

TOWN COUNCIL
Town of Trumbull
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TOWN HALL
Trumbull

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RULES & RESEARCH COMMITTEE
MINUTES
March 27, 2012

Vice-Chairman Michael London called the Rules & Research Committee to order at 7:46 p.m.

Present:

Michael London Vice-Chairman	Thomas Whitmoyer (arrived at 7:56 p.m.)
Tony Scinto	Fred Palmieri
Ann Marie Evangelista	Vicki Tesoro, Alternate (Voted until 7:56 p.m.)

Absent: Jane Deyoe, Chairwoman and David Pia, Alternate

Also Present: Town Council Chairman Carl A. Massaro, Jr.

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1. RESOLUTION TC24-16: Moved by Ms. Tesoro, 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.

Moved by Ms. Tesoro, seconded by Ms. Evangelista to amend Resolution TC24-16 to read as:
RESOLUTION TC24-16: BE IT RESOLVED, That Timothy Cantafio of 72 Tait Toad, 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 CARRIED unanimously.

Mr. Timothy Cantafio of 72 Tait Road was present and indicated that he would like to donate his time to serve on the Board of Assessment Appeals and to get familiar with the process. Mr. Cantafio is an engineer with management experience.

VOTE: Motion CARRIED as amended unanimously.

2. RESOLUTION TC24-31: Moved by Mr. Scinto, seconded by Ms. Evangelista.
BE IT RESOLVED AND ORDAINED, That effective May 16, 2012 Chapter 6, Section 6-1 of the Trumbull Town Code is hereby amended as follows:

Section 6-1 voting districts

In accordance with Section 9-169 of the General Statutes of the State of Connecticut, the Town Council of the Town of Trumbull does hereby redivide the Town of Trumbull into four (4) voting districts.

The Vice-Chair stated that all of the Finance Committee members had received the Redistricting Committee Report and the Minority Report. All present had read the reports prior to this meeting. Both reports were submitted for the record (Attached).

(Mr. Whitmoyer arrived at 7:56 p.m.)

The Vice-Chairman requested that both reports be sent to the webmaster for posting on the Town's Website. The Clerk agreed. Mr. Massaro stated that the reports will be part of this meetings record and will be posted on the website accordingly; in addition to that, the reports would be posted on the Redistricting Committee's section of the Town's website.

Ms. Tesoro read the Minority Report Summary into the record (Attached). Ms. Tesoro voiced her concern that a public hearing is being held at the end of the process, redistricting plans should have a public hearing in the beginning and at the middle of the process, after providing people with maps to review. The feed back at the full council meeting from the public will be the first and the last time from the public on an issue that affects every person in town.

Mr. Palmieri echoed Ms. Tesoro's statement and noted that there had been undo haste in the process, is being presented with an either or decision and finds fault with both options, questioning the need for a super district. 6-10 candidates in a district will add confusion. Mr. Palmieri spoke in favor of more public input and bypassing this motion.

Mr. Whitmoyer stated that each report has been specific in the small details but has lost sight in the fact that we have had a process that has worked well for many years and are looking to change something that affects 10-11,000 people in Town. This is a town wide change; we need to be diligent with having the least amount of conflict for the constituency, complimenting the Minority Report. It is time to put partisanship aside and do what is best for the constituency; less change is more beneficial for the Town.

Ms. Tesoro stated redistricting should be about the voters, change to the current plan should be made to encourage people to vote. The Town of Trumbull won an award for voter turnout last year, questioning why we want to make the process harder to vote. The Majority Report is concerned with the Registrars' office work and saving \$8,000, which are not justifications for the restructuring of the Town government.

Chairman Massaro stated that the resolution written and before this committee is the Trumbull Town Code Chapter 6, section 1 with one exception, the description of the voters' districts needs to be added. The resolution, with the exception of the date and the section of the code, is the same resolution which was used in 1984 for the seven (7) district model that was put in by a different majority party. This resolution needs to be amended to describe the four (4) districts.

Moved by Mr. Scinto, seconded by Ms. Evangelista to amend Resolution TC 24-31 by adding the district descriptions contained in the Redistricting Committee Report.

The Vice-Chairman clarified that the district descriptions added would be those contained in the majority report entitled Redistricting Committee Report.

VOTE: Motion to amend CARRIED 3-2 (Against: Palmieri and Whitmoyer)

Ms. Tesoro referred to section 3 of Resolution TC24-8, noting non-compliance requiring substantially equal populations, the four (4) district plan it fails to meet that criteria.

VOTE: Motion CARRIED as amended 3-2 (Against: Palmieri and Whitmoyer)

There being no further business to discuss the Rules & Research Committee adjourned by unanimous consent at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Margaret D. Mastroni, Town Council Clerk