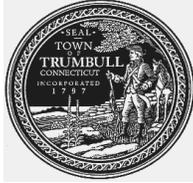


TOWN COUNCIL
Town of Trumbull
CONNECTICUT
www.trumbull-ct.gov

TOWN HALL
Trumbull

TELEPHONE
(203) 452-5005



MINUTES
January 5, 2012

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Carl A. Massaro, Jr. called the meeting to order at 8:07 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

David R. Pia	Ann Marie Evangelista	James Blose
Jeff S. Jenkins	Michael J. London	Kristy Waizenegger
Chadwick Ciocci	Carl A. Massaro, Jr.	John A. DelVecchio, Jr.
James F. Meisner	Tony J. Scinto	Debra A. Lamberti
Jeffrey Donofrio	Mark LeClair	Martha A. Jankovic-Mark
Gregg Basbagill	Fred Palmieri, Jr.	Vicki Tesoro
Thomas Whitmoyer	Jane Deyoe	

ABSENT: Suzanne S. Testani

ALSO PRESENT: First Selectman Timothy M. Herbst, Mr. Daniel Nelson, Chief of Staff, Mrs. Maria Pires, Director of Finance, Town Attorney Edward Walsh, Mark Devestern, Tax Assessor and Ms. Susan Horton, Director of the Trumbull Library System.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- Motion made by Ms. Deyoe, seconded by Mr. Ciocci to approve the December 5, 2011 Organizational meeting minutes as submitted. VOTE : Motion carried unanimously.
- Motion made by Mr. Pia, seconded by Mr. Ciocci to approve the December 14, 2011 special meeting minutes as submitted. VOTE : Motion carried unanimously.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- 2011 We the People State Champions:

The Chair stated that he was pleased to bring champions to a Town Council to applaud their efforts and their success. Trumbull High School and the middle School have an educational program entitled We the People, which involves discussion and debate on constitutional subject matter. Our teams from the Trumbull High School competed in Hartford in December and brought the first place championship home. Kate Hampford-Donahue the liaison from the ACE

Foundation, which funds the program was present, Kathleen Boland the coach of the team was also present. The Chair congratulated the team, Ms. Hampford-Donahue and Ms. Boland. The Chair stated that he has worked with the team, as well as a few others present at this meeting to prepare the team for competitions. They are very well trained, highly committed and high achievers.

Ms. Boland thanked the entire Town for their help this year. The team's goal was to bring the gold back to Trumbull and they did. Their goal for next year is to bring the National Championship to Trumbull for the first time. The National competition is April 27 to May 2, 2012 in Washington DC.

The We the People team members present at this meeting introduced themselves to the Town Council as follows: Samantha Wesley-Paige Butler -Michael McGuigan -Meredith Ramsey- Anurag Chinepalli and Stanley Zheng

- Trumbull Library System New Services and This Year's One Book One Town:

Ms. Susan Horton, Director of the Trumbull Library System explained that there is a community atmosphere around the One Book One Town event. Ms. Horton challenged those present at this meeting to part take in any one of the programs offered along with this event. This year they picked the theme first, the Civil War then the book, Cold Mountain by Charles Frazier, a first time author. The Trumbull Library System has partnered with the Trumbull Historical Society. The first program is going to be a Civil War Reenactment which will take place at the Abraham Nichols Park on March 4, 2012. The Trumbull School system has coordinated a read aloud day with the schools using the Civil War theme. On December 19, 2011 the Trumbull Library System gave away 75 copies of the book, Cold Mountain, the only requirement to take the book was to share it with a friend. This was to encourage the book to get around Town. The Hampford-Donahue family donated the books to give away. Ms. Horton as well as the Chair extended their gratitude to Mrs. Donahue for her generous donation.

- Ann Moore Memorial:

The Chair explained that Ms. Moore had been a former Chairman of the Republican Town Committee, over the years she also served as the Town Council Chairman and as a Police Commissioner. Ms. Moore was a committed public servant. Ms. Moore passed away in December, 2011. The Chair asked all present to remember Ann Moore and her service to the Town of Trumbull.

- Trumbull High School Building Committee Update:

Owner's Rep Update - Mr. John Barbarotta explained that there is not a lot of activity at the high school at this time. The eight (8) temporary classrooms have been taken away; they are working in the old auditorium which will be the chorus and band room. Most of the project's work to be done is in B-House, they did not want to interrupt the academic wing any more than they had to; so they put the B-House work off until the summer. O&G had made the decision that they would not need the swing space from this point on; as soon as this section is done they can move the existing band room to their new space, where they are now will be the new A & B suite. They can move A- B from upstairs, which will open up the whole upper corridor. They are still tying up loose ends with the summer work.

In response to the Chair, Mr. J. Barbarotta confirmed that the project is still on schedule and is still on budget, they are looking at paving the project; and will come to the council when it is planned.

Mr. J. Barbarotta reported that they had gotten approval from the State on the concession stand plans and are ready to go out to bid. As a courtesy they had given the plans to the Health Inspector and the Building Department to review, this way they could received their suggestions before it goes out to bid and hopefully will eliminate any potential change-orders. The bid would be going out in a month. The Chair requested a pdf of the plans be forwarded to the council clerk; the clerk will then circulate the plans to the full council. Mr. J. Barbarotta agreed.

(Mr. DeVecchio left the meeting at 8:28 p.m.)

1. RESOLUTION TC24-2: Moved by Mr. Pia, seconded by Mr. London

BE IT RESOLVED, That the recommendation of the reappointment by the First Selectman of James Stapleton of 6 Winding Way as an alternate member of the Ethics Commission, be and the same is hereby approved for a term extending to December 3, 2013.

(Mr. DeVecchio returned to the meeting at 8:29 p.m.)

Committee Report: The Rules & Research Committee met on 01-03-12 and voted 5-0.

VOTE: ADOPTED Unanimously.

2. RESOLUTION TC24-3: Moved by Mr. Whitmoyer, seconded Mr. Basbagill

BE IT RESOLVED, That the recommendation of the reappointment by the First Selectman of Joyce Michaels of 67 Jog Hill Road as a member of the Golf Commission, be and the same is hereby approved for a term extending to December 2, 2014.

Committee report: The Rules & Research Committee met on 01-03-12 and voted 5-0 to amend RESOLUTION TC24-3 and voted 5-0 as amended.

The Chair recognized the amendment in Committee.

Moved by Mr. Ciocci, seconded by Mr. Pia to accept the committee amendment Resolution TC24-3 to read as:

RESOLUTION TC24-3: BE IT RESOLVED, That the recommendation of the appointment by the First Selectman of Joyce Michaels of 67 Jog Hill Road as a member of the Golf Commission, be and the same is hereby approved for a term extending to December 2, 2014. VOTE: Motion to amend carried unanimously.

VOTE: Adopted as amended unanimously.

3. RESOLUTION TC24-4: Moved by Mr. London, seconded by Ms. Evangelista.

BE IT RESOLVED, That the recommendation of the appointment by the First Selectman of Richard L. Delibro of 9 Blackstone Road as a member of the Golf Commission, be and the same is hereby approved for a term extending to December 2. 2014.

Committee report: The Rules & Research Committee met on 01-03-12 and voted 5-0 to amend RESOLUTION TC24-4 and voted 5-0 as amended.

The Chair recognized the amendment in committee.

Moved by Mr. Ciocci, seconded by Mr. Pia to accept the committee amendment Resolution TC24-4 to read as:

RESOLUTION TC24-4: BE IT RESOLVED, That the recommendation of the appointment by the First Selectman of Richard L. DeLibro of 9 Blackstone Road as a member of the Golf Commission, be and the same is hereby approved for a term extending to December 2, 2014. VOTE: Motion to amend carried unanimously.

VOTE: Adopted as amended unanimously.

4. RESOLUTION TC24-5: Moved by Mr. Palmieri, seconded by Mr. Basbagill.

BE IT RESOLVED, That the recommendation of the appointment by the First Selectman of Joseph Deluca of 40 Palisade Avenue as a member of the Golf Commission, be and the same is hereby approved for a term extending to December 2. 2014.

Committee report: The Rules & Research Committee met on 01-03-12 and voted 5-0 to amend RESOLUTION TC24-5 and voted 5-0 as amended.

The Chair recognized the amendment in committee.

Moved by Ms. Mark, seconded by Mr. DelVecchio to amend RESOLUTION TC24-5 to read as:

RESOLUTION TC24-5: BE IT RESOLVED, That the recommendation of the appointment by the First Selectman of Joseph DeLuca of 40 Palisade Avenue as a member of the Golf Commission, be and the same is hereby approved for a term extending to December 2, 2014. VOTE: Motion to amend carried unanimously.

Mr. Palmieri stated for the record that during discussion of item #2 in committee (the nomination of Mr. DeLuca for the Golf Commission) Mr. Herbst had made a comment with regard to his intention to put people of a certain age and more women on the board. Mr. Palmieri stated that he had made the following statement in committee, "That any potential candidates should be judged solely on their merits, not on their age or gender" and requested that these comments be included in the record. The Chair stated that his comments would be noted for the record.

The Chair explained for Ms. Mark, that committee minutes are not amended, the comments would be included in these meeting minutes.

VOTE: Adopted as amended unanimously.

5. RESOLUTION TC24-6: Moved by Mr. Scinto, seconded by Mr. London.

BE IT RESOLVED, That the reappointment of Michael Charland of 24 Plum Tree Lane as a member of the Pension Board be and the same for term extending to the first Monday in December of 2015.

Committee Report: The Rules & Research Committee met on 01-03-12 and voted 5-0.

Ms. Mark noted that the Democratic Town Committee does not have a current list of board and commission members, is not sure how the First Selectman made these appointments and reappointments without a current list. The democrats are looking forward to getting that list; it was mentioned at the committee list. Mr. Herbst has promised them the list. The Chair noted that there is a list available at the Town Clerk's office. Ms. Mark noted that the list is not current. The Chair suggested contacting the First Selectman's office.

VOTE: ADOPTED unanimously.

6. RESOLUTION TC24-7: Moved by Ms. Waizenegger, seconded by Mr. Bose.

BE IT RESOLVED, That \$2,500 from the Unrestricted Fund Balance to 01010300-522202 Professional Services for costs associated with Charter Revision is hereby appropriated.

Committee Report: The Finance Committee met on 12-29-11 and voted 4-0-1 (Abstention: Scinto) to send RESOLUTION TC24-7 to the Town Council without recommendation.

The Chair noted that the Finance Director, Ms. Pires had distributed the invoice to the full Town Council at this meeting; the BoF had previously approved the supplemental.

Mr. DelVecchio stated that he would be abstaining from this vote.

In response to Ms. Tesoro, the Chair explained that typically what back up they have is sent at the time of the agenda's distribution; back-up that is sent between the agenda and the meeting is distributed. In this particular case we did not have the back-up; it was requested at the Finance Committee meeting. The idea is to get the council members as fully informed as possible prior to discussing the items. They do want the time to be productive.

In response to Ms. Mark, Ms. Pires stated as far as she knows this would be the last bill/invoice.

VOTE: ADOPTED 16-0-3 (ABSTENTION: Tesoro, Palmieri, DelVecchio)

Moved by Mr. London, seconded by Mr. DelVecchio to take item #9 out of order.

VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

7. RESOLUTION TC24-10: Moved by Mr. Donofrio, seconded by Mr. DelVecchio.

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Town Attorney is hereby authorized to enter into a Stipulation For Judgment with the Southern Connecticut Gas Company, herein referred to as "Southern", to resolve a tax appeal of assessed personal property owned by "Southern" located in the Town of Trumbull on the Grand Lists of October 1, 2007, October 1, 2008, and October 1, 2009.

Committee Report: The L&A Committee met on 12-29-11 and voted unanimously to send Resolution TC24-10 without recommendation in order to discuss the matter with the Town Attorney.

Atty. Walsh explained that this resolution is a stipulation for judgment on the claim and complaint filed by Southern Connecticut Gas Company. The stipulation represents a compromise. It is a benefit to the Town. There was \$290,500 paid in taxes based upon the assessment made as a result of the tax audit of the Grand List of Oct 1, 2009. The Southern Connecticut Gas Company challenged that. It was seeking to get back the \$290,500 plus interest, costs and other possible fees. This was resolved by stipulation, it is a compromise. The Town will retain \$172,000 which was not budgeted and will pay a refund of \$118,000. The Town retain the \$172,000. The parties entered into a release of interest, costs or fees. In addition there is an increase of the base assessment for the October 1, 2009 grand list for personal property of Southern Connecticut Gas Company. Atty. Walsh recommends the resolution.

Mr. Devestern stated he believes this to be a good settlement. The gas company filed an appeal almost immediately and paid under protest; they did not want to take any chances that they would incur any fees or interest. Once in negotiations they settled on the \$172,000. This was an amount that was not previously budgeted; the Town gained \$172,000 and also got the higher base. Mr. Devestern spoke in favor of the settlement.

In response to the Chair, Mr. Devestern stated that personal property depreciates every year moving forward this will be less, this resulted in an additional \$177,000 for the 2010 Grand List, the 2011 Grand List is not know yet. This is a positive for the Town, the base for the property is higher moving forward.

In response to Mr. DelVecchio, Mrs. Pires stated the money held would be coming from the General Fund.

In response to Mr. Palmieri, Mr. Devestern explained the final settlement would add the addition to the assessment of 2009 list only. This represents the amount over and above what the assessment was on the 2009 Grand List. The original assessment on the 2009 Grand List was \$5 million and was corrected to \$12 million. There is an additional \$7 million to the 2009 Grand List. The amount was discovered after the audit; it had to do with their methodology, both parties are in agreement.

Mr. Donofrio clarified that the Town is stipulating to a judgment that deals with three grand lists; the assessments have been increased retroactively under the statutory power of 12-53, which allows the assessor to go back three years to audit personal property declaration. That is why it was not budgeted because, it was done in 2010 and retroactively

increasing assessments from 2007 through 2009. Attorney Walsh confirmed the case was pre-tried with Judge Levine and the number was reached with Judge Levine.

The Chair explained that it was not assessed at this amount in 2007, 2008 or 2009 until the audit was performed which is when they were billed for it. This explains why it was never in the budget.

In response to Mr. Pia, Mr. Devestern stated the difference in the amount from \$5 million to \$12 million had to do with the methodology that they were reporting under, it was not an omission. It had to do with the way they were calculating their basis.

VOTE: ADOPTED unanimously.

Moved by Mr. DelVecchio, seconded by Mr. Pia to take Resolution TC24-12 out of order.

VOTE: Motion CARRIED unanimously.

8. RESOLUTION TC24-12: Moved by Mr. DelVecchio, (Ms. Waizenegger recused herself due to her employment with the Hartford at 9:08 p.m.), seconded by Mr. Ciocci.

BE IT RESOLVED, WHEREAS, the Town Council upon the recommendation of the Pension Board, herein referred to as the “Board”, may provide for the retirement of Town elected officials and appointed employees; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council upon the recommendation of the “Board” may adopt retirement plans as it may deem advisable; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council has received a recommendation from the “Board” to adopt a retirement plan;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council hereby approves and adopts the Town of Trumbull 401(a) Plan, herein referred to as the “Town Plan”, to provide employees of the Town of Trumbull with retirement benefits; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town Council hereby does hereby declare the intention of the Town of Trumbull to continue the “Town Plan”, but hereby reserves the right to terminate or amend the “Town Plan” at any time; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the representatives of the Town Council are hereby jointly and severally authorized to take such actions and to execute such documents they deem necessary or desirable in order to carry out the intent of the foregoing resolutions and required under the “Town Plan” to make the “Town Plan” fully effective in accordance with its terms and intent.

Committee Report: The L&A Committee met on 12-29-11 and voted 4-0.

Ms. Pires stated that they currently do not have the document drafted by the Hartford and respectfully requested to send the resolution back to committee.

Moved by Mr. DelVecchio, seconded by Mr. London to send RESOLUTION TC24-12 back to committee.

VOTE: Motion CARRIED unanimously.

The Chair requested a representative from the Hartford be present at the next meeting. Mrs. Pires stated the request will be made. Mr. DelVecchio stated that he would like a representative present to speak to the plan. The Chair requested a member of the Pension Board be present to speak to the plan. Mr. Nelson agreed.

In response to Mr. Palmieri, the Chair explained that they typically send resolutions that are ordinance in nature to L&A. Mr. Nelson stated that it is a plan document which would be approved by this body; typically collective bargaining goes to L&A as well. Mrs. Pires stated it is not a finance resolution. The Chair stated that it is not a dollar expense it could go to either committee, but chose to put it on L&A because it is an ordinance type of a resolution creating the plan as opposed to allocating the money.

(Ms. Waizenegger returned to the meeting at 9:13 p.m.)

(Mr. DelVecchio left the meeting at 9:14 p.m.)

9. RESOLUTION TC24-8: Moved by Mr. Meisner, seconded by Mr. Pia.
(Mr. DelVecchio returned to the meeting at 9:16 p.m.)

BE IT RESOLVED, That the reformation of the Town voting districts is hereby approved.

Committee Report: The L&A Committee met on 12-29-11 and voted to amend the resolution 4-1 (Against: Mark) and as amended 4-1 (Against: Mark)

The Chair recognized the amendment in committee.

Moved by Mr. London, seconded by Mr. LeClair to amend RESOLUTION TC24-8 to read as: RESOLUTION TC24-8: BE IT RESOLVED,

1. That the Trumbull Redistricting Committee, 2012 be and the same is hereby established;
2. That the said committee consist of five (5) members comprising the two (2) Registrars of Voters, The Town Clerk and two (2) members of the Town Council no more than one (1) of which shall be from either one political party.
3. That the said Committee recommend to the Town Council a council redistricting plan comprising of voting districts of substantially equal populations including the specific boundary lines of each of those districts.
4. That the said Committee holds its organizational meeting no later than January 20, 2012.
5. That the said Committee advise the Council of its progress no later than February 20, 2012 and;
6. That the said Committee renders its final report to the Council no later than April 2, 2012.

Ms. Mark noted that this resolution came to them two days before the committee meeting, the resolution was 1½ lines with no back-up, noting that it would have been beneficial to have received the sample resolution with their agendas. Ms.

Mark moved to make it a 3-3 committee.

Mr. LeClair called point of order.

The Chair stated that there is a motion on the floor, which would either have to be removed from the floor or voted on after which a further motion to amend could then be considered.

Mr. Ciocci stated that a lot of time was taken in committee to come to this compromise. If the committee was enlarged it would require seeking appointments and having to go through the council, which would create a time lag for the appointments to become effective. There are statutory requirements to be completed by a certain date; having a smaller committee as proposed would speed the process.

Ms. Mark stated that this is an important resolution, speeding this up could have an appearance of impropriety if there is partisanship.

Mr. DelVecchio stated that the Charter Revision was supposed to bi-partisan; when he hears bi-partisan he thinks equal representation. The Charter Revision had to hurry at the end to meet a date, the document was filled with typos and does not want that to happen to this important committee.

Mr. LeClair called point of order, noting that there is a motion on the floor. The Chair stated that they are discussing the amendment.

Mr. Meisner suggested voting on this motion suggesting another amendment afterwards.

The Chair called for further discussion on the amendment.

Mr. London called the question.

The Chair clarified for Mr. Meisner that the following vote was on the amendment of the resolution not the adoption; the amendment is the same as the last page of the committee report. The Chair read the amendment from the committee report.

VOTE: Motion CARRIED 16-3 (AGAINST: Mark, Whitmoyer and DelVecchio).

Mr. Ciocci stated that he would like to be able to take one or two years for the redistricting process, although the district lines need to be finalized 90 days prior to the first primary, which puts us into May 2012. If you factor in that it is January, and the council will not meet again until February, the committee would need to do all of the work after February, which leaves them approximately three months time to do the work. If the make-up of the committee was changed it would shorten that timeframe.

Mr. Meisner moved to amend the amended resolution: Mr. Meisner stated that replacing the second item including the two Registrar of Voters, the Town Clerk and three members of the Town Council in such a way that three members of

committee shall be from one particular committee comprising in such a way they have a true bi-partisan committee.

The Chair stated that specific language is necessary before a second can be heard.

Moved by Mr. Meisner, seconded by Mr. DeVecchio to amend the previous amendment to read as:

RESOLUTION TC24-8: BE IT RESOLVED,

1. That the Trumbull Redistricting Committee, 2012 be and the same is hereby established;
2. That the said committee consist of five (6) members comprising the two (2) Registrars of Voters, The Town Clerk and two (3) members of the Town Council no more than one (3) members of the committee shall be from either one political party.
3. That the said Committee recommend to the Town Council a council redistricting plan comprising of voting districts of substantially equal populations including the specific boundary lines of each of those districts.
4. That the said Committee holds its organizational meeting no later than January 20, 2012.
5. That the said Committee advise the Council of its progress no later than February 20, 2012 and;
6. That the said Committee renders its final report to the Council no later than April 2, 2012.

The Chair clarified Mr. Meisner's proposed amendment would comprise the committee as follows: The body would be six members, would require two democrat members of the council, one republican member of the council, the Town Clerk who is republican and each of the registrars of each party.

Mr. Ciocci stated to be bi-partisan is not necessarily equal representation but to be of equal voice. The purpose the proposed amendment is to better the chance of the democrats outcome which is a valid yet partisan reason. Having both democrat and republicans on the committee is inheritantly bi-partisan.

Ms. Mark stated in the spirit of compromise and doing the right thing as the state has done, by having equal representation on their committee. If Trumbull does not it will be more expensive and will take more time. People will notice if it is equal on both sides which will make it more palatable; an additional person would offer more knowledge. The Chair noted that the last redistricting committee of 1983 was a seven member board and did not have equal representation. Ms. Mark noted that the most recent one at the state level was equal representation, and did not need the redistricting done until the 2010 census before that it would have stayed the same. Mr. London stated that the state redistricting committee ended up in the courts because they could not reach a solution. The fact that there is a democrat and a republican from the Town Council and that there is a democrat and a republican Registrar of Voters on this committee is fair representation; what is being argued is that the Town Clerk happens to be a republican; if the Town Clerk was a democrat the democrats would be more than satisfied. Mr. Holden and the other proposed members will go out of their way to make this a fair process. Ms. Mark disagreed with Mr. London. Ms. Tesoro

stated that would like to see this as a real bi-partisan committee 3-2 is not bi-partisan. We need to do the right thing. In response Ms. Tesoro's question, Ms. Mark stated that there is no statutory requirement to have the composition.

The Chair stated the resolution that was drafted and put on the agenda was done quickly to meet notice requirements in order to be able to get this subject to the council for discussion; we do have a short amount of time to complete redistricting for the August 2012 primary and the general election in November. The Chair noted that he was unaware of the resolution from 1983; Mr. Holden was able to do the research and bring it the council's attention. The Chair stated we try to do things as they have been done in Trumbull previously so as not to create an opportunity to make mistakes; we have already had tried and true work done. The committee evolved through their discussion, the first amendment of the resolution of tonight which creates the five member committee. The purpose was to save time by not having to solicit membership outside of elected officials so as not to take time away from the committee's work time.

Ms. Tesoro suggested a compromise of six members, three republicans and three democrats and have the Town Clerk and the Registrar of Voters be advisors to the committee. The Chair explained that could be a subject of another amendment; we have an amendment on the floor creating a six member committee.

Mr. Whitmoyer stated that he would support Mr. Meisner's amendment, and pointed out that the L&A minutes explained that a 3-3 vote could result in two different reports the final decision is up to the Town Council questioning the discussion at hand.

The Chair clarified that if the committee does not come up with a recommendation the council would not have anything to vote on. Otherwise a committee would not be needed.

First Selectman Herbst stated that ultimately the Redistricting Committee serves as in advisory capacity irrespective of whether it is a 5, 6 or 7-person committee. Ultimately the decision will be made by the council. 14 republicans and 7 democrats will make the decision as to what is the best model. The First Selectman spoke against an imbalance representation from the council on the committee, 2-1 either way; seated members of the council have a vested interest in the outcome of how the redistricts are redrawn. The Voters of Registrars have taken a non-political approach to administering elections; they have worked well together. They approach their jobs seriously and objectively and realize their charge. However the districts are composed, they will facilitate an orderly election based upon the concept of "One Person One Vote". First Selectman Herbst rejected the notion that the process should be political. In 1983 the process was not balanced and it yielded the districts that have been in place since then. If the seven district model continues it will cause a financial burden to the Town. The Registrar of Voters are looking at this apolitically. The role of the Town Clerk irrespective of the person who holds the office, is vital in the administering of the elections in this Town. The position of the Town Clerk as it relates to elections and voting by statute is apolitical. Historically in the Town of Trumbull there has been a democratic first selectman and a republican town clerk. It is a testament to the fact that people view the position as apolitical. The proposed amendment is not prudent. There is a lot of talk about bi-partisanship, let's do it.

Mr. London stated that opinions of all parties have been heard. Mr. London called the question.

Mr. Meisner withdrew his motion.

Moved by Mr. Meisner, seconded by Ms. Mark to amend the previous amendment to read as: RESOLUTION TC24-8: BE IT RESOLVED,

1. That the Trumbull Redistricting Committee, 2012 be and the same is hereby established;
2. That the said committee consist of five (6) members comprising the two (2) Registrars of Voters and two (4) members of the Town Council no more than (2) Town Council members shall be from one political party. The Town Clerk shall be an exofficio member of the committee.
3. That the said Committee recommend to the Town Council a council redistricting plan comprising of voting districts of substantially equal populations including the specific boundary lines of each of those districts.
4. That the said Committee holds its organizational meeting no later than January 20, 2012.
5. That the said Committee advise the Council of its progress no later than February 20, 2012 and;
6. That the said Committee renders its final report to the Council no later than April 2, 2012.

Mr. Palmieri stated that there should be an image of bi-partisanship projected. The discussion has proven that this is a partisan group, setting up a bi-partisan committee would send a message to the people, this will come back to the council for a final decision, speaking in favor of Mr. Meisner's amendment. It is a question of how we want to project the image to the Town.

Mr. Pia spoke in favor of Mr. Meisner's amendment and echoed Mr. Palmieri's comment on the good faith effort projected to the Town.

Mr. Ciocchi stated that certain members want to create a supposed bi-partisan committee which creates a 50-50 split between two parties for the sake of looking bi-partisan. Bi-partisanship is not a value in itself, although here it would be less likely to accomplish something, it increases the possibility of a 3-3 split which would retard the process. It is not known how many districts there will be, you can draw districts anyway you want, voters are going to vote they want to.

Mr. Palmieri stated in the spirit of bi-partisanship he had voted against his party in committee and asked that others would share the same feeling noting this is a fair amendment.

Mr. Scinto stated there is assumption being made that the proposed composition of the Redistricting Committee as recommended in committee would not be able to work in a bi-partisan manner, questioning how that is known?

Mr. Meisner spoke to the committee being a bi-partisan 3-3 composition and spoke in favor of the image projected to the Town of being done in a unbiased manner and speaking to how it would undo the biasness of the Charter process.

Mr. Pia stated that this does seem to go hand in hand with the Charter process, but it was a democrat that had asked the council to please pass the Charter. Mr. Pia spoke in favor of a 3-3 composition.

Ms. Waizenegger stated the context of bi-partisanship is not necessarily equal numbers, some present at this meeting do not define bi-partisanship as equal numbers of people, but as people with common goals doing the right thing, and has no doubt that can be done here.

Mr. Palmieri spoke in favor of calling the question.

The Chair called the question clarifying that paragraph #2 is amended to a 6 member committee and has since been discussed.

VOTE: Motion FAILED 8-11 (Against: London, Deyoe, Evangelista, Jenkins, Ciocci, Donofrio, LeClair, Lamberti, Waizenegger, Blose and Scinto).

VOTE: ADOPTED as amended 11-8 (Against: Tesoro, Palmieri, Basbagill, Meisner, DelVecchio, Whitmoyer, Mark and Pia).

Moved by Mr. Ciocci, seconded by Ms. Waizenegger to make RESOLUTION TC24-8 as Emergency Legislation.

The Chair voted.

VOTE: Motion FAILED 12-4-4 (AGAINST: Meisner, Basbagill, Tesoro and Mark)
(ABSTENTION: DelVecchio, Palmieri, Whitmoyer and Pia).

9. RESOLUTION TC24-9: HELD IN COMMITTEE

In response to Ms. Mark, the Chair explained that there is not a process in place to amend the committee minutes.

10. RESOLUTION TC24-11: Moved by Mr. Palmieri, DelVecchio.

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Town Council Finance Committee is hereby directed to research and make a recommendation to the Trumbull Town Council in regards to personal property tax abatement for senior residents.

Committee Report: The L&A Committee met on 12-29-11 and voted unanimously to send the resolution without recommendation.

Moved by Mr. Pia, seconded by Mr. DelVecchio to send RESOLUTION TC24-11 to the Finance Committee.

VOTE: Motion CARRIED unanimously.

There being no further business to discuss and upon motion made by Mr. DeVecchio, seconded by Mr. Whitmoyer. The Town Council adjourned by unanimous consent at 10:11 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Margaret D. Mastroni
Trumbull Town Council Clerk