

TOWN COUNCIL
Town of Trumbull
CONNECTICUT
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TOWN HALL
Trumbull

TELEPHONE
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FINANCE COMMITTEE
2014-2015 FY BUDGET VOTING SESSION
MINUTES
MARCH 25, 2014

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman LeClair called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. at the Town Hall. All present joined in a moment of silence and the Pledge of Allegiance.

PRESENT: Chairman Mark LeClair, Vice Chairman Cindy Penkoff, Tony Scinto, Vicki Tesoro (arrived at 7:13 p.m.), Thomas Christiano, Alternate, Daniel Marconi, Alternate and Bethany Llodra Gilman.

ALSO PRESENT: Town Council Chairman Carl A. Massaro, Jr., Town Council members Ken Martin and Edna Colucci and Director of Finance Maria Pires.

The Chair stated the Finance Committee would review the 2014-2015 Budget by department, with individual line item changes and totals voted on.

01010400 FIRST SELECTMAN

522202 SERVICES AND FEES-PROFESSIONAL

Moved by Ms. Penkoff, seconded by Ms. Llodra Gilman to reduce by \$20,000.

Ms. Penkoff stated grant writing has always been handled by the Chief of Staff and due to budget constraints does not feel comfortable adding another position. The grant writer would be a consultant by contract but would rather see grant writing stay in the First Selectman's office until we know what will happen with the economy.

*Marconi Voting

VOTE: Motion CARRIED 4-1-1 (AGAINST: Christiano) (ABSTENTION: Scinto)

(Ms. Tesoro arrived at 7:13 p.m.) (Tesoro voting and Marconi is not.)

Ms. Tesoro noted for the record that she had requested a breakdown of salaries used to fund the position for the Human Resource department at a previous meeting. Ms. Pires indicated she was assigned that task and will forward the information.

01013800 TOWN HALL

501102 SALARIES-PT/PERMANENT

Moved by Ms. Penkoff, seconded by Ms. Christiano to reduce by \$15,210.

Ms. Penkoff stated this reduction is based on budget constraints and the fact that a clerical position was taken out of Human Resources Dept. for approximately the same amount. Ms. Tesoro spoke

against the reduction noting that Ms. Pires has made a case for this position for the last four years and believes it is a necessary position. Ms. Penkoff spoke against the increase and stated it will not be possible to find somebody who is proficient in all departments.

VOTE: Motion CARRIED 3-2-1 (AGAINST: Christiano and Tesoro) (ABSTENTION: Scinto)

FIRE MARSHAL -FIRE HYDRANTS

5900016 UTILITIES-FIRE HYDRANTS-WATER - The committee discussed the reasons for the testing and maintenance of the hydrants by the water company. Mr. Christiano stated that he would do further research on the cost and report back on this item.

PUBLIC WORKS

01030500 TOWN ENGINEER

522202 SERVICES AND FEES-PROFESSIONAL

Moved by Ms. Tesoro, seconded by Penkoff to increase by \$5,000.

Ms. Tesoro stated this represents the amount taken out by the BOF for the study on Route 111 at the trail crossing area. The BOF left in the Whitney Avenue study. The BOF felt the since it is a state road that the state should fund the study. Ms. Tesoro stated due to safety issues this should be done. Ms. Tesoro will research this further and will confer with the Town Engineer before the next meeting.

VOTE: Motion CARRIED unanimously.

PUBLIC WORKS NEW TOTAL

By unanimous consent the Finance Committee accepted the Public Works new TOTAL of \$8,430,037.

01060000 EDUCATION

522205 BOE - PROGRAM EXPENSES

Moved by Ms. Tesoro, seconded by Mr. Christiano to increase by \$697,500.

Ms. Tesoro stated the BOF made their decision based on declining enrollment. The amount is to add positions that are necessary to maintain our school system. These positions have nothing to do with enrollment but have to do with curriculum issues, mandated positions and mental health positions. Mr. Scinto indicated that this would be a recommendation vote therefore he will wait for the full Council to make a determination. Ms. Penkoff stated that the BOF left funds in the 522205 account, which can be used for technology and more psychologists. The use of those funds is the choice the Board of Education needs to make. Ms. Penkoff added that she will wait for the full Council she is awaiting further information.

VOTE: Motion FAILED 2-3-1 (AGAINST: LeClair, Llodra Gilman and Penkoff) (ABSTENTION: Scinto)

TOTAL EDUCATION - No Change

01080400 RECREATION

501105 SALARIES - OVERTIME

Moved by Ms. Penkoff, seconded by Llodra Gilman to reduce by \$2,200.

Ms. Penkoff stated she would like this department to be more efficient and spoke against a department head attending mandatory meetings and earning overtime. Ms. Penkoff suggested coming in later the next day in lieu of overtime. The department head also attends the concerts during the summer. Ms. Penkoff stated this could be handled by a part-timer instead. Mr. Christiano requested clarification noting the overtime may have been earned by working on Saturdays and Sundays. Ms. Penkoff explained the overtime is generated from attending the mandatory meetings and suggested the day after the meeting to come in at noon instead of being paid overtime. Mr. Massaro questioned whether this has to do with a labor agreement. Ms. Pires confirmed that it does. Union contracts dictate that over time and comp time can be earned. Ms. Pires knows with this particular position comp time has been taken instead of earning overtime. Several years ago the town had to pay for the comp time because she was not able to use all of the comp time earned. Ms. Tesoro stated that they cannot dictate as to when someone will work there may be programs in the morning that they have to be at.

VOTE: Motion CARRIED 3-2-1 (AGAINST: Tesoro and Christiano) (ABSTENTION: Llodra Gilman)

01013400 EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

511150 FRINGE BENEFITS - FICA

By unanimous consent the Finance Committee reduced by \$1,332.

NEW TOTAL EMPLOYEES BENEFITS

Moved by Ms. Penkoff, seconded by Ms. Llodra Gilman to accept EMPLOYEES BENEFITS NEW TOTAL at \$15,090,403 representing a reduction of \$1,332.

VOTE: Motion CARRIED unanimously

TOTAL GENERAL GOVERNMENT \$20,689,271.00 Reduction of \$36,542

Moved by Ms. Penkoff, seconded by Ms. Llodra Gilman to accept the GENERAL GOVERNMENT new total at \$20,689,271.00 representing a reduction of \$36,542.

VOTE: 5-1 (AGAINST: Scinto)

TOTAL GENERAL FUND \$156,633,327 Reduction of \$33,742

Moved by Ms. Penkoff, seconded by Ms. Llodra Gilman to accept the General Fund new total of \$156,633,327 representing a reduction of \$33,742.

VOTE: 5-1 (AGAINST: Scinto)

TOTAL ENTERPRISE FUNDS

Moved by Ms. Llodra Gilman, seconded by Ms. Penkoff to accept the TOTAL ENTERPRISE FUNDS at \$10,731,402 - No Change

VOTE: Motion CARRIED unanimously.

GRAND TOTAL \$167,364,729 Reduction of \$33,742

Moved by Ms. Llodra Gilman, seconded by Ms. Penkoff to accept the new GRAND TOTAL of \$167,364,729 representing a reduction of \$33,742.

VOTE: Motion CARRIED 3-2-1 (AGAINST: Tesoro and Christiano) (ABSTENTION: Scinto)

There being no further business to discuss the Finance Committee of the Town council adjourned by unanimous consent at 8:06 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Margaret D. Mastroni
Town Council Clerk