

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

TOWN HALL
Trumbull

TELEPHONE
(203) 452-5000



FINANCE COMMITTEE
MINUTES
JULY 25, 2022

Call to Order: The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m. All present joined the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call: The clerk called the roll and recorded it as follows:

Present: Kevin Shively, Chairman, Mary Isaac, Vice Chairman, Nicole Satin, Dawn Cantafio, Tony Scinto, Joy Colon, Alternate

Absent: Steve Choi, Mike Buswell, Alternate

Also

Present: First Selectman Vicki A. Tesoro, Chief Administrative Officer Cynthia Katske, Town Attorney Daniel Schopick, Town Attorney James Nugent, Town Council Chairman Ashley Gaudiano, Town Council member Jason Marsh

-
1. RESOLUTION TC29-66: Voted on at the 7-25-2022 R&R Committee meeting
BE IT RESOLVED, That the appointment by the First Selectman of Amy Wiley as a member of the Trumbull Education and Government Access Television Commission for a term extending to the first Monday of December 2024 be and the same is hereby approved.
 2. RESOLUTION TC29-67: Voted on at the 7-25-2022 R&R Committee meeting
BE IT RESOLVED, That the reappointment by the First Selectman of Kate Donahue as a member of the Trumbull Education and Government Access Television Commission for a term extending to the first Monday of December 2024 be and the same is hereby approved.
 3. RESOLUTION TC29-68: Moved by Satin, seconded by Cantafio
BE IT RESOLVED, That \$106,646 is hereby appropriated from Golf Course Commission Retained Earnings to Capital Outlay 20100000-581888 for additional

improvements and equipment. Overall they will save on manpower and the maintenance budget. This is part of their longterm strategy to replace and/or implement.

Moved by Cantafio, seconded by Satin to amend to read as 21100000-581888.

VOTE: Motion CARRIED unanimously.

Mr. Joseph Gaudiano Vice-Chairman of the Golf Course Commission was present and indicated this request is for the purchase of lawn mowers and projects on the house. They had a record setting year and were able to put another \$400,000 into Retained Earnings.

VOTE: Motion CARRIED as amended unanimously.

4. RESOLUTION TC29-69: Moved by Cantafio, seconded by Satin
BE IT RESOLVED, That \$190,000 is hereby appropriated from the Fund Balance to Program expenses 01080800-522205 to cover the shortfall in tree work for public safety.

The Director of Public Works was not present. He did a presentation at the BOF meeting and would be present at the full council meeting where the council will be able ask him questions.

Councilman Scinto requested a list of every tree, the address of what was cut down, who authorized it and invoices for the \$190,000.

Councilman Cantafio noted that Mr. Estrada had indicated this was due to an emergencies.

Councilman Scinto noted he had watched the presentaion at the BOF meeting nd it looks like moving forward they have it under control, but this happened during the budget season and still have not gotten an answer on it.

Moved by Satin, seconded by Isaac to pass without recommendation. VOTE: Motion CARRIED unanimously.

5. RESOLUTION TC29-70: Moved by Scinto, seconded by Cantafio
BE IT RESOLVED, That \$218,750 is hereby appropriated 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 the Snow account due to additional storms during this year.

The Director of Public Works was not present but would be at the full council meeting.

Moved by Cantafio, seconded by Satin to pass without recommendation. VOTE: Motion CARRIED unanimously.

6. RESOLUTION TC29-71: Moved by Isaac, seconded by Cantafio

BE IT RESOLVED, That \$424,800 is hereby transferred from ARPA Funding, and BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the use of ARPA Funding for expenses that were removed from the FY 2023 Budget is hereby authorized.

The Chair noted these were things that that are outlined in the back-up and were earmarked during the budget process to not be included in the budget specifically because they would be earmarked for use of the ARPA funds.

First Selectman Tesoro explained these were items pulled from the budget by the BOF and Town Council to be paid out of ARPA which totals \$424,280 and are looking for approval in the same way they will look for approvals for the other monies that will be spent. The BOF approved this unanimously at their July 14th meeting and is now being brought to the council. There are cars in the request which is a one-time expense this year, an interview room, watchdog server, a tire machine, all one-time expenses, additionally there is a fire marshal vehicle and the tricaster for TCTV. The police ask for cars every year, but this will cover the cars for this year and will be paid in their entirety. It is suggested not to create a funding cliff, Mr. Scinto's question regarding if these are one-time expenses is a good question and confirmed these are all eligible expenses under ARPA.

The Chair reminded those present and the public there will be a joint meeting of the BOF and the Town Council on Sept. 1, 2022 at the high school where all of the ARPA funding will be discussed. First Selectman Tesoro noted the meeting is for discussion purposes only there will be note votes taken, and the public is invited. They will discuss the recommendations made by our departments and the direction that the BOF and Town Council would like to go. The funds given by the federal government last year was \$5.2 million and second set of funds this year should be paid some time this month. An email was received last week about it. It was another \$5.2 million. There is a schedule showing what's been paid out of the first funding and there will be somewhere around \$200,000 that was not spent and will be added to the next \$5.2 million that the BOF and Town Council will be discussing. Whatever is chosen to fund has to be done by December 31, 2024 and the money has to be spent by December 31, 2026 and are certainly within the window of discussion. First Selectman Tesoro confirmed the \$424,000 is part of the first \$5.2 million received from the federal government.

VOTE: Motion CARRIED unanimously.

7. RESOLUTION TC29-72: Moved by Satin, seconded by Cantafio
BE IT RESOLVED, That \$1,659,091 is hereby appropriated from the Fund Balance to Claims and Judgments 01012800-501118 to satisfy a judgment in the matter of Digital 60 & 80 Merritt LLC v. Board of Assessment Appeals of the Town of Trumbull, et al (Docket #HHB-CV14-6025041 S and HHB-CV-15-6029300 S).

Attorney Nugent explained this is a tax appeal filed by Digital for the 2013 and 2014 grand lists. It was pending for a long time, it went to trial a couple years ago and the court entered a judgment determining the value, which was roughly midway between Digital's

own appraisal and the town's appraisal report submitted as evidence at the trial. There were appeals thereafter taken and this is a final judgment that has to be paid. Most of it was budgeted in the reserve fund for tax appeals so it is really not a transfer. The 1.5 million of the 1.6 million had already been budgeted for in the reserve fund. It's characterized as a transfer as their auditor had instructed them how it had to be done for accounting purposes.

The Chair noted this is a judgment that went through the Supreme Court, it is not an ongoing appeal. Attorney Nugent further explained it was a petition for certification filed, it was not accepted but went through the Appellate Court. It is a final judgment for that one. Digital has other appeals pending from the 2015 reval and the 2021 reval, it's something they do repeatedly. This disposes once and for all the 2013-2014 grand list appeals. This was based on assessments, no personal property, it is not a personal property tax appeal, it was a real estate appeal.

Attorney Nugent explained the assessor made a determination for the grand list of what the value was back 2012 and 2013 and the appeal was taken. He didn't know what factors the assessor took into account at that time but conversely, Digital's number that they appealed on was significantly lower than the judgement that came in. It was essentially a compromised conclusion, roughly halfway between the two values chosen by the expert witnesses that testified.

Councilman Isaac noted the case can be googled and find what the assessor believed the value was and why.

Councilman Scinto stated it is amazing this was in the courts for ten years and the amount of money Digital spent. Attorney Nugent noted the courts had been closed for almost two years due to COVID and they were not awarded any interest which was important to the town.

VOTE: Motion CARRIED unanimously.

Adjournment: There being no further business to discuss and upon motion made by Cantafio, seconded by Satin the Finance Committee adjourned at 7:39 p.m. by unanimous consent.

Respectfully Submitted,

Margaret D. Mastroni

Margaret D. Mastroni, Clerk