

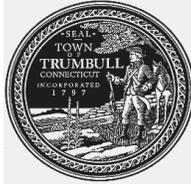
Town of Trumbull

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TOWN HALL
Trumbull

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MINUTES June 25, 2012

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Carl A. Massaro, Jr. called the special 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

Suzanne S. Testani
Michael J. London
Chadwick Ciocci
James F. Meisner
Jeffrey Donofrio
Gregg Basbagill

Vicki Tesoro
Kristy Waizenegger
Carl A. Massaro, Jr.
Jane Deyoe
Mark LeClair
Fred Palmieri, Jr.

Debra A. Lamberti
David R. Pia
Martha A. Jankovic-Mark
Ann Marie Evangelista

ABSENT: James Blose, Thomas Whitmoyer, Jeff S. Jenkins, John A. DelVecchio, Jr. and. Tony J. Scinto.

ALSO PRESENT: First Selectman Timothy Herbst, Chief of Staff Daniel Nelson, Mr. Joseph Kask partner with Blum Shapiro, Registrar of Voters, Jane Aiello and William Holden.

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

1. Resolution TC24-43: Moved by Mr. London, seconded by Ms. Testani
BE IT RESOLVED, That Blum and Shapiro, be and the same, is hereby appointed as the Independent Auditor for the Town of Trumbull for fiscal year 2012-2013.

Moved by Mr. London, seconded by Mr. Pia to amend Resolution TC24-43 to read as:
Resolution TC24-45: BE IT RESOLVED, That Blum Shapiro, be and the same, is hereby appointed as the Independent Auditor for the Town of Trumbull for fiscal year 2012-2013.
VOTE: Motion CARRIED unanimously.

First Selectman Timothy Herbst stated his administration is recommending the appointment of Blum Shapiro as the Town's independent auditor, replacing McGladrey Pullen. They have rebid and have looked at all external services including actuarial services. A series of interviews was spearheaded by the Director of Finance; initial interviews were conducted by the Finance department, Director of Finance and the Town Treasurer. After the finalists were determined

another round of interviews was conducted by the First Selectman, the Director of Finance and the Town Treasurer. Blum Shapiro has an impressive municipal dossier. Joseph Kask of Blum Shapiro was present at this meeting and was the person interviewed during the process. The Town made the decision to recommend a different firm because it is healthy to look with a different perspective. McGladrey and Pullen served the Town well. The First Selectman was impressed with this firm's response to questions and the level of detail regarding enterprise funds, (i.e. WPCA) and what they would do at the onset of interviewing the department heads, placing a heavy emphasis on revenue collection and coordinated interviews with the Assessor's Department. A formal RFP process was followed.

In response to Mr. London, Mr. Kask stated that there would be a 3-year contract: the first year at \$53,000, the second year at \$53,500 and the third year at \$54,000. First Selectman Herbst indicated that these were the most competitive rates they received.

In response to Ms. Mark, First Selectman Herbst stated that there were 4-5 bids received and interviewed; the finalists determined are as follows: McGladrey & Pullen, Blum Shapiro and O'Connor & Davis. First Selectman Herbst was involved in the interviews of the finalists he would have to get back to Ms. Mark on the other bids received. All of the bids were very close to one another. This resolution is before the council at a special meeting because ideally as the Town is closing out the current fiscal year the Town would like to have the new auditor in place.

Ms. Mark stated for the record that last year this appointment was done in September and this year we are doing it at a special meeting.

In response to Ms. Tesoro, the First Selectman stated that there was a period of eight (8) years that McGladrey & Pullen serviced the Town, there was a 2-3 year lapse, over the past twenty years they have for the overwhelming amount of time with the exception of the 2-3 years have been the Town's independent auditor. It is good to have a fresh set of eyes reviewing the books.

Mr. Donofrio stated a few years ago as his role as the Consumer Affairs Officer for the South Central CT Regional Water Authority had the opportunity to sit in on interviews for outside auditing firms. The Regional Water Authority chose Blum Shapiro, they did an excellent job transitioning from the previous auditor and were impressed with the level of scrutiny and detail and the ability to keep costs well within budget. Mr. Donofrio spoke in favor of Blum Shapiro.

Mr. Palmieri echoed Mr. Donofrio's comments. In response to Mr. Palmieri, The Chair clarified the council appoints the auditor every year, because funds are not authorized for subsequent years until there is a budget set for that specific fiscal year. Mr. Donofrio explained when municipalities procure outside auditors multi-year contracts have to be proposed because the amount of time spent is year one eliminates the profit the auditing firm is going to earn. Towns would not receive favorable prices for one year contracts. The Chair clarified for Mr. Palmieri that the council is not voting on the contract only the appointment of the independent auditor, the funds have been appropriated for the coming year's budget.

First Selectman Herbst stated for Ms. Tesoro that the Town budgeted \$56,000 for the auditor in the coming year's budget. Of the three firms listed Blum Shapiro was the lowest qualified bidder
VOTE: Resolution ADOPTED as amended unanimously.

Mr. London left the meeting at 8:24 p.m.

Moved by Mr. Ciocci, seconded by Ms. Lamberti to take item #3 as the next item of business.

VOTE: Motion CARRIED unanimously.

Mr. London returned to the meeting at 8:25 p.m.

2. Resolution TC24-46: Moved by Mr. Pia, seconded by Mr. London

BE IT RESOLVED, That \$78,587 is hereby appropriated from the Available General Fund to 01013800-522202 Town Hall-Professional for Services System Efficiencies Consulting Services for Town and BoE.

First Selectman Timothy Herbst stated that during the budget deliberations an important discussion ensued regarding examining system efficiencies between the Town and the BoE. There had been a discussion last year about pooling the Town and the BoE health care policies. There had also been discussion for many years in the Town of Trumbull going back as far as the 1990's with regard to consolidation of facilities management between the Town and the BoE. The concepts have been talked about for a great length of time but in all of that time we have never had an independent, qualified third party assess if those options are feasible. Six (6) months ago the Superintendent of Schools, himself and the Chairman of the BoE, Mr. Wright met to determine the best course of action. It was concluded that it would be in their best interests to appoint a bi-partisan special commission to study these system efficiencies and to seek services of a qualified third party. Members of that commission are as follows: Tony Milano, Dan Shamus, Paul Timpanelli, Joe Peddle, (3 democrats and one republican), truly bi-partisan also serving is the Chairman of the BoE, Steven Wright and BoE member Loretta Chory. RFP were requested, based upon the RFP's the task force conducted a series of interviews. Besides Gibson Consulting Service, O'Connor Davies, PSK and a 4th firm were interviewed, the Committee, First Selectman and the Superintendent of Schools believe that Gibson was the most qualified and prepared to perform this service. The level of homework and specific detail the consultant had already performed before coming to the interview was impressive to all. The Bridgeport audit was included as part of the Gibson RFP, the audit identified \$7 million in operating efficiencies, and of that \$7 million \$3 million has been implemented. What impressed them was the focus in identifying efficiencies in non-educational areas without adversely impacting student or taxpayer needs, which is what we all want. This is important because every year the council votes on the budget, under state statute there is no line item control over what the BoE will allocate the money to. It is easy to approve a number that might result in cuts, but if you were to have this report it would help guide all of the boards and bodies involved in the budget process. Having a third party independent firm assess this will take the politics out of it at the end of the day it is about the Town's financial health and the quality of the school system. The BoF has recognized that unanimously, stressing the level of bi-partisan support this has had.

In response to Mr. Pia, First Selectman Herbst indicated they would like to have a report back to the Town by early fall. They are expecting the report to include recommendations that could be done right away, some that could be done in a year and some that could be done in 3-5 years. This will allow the Superintendent to have the report in hand before his budget process begins in late October. Gibson Consultant was not the low bidder; however the number of hours they are providing the Town is the highest number of hours any of the companies bid. When you break down the hours provided their rates are equal to and in some instances lower than the other companies. The additional hours allow for a quicker turn around to be able to realize those

efficiencies. Mr. Pia indicated that he had looked at the number of hours provided; the break down comes to \$210 per hour. First Selectman Herbst stated the other firms were \$200-\$250 per hour.

In response to Ms. Testani, First Selectman Herbst stated that Gibson was the only firm that indicated that they would explore efficiencies with other Towns as part of their analysis. Ms. Testani spoke in favor of this resolution.

Mr. Ciocci spoke in favor of the resolution. First Selectman Herbst confirmed for Mr. Ciocci that there will be people here from Gibson even though the company is based out of Texas. During the course of the interviews, Gibson was the only bidder that included school base visits as part of their review and analysis.

In response to Ms. Mark, First Selectman Herbst stated that the commission is not comprised of all of the original members; the replacements are Mr. Peddle and Mr. Milano.

In response to Mr. Palmieri, First Selectman Herbst stated that it was the firm's suggestion to have the report completed by fall. The firm prefers to conduct these audits when the school is out of session because they want to see how classes are configured without students in session so they can assess classroom equipment, copy and paper supplies. The students not being in school would not impact the audit in any way because they are not auditing the delivery of instruction or the students in the classroom. They are auditing the protocols that we have to pursue possible system efficiencies between the Town and the BoE. Facilities Maintenance and custodial services work through the summer. The other companies interviewed also indicated that students not in session would not be a problem.

Ms. Mark stated that the savings might be attained by the Town getting bids on the insurance and talking directly to the unions with regard to consolidation. First Selectman Herbst stated neither himself nor herself are qualified to make the statement with regard to realizing savings that is why there are professionals to consult. The Town has been talking about efficiencies for the last 25 years, it is time act on and to implement them. The Superintendent has acknowledged as well as the First Selectman that there are two insurance brokers involved, a third party is necessary to end the continuum of will it save more or not. Ms. Mark spoke in favor of getting an answer.

Mr. Ciocci suggested a motion for Emergency Legislation as Ms. Waizenegger had pointed out to him that the letter is from Gibson is dated April 10, 2012, in the letter it reads that the proposal is valid for 90 days, we are very close to the 90 day mark.

Mr. Meisner complimented the whole process that was used to arrive at this proposal and hopes all support this resolution and that the outcome is as we expect to be able to save money.

VOTE: Resolution ADOPTED unanimously

Moved by Mr. Ciocci, seconded by Mr. Pia to pass as Emergency Legislation.

VOTE: Motion CARRIED unanimously.

First Selectman Herbst extended his gratitude to all.

3. RESOLUTION TC24-44: Moved by Ms. Lamberti, seconded by Mr. London.

BE IT RESOLVED AND ORDAINED, that Title VI Elections of the Trumbull Municipal Code is here by amended by adding:

Section 6-4 Polling Places: The polling locations for the Town of Trumbull municipal voting districts are:

- District 1 - Hillcrest Middle School;
- District 2 - TBA
- District 3 - Madison Middle School
- District 4 - Middlebrook Elementary School.

Another polling place within any district may be designated by the Registrars of Voters by submitting such new polling place in writing to the Town Clerk at least 31 days before the next general, special or primary election, as the case may be; provided any other polling place may be designated within 31 days of any election by the Registrars of Voters and the Town Clerk in the event a polling place becomes unusable, as provided by law.

The Chair indicated that the resolution had one polling place that needed to be added.

Moved by Mr. Pia, seconded by Mr. Palmieri to amend the resolution to read as:

RESOLUTION TC24-44 BE IT RESOLVED AND ORDAINED, that Title VI Elections of the Trumbull Municipal Code is here by amended by adding:

Section 6-4 Polling Places: The polling locations for the Town of Trumbull municipal voting districts are:

- District 1 - Hillcrest Middle School;
- District 2 - Saint Joseph's High School
- District 3 - Madison Middle School
- District 4 - Middlebrook Elementary School.

Another polling place within any district may be designated by the Registrars of Voters by submitting such new polling place in writing to the Town Clerk at least 31 days before the next general, special or primary election, as the case may be; provided any other polling place may be designated within 31 days of any election by the Registrars of Voters and the Town Clerk in the event a polling place becomes unusable, as provided by law.

In response to Mr. Palmieri, the Chair indicated the two (2) Registrars of voters, Jane Aiello and Bill Holden, it is his understanding that they had both gone to see the facility and will speak to their findings. The resolution was put together because the 31 day mark was approaching which is mid-July and there had not been a consensus on the determination of the polling places. The resolution was put together keeping in it the opportunity for the Registrars of Voters at any time to choose the polling places, which is the preferred statutorily way. The legislative body only steps in when there is failure of agreement. There may or may not be an agreement at this time, they will address that. There will be a public hearing on this resolution.

Ms. Tesoro stated that she is concerned that this motion came forward with a TBA District 2 location. It does not allow the public the information to speak to a site if they do not know what it is. For the record, the resolution was passed on April 2, 2012 it is now June 25th, approximately 2 ½ months and believes that they should have been able to come up with a location within that amount of time. The Chair stated generally the public has no say and no discussion where the polling places are because the Registrars designate them by statute. In this case where the legislative body makes the decision it would be well served for the public to have

known the exact locations, there are time constraints on noticing the council meetings and are up against the 31 days advance of the August 16, 2012 primary. The Chair wanted to get the resolution before the correct body if need be, which is why he is offering the opportunity for either or both of Registrars to speak to the selection of Saint Joseph's High School as the District 2 Polling place.

VOTE: Motion CARRIED 9-4-1 (AGAINST: Mark, Basbagill, Palmieri and Tesoro)
(ABSTENTION: Meisner)

Mr. Holden Registrar of Voters stated that last Thursday he had e-mailed the Assistant Registrar of Voters a letter that both he and Ms. Aiello could sign specifying the four (4) voting locations. Mr. Holden was informed at 12:00 noon today that Ms. Aiello had chosen not to sign the letter.

Ms. Aiello stated as the Registrar of Voters she has always tried to do the best thing within her authority to make voting easy and uncomplicated. The redistricting process had been difficult for her, with an unbalanced council appointing an unbalanced committee there was little discussion of value. Because of the reduction from 7 districts to 4 everyone will be travelling further and waiting longer. St. Joseph's High School is expected to replace Booth Hill. The next serious issue is District 4 with Middlebrook as a polling place. There were parking problems, a serious lack of lighting and difficulty in walking. The school could barely handle what it had at that point, now that voting district is double its size and larger than any other. Ms. Aiello stated that a better location for District 4 would be Frenchtown School. There has not been adequate discussion on District 4 and could not in good conscience endorse this resolve.

In response to the Chair, Ms. Aiello stated she had no objection to Hillcrest - it is the same crowd ability, no problem with District 3 Madison - it has the same issue as above, St. Joseph's High School is far, they will now relearn it as most of the Town will, distance is her only objection to St. Joseph's High School.

In response to Mr. Ciocci, Ms. Aiello indicated that she would prefer Frenchtown as previously agreed upon. Ms. Aiello stated that St. Joseph's High School is acceptable; now that Frenchtown is available it should be a consideration for District 4. In response to Mr. Palmieri, Ms. Aiello stated that they did not have any other choice besides Middlebrook because Frenchtown was being used in District 2. When St. Joseph's became available it freed Frenchtown as a viable option. The Chair clarified that you can not use a location outside of a district unless it is 90 days in advance. Ms. Aiello stated that we have the 31 days if a school is considered not usable, Booth Hill is considered not usable by both Registrars, and we could have voted on at the next meeting. The Chair stated that he had read and understood the statute.

Ms. Evangelista spoke against Frenchtown, it is the worst parking lot out of all of the schools, it is dangerous and fills quickly, and people end up parking on Frenchtown Road which as we all know is a difficult road to park on. Ms. Aiello stated that last year per discussion with the Superintendent they would be moving the in-service that created some of those issues. Mr. Ciocci echoed Ms. Evangelista's comments and added the hottest topic on Election Day is how bad Frenchtown's parking is. In response to Mr. Ciocci, Mr. Holden stated that he had not spoken with Calvary Church but had spoken with St. Catherine's, St. Catherine was available, but there is a children's camp being held on the same day as the primary, in addition there would be a fee associated, which he felt was on the high side. St. Joseph's High School may not have a

charge for the use of the school, suggesting the Town make a donation to the school through the budget process. Mr. Holden indicated the drive to St. Joseph's High School is 15 minutes from his house, for most residents it would be a 10 minute drive.

Mr. Basbagill spoke against both Frenchtown and Middlebrook and the use of elementary schools. They are inherently smaller, suggesting the use of other churches.

In response to Mr. Pia, Ms. Aiello stated history has shown that St. Theresa's does not want to be a polling place, and had not contacted them. Mr. Holden stated St. Theresa's had been used up until 1998 or 2000, there were times when they had functions that conflicted with election days the same reason why they had moved out of Calvary Church. Mr. Holden indicated that Middlebrook School is better option with their layout it can be divided into two (2) rooms or it can be left wide open, the lights have been corrected as well as the teacher in-service has been moved to accommodate the polling place. The parking at Frenchtown School is an issue as well as a very long walk to the building and a long walk once in the building.

Ms. Aiello stated the Town does a lot for St. Joseph's High School, they use our fields, it is not necessary for the Town to make a donation

In response to Mr. Meisner, the Chair explained that CGS 9-169 reads that when the Registrars fail to agree on the polling places the legislative body determines the polling places, there was not consensus tonight and it is clear the council must act. The timeframe has been dictated, meeting notice requirements have to be considered as well. It could have waited for the July 2 meeting but there were two other resolutions that needed to be taken up at this meeting, it was suggested to put this resolution on as well as the resolution that is on the agenda after this item. The resolution was drafted as an ordinance, originally he had drafted it as a typical resolution, after he had investigated the Municipal Code there is a separate section for elections and decided that this was important enough to codify by the Municipal Code. The second paragraph was drafted leaving the authority of the polling places with the Registrar of Voters anytime they agree, since they are in charge of the polling places, they would know the best places and the best way to conduct them, the statute says that the legislative body has to act if the Registrars are not in agreement, that is why he drafted the resolution and why it is before the council at this meeting. Mr. Meisner stated that this is due to a flawed process from the beginning. There are few people from the public present and no television coverage. The Chair explained that Channel 17 is noticed of every meeting and he would need to call Channel 17 for why they were not present. All of the information has been given out for the public; the Registrars have important work to do to make sure everyone knows where to go to vote and to get their lists together. The council will decide where the polling places are at this meeting per state statute.

The Chair opened the PUBLIC Hearing at 9:24 p.m.

There were four (4) people present to speak.

(Public Comments Attached Hereto)

The Chair closed the PUBLIC HEARING at 9:34 p.m.

Ms. Mark stated that after having heard from the public that is clear that there are potential travel issues and disenfranchisement for voters as a result of the 4-district system. The only rationale given for the redistricting was to save money and does not see that happening.

Ms. Tesoro stated that last year St. Joseph's High School was closed for students on Election Day and had a PD day just as the public schools did, that may impact parking, but is not familiar enough with their parking to know if it will. Ms. Tesoro spoke against making a payment to St. Joseph's High School. The process was to save money we should not be offering to incur a cost. The question with regard to a contract with St. Joseph's High School should be looked because of liability. Parking issues at Frenchtown School are hard to believe, Jane Ryan and Booth Hill had major parking issues which is one of the reasons for reducing the voting districts from 7-4. Ms. Tesoro is very concerned with using Middlebrook for parking, primarily because of the parking elevations and lighting. It is difficult especially for seniors; we will be looking at twice the number of people at the parking lot. Before the change of districts it only took her 2 minutes to get to her polling place as opposed to the 15 minutes cited at this meeting.

Ms. Testani stated that there are rides available to the people to the polls, usually your respective party will arrive; there is a barrage of volunteers that will bring people to the polls if they need.

The Chair explained for Mr. Palmieri that per state statute the Registrars are charge with notifying the public of the polling places, the council is not. They are in the process of putting the voting list together and will be sending out a notice as required by law.

In response to Ms. Tesoro, Ms. Aiello stated that they are behind in the process; they did not have access to the state computers. She has been working with the assistants to get the inputting done, that is why she had not spoken with Mr. Holden on Thursday. It is very difficult because the boundaries do not just go down the middle of the road, there are very few streets left, but it is dependent on being able to get in touch with the state. Hopefully they will be able to by the end of the week and they will all be able to move on.

Mr. London moved to call the question, no second was heard.

*The Chair voted.

VOTE: Resolution ADOPTED as amended 10-5 (AGAINST: Mark, Basbagill, Palmieri, Meisner and Tesoro)

4. RESOLUTION TC24-47: Moved by Ms. Waizenegger, seconded by Mr. London
BE IT RESOLVED, That \$2,855 is hereby appropriated from the Available General Fund to 01013600-501103 Town Clerk - Salaries Seasonal for increase salaries-seasonal account.

The question was raised as to whether the BoF had approved this appropriation or not.

The Chair called a recess at 9:47 p.m.

The Chair called the meeting back to order at 9:52 p.m.

The BoF approved the resolution 4-2.

Ms. Mark stated for the record she would like more information provided with the resolution.

VOTE: Resolution ADOPTED 11-1-2 (Against: Pia) (Abstention: Palmieri and Ciocci).

There being no further business to discuss the Town Council adjourned by unanimous consent at 10:01 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Margaret D. Mastroni, Town Council Clerk

PUBLIC HEARING COMMENTS

1. Cindy Penkoff of 101 Columbine Drive was present and indicated that she has worked the last three (3) elections and has worked every polling place as well. The worst location for parking is Frenchtown School no matter what type of election it is or how large or small the turn out is; it is the only place that she hears complaints about parking. Middlebrook's issue has always been lighting, there was not one parking issue. The school has taken care of the lighting issue. Ms. Penkoff suggested not using Frenchtown if at all possible.
2. Cindy Katske of 129 Meadowview Drive was present asked questions with regard to Saint Joseph's High School, the public schools have accommodated Election Day by moving the teacher in-service day and asked if St. Joe's is in session on election Day and if not do they also have a PD day and will they move it as well asking that the council consider issues like that.
3. Mr. Richard White of 169 Church Hill Road was present and indicated that he goes to Madison to vote; his child go to Middlebrook and sees the same parking overflow issues that other people attribute to the other schools. Middlebrook has three (3) levels of parking, the main, and the overflow area by TECEC which is major change in elevation and the third area a wrap around area. Middlebrook parking availability is smaller than Frenchtown's if you count the side and overflow area at the gym. District 1 - Hillcrest there are 700 voters isolated by a state road and the Pequonnock. Were polling places considered that are adequate to that? You are being asked to decide between the democrat and the republican choice, the agenda does not have a choice only one choice was printed and published and the fact that they are only learning of St. Joseph's, although he understands portions of that. His concern is if there will be a contract in place whether it is for a fee or free, and questioned what would protect the Town from liability issues and what protects St. Joseph's High School from liability issues. If there is a contract will there is enough time to approve or fix it. There is a street address report it is down to two (2) streets, that has a new voter registration report with the new districts and asked if that is available, if not when can they expect it? The Chair stated Mr. White's questions could be addressed to the Registrars of Voters.
4. Mr. Tony D'Aquila of 29 Valleyview Road was present and indicated that his neighborhood is east of Church Hill Road and west of the Pequonnock Valley, they used to vote at Middlebrook, now they have to drive to the other side of RT. 25 and travel one of the most dangerous arterial roads in Town, the section of Daniels Farm Road to the driveway of Hillcrest. It is a steep curvy road which presents problems for the senior citizens and other people with physical disadvantages. This will have a negative impact on people's interest on going to vote. He worries about that RT. 127 has public transportation and that Daniel's Farm Road does not, they are forced to use their car. Those senior citizens that do not drive have no means for them to get to the voting place. He recommended that the Town accept the financial responsibility for public transportation during election time and recommended that the citizens be allowed to go to any voting place, by putting their voting card into a box that would be transported to the designated voting place. We have an obligation to encourage people to vote, not to discourage them.