

TOWN COUNCIL
Town of Trumbull
CONNECTICUT
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TOWN HALL
Trumbull

TELEPHONE
(203) 452-5005



April 10, 2013
2013-2014 BUDGET SESSION
MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Carl A. Massaro, Jr. called the special meeting to order at 8:05 p.m. at the Trumbull Town Hall. All present joined in a moment of silence and the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL: The clerk called the roll and recorded it as follows:

PRESENT:

Suzanne S. Testani	Ann Marie Evangelista	Jane Deyoe
David R. Pia	James Blose	Gregg Basbagill
Kristy Waizenegger	Martha A. Jankovic-Mark	Michael J. London
James F. Meisner	Mark LeClair	Carl A. Massaro, Jr.
Tony J. Scinto	Vicki Tesoro	Fred Palmieri, Jr.
Thomas Whitmoyer (Arrived at 8:27 p.m.)	Jeffrey Donofrio	Chadwick Ciocci
Debra A. Lamberti (Arrived at 8:18 p.m.)	John A. DelVecchio, Jr. (Arrived at 8:28 p.m.)	

ABSENT: Jeff S. Jenkins,

The Chair stated that the Town Council will adopt a fiscal budget for the period beginning July 1, 2013 and ending June 30, 2014. A total expense budget was recommended by the BOF in the amount of \$163,399,194 and is comprised of general government in the amount of \$152,789,000, Tashua Knoll Golf Course Enterprise Fund at \$1,861,271 and the Water Pollution Control Authority Enterprise Fund at \$6, 537,134. Chapter IV of the Town Charter states the Town Council's duties and authorities of the adoption of the annual budget. The process begins with the delivery of the proposed annual budget to the BOF from the First Selectman on/or before February 10th. A recommended budget should be sent to the Town Council by the BOF by March 24th and the Town Council must adopt a budget by April 30th.

The Chair extended his gratitude to the department heads for their countless man-hours, both paid and volunteer-time, putting their proposals together for the BoF and the Town Council to deliberate and consider the appropriate and necessary expenses. The Chair thanked the BOF

Chairman Elaine Hammers for inviting the Town Council Finance Committee to the BOF Budget Hearings to participate in the initial discovery of the departments' proposed budgets. This allowed for greater understanding earlier on in the process and also to the Town Council Finance Committee, their spouses and friends for giving up much of the past thirty days participating with the BOF and conducting their own hearings. All did a great job and the minutes reflect the time and effort.

* The Chair reserved the right not to vote unless otherwise noted.

1. RESOLUTION TC24-124: Moved by Ms Testani, seconded by Mr. Palmieri.
BE IT RESOLVED, That the annual budget for the Town of Trumbull for fiscal year beginning July 1, 2013 and ending June 30, 2014, as recommended by the Board of Finance and amended by the Town Council, and would appropriate the sums stated therein as amended for their respective purposes as set forth therein.

The Chair explained that the Town Council would review the budget department by department. The Town Council did receive a recommended budget, therefore the authority for recommended changes is defined by the Town Charter. By a simple majority of those present at this meeting any line item can be decreased, the only increases allowed to be made are where there is a difference between what the BOF recommended and a higher number proposed by the First Selectman, those proposed increases must pass by a 2/3 majority of the full body, fourteen (14) votes would be necessary.

01 GENERAL GOVERNMENT

01010000 TOWN COUNCIL - Ms. Pires indicated for Ms. Jankovic-Mark the Town Council line item as of February 2013 as \$85,502.

01010600 PROBATE - Ms. Pires explained for Ms. Jankovic-Mark the UTILITIES-TELEPHONE line item represents a contribution, the Town does not pay Probate's utility bills.

01011000 FINANCE DEPARTMENT - Ms. Pires explained for Ms. Jankovic-Mark that there had not been any new positions in this department.
(Ms. Lamberti arrived at the meeting at 8:18 p.m.)

01012000 TAX COLLECTOR

545504 COMMUNICATIONS-POSTAGE

Moved by Ms. Jankovic-Mark, seconded by Ms. Tesoro to decrease 545504 COMMUNICATIONS-POSTAGE by \$2,000.

- Ms. Jankovic-Mark noted that the postage request has increased and is due to the mailingx to the 900 households in North Nichols, but believes the number is high. She has received communications from constituents regarding having emailed the Tax Collector but have received written responses in the mail.

VOTE: Motion FAILED 6-10-1 (AGAINST: Testani, Waizenegger, Scinto, Evangelista, Blose, LeClair, Donofrio, London, Lamberti and Deyoe) (ABSTENTION: Ciocci)

01012600 TECHNOLOGY - Ms. Jankovic-Mark stated that some of the \$247,000 is being moved to a bond, did not fully understand all of the increases within this department and would prefer not to see the items moved to a bond.

01012800 TOWN ATTORNEYS

Moved by Ms. Jankovic-Mark, seconded by Mr. Pia to decrease 522202 SERVICES AND FEES-PROFESSIONAL by \$12,000.

- Ms. Jankovic-Mark stated she sees the costs increasing and spoke against this line item, suggesting bringing the Town Attorneys in-house.
- Ms. Tesoro spoke in favor of the decrease and noted there other attorneys' fees within the WPCA budget. Owen, Schine and Nicola (OSN) firm garner another \$140,000 in fees. In addition to that there is another attorney from OSN for the THA. OSN indicated in committee that \$3,000 was added to the budget for each attorney.
- Mr. Blose explained by bringing the Town Attorneys in-house would create additional cost, (i.e. pension, insurance benefits). Based upon his professional experience the rates the Town pays the current Town Attorneys are reasonable and fair.
- Ms. Tesoro indicated for Mr. Ciocci that the budget represents the potential of what the Town Attorneys could earn and reviewed page 344 of the 2013-2014 budget as follows:
 - Contract Negotiation of Contract IV at \$40,000; Sewer Assessment Appeals fees at \$20,000 and \$80,000 for Bridgeport Contract Extension and Regionalization.
 - A Total of \$140,000 potential fees to be earned.
 - Regionalization bills are available on line from the past year at in the amount of \$70,000 paid to OSN.
- Mr. Donofrio stated based on the size of the Town of Trumbull and comparing Trumbull to other municipalities the budget for Town Attorneys is reasonable, anything under a half of million is appropriate.
- Ms. Jankovic-Mark indicated by having the Town Attorneys under a retainer fee has not saved the Town money based on her comparison of what the Town has paid Town Attorneys in the past.

(Mr. Whitmoyer arrived at the meeting at 8:27 p.m.)

Ms. Pires explained for Ms. Jankovic-Mark that the labor attorney is paid out of a different account which accounts for the difference in the retainer agreement amounts and this line item.

(Mr. DelVecchio arrived at 8:28 p.m.)

VOTE: Motion FAILED 6-10-3 (AGAINST: Testani, Evangelista, Deyoe, Blose, London Waizenegger, Scinto, LeClair, Donofrio and Lamberti)
(ABSTENTIONS: Palmieri, DelVecchio and Ciocci)

Ms. Pires explained for Mr. Palmieri that the Employees Training & Developments line items had been moved back to the individual departments' budgets by the BOF. The department heads are in charge of their training will need the Director of Finance's approval.

01013800 TOWN HALL

589901-RENTALS -ANNUAL RENTALS/LEASE - Ms. Pires explained for Ms. Jankovic-Mark that this line item represents the Town Hall copiers.

01014200 PLANNING & ZONING

501101 SALARIES-FT/PERMANENT - The Chair indicated for Ms. Jankovic-Mark that the new hire last year was the Director of Planning. Ms. Pires explained that the increase in the full time line item is due to the elimination of two part time positions and one full time position will be available.

Ms. Pires explained to Ms. Jankovic-Mark the Recycling Commission had been merged with the Recycling Department.

01015600 CLEAN ENERGY FUND

The Chair stated this line item represents the Town’s contribution required by an agreement the Town entered into to buy green energy. There is a total of five years this is the fourth year of the agreement.

02 PUBLIC SAFETY

01022600-522202 SERVICES &FEES - PROFESSIONAL- Ms. Pires indicated for Ms. Jankovic-Mark that she believed the increase from the 2102 budget had to do with C-Med.

01022800 FIRE MARSHAL

501102 - PART TIME SALARIES/PERMANENT - The Chair explained for Ms. Jankovic-Mark that there was no dollar amount included in the part time salary/permanent line item, therefore there was no budget.

01022824 FIRE MARSHAL-FIRE HYDRANTS - Mr. Pia indicated for Ms. Jankovic-Mark that this line item represents a service fee to Aquarion for access to the hydrants, (fire insurance) they pay the Town property taxes for having the pipes in the ground. Ms. Pires indicated the decrease is due to the fact this was originally an estimate at 9%. The Town has since been provided with the actual rate at 5%. Mr. Donofrio stated that Dept. of Public Regulatory Commission formally the DPUC sets Aquarian’s rates, there is a municipal protection rate charged to every municipality. Aquarion had submitted a larger increase to PURA than what was granted which resulted in a lower protection fee for the municipality.

Moved by Mr. London, seconded by Ms. Testani to accept the TOTAL PUBLIC SAFETY \$11,214,948 - No Change.

VOTE: Motion CARRIED unanimously.

TOTAL PUBLIC SAFETY \$11,214,948 - No Change.

03 PUBLIC WORKS

01030105 HIGHWAY CONSTRUCTION - Mr. DelVecchio stated the line item should be closer to \$1 million speaking in favor of keeping up with the infrastructure. Ms. Tesoro

indicated that this line item will more than likely be increased to its full amount next year; it is being reduced this year due to the paving of North Nichols. Ms. Jankovic-Mark stated that certain items should be budgeted for and not bonded; this is one of those items and recommended having a paving program in place in the budget. The Chair noted that Town receives LOCIP money and is used for paving. There had been seven figures worth of grants for paving in the last few years.

0103200 PUBLIC WORKS-BLD. MAINTENANCE

5788802 MNTNCE/REP-EQUIPMENT/BUILDING - The Chair indicated to Ms. Jankovic-Mark if the environmental study was not included in the budget they would request a supplemental and that would not be appreciated. The Chair is not aware of the status of the move of the Parks Ranger station. Mr. Basbagill indicated the increase of \$20,000 is in addition to \$29,000. The \$29,000 had been determined would not be enough for the Quarry Road property. The Chair explained to Mr. Palmieri that the salary labor is included in this budget. The plan is to use the Town's existing manpower. There will be no special expense for labor, and the other construction costs will be part of the renovation bonding.

01030400 RECYCLING CENTER

501101 SALARIES-FT/PERMANENT - Ms. Tesoro stated the elimination of this position was premature. The position generates approximately \$8,400 per month, and is more than the salary. The goal is to increase recycling and have solid waste go down. Ms. Tesoro spoke against eliminating the position. Ms. Tesoro stated that the council could not increase this line item because it was not included in the First Selectman's budget. The Chair confirmed that neither the proposed First Selectman's budget nor the BOF recommended budget includes a salary for that position, effectively the position eliminated. In various committee hearings it was stated that the duties of that position would be rolled into the Public Works Department.

01030500 TOWN ENGINEER

501101 SALARIES-FT/PERMANENT - Moved by Mr. Basbagill, seconded by Mr. DelVecchio to decrease 501101 SALARIES-FT/PERMANENT by \$25,000.

- Mr. Basbagill stated that the BOF had added \$25,000 to 501101 to upgrade the Town Engineer to Assistant Director of Public Works to cover the recycling position.
- Mr. DelVecchio stated traditionally the Director of Public Works oversees recycling and had spoken with the previous Director of Public Works, who had explained that he had spent 8-10 hours per week overseeing recycling. Mr. DelVecchio concurred with Mr. Basbagill's motion. Under the purview of the previous Directors of Public Works they had sold compost, steel and aluminum. This generated \$150,000 annually.
- Mr. Meisner spoke against the increase and stated that the BOF increased the budget and reflects increases for two positions not requested by the department.
- Ms. Tesoro stated the two positions are full-time positions and questioned how the BOF thought they would have the additional time to do the work.

VOTE: Motion CARRIED 17-1-1 (AGAINST: Scinto) (ABSTENTION: Testani)

Moved by Mr. Pia, seconded by Mr. LeClair to accept the TOTAL PUBIC WORKS \$8,395,155 - Decrease of \$25,000.

VOTE: Motion CARRIED 18-0-1 (ABSTENTION: Testani)

TOTAL PUBIC WORKS \$8,395,155 - Decrease of \$25,000.

04 PUBLIC HEALTH

Moved by Mr. London, seconded by Ms. Deyoe to accept the TOTAL PUBLIC HEALTH \$596,497 - No Change

VOTE: Motion Carried unanimously.

TOTAL PUBLIC HEALTH \$596,497 - No Change

05 SOCIAL SERVICES

01050600 SENIOR CITIZENS' SERVICES - Ms. Jankovic-Mark stated that something needs to be done with the Senior Citizen Center's kitchen.

Moved by Mr. London, seconded by Mr. Palmieri to accept the TOTAL SOCIAL SERVICES \$614,144- No Change

VOTE: Motion CARRIED unanimously.

TOTAL SOCIAL SERVICES \$614,144- No Change

06 EDUCATION

- Mr. Meisner spoke against this line item because the increased amount of \$2.5 million is being supplemented by \$700,000 in technology bonding and the \$800,000 being carried forward from the previous year. Mr. Meisner spoke against doing these off balance sheet and bonding the technology. Mr. Meisner supports the monies going to education including the \$1.5 million off budget (bonding & the amount being carried over from the previous year).
- The Chair stated that the it is unknown what the BOE is planning for the \$800,000 carry over amount from last fiscal year.
- Ms. Tesoro spoke against the Town Council and the BOF having voted on the Education Budget without knowing what the numbers are and voting on bonding amounts after voting on this budget. Those numbers make a difference in these numbers; it is being assumed that the bonding resolutions will pass. If they do not pass it will impact the BOE's decisions.
- Mr. London stated two of the items being considered for bonding resolutions have nothing to do with operating funds or educating the students.
- The Chair confirmed that only one of the bonds was included in the superintendent's budget request, it was the technology request. The football field and the security bond were not included in the BOE budget.
- Ms. Tesoro agreed the only item included in the BOE budget was the technology and noted all agree the security item is a priority.
- Ms. Jankovic-Mark the bonding authorizations items should have been an operating expense and should have been included in this budget.

- Ms. Waizenegger noted that there is \$875,000 of BOE unspent monies and indicated that there is money available.
- Mr. Meisner stated that it is proper accounting for the BOE to return the unspent monies to the General Fund and included in the budget rather than having the appearance of not spending the money. It does create a potential funding cliff if they do not have carry over money in the subsequent year. If the money is going to be spent on full day kindergarten. The money is being spent anyway but is not in the budget.
- The Chair clarified that full day kindergarten is included in the proposed BOE budget. What the BOE decides to do with the approved amount can change after the Town Council adopts and appropriates the funds.

01060200 SCHOOL NURSES

501101 SALARIES-FT/PERMANENT - Ms. Jankovic-Mark noted that this line item had increased due to equity adjustments, before there had been performance based increases and questioned that change.

01060600 BUSINESS/EDUCATION INITIATIVE

522205 PROGRAM EXPENSES

Moved by Ms. Testani, seconded by Mr. Pia to increase 522205 PROGRAM EXPENSES by \$20,000.

- Ms. Testani stated this motion would bring the Trumbull Community Television Supervising Producer to a one-half person position. This position requires no benefits.
- Mr. Basbagill spoke in favor of this motion. At the committee hearings they were persuasive in the statements that they have the potential with their equipment to add value to the community, especially the on demand service. The position will allow them to reach out to the schools. This represents a .13% increase in the total budget.
- Ms. Tesoro read the BOF minutes to Mr. Palmieri and the full council. The minutes reflect that the BOF decision to reduce the \$20,000 was based on the addition of this position in last year's budget at \$10,000. The Chair indicated the BOF's objection was that this would be 200% increase to the salary from last year.
- Mr. Ciocchi spoke in favor of this motion and having on demand access to government.
- Ms. Jankovic-Mark spoke in favor of the funding and the seeing the meetings on demand.
- The Chair clarified that it will cost more than the \$20,000 to implement the on demand service, it is a step in the right direction

Vote: Motion CARRIED unanimously.

Moved by Ms. Testani, seconded by Mr. DelVecchio to accept the TOTAL EDUCATION \$103,123,012 - Increase of \$20,000.

VOTE: Motion CARRIED 14-4-1 (AGAINST: Meisner, Tesoro, Jankovic-Mark and Scinto)
(ABSTENTION: Basbagill)

TOTAL EDUCATION \$103,123,012 - Increase of \$20,000

07 LIBRARIES

Moved by Mr. Basbagill, seconded by Mr. DeVecchio to accept the TOTAL LIBRARIES \$1,563,340 - No Change.

Ms. Jankovic-Mark spoke in favor of how the department uses their money and stated she admires that. The amount the Town spends on the library is a wise investment. The Chair commended Mrs. Horton and her staff for a job well done. Mr. London concurred.

VOTE: Motion CARRIED unanimously.

TOTAL LIBRARIES \$1,563,340 - No Change

08 PARKS AND RECREATION

501101 SALARIES-FT/PERMANENT

Moved by Mr. Meisner, seconded by Ms. Jankovic-Mark to increase 501101 SALARIES-FT/PERMANENT by \$28,912.

- Mr. Basbagill stated the number of trees trimmed would be doubled by this; the counter point was the liability issue.
- Mr. Scinto noted that the truck necessary for this position had not been included in the budget
- The Chair explained the Parks Director has a future plan to purchase a bucket truck at \$180,000, this salary was going towards that program, since the truck is not in the budget and is not part of any proposal with the exception of the 5-Year Capital Plan there is no reason to fund the position.
- Ms. Pires confirmed for Ms. Tesoro since the position was denied by the BOF the truck was not included in the bonding request.
- The Chair clarified for Mr. Meisner that the Parks Director believes in the program but the program is potentially in the future, the truck is not in this budget and is not included in the bonding request that is on the 4-11-13 BOF agenda.

Mr. Meisner WITHDREW his motion and noted that it is unfortunate that the Town is not going to be able to do as much tree maintenance.

Moved by Ms. Deyoe, seconded by Mr. LeClair to accept the TOTAL PARKS and RECREATION \$2,390,947 - No Change.

VOTE: Motion CARRIED unanimously.

TOTAL PARKS and RECREATION \$2,390,947- No Change

01 General Government

01013400 EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

511150 FRINGE BENEFITS-FICA- Decrease of \$1,912 (Based on the decrease of the reduction of \$25,000).

TOTAL EMPLOYEE BENEFITS \$14,287,563

Moved by Mr. Palmieri, seconded by Mr. London to accept the TOTAL GENERAL GOVERNMENT \$19,739,944 - Decrease of \$1,912.

- Ms. Jankovic-Mark stated she is happy the Town is fully funding the Town pension but noted that the police pension is not being funded to its ARC amount; this will be an issue in the future.

VOTE: Motion CARRIED 15-2-2 (AGAINST: DelVecchio and Jankovic-Mark)
(ABSTENTION: Basbagill and Tesoro)

TOTAL GENERAL GOVERNMENT \$19,739,944 - Decrease of \$1,912.

TOTAL GENERAL FUND

Moved by Mr. London, seconded by Ms. Lamberti to accept the TOTAL GENERAL FUND \$151,993,877-decrease of \$6,912.

VOTE: Motion CARRIED 14-5 (AGAINST: Tesoro, Basbagill, Meisner, DelVecchio and Jankovic-Mark).

TOTAL GENERAL FUND \$151,993,877 - Decrease of \$6,912

ENTERPRISE FUNDS

Mr. Meisner stated the Enterprise Funds are self funded.

20100000 SEWERS ENTERPRISE

Moved by Mr. DelVecchio, seconded by Ms. Testani to accept the TOTAL SEWER ENTERPRISE \$6,537,134- No Change.

VOTE: Motion CARRIED 16-3 (AGAINST: Jankovic-Mark, Tesoro and Whitmoyer)

TOTAL SEWER ENTERPRISE \$6,537,134- No Change.

21100000 TASHUA KNOLLS-ENTERPRISE

Moved by Mr. DelVecchio, seconded by Ms. Deyoe to accept the TOTAL TASHUA KNOLLS-ENTERPRISE \$1,861,271 - No Change.

VOTE: Motion CARRIED unanimously.

TOTAL TASHUA KNOLLS-ENTERPRISE \$8,398,405 - No Change.

Moved by Mr. DelVecchio, seconded by Mr. Palmieri to accept the TOTAL ENTERPRISE \$8,398,405- No Change.

VOTE: Motion CARRIED 17-2 (AGAINST: Tesoro and Jankovic-Mark).

TOTAL ENTERPRISE \$8,398,405- No Change.

GRAND TOTAL

Moved by Mr. Blöse, seconded by Ms. Deyoe to accept the GRAND TOTAL \$160,392,283- Decrease of \$6,911.

VOTE: ADOPTED 12-7 (AGAINST: Tesoro, Jankovic-Mark, DelVecchio, Meisner, Whitmoyer, Basbagill and Pia)

GRAND TOTAL \$160,392,283- Decrease of \$6,911

Mr. Meisner requested the percentage increase in the BOE budget and the Town overall of the two excluding the Enterprise Funds. Ms. Pires would forward the information to Mr. Meisner.

The Chair extended his gratitude to everyone who worked hard during the budget process.

There being no further business to discuss the Trumbull Town Council adjourned by unanimous consent at 9:32 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Margaret D. Mastroni
Trumbull Town Council Clerk