025 at the Voluntown Town Hall, 115 Main Street, in Voluntown, CT from 12:00 PM to 8:00 PM. The question on the ballot label at said referendum shall read as follows:

1. SHALL THE TOWN OF VOLUNTOWN APPROVE A FY 2025-2026 BOARD OF EDUCATION BUDGET IN THE AMOUNT OF \$7,379,927.
2. SHALL THE TOWN OF VOLUNTOWN APPROVE A FY 2025-2026 BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S BUDGET IN THE AMOUNT OF \$2,775,417.00.

Voters approving the recommendation of the Board of Selectmen will vote " Yes" and those opposing the recommendation of the Board of Selectmen will vote "No".

Absentee ballots for the July 15, 2025 referendum shall be available from the Town Clerk during its regular business hours.

Copies of the resolutions listed above are available at the office of the Town Clerk and on the Town of Voluntown website www.voluntown.gov.

Dated this 26th day of June 2025, at Voluntown, CT.

The meeting was called to order by Tracey Hanson with the Pledge of Allegiance and reading of the Notice of Town Budget Meeting.

Emily A. Lighthouse, Assistant Town Clerk, served as clerk for the meeting.

Call for the moderator by the Clerk. Motion by Ronald Millovitsch to nominate Tracey Hanson as moderator, which was seconded by Joseph Miller. All were in favor of Tracey Hanson serving as moderator.

The moderator asked for a motion to dispense with reading the call of the meeting again. Ronald Millovitsch made a motion to dispense with the reading of the call to the meeting again. Scott Davidson seconded it, and all were in favor.

Item#1: To appropriate the funds necessary for the Board of Education Budget for the fiscal year 2025-2026 in the amount of \$7,379,927.

Anothy Madeira made a motion to accept Item #1 and Joseph Miller seconded it. Item #1 was opened for discussion.

The new superintendent, Scott Feder, introduced himself and explained the new budget proposal. Debroah Maynard questioned how grant money works, particularly if money is spent before a grant is received and where the grant money goes once it comes in. Questions were also raised about the purchase of four buses, specifically regarding deposits and lease purchase program.

Ronald Millovitsch made a motion to close discussion and Joseph Miller seconded it. The Moderator called for a vote to close discussion. All were in favor.

In accordance with section 7-7 of the CGS, the Selectmen have elected to move item #1 to a referendum vote, and the question will read, "SHALL THE TOWN OF VOLUNTOWN APPROVE A FY 2025-2026 BOARD OF EDUCATION BUDGET IN THE AMOUNT OF \$7,379,927."

Item#2: To appropriate the funds necessary for the Board of Selectmen's Budget for the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 in the amount of \$2,775,417.

Ronald Millovitsch made a motion to accept Item #2 and Anthony Madeira seconded it. Item #2 was opened for discussion.

Tracey Hanson explained changes made to the budget, including adding weekend staff back to the budget for the fire department (over \$50,000) and offsetting increases by removing wage increases and some expenses from the library, economic development commission, and recreation commission, ensuring no effect on services. The plan was to appropriate money from the unassigned fund to maintain a zero-mill rate increase for the proposed budget (proposed mill rate at 20.72). Heidi Mitchell raised various concerns including issues with property assessments. Debroah Maynard addressed the town's water study, and potential municipal water system. Tracey Hanson clarified this is at no cost to taxpayers as this money has come from grants. Debroah Maynard mentioned issues with the town not providing sand to residents over the winter with no notice. Ward Thomas asked questions about year-to-date budget numbers. Tracey Hanson explained the use of a new system called "Clear Gov" that will provide more transparent and manageable financial numbers to the public. Scott Davidson asked questions about costs associated with the public works garage maintenance. Mary Anne Nieminen voiced concerns about a chicken composting project and related road grants. Tracey Hanson explained that the chicken composting and road grants are not the same.

Ronald Millovitsch made a motion to close discussion and Jack Wesa seconded it. Moderator calls for a vote to close discussion. A majority were in favor.

In accordance with section 7-7 of the CGS, the Selectmen have elected to move item #2 to a referendum vote, and the question will read, "SHALL THE TOWN OF VOLUNTOWN APPROVE A FY 2025-2026 BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S BUDGET IN THE AMOUNT OF \$2,775,417.00."

Scott Davidson made a motion to adjourn to referenda and Anthony Madeira seconded the motion. A majority were in favor.

The meeting was adjourned at 19:52 and will be reconvened at the close of polls on July 15th.

The Moderator called the meeting back to order at 20:07 July 15, 2025.

The referendum was held on Tuesday, July 15th, between the hours of 12:00 P.M. and 8:00 P.M.

Emily A. Lighthouse, Assistant Town Clerk, read the vote totals as follows:

1. SHALL THE TOWN OF VOLUNTOWN APPROVE A FY 2025-2026 BOARD OF EDUCATION BUDGET IN THE AMOUNT OF \$7,379,927.

Number of “Yes” votes 234

Number of “No” votes 142

Item #1: Passed

2. SHALL THE TOWN OF VOLUNTOWN APPROVE A FY 2025-2026 BOARD OF SELECTMEN’S BUDGET IN THE AMOUNT OF \$2,775,417.00.

Number of “Yes” votes 214

Number of “No” votes 162

Item #2: Passed

Robert Thevenet made a motion to adjourn, and Tracey Hanson seconded the motion. All in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 20:10 July 15, 2025.

Attest:

Emily A. Lighthouse, Assistant Town Clerk