

TOWN COUNCIL  
**Town of Trumbull**  
CONNECTICUT  
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TOWN HALL,  
Trumbull

TELEPHONE  
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RULES & RESEARCH COMMITTEE  
Minutes  
March 1, 2012

Vice-Chairman Michael London called the Rules & Research Committee to order at 7:33 p.m.

PRESENT: Michael London, Vice Chairman Ann Marie Evangelista  
Tony Scinto Fred Palmieri  
Vicki Tesoro, Alternate (voting)

ABSENT: Thomas Whitmoyer Jane Deyoe, Chairwoman  
David Pia, Alternate

ALSO PRESENT: Town Council Chairman Carl A. Massaro, Jr.

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1. RESOLUTION TC24-15: Moved by Ms Testoro, seconded by Mr. Scinto

BE IT RESOLVED, That \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_, be and the same is hereby appointed an alternate member of the Board of Assessment Appeals for a term ending the first Monday of December, 2013.

Mr. Scinto moved, seconded by Mr. Palmieri to amend Resolution TC24-15 to read as: RESOLUTION TC24-15: BE IT RESOLVED, That Jeffrey Crow of 33 Cornfield Road, be and the same is hereby appointed an alternate member of the Board of Assessment Appeals for a term ending the first Monday of December, 2013.

VOTE: Motion to amend CARRIED unanimously.

Mr. Crow was present. Mr. Crow stated that he has been a licensed real estate agent since 1975 and had worked for a real estate company for many years that his father owned, the business was sold to William Raveis and is currently employed at William Raveis. For a period of time Mr. Crow was a licensed appraiser, but has since given

that up, it has been at a conflict with his real estate practice. Mr. Craw would like to serve the community and further explained that many times people do call his office questioning their assessments and has been able to answer their questions, noting that many times he is able to resolve the issue in an amicable fashion when the people are able to look at it from a different perspective.

Mr. Palmieri spoke in favor of the resolution.

VOTE: Motion carried as amended unanimously.

2. RESOLUTION TC24-16: Moved by Ms. Evangelista, seconded by Mr. Palmieri.

BE IT RESOLVED, That \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_, be and the same is hereby appointed an alternate member of the Board of Assessment Appeals for a term ending the first Monday of December, 2013.

The Vice-Chair asked if there was a name to insert. Ms. Tesoro stated no.

Mr. Palmieri moved, seconded by Mr. Palmieri to postpone Resolution TC24-16 to next month.

Ms. Tesoro requested if a name could be amended at the full Town Council meeting?

Mr. Massaro stated that by tradition if a person is not interviewed in committee the committee does not move it to the council.

VOTE: Motion to postpone CARRIED unanimously.

3. RESOLUTION TC24-20: Moved by Mr. Palmieri, seconded by Mr. Scinto.

BE IT RESOLVED, That Susan LaFrance of 45 Woolsley Avenue, be and the same is hereby appointed an alternate member of the Board of Finance for a term extending to the December 2, 2013.

Moved by Ms. Tesoro, seconded by Mr. Palmieri to amend RESOLUTION TC24-20 to read as: RESOLUTION TC24-20: BE IT RESOLVED, That Tim Cantafio of 72 Tait Road, be and the same is hereby appointed an alternate member of the Board of Finance for a term extending to the December 2, 2013.

Ms. Tesoro submitted a letter for the record dated February 27, 2012. The letter was distributed to the Rules & Research Committee prior to this meeting, (Attached). All committee members have read and reviewed the letter. Ms. Tesoro explained that the letter represents a compromise to the committee to appoint Tim Cantafio and has no reflection on Ms. LaFrance or Mr. DeGennaro. In the end there would be a republican, a democrat alternate and an unaffiliated BoF alternate.

VOTE: Motion to amend FAILED 2-3 (Against: Evangelista, Scinto and London).

Ms. LaFrance was present and indicated that she has lived in Trumbull since 2003 and currently resides at 45 Woolsley Avenue. Ms. LaFrance would like to be on the BoF because, as she has become involved in the Frenchtown School community as the Frenchtown School BoE liaison, she has listened to parents and neighbors concerns. Ms. LaFrance has attended every BoE and BoF meeting of this year, most recently the BoF Department Budget meetings. Ms. LaFrance believes her educational background will serve the BoF well. Ms. LaFrance has a MBA and a Masters degree in social work. Ms. LaFrance has been employed at Fairfield University as the Director of Sponsored Programs and Government Relations for ten (10) years, her position requires her to budget and manage a multi-million dollar budget. Ms. LaFrance has the time to serve and would add value to the board.

In response to a question from Ms. Tesoro, Ms. LaFrance sees her role as an alternate member that needs to pay attention, to know what is going on and to participate. If she is appointed as an alternate she will meet with all departments to find out more information. Her primary role is to fill in when a member is absent. Ms. LaFrance feels confident she could vote on the upcoming budget, questions she has could be addressed, she has looked at the numbers, has attended all of the meetings, was at last evening's meeting as well, and has a very clear understanding of what people are saying. She has dealt with budgets as well as created them.

Ms. Evangelista stated that she believes Ms. LaFrance would be an asset and that the board would be lucky to have her.

VOTE: Motion CARRIED 3-1-1 (AGAINST: Tesoro) (Abstention: Palmieri)

4. RESOLUTION TC24-21: Moved by Mr. Scinto, seconded by Mr. Palmieri.

BE IT RESOLVED, That Vincent A. Degennaro of 91 Deer Run Drive, be and the same is hereby appointed an alternate member of the Board of Finance for a term for a term extending to the first Monday of December, 2014.

Moved by Ms. Tesoro, seconded by Mr. Palmieri to amend the resolution to read as: RESOLUTION TC24-21: BE IT RESOLVED, That Tim Cantafio of 72 Tait Road, be and the same is hereby appointed an alternate member of the Board of Finance for a term for a term extending to the first Monday of Decccmber, 2014.

Ms. Tesoro explained that they had asked that a resolution for a BoF alternate be put on this agenda. They were told that they would have to discuss their nominee based on the resolutions already posted on the agenda because it was too late to do another agenda. They are trying to put forward their candidate. Ms. Tesoro asked that Mr. Cantafio to step forward to be interviewed.

Mr. Cantafio was present and indicated for the record that he has a degree in mechanical engineering and a degree in management engineering, he runs a business that employs 100 people and is very familiar with budgets. Has been a life long resident of Trumbull and a product of the school system. This would be a great opportunity to give back to the community.

Mr. Palmieri submitted Mr. Cantafio's resume for the record. (Attached)

Ms. Tesoro asked Mr. Cantafio why the BoF is an interest to him?

Mr. Cantafio stated that he is a numbers person, is familiar with the budgeting process and could apply a lot of skills in the manufacturing arena to the budget in Town.

Ms. Tesoro asked Mr. Cantafio if he was sitting in for an elected member and they had asked him to vote as they would have voted and disagreed what would he do?

Mr. Cantafio stated he would have to discuss the issue with the person on how they would want to vote and would have to take the position of the elected person over himself since he was the alternate. He would go with the vote of the official.

VOTE: Motion to amend FAILED 2-3 (Against: London, Scinto and Evangelista).

Mr. DeGenarro was present and indicated that he had been the vice president of Genry Insurance for fourteen (14) years) and has been in corporate life for over 35 years. He is currently a vice president with Priceline.com in Norwalk and runs the infrastructure planning group, has colleagues that work for him in several countries as well as the United States and is very familiar with budgets, manages a multi million dollar business. Mr. DeGenarro has lived in Town over 30 years; his wife was raised in Trumbull as well. Mr. DeGenarro likes Trumbull, believes it is a good place to raise his children and believes in giving back.

Ms. Tesoro asked Mr. DeGenarro when he had first learned of the opening in the BoF? Mr. DeGenarro stated that he had learned of the opening 3-4 weeks ago.

Ms. Tesoro asked what in particular was Mr. DeGenarro's interest in the BoF?

Mr. DeGenarro stated that he believes it to be an interesting position, has experience with finances and budgets and explained that they run a tight ship at Priceline. There is a lot that can be done in Town and thinks he has an objective opinion. He believes as the old saying is "The cards play" that the "The facts play", and would go with the facts, he is not biased and is very open.

Mr. Scinto moved, seconded by Ms. Tesoro to amend correcting the spelling of DeGenarro the resolution to read as:

RESOLUTION TC24-21: BE IT RESOLVED, That Vincent A. DeGennaro of 91 Deer Run Drive, be and the same is hereby appointed an alternate member of the Board of Finance for a term extending to the first Monday of December, 2014. VOTE: Motion to amend CARRIED unanimously.

The Vice-Chair stated that the typo the second “for a term” would be stricken from the resolution.

In response to a question from Ms. Evangelista, Mr. DeGenarro stated that he has attended the last BoF meeting and the depar mental Budget Hearing meeting, has a received a copy of the budget, has reviewed it and has some comments on it if made part of the team. He is not officially anything and it would not have been his place to speak at the meetings.

In response to Ms. Tesoro, Mr. DeGenarro stated that he had not been to the BoE meetings. Mr. DeGenarro stated that he had attended the last Saturday’s BoF public hearing, heard people’s comments and understands that all day kindergarten is a big issue, there is also a redistricting issue and is very aware of what is going on. Mr. DeGenarro has read the budget cover to cover.

Ms. Tesoro asked Mr. DeGenarro if you are sitting in for an elected member and that member asked you to vote as they would have voted and you disagree what would he do? Mr. DeGennaro stated that if he disagreed and felt very strongly about it he would vote his conscience, and believed that is how you have to work things. The cards play, the facts play, you can’t misrepresent something or bias something because someone likes or is for some other particular reason. It is important to bring an honest and true objective opinion to what you do, running a town where so many people’s interests are at stake you have to objective.

Ms. Tesoro asked if Mr. DeGenarro, if it were the case even if he was sitting in for an elected person? Mr. DeGenarro stated that believes that if the elected person had a good case in support of what it was, he would have to listen, but would have to be objective too. He would look at it as a whole, as the facts, how it is presented and what the situation is. You can not say just because he is on one party or another this is how you will have to do something, if that throws him off the board then so be it, but believes to be objective is the way to go.

In response to the Vice-Chair Mr. DeGenarro stated his party affiliation as unaffiliated.

VOTE: Motion CARRIED as amended 4-1 (Against: Tesoro).

There being no further business to discuss upon motion made by Mr. Palmieri, seconded by Ms, Evangelista the Rules & Research Committee adjourned by unanimously consent at 7:58 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

  
Margaret D. Mastroni, Town Council Clerk

February 27, 2012

To: Members of the R&R Committee

From: Tom Tesoro

Re: Appointment of Alternates to the Board of Finance

Dear Town Council Members and Fellow Town Volunteers,

Much has been written around the unnecessary controversy surrounding the above referenced subject. I am writing this note to ask you to put aside silly political nonsense and act with respect and consideration toward the Democratic members of the Board of Finance and to me in particular.

My position is both twofold and simple:

First, if there is in fact a strong desire to appoint an unaffiliated voter as an alternate to the Board of Finance, there exists a simple solution to the situation. Please appoint Mr. Vincent DeGennaro in the place of Ms. LaFrance to the seat being vacated by Republican Alex Remson and appoint Mr. Tim Cantafio to the seat being vacated by Democrat Perry Molinoff. By doing so the end result will be one alternate approved by the TRTC (Ms. Penkoff), one alternate approved by the DTC (Mr. Cantafio) and one unaffiliated voter (Mr. DeGennaro) approved by the Town Council at the behest of First Selectman Tim Herbst. This solution is a win win for all.

Second, if the Council, for whatever reason, feels a second Republican alternate is an absolute necessity, then by all means approve Ms. LaFrance to replace Ms. Remson and approve Mr. Cantafio to replace Mr. Molinoff. While not as symmetrical as my first proposal above, this would reflect a sense of fair play in that both parties Board of Finance members, elected by the people, would have an alternate that represents their point of view.

I feel obligated to remind you that the alternate replacing Mr. Molinoff will on occasion be sitting in for me (or Mr. Lupien) and as a matter of common courtesy and common sense the person who will sit in our stead should be an individual that has our support and approval.

While not always perfect, I believe for the most part I have shown respect and courtesy to everyone who works to make our Town better, in particular those, like all of us, who do so on a volunteer basis. I hope that you will show to me the courtesy and respect that I have accorded you. Please also note that

**this is not about either Ms. LaFrance or Mr. DeGennaro, both appear to be fine people, but about a process that has been made unnecessarily controversial and if continued on its present path will only result in hard feelings where none need to exist.**

**Our First Selectman has called for civility and respect in our public dealings, let's honor that request by appointing Mr. Cantafio.**

**Thank you for your time and consideration.**

**Sincerely,**

**Thomas Tesoro**

**Elected member, Board of Finance (D)**

## **Timothy A. Cantafio**

- 1979 Trumbull High School Graduate
- 1983 University of Bridgeport Graduate, B.S. Mechanical Engineering
- 1987 University of Bridgeport Graduate, M.S. Management Engineering
- Married 24 years to Dawn Cantafio
- Father of two Trumbull High School graduates who are now college bound children, Cayla, and Nicholas
- Vice President Engineering, Northeast Electronics Corporation
- Former Trumbull Youth Commission member
- Connecticut Burns Care Foundation Volunteer
- Member of American Society of Mechanical Engineers
- Former Trumbull baseball and soccer coach
- Former Middlebrook, Hillcrest & Trumbull High School PTA member
- Former member of the Committee to form the Fathers Club at Middlebrook School
- Lifelong Trumbull resident

### **Most Significant Public-Service Accomplishment**

Past Chairman of Trumbull Youth Commission and member of exploration team to determine the feasibility of establishing a Trumbull Youth and or Youth/Senior center.