

TOWN OF BETHANY

REFERENDUM ON FIRE TRAINING FACILITY

OCTOBER 4, 2023

Explanatory Text

The following concise explanatory text has been prepared and approved by the Town Clerk pursuant to § 9-369b(a) of the Connecticut General Statutes and is not intended to advocate the approval or disapproval of the referendum question. This text will also not attempt to enumerate the pros and cons of the project, but rather explain the mechanics of the referendum process. Voters are encouraged to visit the websites of both the proponents and opponents of this project to fully inform themselves.

A Special Town Meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, September 27, 2023, at 7:00 pm to consider several resolutions. The Board of Selectmen, at their September 5, 2023, meeting, voted to remove item number 6 from the call of the Special Town Meeting and submit it to the voters at an Adjourned Special Town Meeting Referendum scheduled for Wednesday, October 4, 2023. Polls will be open that day between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. in the gym at Bethany Town Hall, 40 Peck Road. All Bethany electors, plus taxpayers who are U.S. citizens, at least 18 years of age, and assessed not less than one thousand dollars on the last-completed grand list, are eligible to vote. Absentee ballots will be available in-person only at the Town Clerk's office starting September 28, 2023. The ballot question will be as follows:

“SHALL THE TOWN OF BETHANY ENTER INTO A SECOND AMENDMENT TO THE LEASE DATED FEBRUARY 2013 BETWEEN THE TOWN OF BETHANY AND THE BETHANY VOLUNTEER FIREMEN’S ASSOCIATION, INC., TO PERMIT THE RELOCATION OF THE STRUCTURE SHOWN AS THE PROPOSED FUTURE TRAINING TOWER ON THAT CERTAIN MAP DATED OCTOBER 27, 2004, AS REVISED, AND ENTITLED ‘BETHANY VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS, 765 AMITY ROAD, BETHANY, CONNECTICUT,’ TO THE AREA SHOWN AS THE PROPOSED FIRE TRAINING FACILITY ON THAT CERTAIN MAP DATED FEBRUARY 27, 2023, AND ENTITLED ‘PROPOSED SITE PLAN, BETHANY VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT, BETHANY AIRPORT PARCEL, 755 AMITY ROAD, BETHANY, CONNECTICUT’?”

Item 6 concerns the request of the Bethany Volunteer Firemen’s Association, Inc., to amend its lease with the Town of Bethany to allow it to use the town property in the immediate vicinity behind the existing fire house at 765 Amity Road to construct a proposed Emergency Services Training Facility with a burn room. The project has an estimated cost of \$760,000.00 and will be paid for through grant funding. Since the proposed Emergency Services Training Facility is planned in a different location than shown on a 2004 site map, the Town must vote to approve or deny this change to the existing lease.

Those **in favor** of amending the lease should vote “**YES**” and those **opposed to** amending the lease should vote “**NO**” at this Adjourned Special Town Meeting Referendum.

This Adjourned Special Town Meeting Referendum will be the opportunity for all voters to weigh in on the proposed lease amendment. The project will still require review and approval from the Town’s land use commissions, if the lease amendment is approved.