



Maria Federico Madonick <mfedericomadonick.woodbridge@gmail.com>

BEECHER: Funding request; Municipal and financial timelines

4 messages

Maria Federico Madonick <mfedericomadonick.woodbridge@gmail.com>

Mon, May 11, 2026 at 12:25 AM

To: Mica Cardozo <mcardozo@woodbridgect.gov>, Anthony Genovese <agenovese@woodbridgect.gov>, Maria Federico Madonick <mfedericomadonick.woodbridge@gmail.com>

Cc: mbhalprin <mbhalprin@aol.com>, Lynn Piascyk <lpiascyk@woodbridgeps.org>, Steven Lawrence <slawrence@woodbridgeps.org>

Dear Mica and Tony,

The Beecher building committee will be holding its second meeting this week. Communications are moving forward with our first mailed newsletter and community survey going out to households this week. The Beecher Building Project website will be live by the end of this week, as well.

At this point, all further communications and plans are contingent on the following action and guidance from the Town.

- **Funding Request:** At the April BOS meeting, the invoice from Antinozzi and Associates was presented, and a funding request was put forward for the revised concept designs, including the additional square footage and preschool space, along with an associated cost estimate. That request was allowed to be tabled for a discussion with the WBOE. The WBOE has not received any communication, and I do not see the funding request submitted for the May BOS meeting. The deliverables are scheduled to be ready for us this week. They will not be delivered until funding approval is obtained. These deliverables include the information the building committee needs to communicate the plans and costs to our residents effectively, as well as the cost estimates that both Tony needs to complete his projections, and Jim needs to complete our Grant application requirements.
- **Municipal and Financial Timelines:** To strategically and effectively plan a timeline of communication action items, we first need to understand when the legal "quiet period" for the referendum begins. We also need to clearly communicate to our residents the municipal and financial timelines for action items leading up to the referendum.
 - Do we have legal clarification from our Town attorney, Nick, on the quiet period, the referendum, and the bond processes?
 - Can we reference the processes used for the Firehouse and the Beecher project that went to referendum in 2014?

We appreciate the guidance so our work can continue.

With thanks,
Maria

Maria Madonick

Maria Federico Madonick, DNAP APRN CRNA

she/her

Board of Selectmen

Woodbridge, CT

I work a flexible schedule and may send communication outside of standard business hours. Please do not feel obligated to reply outside of your working hours.

Nicholas R. Bamonte <nbamonte@berchemmoses.com>

Tue, May 12, 2026 at 11:56 AM

To: Mica Cardozo <mcardozo@woodbridgect.gov>, Anthony Genovese <agenovese@woodbridgect.gov>

Cc: "mfedericomadonick.woodbridge@gmail.com" <MFedericoMadonick.Woodbridge@gmail.com>, Alison Valsamis <avalsamis@woodbridgect.gov>

Good Morning, All:

To summarize, the "quiet period" means the period prior to any municipal referendum when municipal funds cannot be expended "to influence any person to vote for approval or disapproval of any such proposal or question or to otherwise influence or aid the success or defeat of any such referendum." This prohibition is codified in Section 9-369b(a)(4), which I have attached for reference. The statute does not expressly define when the "quiet period" begins, but is triggered as soon as a town-wide

referendum has been legally set to occur. In many instances a local charter will define the specific timeframe and initiation date, however the Woodbridge Charter is silent on this aspect.

For these reasons, at a minimum, as soon as the Board of Selectmen votes to refer the question to the Town Meeting via a referendum, municipal funds must not be used to advocate for or against the anticipated referendum vote on the proposed capital improvements to the Beecher Road School. However, given the present likelihood and understanding that a referendum will occur on this question, the safest course of action is not expending municipal funds for advocacy purposes *at any time*.

While municipal funds cannot be used for advocacy, they can be used for explanatory texts and public education. The statute defines the following process for such limited use of municipal funds:

(1)(A)... any municipality may, by vote of its legislative body, authorize the preparation, printing and dissemination of concise explanatory texts or other printed material with respect to local proposals or questions approved for submission to the electors of a municipality at a referendum. For the purposes of this section, in a municipality that has a town meeting as its legislative body, the board of selectmen shall be deemed to be the legislative body of such municipality.

(B)Each such explanatory text shall be prepared by the municipal clerk and shall specify the intent and purpose of each such proposal or question. Such explanatory text shall not advocate either the approval or disapproval of the proposal or question. The municipal clerk shall cause such question or proposal and such explanatory text to be printed in sufficient supply for public dissemination and shall also provide for the printing of such explanations of proposals or questions on posters of a size to be determined by said clerk. At least three such posters shall be posted at each polling place at which electors will be voting on such proposals or questions. Any posters printed in excess of the number required by this section to be posted may be displayed by said clerk at the clerk's discretion at locations which are frequented by the public. The explanatory text shall also be furnished to each absentee ballot applicant pursuant to subsection (d) of section 9-140. Each such explanatory text shall be subject to the approval of the municipal attorney.

Municipal funds may also be used to notify residents of the referendum via a community notification system:

(3) (B)At the direction of the chief elected official of a municipality ... a municipality that maintains a community notification system may use such system to send or publish a notice informing all residents enrolled in such system of an upcoming referendum. Such notice shall be limited to (i) the time and location of such referendum, (ii) a statement of the question as it is to appear on the ballot at the referendum, and (iii) if applicable, the explanatory text or other material approved in accordance with subdivision (1) or (2) of this subsection. Any such notice shall not advocate the approval or disapproval of the proposal or question or attempt to influence or aid the success or defeat of the referendum.

[Note similar prohibition of advocacy - NRB] (C)Other than a notice authorized by this subdivision, no person may use or authorize the use of municipal funds to send an unsolicited communication to a group of residents regarding a referendum via electronic mail, text, telephone or other electronic or automated means for the purpose of reminding or encouraging such residents to vote in a referendum, provided such prohibition shall not apply to a regularly published newsletter or similar publication.

(D)An Internet web site maintained by a municipality or a regional school district shall not be deemed a community notification system for the purposes of this subdivision, but may contain a notice with the information described in subparagraph (B) of this subdivision.

In addition, there are several steps involving the Building Committee, the BOF and the BOS prior to setting a referendum. This is the overall approval process as I understand it, which comes from Sections 6.3 and 6.4 of the Town Charter:

- a. Any capital and nonrecurring expenditure project shall first be presented in writing by the Spending Agency to the Board of Finance. The Board of Finance shall, subject to Subsection (b) below, present such project to the meeting of the Town Meeting called to consider the same **[The BOS would call for a Town Meeting pursuant to Charter 3-2(c), and concurrently move the question from the Town Meeting to a town-wide referendum pursuant to C.G.S. 7-7 and schedule the referendum – NRB]**, together with the recommendation of the Board of Finance as to the acceptance, rejection or modification thereof.
- b. No Spending Agency of the Town shall undertake any project which requires capital and nonrecurring expenditures, including those requiring withdrawals from the Reserve Fund, unless the Board of Finance has acted on such project as follows:
 1. ~~If such amount is less than or equal to the greater of 0.15% of the total Town Budget for that fiscal year or \$50,000, the Board of Finance may approve the expenditure without presenting the project to a special or annual meeting of the Town Meeting; and~~
 2. If such amount is greater than the greater of 0.15% of the total Town Budget for that fiscal year or \$50,000, the Board of Finance shall proceed, as set forth in § 6-3(d) above **[See attached Section 6.3 for BOF referral, consideration and approval process – NRB]**, to have the project authorized at the annual meeting of the Town Meeting or at a special meeting of the Town Meeting in the following manner:
 - i. By the affirmative vote of 2/3 of the votes cast thereon at a meeting of the Town Meeting, or
 - ii. By the affirmative vote of a majority of the votes cast thereon at each of two meetings of the Town Meeting, the second such meeting to be held:
 - A. Not less than seven nor more than 14 days after the first such meeting;
 - B. At a place, day and hour determined at the first such meeting;
 - C. Not less than five days after notice of such place, day and hour shall have been given by publication one time in a newspaper having general circulation in the Town; and
 - D. Without the necessity of complying with the call and notice provisions set forth in § 3-2.
 - E. The issuance, the amendment of the terms in any material respect, or the redemption or refunding of any bond or note of the Town shall be authorized by a meeting of the Town Meeting.

I would be interested in reviewing/understanding any process employed by the Town for the prior Firehouse and Beecher projects in 2014. Bond counsel should also confirm consensus on next steps and quiet period. Happy to assist further as needed.

Nick



NICHOLAS R. BAMONTE

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From: Mica Cardozo <mcardozo@woodbridgect.gov>
Sent: Monday, May 11, 2026 6:20 AM
To: Anthony Genovese <agenovese@woodbridgect.gov>; Nicholas R. Bamonte <nbamonte@berchemmoses.com>
Cc: Alison Valsamis <avalsamis@woodbridgect.gov>; mfedericomadonick.woodbridge@gmail.com
Subject: Fw: EXTERNAL: BEECHER: Funding request; Municipal and financial timelines

Nick,

Please see Maria's email below. I know we have discussed this previously with you and with bond counsel, but we need definitive confirmation at this point as soon as possible. My understanding is that the "quiet period" begins when the BOS sets the referendum date. Tony will also check with bond counsel again. Thank you.

Mica Cardozo

First Selectman

Town of Woodbridge

203-389-3401

From: Maria Federico Madonick <mfedericomadonick.woodbridge@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 11, 2026 12:25:52 AM
To: Mica Cardozo <mcardozo@woodbridgect.gov>; Anthony Genovese <agenovese@woodbridgect.gov>; mfedericomadonick.woodbridge@gmail.com <mfedericomadonick.woodbridge@gmail.com>
Cc: mbhalprin@aol.com <mbhalprin@aol.com>; lpiascyk@woodbridgeps.org <lpiascyk@woodbridgeps.org>; Steven Lawrence <slawrence@woodbridgeps.org>
Subject: EXTERNAL: BEECHER: Funding request; Municipal and financial timelines

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2 attachments

 **n. Gen. Stat. _ 9-369b.Pdf**
24K



Nicholas R. Bamonte <nbamonte@berchemmoses.com>

Thu, Jun 18, 2026 at 5:44 PM

To: Mica Cardozo <mcardozo@woodbridgect.gov>, Anthony Genovese <agenovese@woodbridgect.gov>,
"mfedericomadonick.woodbridge@gmail.com" <MFedericoMadonick.Woodbridge@gmail.com>

Cc: "Rybacki, Glenn G." <grybacki@pullcom.com>

Hello All:

Moving my prior email to the top of our inboxes. The memo below summarizes, in addition to the relevant quiet period laws, the local process under our charter, which also answers the question Maria posed regarding a possible requirement that the referendum pass by at least a 60% vote. Charter 6-4(b) provides that a capital improvement of this magnitude can be approved at a special meeting of the Town Meeting in one of two possible ways:

1. By the affirmative vote of **2/3** of the votes cast thereon at a meeting of the Town Meeting, or, if not passed by 2/3 vote,
2. By the affirmative vote of a **majority** of the votes cast thereon at each of **two** meetings of the Town Meeting, the second such meeting to be held...Not less than seven nor more than 14 days after the first such meeting...

So, if more than half but less than 2/3 of the voters vote in favor of the first referendum, it does not pass - but another referendum can be held per # 2 above, and if at least half of the votes were again in favor, that effectuates the approval.

Nick



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2 attachments

 **n. Gen. Stat. _ 9-369b.Pdf**
24K

 **6-3 Supplementary appropriations and expenditures.pdf**
112K

Nicholas R. Bamonte <nbamonte@berchemmoses.com>

Fri, Jul 17, 2026 at 3:32 PM

To: Mica Cardozo <mcardozo@woodbridgect.gov>, Maria Federico Madonick <mfedericomadonick.woodbridge@gmail.com>, "Rybacki, Glenn G." <grybacki@pullcom.com>

Resending to the group FYI



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Cc: Rybacki, Glenn G. <grybacki@pullcom.com>

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2 attachments



_n. Gen. Stat. _ 9-369b.Pdf

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