

TOWN COUNCIL  
**Town of Trumbull**  
CONNECTICUT  
www.trumbull-ct.gov

TOWN HALL  
Trumbull

TELEPHONE  
(203) 452-5000



FY 2021-2022 BUDGET  
VOTING SESSION  
MINUTES  
05-20-2021

CALL TO ORDER: The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. 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:

Dawn Cantafio	Eric Paulson	Joanne Glasser-Orenstein
Kevin Shively	Mary Isaac	Patricia Borghesan
Michael Miller	Ashley Gaudiano	Stephen Lemoine
Jason Marsh	Tony Scinto	Nicole Satin
Thomas Whitmoyer	Carl A. Massaro, Jr.	Carole Hans
Donna Seidell	Lisa Valenti	Lori Rosasco-Schwartz
Joy Colon	Bruce Elstein	Bill Mecca

ALSO

PRESENT: First Selectman Vicki A. Tesoro, Chief Administrative Officer Cynthia Katske Town Attorney Daniel Schopick, Finance Director Maria Pires, Assistant Director of Finance Dan Martin

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

The Chair gave a brief overview of the budget process:

The first part is the first selectman's proposed budget, which then goes to the BOF who can increase or decrease line items; it then goes to the Town Council for a final vote. The Town Council can decrease the BOF recommended budget but cannot increase above the first selectman's budget. At this meeting the Town Council will cover each department and vote on each change and then vote on the department total The BOE budget is a certain amount the Town Council allocated and they distribute as they see fit. The Town Council does not have any control over that.

1. RESOLUTION TC28-182: Moved by Colon, seconded by Borghesan

BE IT RESOLVED, That the annual budget for the Town of Trumbull for fiscal year beginning July 1, 2021 and ending June 30, 2022, as recommended by the Board of Finance and amended by the Town Council, be and the same is hereby adopted and that the sums stated therein as amended for their respective purposes be and the same are hereby appropriated.

Ms. Rosasco-Schwartz noted she had analyzed the budget in detail the \$184 million before the Enterprise Funds are added in and she compared them with the current year expenses of \$170,500,000 with an expense increase of \$5.5 million. We received a \$10 million federal relief funds to be paid out over two (2) years. \$5 million of those are included in the current proposed budget. The \$5 million covers all but \$500,000 of our operating expenses. Revenues have ups and downs on individual line items, but in total they are relatively flat, showing no significant loss of revenue. The Chair clarified the Council is looking at the expenses at this meeting. This budget includes a 2% tax increase and questioned why there is a tax increase. First Selectman indicated she did not have the schedule Ms. Rosasco-Schwartz prepared and would like to look at the schedule and asked for it to be sent to her if she wanted her to review it. This was asked at one of the budget hearings. First Selectman Tesoro noted she didn't have the schedule or the time before the meeting to compare the numbers as far as the revenues are concerned and the use of the general fund last year and how that impacts this budget. This can be discussed but this meeting is a voting session on the budget. If there is a presentation that is fine, but to not give any time for a precise answer is not fruitful to the conversation. The BOF put the numbers out that they produced. Ms. Rosasco-Schwartz confirmed she had those numbers. The First Selectman Tesoro did not agree that the revenues are flat. Ms. Pires agreed the budget went up by \$5.5 million from last year. The individual line items of the revenues are close, the only difference is the fact they used fund balance last year of \$2.8 million that affects the fact we are now using \$5 million of ARP funding. The budget still went up \$5.5 million and have to make up the \$2.8 million fund balance, which is why the mill rate will go up. Ms. Rosasco-Schwartz stated they are creating holes that they will continue to have plug and the cycle continues to perpetuate. The only way to correct this is with grand list growth, which has been relatively flat. First Selectman asked to see Ms. Rosasco-Schwartz's schedule because she does believe the Town lost revenues and there was no tax increase last year. The Town is expecting a surplus this year to decrease the money from the general fund last year. Time is needed to get to the end of the year to see how much of the general fund would be used.

The Council went department by department through the budget. The following are the proposed changes to the budget:

## **06 EDUCATION**

01060000/EDUCATION

Moved by Miller, seconded by Shively to reduce 01060000-567703 Transportation-Travel Reimb.by \$94,553.

Mr. Miller stated this is a reduction on non-public school busses based on usage. Mr. Marsh clarified this reduction is to the overall education budget but does not impact the operating funds being given to the BOE. The Chair agreed.

The clerk called the roll call vote and recorded it as follows:

	AYE	NAY	ABSTAIN
Mary Isaac	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bill Mecca	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Michael Miller	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Donna Seidell	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Carole Hans	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Nicole Satin	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tony Scinto	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kevin Shively	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Thomas Whitmoyer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jason Marsh	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Carl Massaro, Jr.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Joanne Glasser-Orenstein	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Eric Paulson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lori Rosasco-Schwartz	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Patricia Borghesan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Joy Colon	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bruce Elstein (Not Present)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ashley Gaudiano	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stephen Lemoine	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lisa Valenti	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

VOTE: Motion CARRIED 13-6 (AGAINST: Seidell, Scinto, Rosasco-Schwartz, Lemoine Massaro, Valenti)

Moved by Shively, seconded by Whitmoyer to ACCEPT the NEW EDUCATION DEPARTMENT TOTAL of \$120,019,692.

Mr. Massaro stated the budget about to be voted on is \$1.5 million short of the superintendent's budget and the BOE's request. Mr. Marsh stated that has been the same in every budget he has been a part of. The superintendent stated clearly that the first selectman's allocation with the budget surplus and the federal money would more than

fund the school system for next year. Ms. Isaac stated the first selectman also stated they have an expected \$2.5 million surplus, which didn't include the \$1.4 million for reserve negotiations that they just started using, plus a \$217,000 energy rebate along with the American Rescue. They seem to be doing well and the surplus may even be more than anticipated. Mr. Scinto noted the superintendent stated in committee that he did not have enough money to run the schools. Mr. Shively stated that comment is not accurate, Mr. Scinto asked in committee if the superintendent only got the money the first selectman proposed and the superintendent said he wouldn't be able to do everything he wanted to do with that amount but we all know that is not the amount of money he is getting. Mr. Marsh noted Mr. Scinto's statement is re-characterizing the actual conversation during the budget hearing. When presented with the full amount of money the BOE will receive through budget allocation, surplus and federal money the superintendent was quite clear the budget would be fully funded. Mr. Shively noted after all is said and done and if the surplus is as big as they think it is and it doesn't grow even more as it may, they will be \$700,000 to \$800,000 ahead of where they originally requested and the BOF decided because the new superintendent and business manager were being so transparent and forthright and working directly with the boards they gave them more. Mr. Massaro noted the CARES Act money is in excess of \$800,000 and the superintendent explained that money would only be used for rehabilitation and remedial programs based on education shortcomings because of this past year. It is not supplemental to the operating budget, it's additional programming for remedial purposes. That doesn't augment or supplement the budget the Council is adopting. The surplus doesn't get automatically added to this spending budget, the money stays in the general fund. The BOF and the BOE had a discussion about segregating some surplus money that would be earmarked for a one time expenditure and not for the general operating budget for the coming year. He doesn't agree the BOE budget is fully funded from these other sources.

(Mr. Elstein noted he was present at 7:37 p.m.)

Ms. Isaac clarified the additional money was not reflected in the BOF or the money she was talking about for the surplus as well, that money has been set aside for exactly what it was supposed to be used for. The superintendent did indicate that he would be able to spend this budget without having any funding cliffs. Mr. Marsh reiterated that the superintendent indicated he is getting enough money to run the school system in the way it should be run next year. Mr. Massaro is supplanting his judgement for the superintendent. Mr. Whitmoyer explained the Finance Committee had the ability to have an open dialogue with the BOE and Long Hill administration and has been an extreme plus. Dr. Semmel and Mr. Hendrickson have done nothing but seriousness and transparency in trying to correct the inefficiencies found in the operational review. The BOE asked to reduce the number for account 567703 because they are not going to need it. Where there are savings and the BOE is being forthright is an incredible move on their part and he respects that. This does not affect their general operating budget and does save the town money and believes this to be tremendous on all sides and is why he supported that vote.

First Selectman Tesoro asked Mr. Massaro to restate the amount of the difference in line items. Mr. Massaro explained he is reading the spreadsheet they were working off of at this meeting. The total education request was \$121,569,008 and the BOF reads as \$120,114,245, which is a \$1.5 million difference. Mr. Massaro stated that is where he got the numbers from. First Selectman Tesoro explained that takes into account debt service and everything else, not just the program expense for the BOE, the first selectman's allocation is in the 522205 account, which is not a \$1.5 million difference. The difference is actually \$800,000.

Mr. Martin repeated the total amount as \$120,019,692

The clerk called the roll call vote and recorded it as follows:

	AYE	NAY	ABSTAIN
Mary Isaac	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bill Mecca	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Michael Miller	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Donna Seidell	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Carole Hans	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Nicole Satin	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tony Scinto	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kevin Shively	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Thomas Whitmoyer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jason Marsh	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Carl Massaro, Jr.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Joanne Glasser-Orenstein	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Eric Paulson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lori Rosasco-Schwartz	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Patricia Borghesan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Joy Colon	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bruce Elstein	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ashley Gaudiano	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stephen Lemoine	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lisa Valenti	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

VOTE: Motion CARRIED 14-6 (AGAINST: Seidell, Scinto, Rosasco-Schwartz, Lemoine Massaro, Valenti)

Moved by Shively, seconded by Glasser-Orenstein to ACCEPT the 06 EDUCATION NEW TOTAL of \$121,397,510.

The clerk called the roll call vote and recorded it as follows:

	AYE	NAY	ABSTAIN
Mary Isaac	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bill Mecca	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Michael Miller	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Donna Seidell	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Carole Hans	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Nicole Satin	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tony Scinto	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kevin Shively	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Thomas Whitmoyer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jason Marsh	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Carl Massaro, Jr.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Joanne Glasser-Orenstein	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Eric Paulson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lori Rosasco-Schwartz	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Patricia Borghesan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Joy Colon	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bruce Elstein	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ashley Gaudiano	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stephen Lemoine	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lisa Valenti	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

VOTE: Motion CARRIED 14-6 (AGAINST: Seidell, Scinto, Rosasco-Schwartz, Lemoine Massaro, Valenti)

There was NO CHANGE in EMPLOYEE BENEFITS.

There was NO CHANGE to 01 GENERAL GOVERNMENT \$25,408,822.

There were NO CHANGE to the ENTERPRISE FUNDS.

Moved by Shively, seconded by Miller to ACCEPT the NEW GENERAL FUND amount of \$183,950,614 representing a reduction of \$94,553.

The clerk called the roll call vote and recorded it as follows:

AYE NAY ABSTAIN

Mary Isaac	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bill Mecca	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Michael Miller	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Donna Seidell	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Carole Hans	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Nicole Satin	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tony Scinto	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kevin Shively	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Thomas Whitmoyer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jason Marsh	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Carl Massaro, Jr.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Joanne Glasser-Orenstein	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Eric Paulson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lori Rosasco-Schwartz	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Patricia Borghesan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Joy Colon	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bruce Elstein	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ashley Gaudiano	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stephen Lemoine	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lisa Valenti	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

VOTE: Motion CARRIED 14-6 (AGAINST: Seidell, Scinto, Rosasco-Schwartz, Lemoine Massaro, Valenti)

The Chair extended her gratitude to everyone for their time.

Moved by Shively, seconded by Glasser-Orenstein to ACCEPT the NEW GRAND TOTAL of \$197,425,546.

The clerk called the roll call vote and recorded it as follows:

	AYE	NAY	ABSTAIN
Mary Isaac	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bill Mecca	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Michael Miller	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Donna Seidell	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Carole Hans	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Nicole Satin	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tony Scinto	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kevin Shively	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Thomas Whitmoyer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jason Marsh	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Carl Massaro, Jr.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Joanne Glasser-Orenstein	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Eric Paulson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lori Rosasco-Schwartz	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Patricia Borghesan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Joy Colon	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bruce Elstein	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ashley Gaudiano	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stephen Lemoine	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lisa Valenti	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

VOTE: ADOPTED 14-6 (AGAINST: Seidell, Scinto, Rosasco-Schwartz, Lemoine Massaro, Valenti)

Mr. Shively noted because the meeting started with Ms. Rosasco-Schwartz's concern this budget was spending into a budget cliff that he was confused every member of the minority party voted against reducing spending and instead wanted to increase spending. He doesn't understand how you can be worried about a funding cliff and want to spend more money.

First Selectman Tesoro clarified the number of the Education account. The superintendent revised his request after his initial request in January, because there was an adjustment in the insurance. His request of \$113,751,421 as it appears on the spreadsheet was reduced to \$113,183,159 the difference between her allocation and the superintendent's revised request was \$886,501. It was not a \$1.5 million difference. This can be verified on the BOE website where the superintendent posts his presentations.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to discuss and upon motion made by Gaudiano, seconded by Mecca the Trumbull Town Council adjourned at 8:00 p.m. by unanimous consent.

Respectfully Submitted,



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Margaret D. Mastroni,  
Town Council Clerk