

RESOLUTION PERTAINING TO A MODIFIED CALENDAR FOR THE FY 2020-2021 BUDGET AUTHORIZED AND REQUIRED BY EXECUTIVE ORDERS 2020-7B, 7C, 7I, AND 7HH

WHEREAS, on March 10, 2020, the Governor of the State of Connecticut (“Governor”) declared a public health emergency and civil preparedness emergency for the State of Connecticut, pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes Sections 19a-131 and 28-9, in response to the global pandemic of COVID-19 disease associated with a novel coronavirus that is currently affecting multiple countries and states; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, the President of the United States (“President”) declared a national emergency to combat the coronavirus that is currently infecting the population of the United States; and

WHEREAS, the effects the transmission of COVID-19 has resulted in the spread of infections in Connecticut and throughout the country, as well as resulting in shortages of personal protective equipment and other supplies that could jeopardize public safety and civil preparedness; and

WHEREAS, in response to the issuance of declarations of a public health emergency and civil preparedness emergency by the Governor he has issued a series of Executive Orders setting for the law governing the conduct of the business of state and municipal government during the period of the emergency;

WHEREAS, on March 14, 2020, the Governor issued Executive Order No. 7B (“EO 7B”), paragraph 1 of which suspends all statutes, charter provisions, ordinances and regulations mandating open meetings in order “...to permit any public agency to meet and take such actions authorized by the law without permitting or requiring in-person, public access to such meetings, and to hold such meetings or proceedings remotely by conference call, videoccnference or other technology” (“Electronic Meetings”); and,

WHEREAS, EO 7B sets forth the following requirements for Electronic Meetings:

The public has the ability to view or listen to each meeting or proceeding in real time, by telephone, video, or other technology (“virtual meeting” or “virtual public hearing”);

Any such meeting or proceeding is recorded or transcribed, and such recording or transcript shall be posted on the agency's website within seven (7) days of the meeting or proceeding, and made available within a reasonable time in the agency's office;

The required notice and agenda for each meeting or proceeding is posted on the agency's website and shall include information about how the meeting will be conducted and how the public can access it;

Any materials relevant to matters on the agenda, including but not limited to materials related to specific applications, if applicable, shall be submitted to the agency a minimum of twenty four (24) hours prior and posted to the agency's website for public inspection prior to, during, and after the meeting, and any exhibits to be submitted by members of the public shall, to the extent feasible, also be submitted to the agency a minimum of twenty-four (24) hours prior to the meeting and posted to the agency's website for public inspection prior to, during, and after the meeting; and

All speakers taking part in any such meeting or proceeding shall clearly state their name and title, if applicable, before speaking on each occasion that they speak; and,

WHEREAS, on March 15, 2020 the Governor issued Executive Order No. 7C, paragraph 5 ("EO 7C") of which extended "all budget deadlines for the preparation of the municipal budget" for the FY 2020-2021 "that falls on any date prior to and including May 15, 2020 are extended by thirty (30) days";

WHEREAS, EO 7C permits the Board of Selectman to "alter or modify the schedules and deadlines pertaining to the preparation and submission of a proposed budget and the deliberation or actions on said budget" including any required public hearing(s), publication, referendum or final budget adoption: and,

WHEREAS, EO 7C postpones all submission dates set forth in the Charter of the Town of Preston Code or its Code of Ordinances until such time as the Board of Selectman approves said modified scheduled and deadline consistent with the thirty (30) day extension; and,

WHEREAS, on March 21, 2020, the Governor issued Executive Order. 71, paragraph 13 ("EO 71") of which dispenses with any in-person voting requirements (including referenda and town meetings requiring in-person votes) for purposes of adopting 2020-2021 fiscal year municipal budgets and setting the mill rate; thereby conferring final responsibility on the "budget-making authority" of the town to adopt a budget and set a mill rate and subsequently on May 1, 2020 issued Executive Order 7 HH clarifying that Executive Order 71, paragraph 13 prohibits in-person meetings or referenda regarding approval of 2020-2021 budget which must be approved by the budget-making authority;

WHEREAS, the board of finance is the budget-making authority the Town of Preston, and,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED pursuant to paragraph 13 of Executive Order 71, the Board of Finance, the budget-making authority of the Town of Preston, shall adopt the FY 2020-2021 budget and set the mill rate in accordance with the schedule set forth herein.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED pursuant to paragraph 1 of Executive Order 7C the following schedule is established for budget adoption:

1. A virtual public hearing on the budget will be held by the Board of Finance on Thursday, May 28, 2020 at 7:30 p.m., and,

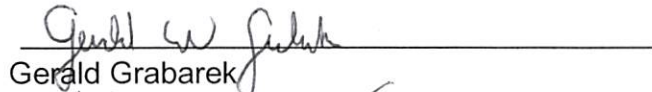
2. A virtual meeting of the Board of Finance will be held on Wednesday, June 10, 2020 at 7:30 p.m. to adopt the budget and set the mill rate.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED pursuant to paragraph 1 of Executive Order 7B, the Board of Finance and the Board of Selectman of the Town of Preston shall comply with all requirements pertaining to notice including, but not limited to notice and posting on the website of the Town all submission items at least twenty-four hours prior to the public meeting for which the item has been submitted or shall be considered.

IN TESTIMONY WHERE OF, we hereunto set our hand and cause the seal of Town of Preston to be affixed this 21ST day of May, 2020

TOWN OF PRESTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN


Sandra Allyn-Gauthier


Gerald Grabarek


Kenneth Zachen