

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

TOWN HALL  
Trumbull

TELEPHONE  
(203) 452-5005



2014-2015 FY BUDGET VOTING SESSION  
MINUTES  
April 22, 2014

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Carl A. Massaro, Jr. called the special meeting to order at 8:00 p.m. at the Trumbull Town Hall. All present joined in a moment of silence and the Pledge of Allegiance. The Chair asked all present to remember 16 year old Sebastian Sakakini who succumbed to his battle with cancer. Sebastian was a sophomore at Trumbull High School.

ROLL CALL: The clerk called the roll and recorded it as follows:

PRESENT:

Suzanne S. Testani	Daniel Marconi	Carl A. Massaro, Jr.
Vincent DiMasi, Jr.	Vicki Tesoro	Edna Colucci
Mark S. LeClair	Kenneth M. Martin, Sr.	Cynthia L. Penkoff
James P. Blose	Tony J. Scinto	Enrico R. Costantini
Michael J. London	Joseph G. Pifko	
Bethany Llodra Gilman	Lori Rosasco Schwartz	
Ann Marie Evangelista	Patrick Helfrich (Arrived 8:04 p.m.)	

ABSENT: Thomas Christiano, Johnna M. Dineley and Ennio DeVita.

ALSO

PRESENT: First Selectman Timothy M. Herbst, Chief of Staff Ms. Lynn Arnow and Director of Finance Ms. Maria Pires.

---

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

The Chair stated the Town Council will adopt a spending budget for fiscal year 2014-2015 commencing July 1, 2014 through June 30<sup>th</sup> 2015. This year the Board of Finance recommended a spending budget of \$167,398,471.00 this includes funding of all our Town boards and commissions, services, departments, the Town Council and two Enterprise Funds, the Water Pollution Control Authority Department and the Tashua Knolls Golf Course. The budget process begins with a delivery of proposed annual budget to the Board of Finance by the First Selectman on or before February 10<sup>th</sup>. The recommended budget is sent to the Town Council by the Board of Finance by March 24<sup>th</sup> every year. The Town Council has the duty to adopt the budget by April 30<sup>th</sup>. The Chair thanked all members of the Town Council, BOF, First Selectman's office,

Finance Director Maria Pires and her staff for the countless hours they and the department heads spent assembling all of the information, records and proposed spending for all of our services in the Town of Trumbull. The process this evening, the Town Council will proceed pursuant to Chapter IV, Section 3 of the Town Charter. The Town Council may reduce any line item of the recommended budget by a majority vote of the membership present and voting at this meeting. The Town Council may increase any line item or restore any item eliminated by the Board of Finance from the First Selectman's proposed budget by a 2/3 vote of the entire membership or 14 affirmative votes. In no instance may the Town Council adopt a budget which includes any spending item not originally proposed by the First Selectman or recommended by the Board of Finance in an amount in excess of the line item proposed by either the First Selectman or the Board of Finance, whichever is higher. Adoption of the budget will be made by a majority vote members of the Town Council present and voting. The Town Council will proceed through the recommended budget in the order of departments appearing therein beginning with general government. Motions to amend line items and department totals will be made by motion to increase or decrease an identified line item by the proposed amount. The Town Council was assisted by Finance Director, Maria Pires. The Chair extended his gratitude to Ms. Pires for her time at this meeting.

There is one resolution to move, the Chair called for the motion.

1. RESOLUTION TC25-72: Moved by Ms. Testani, seconded by Mr. London.  
BE IT RESOLVED, That the annual budget for the Town of Trumbull for fiscal year beginning July 1, 2014 and ending June 30, 2015, 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 Town Council reviewed the budget department by department, motions made, votes taken and commentary is as follows:

Ms. Tesoro thanked all those who attended and presented at the budget hearings and noted for the record that the Town attorneys did not attend the hearings and expressed her hope they would attend next year's budget hearings.

The Chair noted that the Town Council would come back to the EMPLOYEE BENEFITS after having gone through each department; adjustments would then be made to Employee Benefits if necessary.

#### **01013800 TOWN HALL**

Moved by Mr. Scinto, seconded by Mr. LeClair to decrease 501102 Salaries-PT/Permanent by \$15,210.

Ms. Penkoff explained based on the fact that a clerical position was removed from the Human Resources department and requested this be consistent throughout budget. This line item can be removed this year and reconsidered next year. Ms. Tesoro spoke against the reduction. This is the 4<sup>th</sup> year Ms. Pires has requested the position. The First Selectman agreed to the position this year. Ms. Tesoro spoke in favor of the position.

VOTE: Motion CARRIED 14-3 (AGAINST: Tesoro, Marconi and Helfrich)

**01022000 Police**

Moved by Ms. Tesoro, seconded by Mr. Marconi to increase 501101 Salaries-FT/Permanent by \$148,272.

Ms. Tesoro stated this amount was reduced by the Board of Finance. Ms. Tesoro read from the section of the Town Council Finance Committee's Budget Hearing's minutes where the police had presented their budget. Ms. Tesoro noted this was approved by the First Selectman. The section of the hearing minutes read into the record is as follows: "Chief Kiely explained there is a chain of command within the dept. unity of Command is paramount to these positions. Supervisors of field operation, investigation and specialized units should provide daily field presence and maintain an active role in unit operations. The positions were not reduced by the FS. The First Selectman understood their importance and the liability issue." Ms. Tesoro asked that this amount be put back in the budget and spoke to the importance of public safety in our community. Mr. Marconi stated these monies were to give increases to tenured officers and promote from within. From a career point of view he spoke in favor of people staying in and growing in the department and noted if there is no growth potential for an officer they would not necessarily want to stay with the department. Ms. Penkoff stated she had attended the BOF hearings and explained the reasoning for the BoF reduction was based upon that monies were given to the department last year for new hires but the funds were used to bump some positions to the top. When money is given for new hires they would expect that is what it would be used for. Ms. Penkoff spoke against the motion.

**VOTE:** Motion FAILED 3-13-1 (IN FAVOR: Tesoro, Marconi and Helfrich) (ABSTENTION: London)

Moved by Ms. Tesoro, seconded by Mr. Marconi to increase 501101 Salaries-FT/Permanent by \$200,000.

Ms. Tesoro stated that this amount was reduced by the Board of Finance. The amount represents security guards. The money was reduced because there was no plan in place. Ms. Tesoro attended last week's BoF meeting. There was a discussion with regards to the Town's General Fund and how it is at a low point. The Town has to be careful as it approaches the end of this fiscal year and throughout next year. The money was removed from the Board of Education budget and this budget therefore there is no money in place for the security guards in any operating budget. If the Board of Education was to ask for supplemental appropriation there may be some push back to that based on the condition of the General Fund. Ms. Tesoro spoke in favor of putting this money into the budget. Ms. Penkoff stated that she had attended all of the BoF budget meetings and spoke with the members as well. The \$200,000 was reduced because there was no plan but also because there will be State mandates coming soon for school security. It does not make sense to designate \$200,000 for a system that has not been established or mandated to date. The General Fund is at 10.5% and is fine as far as our rating agencies and our lenders are concerned. Ms. Tesoro read from the BoF minutes of last week as follows: "Mr. Lavoie indicated to the board that the current fund balance total is \$17.1 million. We have made decisions here tonight and over the course of the year to use \$2 million that along with a revenue increase of \$367,800 and an expense decrease of \$457,500 brings the projected June 30<sup>th</sup> 2014 balance to \$15.9 million. This puts the fund

balance at 10.46% which is very close to the 10% threshold we need to maintain for a bond rating. We have a cushion of approximately \$700,000 so we need to let all department heads know that they need to manage to their budgets for the rest of this year and next year as well. Further the Chair asked Ms. Pires to convey to the First Selectman at the next weekly staff meeting that he is very concerned with making any supplemental appropriations going forward.” Ms. Penkoff stated she had spoken to the BoF Chairman and the Vice Chairman and was told the position the Town is in right now is fine. It behooves the Town Council to make sure that the departments manage their money every year not just this year in the next year.

**VOTE:** Motion FAILED 4-12-1 (IN FAVOR: Tesoro, Marconi, Helfrich and Martin) and (ABSTENTION: London)

**TOTAL PUBLIC SAFETY** \$11,832,200 No Change

**VOTE:** Motion CARRIED 14-3 (AGAINST: Tesoro, Marconi and Helfrich)

**01030500 TOWN ENGINEER**

Moved by Mr. Scinto, seconded by Ms. Rosasco Schwartz to increase 522202 Services & Fees-Professional by \$5,000.

Ms. Tesoro stated this was her motion in committee and spoke in favor of the motion. This represents the money for the traffic study for the RT. 111 at the Rails for Trails’ crossing.

**VOTE:** Motion CARRIED unanimously.

**TOTAL TOWN ENGINEER** \$546,865 an increase of \$5,000.

**VOTE:** Motion CARRIED unanimously.

**TOTAL PUBLIC WORKS** \$8,430,037 an increase of \$5,000.

**VOTE:** Motion CARRIED unanimously.

**TOTAL PUBLIC HEALTH** \$641,583 No Change.

**VOTE:** Motion CARRIED unanimously.

**01060000 EDUCATION**

Moved by Ms. Colucci, seconded by Ms. Evangelista to increase 522205 BOE - Program Expenses by \$697,500.

Ms. Colucci stated the motion to restore the budget as recommended by the First Selectman is because she believes the amount is reasonable and will allow the Superintendent of Schools to use the monies towards his requested positions and additional necessary classes. Ms. Colucci stated she would specifically like to see the new section of Algebra II & III, a new section of Technology, additional sections of Ceramics, Drawing, Painting, additional staff for Music, a Theater Arts course, the Technology Integration Specialists, the Social Worker added at the high school and an additional Special Education teacher in the middle school, and a Special Education teacher to assist in their growing needs. By adding these funds she hopes the Superintendent would stand by his request and put these positions in place. Ms. Colucci extended her gratitude to the many parents who contacted the Council to let them know their positions. Mr. London indicated that he was in

favor of adding these positions but spoke against adding the funds explaining the money is already in the budget. The Superintendent has notified them that due to a reduction in student population the school department will eliminate nine teachers. Ms. Tesoro spoke in favor of the increase and explained the Superintendent of Schools put forward a budget of 3.69%, the Board of Education adjusted that budget and reduced it by \$733,000, and \$173,000 of that adjustment was transportation. The remaining amount adjusted by the Board of Education was due to the reduction in enrollment. The adjustment for enrollment has already been made. The \$697,000 increase represents curriculum items, mandated positions and mental health needs. The positions at the high school are based on an increase in enrollment. If the \$697,000 reduction is kept it will be a total of \$1.4 million reduction to the overall Board of Education budget. Mr. Constantini clarified that the Board of Education budget is not being cut there is an increase over last year's budget, almost \$1.9 million. The requested increase is what is being reduced. Even if the Council approves the Board of Finance's recommended budget the Board of Education budget will be the highest it has ever been. Mr. London added the Board of Education budget has increased dramatically over the years. In 2006 the budget was just under \$71 million and has gone to \$91 million since 2006. The increase of the Board of Education budget for 2010 to 2014 is at 11½%. In every year there has been a school department surplus and there is a surplus expected this year as well. Mr. London spoke against taxing the residents for something that has already been paid for. There is enough money in place to fund these. Ms. Tesoro's stated that the Town also has a surplus every year. The Town had to build another school because of how the school's population had grown over the same number of years. Ms. Tesoro extended her gratitude to the many parents and other community members who reached out to the Council over the last month either by petition or by email. Ms. Tesoro spoke in favor of listening to their constituents.

**VOTE:** Motion FAILED 8-9 (AGAINST: LeClair, Blose, Llodra Gilman, Constantini, Pifko, DiMasi, Scinto, Penkoff and Testani)

Moved by Mr. London, seconded by Mr. Scinto to decrease 522205 BOE - Program Expenses by \$500,000.

**VOTE:** Motion FAILED 2-15 (IN FAVOR: Scinto and London)

Moved by Ms. Penkoff, seconded by Ms. Testani to increase 522205 BOE - Program Expenses by \$135,000.

Ms. Penkoff stated after speaking to members of the Board of Education, looking at the redistricting plan and how things are going to be shifted she is not comfortable with what is being put forth. There will be a reduction of an additional nine teachers; there are several retirements that will also happen. Looking at this from the perspective of projections, the redistricting plan believes the Board of Education has the funds. The enrollment will continue to decrease. Ms. Penkoff stated that the \$135,000 should be used for the Technology Specialists and the Social Worker. The other items are curriculum items not budget items and believes in lieu of having students sitting in study halls the curriculum should be shifted so the classes that the children will pick are put forth. Ms. Colucci spoke in favor of this motion noting she did prefer her prior motion but noted that she would vote in favor of this motion.

**VOTE:** Motion CARRIED 15-2 (AGAINST: Tesoro and London)

**TOTAL EDUCATION** \$105,148,355 an increase of \$135,000.  
**VOTE:** Motion CARRIED 15-2 (AGAINST: Tesoro and London)

**01070000 LIBRARIES**

**TOTAL LIBRARIES** \$1,594,886 No Change  
**VOTE:** Motion CARRIED unanimously.

**01080400 RECREATION**

Moved by Mr. Scinto, seconded by Mr. London to decrease 501105 Salaries-Overtime by \$3,000. Ms. Penkoff stated she does not understand why salaried employees get over time and comp time. She understands contracts in place. It is her understanding that this overtime goes for evening meetings as well as concerts held on the green. Ms. Penkoff would like to see the department run more efficiently. If it is necessary to attend a three-hour meeting at night, personnel could go into work three hours late the next day to compensate for it. Ms. Tesoro stated that the Town Council is not in charge of how people do their jobs. That is their supervisors' job and spoke against legislating overtime. Ms. Penkoff stated the Council is not the direct employer or supervisor but can make suggestions and believes it is their responsibility to point out inefficiency. Ms. Testani stated that she has been a municipal employee for almost 30 years and has never been paid overtime; time is her only benefit. The Town Council is charged with protecting the taxpayers and would be remiss if they didn't look at the departments and make some suggestions and adjustments.

**VOTE:** Motion CARRIED 14-3 (AGAINST: Tesoro, Marconi and Helfrich)

**TOTAL RECREATION** \$501,182 a decrease of \$3,000.

**VOTE:** Motion CARRIED 14-3 (AGAINST: Tesoro, Marconi and Helfrich)

**TOTAL RECREATION & PARKS** \$2,453,584 a decrease of \$3,000.

**VOTE:** Motion CARRIED 14-3 (AGAINST: Tesoro, Marconi and Helfrich)

**TOTAL DEBT SERVICE** \$5,626,523

**VOTE:** Motion CARRIED unanimously.

**01013400 EMPLOYEE BENEFITS**

Moved by Mr. London, seconded by Ms. Rosasco Schwartz to decrease 511150 Fringe Benefits-FICA by \$1,393.

**VOTE:** Motion CARRIED 14-3 (AGAINST: Tesoro, Marconi and Helfrich)

**TOTAL EMPLOYEE BENEFITS** \$15,090,342 a decrease of \$1,393.

**VOTE:** Motion CARRIED 14-3 (AGAINST: Tesoro, Marconi and Helfrich)

**TOTAL GENERAL GOVERNMENT** \$20,709,210 a decrease of \$16,603.

**VOTE:** Motion CARRIED 14-3 (AGAINST: Tesoro, Marconi and Helfrich)

**TOTAL GENERAL FUND** \$156,787,466 an increase of \$120,397.

**VOTE:** Motion CARRIED 14-3 (AGAINST: Tesoro, Marconi and Helfrich)

**20100000 SEWERS - ENTERPRISE**

**TOTAL SEWERS** \$8,834,392 No Change

**VOTE:** Motion CARRIED unanimously.

**21100000 TASHUA KNOLLS - ENTERPRISE**

**TOTAL TASHUA KNOLLS - ENTERPRISE** No Change \$1,897,010

**VOTE:** Motion CARRIED unanimously.

Ms. Pires indicated for Mr. Scinto the overall increase is 2.97%.

**GRAND TOTAL** \$167,518,868 an increase of \$120,397

**VOTE:** Motion CARRIED 14-3 (AGAINST: Tesoro, Marconi and Helfrich)

The Chair announced that the budget for the fiscal year 2014-2015 has been adopted and extended his gratitude to the Town Council members, Board of Finance and the First Selectman's office and all of those working for and living in Town for all their time and attention on this matter.

There being no further business to discuss the Trumbull Town Council adjourned at 9:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

---

Margaret D. Mastroni, Town Council Clerk