

TOWN COUNCIL
Town of Trumbull
CONNECTICUT
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TOWN HALL
Trumbull

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RULES & RESEARCH COMMITTEE
Minutes
January 31, 2013

The Chair called the Rules & Research Committee to order at 7:00 p.m. All present joined in a moment of silence and the Pledge of Allegiance.

The clerk called the roll and recorded it as follows:

PRESENT: Jane Deyoe, Chairman, Michael London, Vice Chairman, Tony Scinto (arrived at 7:03 p.m.), Ann Marie Evangelista, Thomas Whitmoyer and Vicki Tesoro, Alternate.

ABSENT: Fred Palmieri and David Pia, Alternate

ALSO PRESENT: Town Council Chairman Carl A. Massaro, Jr., Chief of Staff Elaine Wang, Tax Collector Mary Moran and Labor Council Jeff Mogan of Berchem, Moses and Devlin.

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1. RESOLUTION TC24-100: Moved by Ms. Evangelista, seconded by Mr. London. BE IT RESOLVED, That the appointment by the First Selectman of Diane Wheeler of 184 Hilltop Circle as a member of the Golf Commission, be and the same, is hereby approved for a term extending until December 4, 2017.

Ms. Wheeler was not present due to the meeting being rescheduled to a night she was unavailable.

Moved by Mr. London, seconded by Mr. Whitmoyer to send without recommendation.

VOTE: CARRIED unanimously.

2. RESOLUTION TC24-101: Moved by Mr. Whitmoyer, seconded by Mr. London. BE IT RESOLVED, That the re-appointment by the First Selectman of Tony Chimielewski of 28 Seminole Trail as a member of the Parks and Recreation Board, be and the same, is hereby approved for a term extending until December 5, 2016.

Mr. Chiemelewski was not present. Mr. Scinto indicated that Mr. Chiemelewski serves on the High School Building Committee.

Moved by Mr. London, seconded by Mr. Whitmoyer to table pending a ruling on whether someone can serve on more than one committee.

VOTE: Motion Carried unanimously.

Moved by Mr. London, seconded Ms. Tesoro to remove the resolution TC24-101 from the table.

VOTE: CARRIED unanimously.

Moved by Mr. London, seconded by Mr. Whitmoyer to send without recommendation.

VOTE: CARRIED unanimously.

3. RESOLUTION TC24-102: Moved by Mr. Scinto, seconded by Mr. London.
BE IT RESOLVED, That the appointment by the First Selectman of Mitch Hallock of 360 Stonehouse Road as a member of the Trumbull Day Commission, be and the same, is hereby approved for a term extending until December 5, 2016.

Mr. Hallock was present and indicated his party affiliation as democrat. He would like to serve on the commission because of his fond memories of the event and would like to bring Trumbull Day back for its value and to retain a friendly family event for the Town. Mr. Hallock is a marketing consultant specializing in events and promotions in Connecticut.

VOTE: CARRIED unanimously.

4. RESOLUTION TC24-103: Moved by Mr. Whitmoyer, seconded by Mr. London.
BE IT RESOLVED, That the appointment by the First Selectman of Joanne Orenstein of 40 Walker Road as a member of the Trumbull Day Commission, be and the same, is hereby approved for a term extending until December 5, 2016.

Ms. Orenstein was present and indicated her party affiliation as democrat. Her youngest child is a senior at Trumbull High School and foresees having the time available to serve.

VOTE: CARRIED unanimously.

Moved by Mr. London, seconded Ms. Tesoro to remove the resolution TC24-101 from the table. VOTE: CARRIED unanimously.

Moved by Mr. London, seconded by Mr. Whitmoyer to send Resolution TC24-101 without recommendation. VOTE: CARRIED unanimously.

5. RESOLUTION TC24-104: Moved by Mr. London, seconded by Ms. Tesoro.
BE IT RESOLVED, That the Trumbull Day Commission shall be reduced to nine members appointed by the First Selectman with the approval of the Council.

Mr. Massaro explained that the commission consists of eleven (11) members, reducing the number of members would make it easier to achieve a quorum.

Ms. Tesoro indicated that Trumbull Day has been set to take place the last weekend in June (Friday and Saturday). The commission has to double up on the committees because there are not enough people. There are six (6) people who have been appointed with two (2) more on this agenda bringing the number to eight (8). According to the Boards & Commissions list there are three (3) additional commissioners whose terms have not yet expired, bringing the total number of commissioners to eleven (11). She knows of one other person who is interested in serving and would be invaluable and spoke against reducing the number of commissioners at this time. Ms. Wang explained that one of the commissioners whose term has not expired may not be able to serve due to health issues. Ms. Evangelista spoke in favor of an eleven (11) member commission. Ms Wang explained the original thought was to reduce the commission to seven (7) leaving Ms. Pioli on the commission, now there are two (2) additional commissioners on this agenda that would bring the number to nine (9) members, they would thank the remaining 2 commissioners whose terms had not expired for their service, reducing the number necessary for a quorum allowing the commission to move forward. It has been researched and was found in a document written by the former First Selectman David Wilson that it is in the purview of the first selectman to appoint and remove people from boards and commissions.

Moved by Mr. London, seconded by Mr. Whitmoyer to hold in committee until next month. Mr. Massaro indicated that there are enough active members for a quorum; therefore it is not critical to act on this resolution.

VOTE: CARRIED unanimously.

6. RESOLUTION TC24-105: Moved by Ms. Tesoro, seconded by Mr. London.
BE IT RESOLVED, That the Trumbull Counseling Center, located at 121 Old Mine Road, shall be renamed the Mary Sherlach Counseling Center, in honor of Trumbull resident Mary Sherlach, for her heroic sacrifice and service to the children of Sandy Hook Elementary School.

Ms. Wang indicated that she had spoken to a counselor at the center who was in favor of this resolution; the board had been notified as well. If she hears back from the board she will update the council accordingly at the February 4, 2013 Town Council meeting.

VOTE: CARRIED unanimously.

7. RESOLUTION TC24-106: Moved by Mr. Whitmoyer, seconded by Mr. London.
BE IT RESOLVED, That funding for a provisional part time position in the Tax Collector's Office is hereby approved.

Ms. Moran explained that this resolution represents appointing a provisional 35-hour employee for the Tax Collector's department. Per Civil Service rules it would be a 6-month appointment. In addition to that stipulation it would not include benefits. The collection of the W.P.C.A accounts is slow. There are currently an additional 900 W.P.C.A. accounts. Ms. Moran proposed having the existing part timer work with the

Delinquent Tax Administrator. This has been tested in the recent past and has proved to be very successful. In the matter of less than 90 days they were able to collect in excess of \$400,000 in delinquent user usage fees. The W.P.C.A. agreed unanimously to split the salary with the Town. The salary would be \$21.68 per hour, the part time position currently pays \$15.00 per hour. The BoF has also approved this item. The Tax Department is understaffed, these accounts have always been on the slower side, but it seems as the number of accounts increase the more delinquencies there seem to be. If this proves to be as successful as they think they will have to determine what the next course of action would be, whether it would be possible to get an extension for the provisional position or whether the W.P.C.A. would want to include the position in their budget. There are 896 Sewer Assessment accounts, with \$900,000 in delinquencies. The sewer usage fees accounts in the \$3,000-\$5,000 range are approaching \$400,000 in delinquent accounts. It is a tedious and time consuming process to collect on these accounts, due to having to contact the banks to see what stipulation governs each particular mortgage and what the Town is allowed to do once they do contact the account holders. Of the 35 hours, the employee will split her time fulfilling her regular duties within the department with the collection of the delinquent accounts.

VOTE CARRIED unanimously.

8. RESOLUTION TC24-107: Moved by Ms. Evangelista, seconded by Mr. London. BE IT RESOLVED, That funding for a labor contract between the Town of Trumbull and UPSEU Local 424 – Unit 4 (Town Hall Supervisors) beginning July 1, 2012 and ending June 30, 2017 is hereby approved.

Atty. Mogan reviewed the settlement summary with the committee. This tentative agreement has been ratified by the union. The union consists of approximately 20 employees; with some vacancies. This agreement was reached after months of negotiation, and almost went to arbitration, but as a last ditch effort they went to mediation and were able to come to this agreement. Atty. Mogan recommended the approval of this agreement.

The term of the agreement is 5-years. This will save the Town the cost of having to renegotiate within 2-3 years.

Wage Increases are 0% in the first year, 2.25% in the second and third year and 2.5% for the fourth and fifth year, this is below the state average. Wage increases in the last contract were at 3.25% every year of the contract. This agreement includes a one time wage adjustment of \$37,500 that will be divided amongst the 20 members as they see fit. Data had been presented that they were falling behind comparable positions in other communities.

The significant change in the health insurance is the change to a comp mix plan; the current plan is a co-pay plan. The comp mix plan works with deductibles and co-insurance, the employee bears more of the cost. The plan structure is based upon low utilization/high cost services (high cost diagnostics & hospital stays) are subject to the

deductible/co-insurance which can go up to \$3,000 for a family, whereas the low cost/high utilization services (doctor's visits) are still subject to the co-pay. This represents significant savings for the Town.

Cost Sharing will increase from 13%-14.5 % over the term of the contract (July 1, 2016). Employees hired after Jan. 1, 2013 will be eligible only for the Town Defined Contribution Plan, the Police, DPW Supervisors and the Non-Union employees have already gone to this. The current employees who remain in the defined benefit will increase their contribution from 5%-6% by July 1, 2015. They will be contributing more to their own retirement.

Misc. Benefits are as follows:

- Short Term benefits will be available only after the employee has used all of his/her sick time.
- Payout of vacation time will not be given to employees terminated for cause.
- Decrease in payout of sick days upon retirement for new hires from 30 to 15 days.
- Longevity payments are eliminated for employees hired after Jan. 1, 2013.

The hardest for the bargaining unit was the wage increase piece of the negotiation; they did receive the one time benefit of \$37,500. Atty. Mogan confirmed for Ms. Tesoro that communities in the area are moving to the Defined Contribution Plan. Mr. London suggested in the future that they include in negotiations that all employees be switched from the defined pension to the defined contribution plan. Atty. Mogan stated that since they have already established that new hires would go to the Defined Contribution Plan he doubted that they would go back to do that with the vested employees, although it could be possible with non-vested employees. Atty. Mogan explained for Mr. Scinto that the option for a one time payout is governed by the pension plan. The Committee agreed that would entail a lot of cash being available. Atty. Mogan confirmed for the committee that the health insurance comp mix plan is the identical plan to the DPW Supervisors and the Police unions' recent agreements. VOTE: Carried unanimously.

There being no further business to discuss and upon motion made by Mr. Whitmoyer, seconded by Mr. London the Rules & Research Committee adjourned by unanimous consent at 7:48 p.m..

Respectfully Submitted,

Margaret D. Mastroni, Town Council Clerk