

TOWN COUNCIL

TRUMBULL, CT
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Faith in our future

MINUTES

February 2, 2009

CALL TO ORDER: The regular meeting of the Trumbull Town Council was called to order at 8:08 p.m. by Chairman Mark Altieri. 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:

Dan Marconi
Michael Rappa
Suzanne Testani
Jane Deyoe
Robert Pescatore, Jr.
Mary Beth Thornton
Cheryl Bochet

Jeffrey Jenkins
John Rotondo
Perry Molinoff
Debbie Lamberti
Mark Altieri
Martha Mark

Matt Reale
Kathleen Bivona
Michael London
Carl Massaro
Chad Ciocci
Dan Helfrich
Tony Scinto

ABSENT: John DeVecchio, Jr.

* Chairman Mark Altieri exercised his right not to vote unless otherwise noted.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The Minutes of the January 5, 2009 meeting were accepted as presented by unanimous consent.

DISCUSSION ITEM: Trumbull High School Building Committee Update

Jim Nugent, Chairman of the Trumbull High School Building Committee, explained the State will be reviewing the plans for Phase I in March. Mr. Nugent hopes to go through the State's comments with Council at the May meeting. Phase I includes the Auditorium, mechanical work and the pool.

Architect Greg Smolley explained the planned front entryway to the school provides definition to the front of the school and a place to gather before events in the gym and/or new auditorium. They've also been working on the mechanical systems which is one of the more complex pieces of the building. The footprint of the pool has been compacted down quite a bit. They have been working to hit the budget and energy modeling for the building. The ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) requires the fields be accessible and this building will address those issues.

It was suggested that the Education Committee hold a meeting where the plans for Phase I can be reviewed and discussed in preparation for Council's May meeting. Council's approval is necessary before going out to bid.

Minority Leader Massaro requested a written report detailing the entire scope of the project. Mr. Barbarotta explained if we design the entire project now, then it will not be a phased project and we will lose the summer bidding.

DISCUSSION ITEM: Independent Audit Report for fiscal year 2007-2008.

INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT – FY 2007-2008: Christine Carling, Director with McGladrey & Pullen explained her firm performed an independent audit and gave an unqualified opinion of the Town for FY07-08. She reported that the audit went very well this year. The information provided was accurate and timely and the records are in good shape. She believes that the budget information that's given monthly is good information.

Ms. Carling stated that the general fund balance is \$15.7 million. The balance of the unreserved general fund is \$13.8 million which is 10.4% of total expenditures. Director Carling explained that next year GASB requires that we start funding the OPEB (Other Post Employment Benefits) liability. It is required under some Union Contracts and will mostly apply to the Board of Education.

Contributions to the Pension plans are below the recommended levels. The Town plan was funded to 38.4% and the Police plan to 71.9%. It is believed that a downturn in the economy has reduced those amounts. The rating agencies look at the fund balance of the general fund, the internal service fund and how we pay our employee benefits and things of that nature when determining our rating. The underfunded pension liability might be included as one of several components they look at. The Town has increased the amount of their contribution each year. It has not been increased even more due to the tax burden that would be placed on the residents. It was pointed out that the Finance Director does not approve the budget.

Ms. Heim explained the Pension Board is scheduled to meet tomorrow night and she invited any-one interested in learning more about our pension funds to attend. Our new Pension Representative will be there.

Item 1. RESOLUTION TC22-120: Moved by Ms. Bivona, seconded by Mr. Rotondo

BE IT RESOLVED, That _____ of _____, be and the same is hereby appointed as a member of the Jane Ryan School Roof Building Committee.

Committee report: R&R Committee met on January 26, 2009 and amended by replacing the blank lines with James Fracker, 78 Old Dike Road. They voted 4-0 to recommend as amended.

Chairman accepted the committee report as an amendment.

VOTE: Passed unanimously VOTE: Adopted unanimously as amended

Item 2. RESOLUTION TC22-147: Moved by Ms. Mark, seconded by Mr. Pescatore

BE IT RESOLVED, That Arlyene Fox of 300 Tashua Road is hereby reappointed as the P&Z Representative to the Inland Wetland and Watercourse Commission for a term extending to the first Monday in December, 2010.

Committee report: R&R Committee met on January 26, 2009 and amended the resolution to read as: BE IT RESOLVED, That the reappointment by the First Selectman of Arlyne Fox of 300 Tashua Road as the P&Z Representative to the Inland Wetland and Watercourse Commission is hereby approved for a term extending to the first Monday in December, 2010. They voted 4-0 to recommend as amended.

Chairman accepted the committee report as an amendment.

The Chair called for a vote on the first amendment.

VOTE: Passed unanimously

The Chairman called for a vote to amend the spelling of Ms. Fox's name.

VOTE: Passed unanimously

VOTE: Adopted unanimously as amended

Item 3. RESOLUTION TC22-148: Moved by Mr. Ciocci, seconded by Mr. Massaro

BE IT RESOLVED, That Sharon McNeal of 16 Round Hill Road is hereby reappointed as a member of the Greater Bridgeport Transit Authority for the term extending to January 1, 2013.

Committee report: R&R Committee met on January 26, 2009 and voted 4-0 to recommend.

VOTE: Adopted unanimously

Item 4. RESOLUTION TC22-149: Moved by Ms. Bochet, seconded by Ms. Bivona

BE IT RESOLVED, That _____ is hereby appointed as the Independent Auditor for fiscal year 2008-2009.

Committee report: Finance Committee met on January 27, 2009 and amended by replacing the blank lines with McGladrey & Pullen. They voted 4-0 to recommend.

VOTE: Passed unanimously VOTE: Adopted unanimously

Item 5. RESOLUTION TC22-150: Moved by Ms. Testani, seconded by Mr. London

BE IT RESOLVED, That an additional \$2,626,000 is hereby appropriated for the planning, acquisition and construction of sanitary sewers, phase IV, part B contract III, and authorizing the issue of an additional \$2,626,000 of bonds or notes of the Town to meet said appropriation and pending the issuance thereof the making of temporary borrowings for such purpose.

Committee report: Finance Committee met on January 27, 2009 and voted 4-0 to recommend.

Sewer Administrator Joe Solemene explained that this section was omitted from the original plan. It includes approximately 14 residences which have shown overwhelming support of the plan.

This extension will be included in the overall cost of this Phase IV project and the assessment will then be determined for every-one involved. There is a policy that has been in place since the inception of the Sewer Commission and that is that the Town accepts 25% of the responsibility of the assessment over the 18 years. Included in the project are new roads, sidewalks, curbing, catch basins and storm drains.

VOTE: Adopted unanimously

Item 6. RESOLUTION TC22-141: Moved by Mr. Marconi, seconded by Mr. Reale

BE IT RESOLVED, That the following recommendations for changes to the proposed Greater Bridgeport Regional Solid Waste Interlocal Agreement are hereby adopted

_____.

Committee report: L&A Committee met on January 26, 2009 and voted 5-0 to recommend.

VOTE: Adopted unanimously

Item 7. RESOLUTION TC22-142: Moved by Mr. Rotondo, seconded by Ms. Bivona

BE IT RESOLVED AND ORDAINED, That Town Code Sections 18-42-7(b) and 18-43 2(a), (b), (c) and (d) Tax Relief for the elderly are hereby amended. (See attached)

Public Hearing was commenced at 9:30 p.m.

Public Hearing was closed at 9:31 p.m.

Committee report: L&A Committee met on January 26, 2009 and amended by changing the last sentence to: Repayment is due no later than 60 days from the Tax Collector's written request. They voted 5-0 to recommend as amended.

Chairman accepted the committee report as an amendment.

VOTE: Passed unanimously

VOTE: Adopted unanimously as amended

Item 8. RESOLUTION TC22-151: Moved by Mr. Scinto, seconded by Ms. Bivona

BE IT RESOLVED, That funding for a labor contract between the Town of Trumbull and Local 818, Council 4, AFSCME, AFL-CIO beginning July 1, 2008 and ending June 30, 2012 is hereby approved.

Committee report: L&A Committee met on January 26, 2009 and voted 5-0 to send without recommendation.

Labor Attorney Floyd Dugas explained this Agreement is with the Supervisors of the Public Works department. There are about 14 people in this bargaining unit. Under this Agreement, the caps on the health insurance contributions have been eliminated; a number of changes were made to the health insurance plan design; the contribution to the Pension Plan was increased; phased out all take home vehicles except one; and capped the number of sick days that can be accumulated.

The Supervisors are out on the road supervising multiple crews in multiple locations across town. The vehicles are used by the individuals during the course of their work day and they will continue to use them as they do their work. The change is that they will no longer be able to take the vehicles home. As a result, it is expected that response time will be longer should they be called in. Instead of going directly to the area where their help is needed, they will first have to go pick up their trucks.

The Union has ratified this Agreement.

Mr. Molinoff requested a recess.

Chairman Altieri called for a recess at 9:50 p.m.

Chairman reconvened the meeting at 10:11 p.m.

VOTE: Adopted 15-5 (Opposed: Pescatore, Deyoe, Ciocci, Scinto, Rappa)

*Chairman Altieri voted on this item.

Item 9. RESOLUTION TC22-152: Moved by Ms. Deyoe, seconded by Mr. Pescatore

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Town Attorney is hereby authorized to settle the matter known as Galaty v Town of Trumbull, Docket No. CV-06-4017262.

Committee report: L&A Committee met on January 26, 2009 and voted 5- 0 to recommend.

Town Attorney Dan Schopick noted that Attorney Chorniak is the Defendant's Attorney, not the Plaintiff's as stated in the committee report.

VOTE: Adopted unanimously

New Business

Mr. Scinto submitted a resolution re: Firemen's Pension Fund Board member

Mr. Scinto submitted a resolution re: THS renovate as new project

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Mr. Helfrich moved to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Molinoff. With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 10:14 p.m. with unanimous consent.

Respectfully submitted,

Lorrie Lusebrink,
Council Clerk