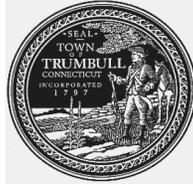


TOWN COUNCIL
Town of Trumbull
CONNECTICUT
www.trumbull-ct.gov

TOWN HALL
Trumbull

TELEPHONE
(203) 452-5005



2012-2013 BUDGET
MINUTES
April 12, 2012

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Carl A. Massaro, Jr. called the special meeting to order at 7:41 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
David R. Pia
Jeff S. Jenkins
Chadwick Ciocci
James F. Meisner
Jeffrey Donofrio
Gregg Basbagill

Vicki Tesoro
Ann Marie Evangelista
Michael J. London
Carl A. Massaro, Jr.
Tony J. Scinto
Mark LeClair
Fred Palmieri, Jr.

Thomas Whitmoyer
James Blose
Kristy Waizenegger
John A. DeVecchio, Jr.
Debra A. Lamberti
Martha A. Jankovic-Mark
Jane Deyoe

Also Present: First Selectman Timothy M. Herbst and Maria Pires, Director of Finance.

The Chair explained per the Town Charter the Town Council can reduce any line item without limitation, but may not increase higher than the highest of the BoF or the First Selectman's numbers. The Town Council does not have any independent authority to add any line items with the exception of new spending that was eliminated by the BoF but was in the First Selectman's budget. The Town Council can not add anything different that has not already been seen in the First Selectman's budget or the BoF's budget. All motions to decrease a line item are carried by a majority vote of those members present and voting. Motions to increase must carry by a 2/3 majority vote of the entire membership (14 votes). Motions to add a new item that had been cut by the BoF but was included in the First Selectman's budget requires a 2/3 vote of the entire membership (14 votes). Some line items are salary items which do not include benefit and payroll taxes so the employee benefit section will be voted upon after the General Government section has been completed.

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

1. RESOLUTION TC24-32: Moved by Mr. Palmieri, seconded by Mr. DelVecchio
BE IT RESOLVED, That the annual budget for the Town of Trumbull for fiscal year beginning July 1, 2012 and ending June 30, 2013, 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 reviewed each department; if a particular department is not listed there was no change from the BoF recommended budget. Departmental motion and votes are as follows:

01010800 Elections

522203 ANCILLARY

Moved by Ms. Tesoro, seconded by Mr. DelVecchio to decrease 522203 Ancillary by \$5,685. Ms. Tesoro stated this was based upon the redistricting of the voting district from 7 to 4 districts, the Chairman of the Redistricting Committee had indicated the following items could be reduced:

- Three (3) moderators at \$295 each - \$885
- Six (6) ballot clerks at \$185 each - \$1,110
- Six (6) assistant registrars at \$235 each - \$1,410
- Six (6) tabulator tenders at \$180 each - \$1,080
- A reduction of the number of people needed for recounts to 15 people - a reduction of \$1,200.

Total \$5,685 for 522203 Ancillary.

- In response to Mr. Ciocchi, Ms. Tesoro confirmed the calculations take into account the April presidential primary, this represents the general election only.
- In response to the Chair, Ms. Tesoro explained the Redistricting Committee's Chairman's summary statement includes 2 lines of checkers in each polling place, and if it is found that two lines are not necessary there would be further savings (\$1,400) in addition to the \$5,685.
- First Selectman Herbst noted that the Town Council may want to take into consideration the possibility of a legal challenge of the 4 district model, if a legal challenge is brought forward and it prevails the Town would go back to the 7 district model.
- The Chair stated that the Town Council, no matter what happens with this account to night, will make sure that the people in Trumbull will have polling places that are more than adequate to exercise their right to vote.
- Mr. DelVecchio stated the anticipated savings going from 7 districts to 4 was \$8,000; this motion would leave a \$2,000 +/- buffer in the line item.
- Ms. Tesoro clarified there are other line items that need to be adjusted all line items adjustments would total just above \$8,000.

VOTE: Motion CARRIED 19-1 (Against: Lamberti).

522205 PROGRAM EXP

Moved by Ms. Tesoro, seconded by Mr. Palmieri to decrease 522205 Program Exp by \$1,636.

Ms. Tesoro stated the decrease represents:

- Lunch and dinner for 21 workers - \$3336
- Memory card programming - \$1,000
- IBS Voting System 3 at \$100 - \$300

Total \$1,636

VOTE: Motion CARRIED 19-1 (Against: Lamberti).

581888 CAPITAL OUTLAY

Moved by Ms. Tesoro, seconded by Mr. DeVecchio to reduce 581888 Capital by \$375.

Representing 3 voting stations at \$125

Total - \$375

VOTE: Motion CARRIED 19-1 (Against: Lamberti).

590014

Moved by Ms. Tesoro, seconded by Mr. DeVecchio to reduce 590014 Telephone by \$600 representing 6 phone lines, activation and one month usage.

VOTE: Motion CARRIED 19-1 (Against: Lamberti).

The Chair called for the vote on the New Elections Total.

TOTAL ELECTIONS \$141,500 a reduction of (\$8,296).

VOTE: Motion CARRIED 19-1 (Against: Lamberti).

FINANCE DEPARTMENT

In response to Ms. Mark, Ms. Pires stated the MATHAS contract is in negotiations, the MATE contract did have an increase per contract. Professional Dev Seminars increased by \$2,000 in order to be able to go to GFOA seminars to expand knowledge for CAFR.

NO CHANGE TO THE DEPARTMENT

TAX ASSESSOR

522202

- In response to Ms. Mark, Ms. Pires stated the increase is for additional appraisals due to the revaluation. First Selectman Herbst explained that if someone were to challenge their assessment it would go to the BOAA. The next step is the appraisals to affirm the Town's positions at the superior court level. This does not guarantee all would be spent the Tax Assessor made a recommendation that this amount being enough. When the First Selectman proposed his budget he had discussed the figure with the Tax Assessor where he confirmed that \$35,000 was adequate.
- In response to Ms. Tesoro, First Selectman Herbst explained based upon the Tax Assessor's experience with revaluations Trumbull's most recent has been the tamest revaluation he had seen. Based upon what they had seen at the BOAA level they are hopeful this amount will suffice, although there could be challenges in the commercial area.
- Mr. Palmieri stated that commercial appraisals could run 4-5 figures for one appraisal. It was confirmed by the First Selectman and Ms. Pires that any unspent funds would go back to the General Fund.

NO CHANGE TO THE DEPARTMENT

01012000 Tax Collector

Moved by Ms. Mark, seconded by Mr. Meisner to decrease 545504 Postage by \$5,000.

- Ms. Mark indicated that a constituent had asked a question via e-mail of this office and received a reply via the USPS.
- In response to Mr. Basbagill, the Chair clarified that the council had approved a reduction of mailings for the personal property but would not go into effect until next year.
- Mr. Meisner indicated with the reduction of \$5,000 there is still an increase of 12% to this line item. The Town should rely more on e-mail and should go to electronic payments.
- In response Ms. Tesoro, Ms. Pires indicated that the Quality Data Mailing Services is tax collector software that generates the bills and sends them out for the Town. The increase represents more bills being sent out and the increase in sewer usage bills being sent out. Quality Data Mailing Services uses a subcontractor, the Town pays a fee.
- In response to Ms. Testani, Ms. Pires indicated that the department may have to come for a supplemental if this line item is reduced. First Selectman Herbst added that the Tax Assessor's and the Tax Collector's offices are the life blood of the Town. The Tax Collectors collect the revenue that allows the Town to function. The tax collection rate has gone up in the last 3 years despite a bad economy, we should be proud of that. If we do not pursue the delinquencies, as the Town has been, it would affect revenue which in turn could affect the tax rate.
- Ms. Mark spoke in favor of cutting this line item back a bit, if they have to come for a supplemental then so be it.

*The Chair voted

VOTE: Motion CARRIED 11-10 (AGAINST: Testani, Evangelista, Blose, Jenkins, London, Scinto, Lamberti, Donofrio, LeClair and Deyoe)

The Chair called for the vote on the New Tax Collector Total

TOTAL TAX COLLECTOR \$360, 578 a decrease of (\$5,000)

VOTE: Motion CARRIED 14-6 (Against: London, Deyoe, Donofrio, Lamberti, Scinto and Jenkins)

TECHNOLOGY

522204 Contractual Services

- In response Ms. Mark, Ms. Pires stated the difference represents the web design is currently being done now.
- NO CHANGE TO THE DEPARTMENT

TOWN ATTORNEYS

- Ms. Tesoro noted that she was disappointed the Town Attorneys did not present their budget to the Town Council Finance Committee.
- In response to Mr. DeVecchio, Ms. Pires stated that the amount spent on the Town Attorneys last year is same as this year budget request.
- In response to Ms. Mark, First Selectman Herbst stated ancillary legal services are outside of the retainer, (i.e. Charter Revision and WPCA). It was prudent to have the Charter Revision Commission have independent counsel, no one could imply that the attorneys appointed by the first selectman had influenced the process and everyone agreed with that. The WPCA is an Enterprise Fund that derives its revenue separate and apart from the Town's operating budget. The Town is involved in complex litigation and

negotiations. Regionalization requires a specialized area of practice. The WPCA made a determination given the size and scope of the project, the amount of defects and damages identified by an independent third party engineer; specialized counsel was required just as the THS Building Committee has specialized counsel. With regard to the amount the Town attorneys are making now v. what the previous Town attorneys made, the First Selectman will provide the contract for the retainer and also documentation from the Finance Dept. showing after medical benefits, FICA and pension the town is paying less to the Town attorneys in 2011 than the Town was paying in 2007 and 2009. The attorneys submit a monthly retainer to the Town. The attorneys keep record of their hours for work performed, which shows the legal work the Town is getting for the retainer, matched against the actual hours worked, which also shows the amount of hours in excess of the retainer. Those additional hours are not billed to the Town. The specialized services rendered by attorneys for the Charter Revision was not within the scope of the Town attorneys contract, if something is outside the scope of services a separate agreement is necessary.

NO CHANGE TO THE DEPARTMENT

01013000 Human Resources

501101 FULL TIME

Moved by Mr. DeVecchio, seconded by Mr. Basbagill to decrease 501101 Full Time/ by \$1,563.

- Mr. DeVecchio spoke against a 14% increase over a two year period; most non-union employees received 0% raises. The Highway Dept. took a furlough day. Ms. Testani noted that last year's increase was to bring the Human Resource Director's salary to level where it would be more than the secretary's.
- Ms. Evangelista stated that the Personnel Manager is a non-union position, if the position were made union, which is possible; it would be more expensive to the Town due to the amount of over time involved with this position. A 2% increase is better for the Town.
- First Selectman Herbst stated that last year's increase had to do with the position. It was not appropriate for a person who serves as a department head to be making less than those who provide administrative support in the same building. It is not right to have a subordinate to a department head making more than the department head. The Town of Trumbull does not have a HR Director or a Director of Labor Relations as other communities. We have a Personnel Manager who performs civil service testing for all Town employees and the police department, does drug testing, is responsible for maintaining personnel files, and carrying on the functions of the department such as time and attendance, compensatory and vacation time. If you were to compare the salary to other same positions in Fairfield County it is underpaid. If this position was in the MATHAS union, the position would be making in excess of \$70,000 minimum. The town is getting a MATHAS level position for \$61-\$62,000. The Superintendent of Schools administrative assistants make more than this position, which is why the recommendation of a 2.5% increase was made. Other appointed offices were recommended a 2.5% increase as well such as the Assistant Director of Finance and the Chief of Staff.
- Mr. DeVecchio spoke against the increase and noted that the Fire Marshals are also underpaid.

VOTE: Motion FAILED 6-12-2 (AGAINST: Tesoro, Basbagill, Testani, Evangelista, Blose, Jenkins, London, Waizenegger, Lamberti, Donofrio, LeClair and Deyoe) (Abstention: Scinto and Ciocci)
NO CHANGE TO THE DEPARTMENT

01013600 TOWN CLERK

- In response to Ms. Mark, Ms. Pires explained the request is to increase the part time position to full time.
- First Selectman Herbst stated this would bring the department back to former staffing levels of 2003-2005 and as far back as to the previous 4 Town Clerks. Ms. Mark stated that the department has been at its current staffing level since 2007.

Moved by Ms. Mark, seconded Mr. Meisner to reduce 501101 Full Time/ by \$39,458.

- Mr. Pia stated the private sector is doing more with less, and noted that the private sector is funding this, speaking in support of wherever they can cut this evening.
- Mr. DelVecchio noted that the department has been doing without this position for 5 years.
- Mr. London stated that the Town Clerk's office is behind in processing their paperwork speaking in favor of the additional half time employee, this would bring the office up to where it should be. It is important to approve this position.
- Mr. Basbagill spoke in favor of the floater position, having a part timer in the Town Clerk's, and having the floater assist the Town Clerk's office when available. First Selectman Herbst stated that when working in the Town Clerk's office there is a certain certification necessary. There are mandates coming from the state with filing requirements relating to land transfers and deeds, and had hoped that these questions had been asked when the Town Clerk came before the Finance Committee.

VOTE: Motion FAILED 6-14 (Against: Palmieri, Whitmoyer Testani, Evangelista, Blose, Jenkins, London, Waizenegger, Lamberti, Donofrio, LeClair, Deyoe, Scinto and Ciocci).
NO CHANGE TO THE DEPARTMENT

01013800 TOWN HALL

501116 CONTINGENCY

- In response to Mr. Palmieri, Ms. Pires explained in 2011-2012 there was only one contract that was in negotiations (police department) currently there are four (4) contracts in negotiations (MATHAS, Public Works & Parks Supervisors, Public Works and Parks regular. The police have not yet settled. Those represent the increase in the contingency.

Moved by Mr. London, seconded by Ms. Deyoe to reduce 501102 Sal/Vac by \$10,210.

- In response to Ms. Mark, Ms. Pires confirmed \$15,210 would be the maximum amount.
- In response to Mr. Basbagill, Ms. Pires stated this would be a floater throughout the Town Hall, (i.e. if someone is out sick, worker's comp etc.). Mr. Basbagill spoke in favor of the full \$15,210.
- In response to Ms. Testani, Ms. Pires indicated that the position would be a Town part time employee up to 19.5 hrs. per week no benefits.
- In response to Ms. Tesoro, Ms. Pires indicated that \$5,000 would not be sufficient to cover the whole year, there are various departments that the person could go into, if there is a vacancy it takes a couple of months to fill.
- Mr. DelVecchio spoke against the position, if someone is out the department would need to take on the additional work.

- Ms. Lamberti clarified that if a person is in a union position they are not to do anything outside of their job description.
- Mr. Donofrio indicated that \$5,000 would buy approximately 200 hours of temporary services per year. In the situations where there are multiple people out and have to get a temp in at least there will be something nominal there, it would be nice to have someone at 19.5 hours per week but is a luxury we can not afford at this point.
- Ms. Pires clarified that the BoF had cut the position, there is no money allocated for the position.
- The Chair stated the motion is out of order.

Mr. London withdrew his motion.

Moved by Mr. London, seconded by Ms. DelVecchio to increase 501102 Sal/Vac by \$5,000.

- Ms. Mark spoke against this motion in order to keep expenses down.
- Ms. Testani stated the time is needed

VOTE: Motion FAILED 2-18 (Against: Mark, DelVecchio, Meisner, Basbagill, Palmieri, Whitmoyer, Tesoro, Pia, Testani, Evangelista, Blose, Jenkins, Waizenegger, Lamberti, Donofrio, Deyoe, Scinto and Ciocci).

Moved by Mr. Basbagill, seconded by Mr. Meisner to increase 501102 Sal/Vac by \$15,210.

VOTE: Motion FAILED 3-17 (Against: Mark, DelVecchio, Meisner, Palmieri, Whitmoyer, Pia, Testani, Evangelista, Blose, Jenkins, Waizenegger, Leclair, London, Donofrio, Deyoe, Scinto and Ciocci)

NO CHANGE TO THE DEPARTMENT

PLANNING AND ZONING

501102 FULL TIME

- In response to Mr. Palmieri, First Selectman Herbst explained Planning & Zoning is undergoing a restructuring. Currently there is a full time Town Planner who voluntarily resigned his full time position to assume a part time Land Use Consultant position, a part time Zoning Enforcement Officer, full time secretary and a part time secretary. The part time ZEO is technically working more than 19.5 hrs. per week which is a problem that they wanted to address, a part time person working full time could bring union issues. That person is being paid out of two areas, the Planning and Zoning departmental budget and the Building Department as it relates to blight compliance. The administration made a decision to restructure the department by merging the ZEO and the Blight Officer positions into one person, one department. The part time Land Use position was eliminated, which had still been budgeted as a full time position the part time administrative secretary was eliminated and restructured the department to have a Director of Planning & Development at a higher salary, the ZEO will be full time Trumbull has talked about having a full time ZEO for the last 15 years. The current ZEO position does not allow the man power needed for the call volume with regard to zoning violations. This is a revenue generating department, with revenue generating positions, which would grow the grand list.
- In response to Ms. Mark, First Selectman Herbst explained the administration wants the Director of Planning & Development and the Director of Economic Development to work closely together.

NO CHANGE TO THE DEPARTMENT

01014600 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

- In response to Ms. Mark, First Selectman Herbst stated professionals need to get professional development to know best practices to stay up to speed with the industry.
- Ms. Mark indicated this is large increase.
- First Selectman Herbst stated that the BoF had discussed this line item and had decided to leave the funds there so that the new person could make the determination.

Moved by Ms. Mark, seconded by Mr. DelVecchio to reduce 556601 Prof Dev-Sem/Conf by \$2,000.

VOTE: Motion CARRIED 12-7-1 (Against: Testani, Meisner, Lamberti, Waizenegger, Donofrio, LeClair and Blose), (Abstention: Jenkins).

The Chair called for the vote on the new total.

TOTAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT \$118,720 a decrease of \$2,000.

VOTE: Motion CARRIED 18-2 (Against: Lamberti and Meisner)

PUBLIC SAFETY

01022000 POLICE

Moved by Mr. Scinto, seconded by Ms. Testani to increase 581888 Capital Outlay by \$13,500.

- Mr. Scinto stated that he had discussed this item with the Chief of Police, he had indicated that the canine would be a tremendous asset to the Town. Mr. Scinto received a letter from the officer who is the current canine's handler outlining what the dog had done in this year, they are as follows:
 - 22 in town tracks, 7 assist with other agencies with tracks, 4 crowd control instances, 4 assisted officers with canines, one occupied building search and 3 demos for civic groups and schools.
- Ms. Evangelista spoke with the Chief of Police as well, Trumbull is lucky to have such a committed Police Chief. The dog is a tool for the officers. The Chief had said that the department does need 2 canines. The canine is a valuable asset, narcotic arrests have increased 450%, officers times are structured due to unions, the canine's time can be moved around to the day that it is needed. This is a tool that should be given to the police to let them know we appreciate them, the council can only give them \$13,500. We do need officers and cars but this all we can give right now.
- In response to Mr. Meisner, the Chair stated the \$13,500 is the cost of the acquisition of the canine and the outfitting of the vehicle. An officer will be assigned to care for the canine.
- In response to Ms. Mark, Ms. Pires stated that a current officer will take care of the canine, there is a small stipend but that is included in the budget.
- Mr. DelVecchio stated that the stipend includes additional training, food, stipend for the officer and unforeseen medical for the dog.
- Ms. Tesoro stated that she had spoken to the Chief of Police and will support this line item. The BoF did try to add half time police officer positions, there were two motions both were defeated. The Chief would like to have more officers at least two and another car.

VOTE: Motion CARRIED 19-1 (Against: Whitmoyer)

- Mr. Pia had spoken to some of the officers and had indicated that they are understaffed; the education budget put \$200,000 back in the budget for secretaries under the reasoning of security. We are at the same number of police officers today as we had thirty years ago. Looking forward we do need to look at adding police officers. The police over time has increased suggesting that when over time increases it may be time to add more personnel.
- Mr. DelVecchio stated the Town Clerk's office is being added to when the police department's over time is up by 10%.
- First Selectman Herbst indicated that in the last two budgets the police department's budget has increased close to 15% well over the 10%. The Alarm Abatement ordinance will be brought to the council and asked that the Town Council keep in mind that every time there is a false alarm, two police officers have to be taken off patrol to respond, noting the false alarm call volume is relative to the personnel demands.
- Ms Testani stated answering the false alarms is at a cost of \$60,000 to the Town of Trumbull.
- Mr. DelVecchio asked for the ratio of false alarms calls to Town buildings. The Chair indicated that will be addressed in detail when the ordinance comes to council.

The Chair called the vote on the new total.

Total POLICE \$7,389,413 an increase of \$13,500

VOTE: Motion CARRIED 19-0-1 (Abstention: Whitmoyer)

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE

(Mr. Scinto left the meeting at 9:10 p.m.)

- In response to Ms. Mark, First selectman Herbst stated the increase in the part time account was thoroughly addressed at the Finance Committee level. The EMS Commission and staff after examining call volume and response time have determined how much is being responded to and how much is being farmed out. (Mr. Scinto returned to the meeting at 9:12 p.m.) The question is do you want this to stay a Trumbull service, a hybrid or do you want it privatized? The administration has decided to support the additional personnel to assume more of the call volume and is in the process of an RFP to look at the operational structure of EMS and identify an efficiency model or restructuring model that will allow the Town to maximize rather than calls being outsourced, this is revenue for the Town of Trumbull. That revenue allows EMS to stay self sustaining. The revenue generated will offset the cost. Originally EMS was founded as a volunteer dept in 1976; it has evolved into a hybrid of volunteers and paid staff. We are required to compete with other municipalities' paid staff, we lose qualified personnel to other municipalities when this happens we do not have the necessary manpower under the hybrid model to properly respond to calls therefore the calls are farmed out. This is why professional services has increased, and why the administration supports giving the department the personnel they need to reduce the number of calls lost to a private third party.

The Chair called for a vote on the new total.

TOTAL PUBLIC SAFETY \$10,572,994 and increase of \$13,500.

VOTE: Motion CARRIED unanimously.

PUBLIC WORKS STREET LIGHTS

- Mr. London stated money could be saved if some of the street lights were eliminated we do not need quite as many as we have, perhaps this year the Public Works department can take a serious look at what can be eliminated.

PUBLIC WORKS HIGHWAY

581888 CAPITAL

- In response to Ms. Tesoro, First Selectman Herbst stated the VACAI can also be used for leaf pick up, (leaves get into the drains) in addition to the WPCA use. Ms. Tesoro requested additional information with regard to the breakdown of use between the two departments.

HIGHWAY CONSTRUCTION

- Mr. DelVecchio stated there are 240 miles of roads in Town with a life of twenty years, the Town should be paving 12 miles per year, \$250,000 paves approximately 1.5 miles.

NO CHANGE TO THE DEPARTMENT

01060000 EDUCATION

- In response to Mr. Palmieri, the Chair indicated the line item referred to is 522205 program Expenses, (the operating budget for the school district). That number has not changed from the First Selectman or the BoF's recommended budget. At Tuesday's night's BoE meeting the BOE's intent is to add FDK (Full Day Kindergarten) along with the restoration numbers and their core budget. It is the Chair's understanding if this number is adopted FDK will be implemented, but there is another sum of money they are looking for from the BoF. The Town Council has no control over that portion. Many people have worked very hard to make FDK a reality at a reasonable cost and is pleased that the BoE took the action they took at Tuesday night's meeting. After the adoption of the number approved tonight, and the funds are appropriated to the BoE they get to spend it as they see most fit for the district. The Chair expects the FDK program to be implemented at this number, but the BoE is also looking for an appropriation of their surplus to do what they have publicly stated they wanted to do. Mr. Palmieri stated his concern is how it is being funded. The Chair stated the Council statutorily provides the BoE with funding for their program expenses we can not control how that is spent, it is the Chair's hope and belief that the program will be implemented at this number.
- Mr. London stated that this body does not have any say how the BoE spends the money on education, the council only has the authority to provide the BoE with a flat dollar amount, once that amount is provided the Town Council's job is done and has no say on how that money is spent.
- Mr. Palmieri stated that does not fully satisfy his expectations adding that we are counting on a lot of good graces.
- First Selectman Herbst stated that the challenge we are faced with this year with regard to BoE budget is that it is a difficult economic year, there are restorations that have been identified as a high priority, but also there is available space, which offsets the cost of the program. The BoE and the Superintendent have looked at 3 options over the last several months they are as follows: pre-buying (not a favorable option), a supplemental appropriation and 10-248a of the CGS. The BoE spent a lot of time discussing the options and voted unanimously to endorse the use of the 10-248a option. The money has already been encumbered; the taxpayers have already paid for that money it has been built into

the mill rate and the statute can be utilized sooner than the July date for the supplemental. This will allow parents the appropriate time to plan for next year. The BoE was confident this would avoid and mitigate any chance of a funding cliff.

- Mr. Palmieri voiced his concern that if there is not a surplus in the future that they may come to the Town for a supplemental. First Selectman Herbst stated that the \$873,000 is a start up number, next year may be \$873,000 or it may not be and could be \$600,000. Enrollment is coming down. Studies show that after the implementation of FDK there are long term savings in special education and RTI. This program affects many children, (4-500 children), just as freshman sports affects many students and the academically gifted program. FDK has even more of an impact on a greater population; the Town will find a way. It would make no sense to implement a program of this magnitude only to get rid of it in a year. There is no other district in the state of CT that has ever done that, there have been school districts that have had budget cuts worse than Trumbull and have maintained a FDK program despite those cuts. Our educators tell us it is important, the studies tell us, as well as the state, it is important, our governor has put a core focus on early childhood education, and this will take a shared commitment in a bipartisan manner.
- Mr. Meisner stated the proper way to fund FDK would have been in the budget, this will create a potential funding cliff next year, it will be included in the base budget for the BoE, but will not be included in the base for the Town budget which will add .6% to the Town budget next year. The surplus could have been returned and used to pay down the pension or to keep the mill rate down. Everyone wanted the program.
- The Chair stated that over the last 2 to 3 years the BoE has received \$2.5 to \$3 million more from Town taxes. Last year's BoE line item was \$85,893,093, the recommended figure from the BoF is \$90,479,175 that is a substantial gross dollar increase. The BoE has made a commitment to the FDK program, to the restorations and the core budget at this recommended number and would fully expect FDK to take place.
- Ms. Tesoro stated the bulk of the BoE increase is due to contractual increases for teachers, insurance and utility costs, a justifiable increase, the teachers' contract was voted on by this body.
- The Chair stated that every teacher contract has multiple ways to get an increase, you can hire at different levels, there is flexibility in a lot of the expenditures that the BoE calls core budget. The Chair has confidence the BoE will deliver the FDK program, they have said as much, they voted unanimously for it, they have a lot of money to work with. The Town Council has one job to do tonight that is to appropriate money on this particular line item, programs expenses.
- Mr. London suggested because there is no motion on the floor that the Town Council could vote on the recommended number.
- Ms. Mark wanted to thank everyone who had written to her about the school budget and the FDK, she will support the 3.47% BoE increase. Family Circle magazine named Trumbull last year the 7th best Town in the nation for families. After last year's budget cuts she is pleased to see there is a different tone towards the BoE budget this year. The 3.47% increase will alleviate the problems they encountered last year. Ms. Mark questioned if a bid had been retained by the Town with regard to combining the Town's and BoE's health insurance. First Selectman Herbst stated the Town has received RFP responses, one of the agreements the BoE Chairman, the Superintendent and himself had come to was that it would be better to have a third party come in and assess, so that the

Town would have an unbiased perspective. They are in, the process of reviewing the RFP's has begun; they are not only looking at health care but any system efficiencies. The 4 member committee is working on this currently.

The Chair called for the vote on the total.

TOTAL EDUCATION No Change \$99,949,283

VOTE: Motion CARRIED unanimously.

NO CHANGE TO THE DEPARTMENT

DEBT SERVICE

- In response to Mr. Palmieri, Ms. Pires clarified item 595888 is interest on the bonds expenses. The decrease in interest expense was due to the reduction of \$850,000 due to refunding. The savings was used to reduce the interest expense this year and are projecting an expense on the bonds of approximately \$600,000 (principle payments).
- In response to Mr. DelVecchio, Ms. Pires stated the high school bonds are in the BoE budget not this line item. The Chair clarified that the high school bond is in the \$99 million BoE number the council had just voted on.
- Mr. Meisner clarified that interest payments are on anticipation notes of short term borrowing and has shifted to long term bonded debt.

FRINGE BENEFITS - No Change.

The Chair called for the vote on the new total.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT TOTAL \$18,506,943_a decrease of \$15,296

- Mr. DelVecchio requested a total of part time employees who are now going to be filled by full time positions from Ms. Pires after the meeting.

VOTE: Motion CARRIED 19-1 (Against: DelVecchio)

The Chair called for the vote on the new total.

TOTAL GENERAL FUND - \$146,635,150 a decrease of \$1,796.

VOTE: Motion CARRIED 18-2 (Against: Mark and DelVecchio)

20100000 SEWERS - ENTERPRISE

Moved by Mr. Blose, seconded by Ms. Lamberti to decrease 501101 SAL-FT/PER by \$67,558.

- Mr. Blose indicated the Public Works Inspector position would not be needed in the 2012-2013 fiscal year; the sewer project will be completed.
- Mr. Donofrio stated it is his understanding this position pertains to inspections on sewer construction projects. There are no additional sewer projects planned for the 2012-2013 fiscal year, the Town had retained outside consultants, Tighe & Bond, which perform services that are duplicative of the position's responsibilities.
- Mr. Meisner stated this is a separate budget funded by sewer fees. The WPCA had their reasons for having included this in their budget.
- Mr. Palmieri stated the First Selectman and the BoF had agreed that the position stay intact.
- First Selectman Herbst stated that at the time the budget was prepared there was a certain degree of uncertainty when Contract IV would be completed. He has since been advised

that Contract IV is 92% complete and are looking to complete the project this summer. There are no plans to recommend to the WPCA to proceed with Contract V given the issues the Town has had with Contract III and IV. They are cautiously optimistic the project will be completed this summer, they are working on settlement of issues with regard to costs on Contract IV and are trying to get the contractor to honor original unit prices in bid specs. They are trying to get the chimneys and defects repaired, the sooner the defects are repaired the sooner the roads will be paved, but the town will not pave over something that is defective. Tighe & Bond has performed this function for the Town and will hope the project will be over this summer.

- Ms. Tesoro stated that the WPCA Commission and the Golf did not appear before the Finance Committee's budget hearings, if this was an issue would have hoped it would have been discussed at the hearing. They were on the agenda.
- Mr. Meisner stated that the Enterprise Funds do not affect the mill rate. Mr. Meisner spoke in favor of the motion.

VOTE: Motion CARRIED 15-2-3 (Against: Scinto and Pia) (ABSTENTION: Testani, Mark and LeClair)

- In response to Mr. DeVecchio, First Selectman Herbst indicated the Professional Services \$400,000 increase represents the Town of Trumbull's assessment of the waste water options, which includes the feasibility study of the Town building their own facility, the feasibility of regionalization with Bridgeport and the feasibility of regionalizing with another municipality, (legal fees, arbitrators and outside engineers). The WPCA wanted to develop a budget within their budget with respect to these issues. If the town of Trumbull was to build their own plant a commitment from the Town would be required (Debt Service), but also regulatory approval from various state agencies, if the Town were to regionalize the Town would need to navigate through the DEP, legal representation will be needed for the establishment of a quasi governmental agency, to structure authority and to finance the borrowing capacity of the authority by the assets of the municipality. There are a lot of moving parts. The WPCA wanted to make sure they were up front with the BoF and the Town Council and that they were properly budgeted to protect the Town as it proceeds to assessing its options. Referring to the detail of the budget the funding is not only for legal fees, arbitrators are included as well as engineers; it includes everything necessary, soup to nuts to assess regionalization options. (Mr. DeVecchio left the meeting at 10:08 p.m.)
- Mr. Meisner stated the entire Town benefits from the sewer system because it reduces water pollution (an environmental benefit), even for those who are not on the sewer system. Noting that some of the items within this budget should be on the Town side of the budget rather than the sewer users, the sewer fees are high.

The Chair called for the vote on the new total.

TOTAL SEWERS \$6,542,357 a decrease of \$67,558

VOTE: Motion CARRIED 16-2-2 (AGAINST: Pia and Scinto) (ABSTENTION: Testani and Mark)

Mr. DeVecchio was absent from the vote.

2110000 TASHUA KNOLLS - ENTERPRISE

The Chair called for a vote on the total.

TOTAL TASHUA KNOLLS - ENTERPRISE No Change \$2,002,155

Mr. DelVecchio was absent from the vote.

VOTE: Motion CARRIED unanimously.

The Chair called for a vote on the new total.

GRAND TOTAL \$155,179,662 a decrease of \$69,354

(Mr. DelVecchio returned to the meeting at 10:11 p.m.)

- The Chair reread the Grand Total amount and amount of the decrease for Mr. DelVecchio
- Mr. Meisner indicated there is now an ability to have a budget referendum, if the budget goes over 3.5%, and asked for clarification on whether the Enterprise figures would be included in the overall Town budget amount for the purpose of the referendum. The Chair stated the language of the referendum references the Adopted Budget of last year v. this year's Adopted Budget, this does include the Enterprise Funds, this was his literal interpretation of the Charter, noting there may be other interpretations.

The Grand Total percentage increase of 4.52%

VOTE: Motion to adopt CARRIED 17-3 (AGAINST: Mark, DelVecchio and Pia) to approve the 2012-2013 Town of Trumbull Grand Total Budget as amended.

There being no further business to discuss and upon motion made by Mr. DelVecchio and seconded by Mr. Basbagill the Trumbull Town Council adjourned at 10:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret D. Mastroni, Town Council Clerk