

**APPROVED MINUTES  
BOARD OF FINANCE  
July 14, 2022**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Lainie McHugh called the Board of Finance meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. in the Council Chambers. All joined in the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Cindy Penkoff, 101 Columbine Drive, Trumbull, CT.

Ms. Penkoff spoke to the Board noting that Ms. Hammers was resigning. She then went on to thank her for her contributions to the Town over the last 37 years and for her service in all the various volunteer positions that she has held.

Ms. Hammers asked for a Point of Personal Privilege, during which time she indicated that she has lived in Trumbull about 40 years. She then commended all the volunteers – indicating that there are so many wonderful people in Trumbull – so many who volunteer in the schools, on the Boards, and in many other capacities.

**ATTENDANCE**

The Clerk recorded the following:

**Present**

Marty Isaac  
Elaine Hammers  
Scott Zimov  
Lainie McHugh  
Paul Timpanelli  
Vincent DeGennaro – Alternate

**Absent**

Michael Barker  
Christine El Eris – Alternate  
Marc Mascola – Alternate

**Also present:**

Vicki Tesoro, First Selectman; Maria Pires, Director of Finance; Daniel Schopick, Esq., Town Attorney; Anthony Musto, Town Treasurer; Rebeca Lopez, Auditor; George Estrada, Public Works Director; Dmitri Paris, Parks and Recreation Supervisor; James Nugent, Esq., Town Attorney; Don Espach, Golf Commission.

The Chairman McHugh indicated Mr. DeGennaro would be voting for Mr. Barker this evening.

**TOWN TREASURER'S REPORT – Anthony Musto**

Attorney Musto presented his report, indicating that Newtown Savings Bank's interest rates continue to climb and that STIF is also paying more.

**07-22-01 – FY 2023 – SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION**

Mr. Timpanelli moved, seconded by Mr. Zimov, to appropriate \$106,646 from Retained Earnings to Capital Outlay 20100000-581888 \$106,646 for additional improvements and equipment at the Golf Course.

Mr. Espach spoke to the Board about the aging equipment at the golf course, including the dump truck that needed to be replaced, after the budget was passed. He went on to add that they have had 3 superintendents in the last 2 years and each has had different ideas. In addition, he indicated that they are aware going forward they will need to address all their issues during the budget process.

Vote: 6-0-0 motion carries

### **07-22-02 – FY 2022 – SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION**

Mr. Timpanelli moved, seconded by Mr. DeGennaro, to appropriate \$1,659,091 from the Fund Balance to Claims and Judgements 01012800-501118 \$1,659,091 to settle Digital Tax Appeal - previously in Reserve.

Attorney Nugent indicated that this was not a settlement. There was a trial and this is the judgement that the Town has to pay. This will affect the fire tax and they will also owe money back to Digital.

Vote: 6-0-0 motion carries

### **07-22-03 – FY 2022 – SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION**

Mr, Timpanelli moved, seconded by Mr. Zimov, to appropriate \$190,000 from the Fund Balance to Program expenses 01080800-522205 \$190,000 to cover shortfall in tree work for public safety.

To explain the shortfall in the budget, Mr. Estrada showed the following powerpoint presentation that you can access [here](#) and view from pages 15-42. Additional information regarding Trees can be found [here](#) on the Town website.

Mr. Estrada touched on the following areas:

- The processes used by the Tree Warden, including what exactly his duties and objectives are.
- The ETT – The Enhanced Tree Trimming policy.
  - The utility company limits its expense to fix a tree problem noted by the Town concerning power lines. Once they fix the problem the Town goes in to finish taking down the tree. The Tree Warden is involved throughout the process.
  - There are times when the UI conducts tree trimming along certain routes and if they see an issue at that time will take the tree down completely.
- We do not know what the future holds; it is nature that is affecting the trees. There are issues with the Ash trees and now there is an issue with the Beech trees. It is an issue with all municipalities.
- In 1962, the Town issued a resolution regarding the planting of trees on the owner's side of the right of way only, and the set-back footage used differs throughout the town.
- We have implemented a Tree Assessment Process Reporting system where residents enter information if they feel there is a problem. The Tree Warden goes out to inspect and prepares an assessment, assigning a risk factor. If there is an issue, the engineering department will determine if it is a Town tree. If it is on the owner's property, he lets the resident know and any further follow-up is their responsibility. Otherwise, the Town will address.
- The budget is a concern and it wasn't until 2020 that we began to exceeding our budget. This runs parallel to Covid19 when townspeople were spending more time outside and in their front yards. A review of our data shows that calls went from 153 in 2021 to 256 in 2022.
- Going forward, public safety will not be sacrificed; however, communication between the Town and the Board of Finance will be improved.

Vote: 6-0-0 motion carries

### **07-22-04 – FY 2022 – SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION**

Mr, Timpanelli moved, seconded by Ms. Hammers, to appropriate \$218,750 from the Fund Balance to Snow A/C-Salaries – OT 01030101-501105 \$58,850 and to Program Supplies 01030101-534402 \$159,900 to cover the shortfall in Snow account due to additional storms during this year.

Mr. Estrada indicated that we are going into the next season with a very small supply left over from this past year.

Vote: 6-0-0 motion carries

### **07-22-05 – FY 2022 – TRANSFERS**

Mr, Timpanelli moved, seconded by Ms. Hammers, to transfer from Program Supplies 01080800-534402 \$1,000 and from Professional Dev-Seminars 01080800-556601 \$1,400 and from Emergency Services 01080800-578806 \$15,000 to Program Expenses 01080800-522205 \$17,400 to cover the shortfall created due to additional tree work done for public safety.

Ms. Pires indicated that this is the remainder of the funds needed for the tree work done for public safety.

Vote: 6-0-0 motion carries

### **07-22-06 – FY 2023 – ARPA USES**

Mr, Timpanelli moved, seconded by Mr. Zimov, to transfer from ARPA Funding \$424,800 to authorize use of ARPA Funding for expenses that were removed from the FY 2023 Budget.

The Chairman indicated these expenses are items omitted from the budget, since it was thought they would be paid by ARPA.

It was noted the \$18,500 Survey Drone and Software was not funded by the budget and was not included on the ARPA list.

Mr. Zimov moved, seconded by Mr. Isaac, to add the \$18,500 Survey Drone and Software to the ARPA funding uses.

Discussion followed where it was noted that we should hold off on the addition of the \$18,500 until we see what other needs might arise requiring these funds.

Mr. Zimov withdrew his motion and Mr. Isaac withdrew his second.

Vote: 6-0-0 motion carries

The First Selectman took time to thank Ms. Hammers for all her years of volunteer service to the Town and for all of her many other contributions and she wished her well going forward with her upcoming retirement to Florida.

### **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

- Budget to Actual expenditures FY 2022 – we are still closing the year and there still may be outstanding invoices.
  - Police department – Overtime – over budget \$279,000 shortage of officers and \$120,000 will be covered by salaries.
  - Fire Hydrants - \$139,000 under budget
  - Street lights – \$58,000 under budget
  - The entire Police Department – over budget \$42,000
  - Workers Comp – over budget \$45,000
- Revenue FY 2022 – no discussion
- Fund Balance report FYE 2022 – no discussion

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- **February 3, 2022**

Mr, Timpanelli moved, seconded by Ms. Hammers, to approve the Minutes of the February 3, 2022 meeting, as presented.

Vote: 6-0-0 motion carries

- **May 12, 2022**

Mr. Timpanelli moved, seconded by Mr. Zimov, to approve the Minutes of the May 12, 2022 meeting, as presented.

Vote: 6-0-0 motion carries

- **May 31, 2022**

Mr, Timpanelli moved, seconded by Ms. Hamers, to approve the Minutes of the May 31, 2022 meeting, as presented.

Vote: 5-0-1 motion carries (abstained: Zimov)

**ADJOURNMENT**

By unanimous consent, the meeting adjourned at 8:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Phyllis C. Collier

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Board of Finance Clerk