

TOWN COUNCIL
Town of Trumbull
CONNECTICUT
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TOWN HALL
Trumbull

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MINUTES
APRIL 09, 2015

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Carl A. Massaro, Jr. called the special meeting to order at 8:02 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:

<u>PRESENT:</u>	Suzanne S. Testani	Carl A. Massaro, Jr.	Ennio DeVita
	Vincent DiMasi, Jr.	Vicki Tesoro	Edna Colucci
	Mark S. LeClair	Kenneth M. Martin, Sr.	Scott Wich
	Antonio Pettiti	Tony J. Scinto	Cynthia L. Penkoff
	Enrico R. Costantini	Joseph G. Pifko	Mary Beth Thornton
	Bethany Llodra Gilman	Lori Rosasco Schwartz	Donna Seidell
	Ann Marie Evangelista		

ABSENT: Michael J. London and Daniel Marconi

ALSO

PRESENT: First Selectman Timothy M. Herbst (arrived at 8:00 p.m.), Chief of Staff Ms. Lynn Arnow (arrived at 8:55 p.m.) and Director of Finance Ms. Maria Pires.

The Chair stated the Town Council will adopt the Fiscal Year July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016 budget. The council will consider the expense budget delivered to them by the Board of Finance last month department by department and conclude with an overall vote on budget totals which will include the Town's two enterprise funds, the WPCA and the Tashua Knolls Golf Course. Pursuant to Chapter IV, Section 3d of the Trumbull Town Charter, the Town Council is limited in its authority to increase expenditures to the greater of the recommendation by the First Selectman or the Board of Finance. This year most department expenditures are the same figures coming from the First Selectman and the BOF, thus preventing any increases in the Board of Finance's numbers the Town Council will be working off of. The recommended budget for the Board of Education is a prime example of the scenario where the Town Council has no authority

to increase their budget. The Town Council is unrestricted by the Town Charter in its authority to reduce any line items in the recommended budget. The Chair extended his gratitude to Finance Director Maria Pires and the staff of the Finance Department for its hard work and responsiveness to the Council's questions and also extended the Town Council's appreciation to the Town Council Finance Committee and to the Board of Finance for its detailed examination of this year's proposed budget. The department heads and the Board of Education begin working on this budget in November of the previous year and extended the council's gratitude to them as well. The Council will be assisted by Finance Director Maria Pires in their deliberations of this budget. The total budget as recommended by the Board of Finance that the Council will be considering is \$171,522,203 which includes the Tashua Knolls Enterprise Fund of \$1,950,484, the WPCA Enterprise Fund of \$9,105,220 and the General Fund including the Board of Education appropriation of \$160,466,499. Once the resolution is moved to the floor, the Chair will recite the different departments and call for a motion on the figures.

*The Chairman reserves the right not to vote unless otherwise noted.

1. RESOLUTION TC25-171: Moved by Mr. LeClair, seconded by Ms. Testani.
BE IT RESOLVED, That the annual budget for the Town of Trumbull for fiscal year beginning July 1, 2015 and ending June 30, 2016, 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.

01 GENERAL GOVERNMENT

01012000 TAX COLLECTOR

01012000-501101 SALARIES-FT/PERMANENT

Moved by Mr. LeClair, seconded by Ms. Llodra Gilman to reduce by \$49,522.

Mr. LeClair stated this is an open position that has not been filled and have indicated that they are capable to work without the position. The vacant position is the Del/Def Tax Administrator. The Chair indicated it has been vacant since last June.

VOTE: Motion CARRIED 17-1 (AGAINST: Penkoff)

NEW TOTAL TAX COLLECTOR \$345,259 representing a reduction of \$49,522.

VOTE: CARRIED 17-1 (AGAINST: Penkoff)

01013000 HUMAN RESOURCES

01013000-501101 SALARIES-FT/PERMANENT

Moved by Ms. Tesoro, seconded by Ms. Thornton to reduce by \$46,000.

Ms. Tesoro stated the administrative assistant position added to this department this year was removed last year. The Town Council was told that the position would no longer be needed. There has been no justification why the people in the department cannot handle the situation. Over the past three years there has been a 33% increase in this department if this increase is approved. Ms. Penkoff stated she was originally not in favor of adding this position but after discussion and

research she has found the people in this department are performing clerical work daily and are paid to do more significant jobs. The department needs someone to perform these duties as well as cover the office instead of leaving it vacant while the director and manager perform their duties off-site. The office needs someone who can handle HIPAA related issues and other confidential matters. This position will not be a union position. This is a much needed position. The department has been borrowing someone from another department for the past six months.

VOTE: Motion FAILED 3-15 (IN FAVOR: Thornton, Tesoro and Wich)

01014200 PLANNING AND ZONING

01014200-501101 SALARIES-FT/PERMANENT

Moved by Ms. Penkoff, seconded by Ms. Llodra Gilman to increase by \$23,136.

Ms. Penkoff indicated the department head has built a strong department and part of that strength is having the support staff that meets the needs of the department and the public. They had over 100 applicants for this full time position and this person was carefully chosen. When it was deemed necessary the Human Resources Department needed help the P&Z department head was a team player and allowed this person to help HR on a part time basis knowing it would be on a temporary basis until the end of June. Ms. Penkoff spoke in favor of restoring this position in full to P&Z.

VOTE: Motion CARRIED unanimously

NEW TOTAL - PLANNING AND ZONING \$342,404 representing an INCREASE of \$23,136.

VOTE: CARRIED unanimously.

02 PUBLIC SAFETY

01023400 EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

01023400-501105 SALARIES-OVERTIME

Moved by Ms. Penkoff seconded by Ms. Llodra Gilman to DECREASE of \$23,394.

Ms. Penkoff explained due to the restructuring of the police department and promotions within, this position will no longer earn overtime therefore it is no longer needed in this budget.

VOTE: Motion CARRIED unanimously.

NEW TOTAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT \$64,537 representing a DECREASE of \$23,394

VOTE: CARRIED unanimously.

NEW TOTAL PUBLIC SAFETY \$12,078,707 representing a DECREASE of \$23,394

VOTE: CARRIED unanimously.

03 PUBLIC WORKS

TOTAL PUBLIC WORKS \$8,645,940 representing NO CHANGE.

VOTE: CARRIED unanimously.

04 PUBLIC HEALTH

TOTAL PUBLIC HEALTH \$336,429 representing NO CHANGE.

VOTE: CARRIED unanimously.

05 SOCIAL SERVICES

TOTAL SOCIAL SERVICES \$640,323 representing NO CHANGE.

VOTE: CARRIED unanimously.

06 EDUCATION

01060000

TOTAL EDUCATION \$107,373,577 representing NO CHANGE.

VOTE: CARRIED 16-1-1 (AGAINST: Scinto) (ABSTENTION: Wich)

07 LIBRARIES

01070000 LIBRARIES

TOTAL LIBRARIES \$1,637,498 NO CHANGE.

VOTE: CARRIED unanimously.

08 RECREATION

01080400 RECREATION

TOTAL RECREATION \$524,693 NO CHANGE.

VOTE: CARRIED 17-1 (AGAINST: Scinto)

0108600 PARKS

01080600-501101 SALARIES-FT/PERMANENT

Moved by Ms. Tesoro, seconded by Ms. Thornton to reduce by \$95,000.

Ms. Tesoro asked the First Selectman to speak to this position in response to the constituents who have questioned it.

First Selectman Herbst stated reform is defined by taking a situation and making it better than how it was found. For every phone call and email the First Selectman has received as a result of this proposed consolidation he has received three times as many over the past five years with regard to the need to consolidate and restructure the Parks and Recreation departments in a manner that is consistent with other communities. The voters approved the Charter Revision in 2011 consolidating the Parks and Recreation Commissions. It becomes a logical extension to consolidate the departments. The budget before the council proposes to consolidate the Parks Dept., the current Recreation Dept. and the full time golf course operations under one Parks & Recreation Dept. headed by a Parks & Recreation Director. There is a fee schedule that has not been looked at on an annual basis as it should be and is not consistent with other communities. A qualified professional is needed to assess the revenue of this department based on the number of programs, participants, and cost centers. The salary is lower than communities with a population less than Trumbull. Trumbull is currently not dedicating the resources to this department as it should. First Selectman Herbst understands the concerns of adding new positions and takes it seriously. On the Town's

side with the exception of the police department the number of positions has been decreased since 2009. There are very talented people currently serving these departments, those talents have to be dedicated to where they serve the Town best. It is time to take the Parks & Recreation Dept. to the next level. The EMS restructuring has proven to be very successful and expects this restructuring to be as successful. First Selectman Herbst explained the RFQ is for both a financial and operational audit of the departments. The new director based on his years of experience will come to this department and help interview the auditors who will work on this project, if the BOF and the Town Council approve the funding for the audit. An audit is critical from an operational standpoint as well as a financial. Special Agency funds need to be looked at there is no clear delineation of how these funds are used. This will allow the boards to make an informed decision on how much the program is bringing in and how much it has to be supplemented by the taxpayers. The new Parks & Recreation Director and the Finance Director will work together on this. Ms. Tesoro stated a consultant could have been brought in to see if the director position is necessary. First Selectman Herbst stated that he is absolutely convinced this position is needed and if the audit says it is not needed he will be the first person to admit that. Mr. Herbst confirmed for Ms. Testani the two current directors will continue to work for the Town of Trumbull. They each have certain skill sets that will assist the new director in this reorganization. The Recreation Director has a very good skill set with regard to responsiveness and programming. The Parks Director is very well qualified in doing what he does best which is making our parks the most beautiful parks system in the State, A clear chain of command will be established. We have a public golf course that is self sustaining with employees reporting to contract employees. First Selectman Herbst stated he wants the golf course to continue to be one of the best in the state while realizing efficiencies. The parks system, school, recreation and the golf course are what attract people to Trumbull. What we invest in our Parks and Recreation programming should be no exception. It has never been more important to focus on mental wellness and health. First Selectman Herbst wants Trumbull children to have quality after-school recreational activities. It takes a community to raise a child and this is as much a part of it as a quality school system. First Selectman Herbst indicated to Ms. Tesoro this is an opportunity to look at the programming to see if the offerings can be expanded upon which in turn could expand the revenue. The new director candidate has indicated to the First Selectman that increasing fees is a last resort and in his experience when a fee schedule is adjusted there has to be public input, public participation and an engaged commission working with a director to assess. This is something the Town is currently not doing enough of. Any fee increase would have to be approved by the Parks & Recreation Commission. Ms. Tesoro stated the organizational chart for this department needs to be adjusted and updated. First Selectman Herbst stated the chart will need to be adjusted again based upon what is approved at this meeting. Ms. Penkoff spoke in favor of the increased professionalism in the way Trumbull does business in the past 5 years, and noted this is the next step. EMS is an exceptional example of a successful restructuring of a department in our Town. Ms. Penkoff stated many parents have expressed a need for more camps for children and in turn this restructuring could offer even more part-time positions for the teenagers in our Town. This is an additional way to give back to our community.

VOTE: Motion FAILED 0-15-3 (AGAINST: Testani, DeVita, DiMasi, Colucci, LeClair, Martin, Pettiti, Scinto, Penkoff, Costantini, Pifko, Llodra Gilman, Rosasco Schwartz, Seidell and Evangelista) (ABSTENTION: Thornton, Tesoro and Wich)

TOTAL PARKS \$1,900,480 No Change
VOTE: 15-0-3 (ABSTENTION: Thornton, Tesoro and Wich)

TOTAL PARKS & RECREATION \$2,599,376 No Change
VOTE: 15-0-3 (ABSTENTION: Thornton, Tesoro and Wich)

TOTAL DEBT SERVICE \$5,658,814 No Change
VOTE: Motion CARRIED unanimously.

The Chair called a RECESS at 9:03 p.m.

The Chair called the meeting BACK TO ORDER at 9:15 p.m.

01013400 EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

01013400-511150 Fringe Benefits-FICA

Moved by Ms. Rosasco Schwartz, seconded by Ms. Penkoff to DECREASE by \$3,808
VOTE: Motion CARRIED unanimously.

01013400-511151 MEDICAL/DENTAL

Moved by Ms. Colucci, seconded by Mr. Martin to DECREASE by \$18,000
VOTE: Motion CARRIED unanimously.

NEW TOTAL EMPLOYEE BENEFITS \$15,448,161 a DECREASE of \$21,808

Moved by Ms. Penkoff, seconded by Mr. Martin.
VOTE: Motion CARRIED unanimously.

NEW GENERAL GOVERNMENT TOTAL \$21,424,247 a DECREASE of \$48,194.

VOTE: CARRIED unanimously.

NEW TOTAL GENERAL FUND \$160,394,911 a DECREASE of \$71,588

Moved by Mr. Ms. Testani, seconded by Ms. Rosasco Schwartz
VOTE: Motion CARRIED unanimously.

201000000 SEWERS - ENTERPRISE

TOTAL SEWERS \$9,105,220 representing no change.
VOTE: CARRIED unanimously.

21100000 TASHUA KNOLLS – ENTERPRISE

TOTAL TASHUA KNOLLS - ENTERPRISE \$1,950,484 representing no change
VOTE: CARRIED unanimously.

GRAND TOTAL \$171,450,615 representing a DECREASE of \$71,588

Moved by Ms. Colucci, seconded by Mr. DeVita.
VOTE: Motion CARRIED 17-1 (AGAINST: Scinto)

There being no further business to discuss and upon motion made by Ms. Llodra Gilman, seconded by Mr. LeClair the Trumbull Town Council adjourned at 9:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret D. Mastroni, Town Council Clerk