

**BOARD OF FINANCE
MINUTES
February 10, 2011**

CALL TO ORDER

Vice-Chairman Mark E. Smith called the Board of Finance meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Hall, Trumbull, Connecticut. All those present joined in the Pledge of Allegiance. The vice-chairman requested that all present take a moment of silence to remember our Chairman and friend William A. Crooks who passed away yesterday.

Members present and absent as follows:

PRESENT

Vice-Chairman Mark E. Smith
Steven C. Lupien
Andrew Palo
Tom Tesoro
Alex Remson, Alternate
Perry Molinoff, Alternate
Cindy Pankoff, Alternate

ABSENT

Ken Martin, Jr.

ALSO PRESENT

Director of Finance, Maria T. Pires
Town Internal Auditor, James Henderson
Town Clerk, Suzanne Burr-Monaco
Liam Robinson
Tom Kelly
Carl Massaro

Town Treasurer, John L. Ponzio
First Selectman, Timothy M. Herbst
Jack Testani
Ted Lovely
Joe Trovarelli
Mike Herbst.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

The Vice-Chairman took a few minutes to remember Mr. Crooks and celebrate his life:

Tonight is a tough night folks, as you all know. It is tough for all of us; we have lost a good friend and for me, I have to make the most of reading from some sort of paper so I don't lose control. I hope that we all get through this. I hope we can laugh a little bit, and remember Bill, and do the work he would want us to do. I would like to thank everybody here who has shown up on this cold February night. As you all know, this is not a very easy time for many of us who have lost our friend and colleague, Bill Crooks. However, since this board was Bill's world, with some of us just playing parts in it, I thought out of respect for a man who loved his position on this board with great zeal, I would honor him in some small way tonight.

Before we move on with the agenda items and the presentation of the budget, I just thought that members of this board, elected officials, and his friends should be able to come and take a few minutes share your experiences with Bill and celebrate his life.

The following Board of Finance members spoke:

**Mark E. Smith
Vice-Chairman**

Mr. Crooks was a gentle man who loved his family and loved the people around him. He was a gracious man who spent a great deal of his life giving to others generously. As a two-term member and Chairman of this Board we all know the passion, experience and insight he brought in order to do the people's work well. He had celebrity status of a rock star when it came to the finances of this town.

A career in Accounting and a 36 year career as Business Manager for the Board of Education he was an articulate man with great understanding of the town's financial workings. With such grace and generosity he imparted his knowledge and wisdom to anyone who wanted to sit, listen and learn. He worked diligently throughout the year trying his best to meet all department heads throughout the town making sure that he was up-to-date in the financial comings and goings of each.

The town finances were one of Bill's fortes. He loved working on them and with the people who managed them. He loved even more telling you about them. You never had a brief meeting with Bill, even if he told you it would take just a minute, it eventually lasted a half-hour. He loved teaching you what he knew and was proud to show you the process of his outcome like any good Accountant. He was the consummate professional.

Bill's life and personality were broader than just town finances and politics. He lived off the vitality of his family, friends and community giving his love freely to us all without seeking any in return. It will be many years before we really know or understand the impact of his passing because his life stretched across many different bridges in this world, affecting the hearts of so many people we might never know.

Mr. Crooks, whom I sometimes referred to affectionately as Bill, Billy, Mr. Bill, Mr. Crooks, Crookie and Bulldog... became my friend quite easily when I joined the Trumbull Republican Party some four years ago. Those who know him can attest to his ability to make you like him quite quickly with a great sense of Humor, hearty handshake and a warm embracing smile. It will take me a long time to fathom the enormity of my loss yesterday as well as understand our community's loss.

I know from a Board of Finance Standpoint, for me it's now time for the training wheels to come off and move forward independently of his comforting guidance and support. This will not be easy for me or any of us here, however I believe that Bill gave us each a little piece of himself over his time and now... we the members of this Board must come together along with that little piece and work together to do the hard work that is in front of us. Though it will be difficult, I know that he would have confidence in us to do the good work.

I will miss you Bill. You have been a loving and generous friend to me and my wife Jeanie. I will never forget you and Delores's support for us when we faced family health difficulties. You are a symbol of all things that are good. And, your unlimited support for this town, its people, it's government, it's schools and its sports make you a symbol of all that is good here in Trumbull. You are the best part of the Trumbull and we are a lesser town today then we where yesterday with your passing.

I could easily talk all night about my life and experiences with Bill and how he made my life better. But, I think it's important to hear from many of you who have been impacted by such a wonderful man. The people of Trumbull need to hear the extraordinary impact Bill had on so many here.

To Bill,
Goodbye my friend. I will miss you greatly. Thank you for letting me in your life even for such a short time. Your brief time in mine has enriched greatly.

Love,
Mark

Cindy Pankoff

Everyone that came in contact with Bill Crooks created a relationship with him. It was nearly impossible not to, and I was no different. This was a man I was drawn to. He had much to teach and share and I felt the need to listen and soak it all up. He praised with a free hand, and scolded when he felt it was warranted. Whether we spoke about his children, or his wonderful wife, his lengthy career with the Board of Education, my son, sports, and of course politics, I learned something new each time. Bill and I could talk for hours, and often did, over coffee, over breakfast, and even the ice cream that he wasn't supposed to be eating. He would encourage me to stretch myself and reach for goals I may never would have and never once said I told you so when I

succeeded but just looked at me in that way that said he knew I could do it. This to me was what having a dad was supposed to feel like. For me he was that and much more. I wrote this yesterday in honor of him:

I do not know how tomorrow happens without you in it but you would be the first to explain to me why it must. The sadness and loss that I feel are profound in your absence, my friend, I cannot begin to imagine not being able to hear your voice tomorrow or see your smiling face. I will miss you every day and a seat will forever be empty at our table.

Andrew Palo

I got to know Bill about 25 years ago. Amazing, since I am only in my late 20's. I cannot begin to say how much fun the man was to be around. And luckily for me, so many years later, I got involved in politics. I got elected a year ago and the man takes me under his wing and he taught me so much in a year that I am forever grateful to him. I will miss him dearly. I feel awful for his wife, for Dolores, a wonderful woman. I echo all your comments and Cindy's comments. He will be missed.

Alex Remson

I was very honored to have worked with Bill since 2003, when I first met him. He used to like to refer to us "as streetwalkers together". We went house to house, we were campaigning and nobody had more energy than Bill. When I was ready to say I am done, he would say "oh one more house, one more house". My favorite memory is when we were campaigning and I lost the sheets for the houses and we couldn't figure out where we were supposed to go on Lobsterback. And Bill was kind of scolding me and Russ is really frustrated with me and we start going door to door. And we discover we're in Shelton even better though someone comes to the door and Bill goes, "Oh my gosh". It was his long lost aunt or somebody so we stood there, after he is scolding me for wasting time, for over an hour. Talking. And that's who Bill was. He welcomed her; he was always so good to me. He always believed in me when to other people thought I could not possibly be on the Board of Finance; I did not have any background in Mathematics; I could not speak to the numbers. He said, "No you speak to everybody and you'll understand the numbers and that's all that's necessary". But what I didn't understand, he took time to help me understand. There was a period of time in my life that was very, very rough and difficult. And when it seemed like the rest of the world had forgotten I was there, it would be Bill who would pick up the phone, not text me, not e-mail me, pick up the phone and call me and go, "Are you okay today? You know I love you, right?" and that meant everything. His nickname was Bulldog and it fits him because everyone knows that when he went after something, he went after it and you were going to get the teeth. And that very same bulldog would come and put his head in your lap and tell you, you were important and you were special, when you needed it. I love him. I am going to miss him something awful, and I certainly hope that his heaven includes a casino, and a girls' basketball team.

Tom Tesoro

When I first came on the Board of Finance 5 years ago, there were 2 gentlemen on that board that were considered the leaders of their respective caucuses. One was named Bernie Helfrich and the other was Bill Crooks. Both were gentlemen in the old school. True gentlemen who understood that we can bicker and fight in the political world but at the end of the day we are all neighbors and friends and that is the way they behaved. I can remember coming out of the Board for the first time being intimidated by these people who knew so much more than I did, and I could just imagine them looking at each other saying, "Look at the new guy". But ultimately went out of their way to make me feel welcome, teach me the ropes, and for that I am totally grateful to both. Almost 5 years ago to the day Bernie Helfrich passed away under very sad and sickening circumstances just like this. These are the kinds of things that stick in your mind and make you realize then just how wonderful people like that are, and how it all diminished when good people like that go. Bill also showed me some tremendous kindness when my mother passed away something that I will soon never forget. He was just a good man; a man who's going to be missed on this Board and in this community. Rest in peace, Bill. Now you and Bernie get back to fighting.

Steve Lupien

I've known Bill Crooks for about a dozen years, now that I've been involved on Trumbull politics on both sides of the aisle. So, I've seen Bill treat me as an ally and an adversary and he was a gentleman regardless. I echo a lot

of the comments but I am going to say something from myself but I think the others will agree. What I think I am going to miss the most is the quiet comfort when I get a really, really big board package and you know that Bill is going to go through it and cross the T's and dot the I's. And you know what I really don't have to because Bill will. And I am going to miss that. You always kind of knew that nothing was going to fall through the cracks. This was a labor of love to Bill and he had a dedication to this that I am both awed and inspired by and have been the whole time I have known him. He was a fierce advocate for education and for sports and just generally a delightful guy to even spar with. I am going to miss that because as my colleague mentioned, when the microphones went off and we stepped out from behind the cameras he was just a gentleman. No matter what you said or did in the meeting it was fine. I too had some sickness in my family; my wife was ill a number of years ago and that's when Bill is really I think at his best. And so, I will greatly miss Bill and I just wish him Godspeed.

I also remember his horrific handwriting. At last year's Board, he said he was going to put together a "schedule" for me and he came in with about 12 pages of a handwritten excel spreadsheet. I didn't even know where to begin looking at it.

The following individuals made public comments:

Timothy M. Herbst, First Selectman

Good evening Mr. Smith and members of the Board of Finance. This is not going to be easy for me. You know, Steve, you took the words right out of my mouth because the more time you spent with him the more you could understand his hieroglyphics. I also am going to miss the chicken scratching and miss those "schedules" very much. I often joked with Bill that Bill Gates at Microsoft invented Excel because of him. The Town of Trumbull has lost a leader, a statesman, and a real pillar of the community and I have lost a great friend.

I met Bill as a child when he was working for the public school system and his best friend was Jerry MacDougall who at that time my dad coached for him. I have known him over the course of my childhood and my adult life in many different capacities. I got to obviously know him better when he retired from the school system and decided to find another way to give back to his community and look to the Board of Finance. I think it has been valuable. I think as a child I learned to appreciate Trumbull High School and sports programs in this town because of really what an avid fan he was. I cannot think of football game that I was at that Bill wasn't at. He truly loved supporting every sport program at the high school – football, girls' basketball, field hockey, he was there and I know that every parent, every coach, every student athlete appreciated his support of those programs.

He was without question somebody who loved life, and who made people laugh, and he certainly made me laugh a lot. As Alex rightly pointed out, Bill used to joke all the time that he enjoyed the casino so much that Dolores was upset that he probably owned a few tee pees up at Mohegan.

He was somebody who loved the University of Michigan and I think the University of Michigan has probably lost their most dedicated alum.

He touched so many lives and so many people – teachers, school administrators, bus drivers, and cafeteria workers. He served 5 school superintendents and really saw a transformation in the town during his 36 ½ year tenure here in Trumbull. He was an essential fabric in this community and when you think about it as we are gathered here at the town hall, most of Bill's life was within a mile of this building – where he worked, lived, and went to church, the Corner Deli and Marty Kane's which he frequented with great familiarity. Many Sundays, I would go in there and see him and Coach McDougall, his very best friend, talking shop and it was quite an experience to see the conversation interchange from sports and football to finance and back to sports and football.

He really was a valuable member of this community. He was a real good friend – he did a lot for me; he advised me as a candidate for First Selectman, advised me as First Selectman, and served as my campaign treasurer where I got to see a lot of chicken scratch, right down to the penny.

It is amazing how people that are now involved in the Town in shape or form came in contact with Bill in some other capacity. My administrative assistant, Amy DeZenzo, who is here tonight, grew up in the house right next to where Bill and Dolores moved into here in Trumbull over 40 years ago, and I would not know Amy if it wasn't for Bill. When Andy Palo was elected to the Board of Finance, I asked Bill very seriously, "Bill, exactly how do you know Andy Palo?", and he looked up and he had his glasses on and he said, "Jai Alai". Then I found out that Mr. Palo, Mr. Crooks and Mr. Kelly and others that sit on the Board of Education were these avid Jai Alai enthusiasts, which I never would have guessed. But it is amazing how these things come full circle.

I wish I could have presented this budget tonight under better circumstances and I wish Bill was here to guide us through another very difficult budget. But if Bill was with us he would be encouraging us to proceed on and he would encourage us to approach our work in a very deliberate, thoughtful and thorough manner placing the good of the Town above any personal or partisan considerations. And that is why he was respected by people on both sides of the aisle. He often used to joke that while he was an elected Republican to the Board of Finance, and an active member of the Republic party, he spent 42 years of his life as a registered Democrat. And you know what, that always to me was proof positive why he was respected so much by people on both sides of the aisle.

My thoughts and my prayers are with his wonderful wife, Dolores, his 3 beautiful daughters, his sons-in-law, his 5 grandchildren that he truly loved and adored. On behalf of the Town of Trumbull, I want to extend my deepest sympathy to Bill's family and tell them that we will miss him very much.

Jack Testani
Chairman of the Republican Party in Trumbull

Many of you know that I also was an elected member of the Board of Finance in 2004 and I actually met Bill in 2003. He also became a very important part of my family. If Bill were here tonight, he would be saying, "Is all of this really for me?" He was very humble and yet at the same time he would feel very proud that we were all here to honor him. Last year I had the good fortune to be able to honor him with the Republican of the Year Award. He wrote me this beautiful e-mail the next day thanking me for this incredible honor; that he wasn't sure he knew what he had done to deserve it. That was just the kind of person he was. As he did with Ms. Remson, when she and I worked together on the Board of Finance, we would have constant, often, hours of long calls, meetings, and discussions with Bill about what was going on with the budget. I think one of the things that was amazing to me was his incredible grasp of mathematics without calculators. I am not a great math person, but he was someone who could calculate out percentages without looking at a calculator. Just really an incredible, intelligent mind. He would critique my writing as well occasionally. Again, over the years, I would have the fortune and ability to have him feel like a member of my family. He referred to me as his adopted son and he would refer to my 2 boys as his adopted grandsons. He came to every single one of their football games, which Mr. Herbst alluded to, in high school. He came to the state championship game in West Hartford that Trumbull High played in and sat in the box with Tim and Coach McDougall. Of course, over the years I got to know the coach. For those of you that unfortunately didn't know him or see him and Bill spar with each other, it could get quite colorful and it was fun to watch. They had a true love and respect for each other. One of the things that I will leave you with that I was most proud of. Just a couple of days ago, Bill decided to call me as he did occasionally every so often to let me know how proud of me he was. This was the particular reason for the call. It was about a 5 minute voice mail on my cell phone which for him was short. And it was a series of e-mail exchanges that I had with a couple of people and he just took quite a liking to a lot of the insight that I had by his e-mails that he had so I called him back and at the his voice sounded a little raspy and I kidded around with him about making sure he was nice to Dolores since his voice sound kind of raspy and he said to make sure his adopted grandsons knew he was asking for them. I said, "Bill of course I will, I always do". Sure enough that night I found a picture of him, Tim, myself, and my two boys in 2004 right after he had won the Board of Finance election and sent it out to a bunch of people. I am just fortunate that I had that kind of relationship with him and I know not just the Republican Party. Bill transcended politics, he really did, and Tim alluded to that. He was someone who really garnered the respect of everyone including Bernie Helfrich. I was on the Board and I remember hearing now in my head Bernie saying, "Bill what about the need" and Bill saying, "Well, we have to make sure people don't pay too much in taxes". That would probably be a discussion they would have and then they would begin to kid around about golf or something. My deepest sympathy, as well of course, to his family, and Dolores. We'll have memorials over the next few days but for tonight I think it is appropriate to move

forward on the town business as he would want us to do and again he would be very humbled by this outpouring of sympathy and support for his family tonight.

Liam Robinson

Hi. I am Liam Robinson, Alex's son. Mr. Crooks was always good to me.

Ted Lovely

Chairman Trumbull Board of Education

I speak tonight not as a board member but as a friend, as a colleague of Bill for many, many, years probably going back to the late '60's and at least by 1970, so Bill and I were friends for a good 40 years and I don't that anyone contributed more to education in this town in his own way than Bill Crooks. A tremendous force in the Board of Education was Mr. Crooks. And as brilliant as he was, I don't think I ever met too many people as brilliant as Bill Crooks, he was at the same time the most naïve person that ever walked this earth. I recall Coach McDougall pulling pranks on Bill that were unbelievable and he believed it. We would go on for months; everybody would get in the game and play the game and Bill still wouldn't get it. I just met with Bill a couple of weeks ago for lunch across the street to talk about budgets and numbers and again it's amazing what he can do in his head. I thought I was pretty good with numbers but anytime I sat down with Bill I listed with relish because there were pearls of wisdom that he put on the table. It was good information. But he is a great man, a good man. He and I attended many football, basketball games, army / navy games in Philadelphia, UCONN games in Hartford and up at UCONN itself and a tremendous person to be with and all of us are better for having him.

Tom Kelly

I would like to thank the Board of Finance for honoring Chairman Bill Crooks here this evening and allowing us residents the opportunity to say a few words of tribute to our beloved friend Bill Crooks who we will all miss. First I would like to extend my deepest condolences to Dolores, all of Bill's daughters, their families, grandchildren and all his relatives and friends. Bill will be sorely missed by everyone. His passing leaves us with a lump in our throats and a hole in our hearts. There is no way that I am articulate enough or have the capability to find the words that would do justice to honor the life of Bill Crooks. But I will just say a few words and in my mind he was a great man. Along with everyone I have ever met. I consider myself fortunate indeed that I was able to spend a considerable amount of time with Bill over the last 30 years, especially over these last 3 years, there was never a dull moment is a common cliché but when you were with Bill Crooks it was not a cliché it was just the way it was. Bill had an incredible zest for life and he approached everything with enthusiasm. He maintained a youthful exuberance that belied any numerical age. He had fun and so did everyone who was with him. He was such a generally good man and he was kind generous and sincere. Bill Crooks opened the door for me to get involved in my home town. I met an incredible number of truly awesome people who really care about Trumbull and I have been able to participate in town government and take an active role in our wonderful school system and Bill was right there each day, every step of the way to offer friendship expert counsel and credible financial acumen and lengthy historical knowledge of the town and particularly the school system. And most of all he had a passion that was contagious and we had a lot of fun. I have had many conversations with Bill Crooks over the years and listened to him closely. He taught me many invaluable lessons about life and the way to approach each day. There are some things about Bill Crooks that I am quite sure of based on our interactions. He loved his wife Dolores; he was faithful to her; he never spoke of her disrespectfully. He loved his daughters and their families and spoke proudly about them and all of their accomplishments and those of his grandchildren. He loved his alma mater, the University of Michigan, and he spoke proudly of being a student manger for the basketball team and being a member of the pep team. He loved the Trumbull public school system, the students, the teachers, the administrators and staff and was very proud that he devoted 36 ½ years of his career as business manager. Boy did he ever love Trumbull athletics and he missed only a handful of Trumbull High football games home and away over the last 41 years. He loved the Trumbull Republican Party. He loved this Board of Finance and he took his responsibilities very seriously and shared his knowledge and ideas with anyone who asked. He really loved this Town of Trumbull which he was proud to call home. I am sure these words have not captured everything about him and I hope others will try and capture what I have missed. All these things I say come from a place of love and respect. I miss my friend dearly and I thank him for his friendship. Our loss is heaven's gain. May Bill Crooks rest in peace on earth and have eternal life with God. Thank you.

Joe Trovarelli

President of the Bridgeport Elks

My name is Joe Trovarelli and I have been a Trumbull resident for 20 years and I come from a different angle about Mr. Crooks. I represent the Bridgeport Elks as the President. The Elks which is dedicated to helping youth, veterans, and community is a very patriotic organization and he was a member. And I take solace for the fact that most Monday nights we would have Mr. Crooks and coach side by side and, as most of you mentioned, those two together was worth the price of admission. But the fact is that it was a place for Bill to come down and to just kind of let his hair down and relax have a few cocktails discuss sports and everything but as all you said if you started a conversation with Bill you would be home by midnight. I am proud to say that I have known him for about 10 years and whoever got to know him, he touched your life. I'd say you were honored to have him to call you his friend. I just wanted to mention that. Thank you.

Carl Massaro

Chairman of the Town Council

On behalf of myself and the Trumbull Town Council I would certainly like to extend condolences to Dolores, his wife, his family, his colleagues on the Board of Finance and really all the people in the Town of Trumbull. Rarely does a society enjoy the services of an individual member the way Trumbull has benefited and enjoyed the service of Bill Crooks. It is nearly 50 years between his time on the Board of Education and over the last decade on the Board of Finance. His dedication and commitment was really for the community. He was once a democrat and then a republican he was always first and foremost a servant of the public interest. And everybody's testimony and testament to that this evening really puts a face on government here in Trumbull that really takes away what many people consider to be the ugliness of politics. There is no question all of us who are elected officials or run for office are politicians and all of us can be partisan and certainly Bill was no exception. But there was no exception when it came to making decisions in his role with either the Board of Finance or the Board of Education that he would do what was in the Town's interest regardless of how any other view might conceive it. It is some kind of an irony that it is almost 5 years to the day that this Board also lost its Chairman Bernie Helfrich. I thought of that last night after talking to so many people after learning of Bill's passing. I guess there is a message in there that I am glad that I am chairman of the Town Council and not the Board. That's the kind of comment Bill would make and appreciate. I think the levity is what we all turn to and will always remember about Bill. It didn't matter what the setting, whether it be here, doing the work of the town and the people, or just having a good time elsewhere. He was a shining example of the way people should behave and discharge their responsibility. I will certainly miss him. It's certainly the time of year that people on both sides of the aisle, people in the public would be wondering about the budget, and have a question about education, about the town charter and if nobody could figure it out in discussion let's call Bill, and Bill would have a studied response. He might not have a response you would agree with but he would be honest about it and I think there is no greater credit or measure of a man than respecting his honor, his credibility, and his absolute dedication to everyone of us and his legacy will be that his work will benefit not only the people who formerly lived here and who live here now who will be residents in the future. A lot of his good judgment is manifested in some of the laws and certainly the finances of the Town that we appreciate today. We have all regarded him as a mentor and certainly a friend. He was peerless and fearless and I think we will always remember that he knows that we will go on without him and that is exactly what he would expect of us. So, although he carried the yoke for us it is now our turn to pick it up and carry it forward and do what is best for the town. Thank you very much.

Suzanne Burr Monaco

Town Clerk

I think of Bill in so many ways: responsible, knowledgeable, thorough in everything that he did, a caring man that loved his family. He loved his grandchildren, beyond belief. Not too long ago he brought his oldest granddaughter to register to vote and he was so thrilled and so proud and it is the little things that really make a man. He was always kind, always caring, and never rude. He never denigrated anyone. He treated you with respect and he was always treated with respect. He was a man for all seasons. He will be truly missed. I know I will miss him dearly.

Mike Herbst
Athletic Director

Bill was an avid, avid, avid sports fan. And there's not going to be a girls' basketball team up there unless it is Michigan's blue and gold. I look around this room. There are people here who have never been to a game or some who have only gone to their child's game. Bill went to every game and he didn't have any children playing there. He went to football, lacrosse, hockey, and basketball. I would see him there all the time. He was a great supporter of athletics. He fully believed in and loved what the kids would do. He would take great pride in what the kids would do. And if he was bleeding blue and gold in Michigan he was bleeding black and gold here.

I just want to piggy-back off one of Ted's comments before. He was a very, very, brilliant man but he was naïve. I am going to share a story. Coach McDougall belonged to the Germanian-Schwaben Club and Bill wanted to join. So he told him that if he wanted to join he had to learn a song in German. So Bill contacted Zoltan Toman, a German teacher at Trumbull High School, and for 2 months he worked on learning how to sing his song in German. So now, Bill goes to the club to face a panel that was also part of the gag and after looking over his resume and paperwork they said, "Alright. You're in.", to which Bill said, "Don't you want me to sing my song?" Bill was a great, great, person. He had a great sense of humor and he will truly be missed. Thank you. The vice-chairman thanked everyone for coming and closed with the following comment:

I would like to thank you all for coming. We lost a good one yesterday, and it is going to take a lot for this town us to recuperate from it. We don't know the impact. But I know it is going to hurt, and it is going to be difficult, and I know we on the board here have our hands more than full and I know Bill will be at the meetings whispering in our ears at the various meetings, "ask this question....", "ask that question....." He's not going away. He is here in our hearts and in our minds and anybody who knows the man knows he loved this town and he loved the people in this room. He will be sorely missed. We will all miss him in our own way. I know I will. We will go on and celebrate his life with our actions.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

January 13, 2011 meeting

Mr. Lupien asked that Mr. Molinoff be allowed to vote in his place on this issue since he was not present at the January 13, 2011 meeting. The Vice-Chairman agreed and asked if there were any issues with the minutes.

Mr. Palo indicated that the sentence in the Town Treasurer's report on page 1 – **December is the slowest tax month of the year, January increases** – needs to be changed. It was agreed that it should read – **December is the slowest tax month of the year. In January the collection rate increased.** He also indicated **Merrill** needs to be changed to **Merrill** on page 2.

Mr. Molinoff indicated **Mr. Hang** needs to be changed to **Mr. Hwang** on page 3.

VOTE: Motion to accept minutes as amended made by Mr. Tesoro, seconded by Perry Molinoff and carried 6/0/1 (Abstention: Lupien)

TREASURER'S REPORT

Will not be presented tonight. We will get an e-mail version tomorrow.

INTERNAL AUDITOR'S REPORT

- Mr. Henderson was able to conduct the Dependent Eligibility Audit of the Trumbull Board of Education, performing some of the same tests that were done for the Town audit.
- Dave Mathieu, from H.D. Segur, Inc., signed the agreement with the Trumbull Board of Education, through Mr. Rinaldi.
- The same letters sent out for town will be going out for the Board of Education.
- Assurance has been given that the Board of Education audit will be synced up with the Town audit and be completed at the same time. The audit is scheduled for completion in June.

- Mr. Henderson anticipates that a report will be issued by July, or right after the July meeting, depending on the statistics obtained from the results. The time line on this is by July 1st in order to be ready by open-enrollment.
- The Chair requested that Mr. Henderson continue to update the Board of Finance monthly regarding the Dependent Eligibility Audit, to ensure that we are on task given our time-line and to address any issues that may arise.
- Since the breakthrough this week with the Dependent Eligibility Audit, Mr. Henderson will have time to move on to other projects as well as assist in the Energy Audit with Mr. Marsilio.
- Chair requested that a summary of the Energy Audit be compiled by Mr. Henderson and sent to the members of the Board of Finance.
- The Chair requested that a working session with Mr. Henderson be set-up by the Finance Director as an Agenda item for the next meeting.

DELIVERY OF THE 2011-2012 BUDGET

First Selectman Timothy M. Herbst presented his second budget in accordance with Chapter 4, Section 1, of the Trumbull Town Charter, indicating that he wished he could present this under better circumstances. Not only are we dealing with the loss of Mr. Crooks who was a valuable and dedicated member of this board, but we are also still dealing with the constraints of a severe national recession.

He summarized as follows:

- 3.5 billion dollar deficit in state impacts on education cost sharing; however, the governor does not want to touch education aid.
- Budget numbers are cautious due to concern that state aid might be diminished.
- Funding cliff accounts for more than 1% of the 5.38% requested by the Board of Education.
- \$40 million pension liability needs to be addressed both long term and short term.
- Recommends contribution increase from \$300,000 to \$400,000 to town pension fund and increase of \$100,000 over the \$100,000 approved by Board last year.
- Pension Board to issue report on short term and long term strategies and how these can be achieved.
- There is a need to move from a Defined Benefit Plan to a Defined Contribution Plan.
- Grand List has grown by about \$93 million representing an increase of 1.82% resulting in additional tax revenue of \$2,283,696.
- Propose an overall budget of \$140,295,148, with an overall tax rate increase of 1.92%.
- Reduce departmental requests by \$5,038,245
- Recommend 2.375% increase for the Board of Education.
- Items for consideration:
 - Pool health insurance with the Board of Education; town has 0% increase and BOE has 11%; possible carrier change.
 - Combine the Town and BOE facilities management.
 - Connecticut Consortium for Cooperative Purchasing.
 - Energy incentive programs being offered by CREC and DBS Energy, Inc.
- Fiscal year ending 9-2010 showed surplus of \$1,592,000 increasing the general fund balance to \$14,673,000.
- Recommend using \$700,000 of fund to balance the budget and still maintain 10% threshold.
- Debt service increasing by \$1,331,000 next year. Does not include the requirements of the 5 year capital plan.

On the Pension Program, Vice-chairman Smith requested that a scenario analysis of “what ifs” on the various levels be provided to the Board of Finance so they will have an understanding of contribution and the short and long term impact. It will give them an insight of the impact of what is allocated on Pensions each year and the long term impact.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Ms. Pires stated that she received the information from the police department regarding the police differential payments and that the full amount has been paid. There is a small amount of \$44.00 +/- each week that they did not anticipate so we will probably be short in the account by this amount,

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, Mr. Tesoro moved to adjourn, seconded by Ms. Remson. The Board of Finance adjourned by unanimous consent at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Phyllis Collier - Clerk
Board of Finance