

TOWN COUNCIL  
**Town of Trumbull**  
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TOWN HALL  
Trumbull

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FINANCE COMMITTEE  
OCTOBER 28, 2014  
MINUTES

The Chairman called the Finance Committee to order at 7:07 p.m. All present joined the Pledge of Allegiance.

PRESENT: Chairman Mark LeClair, Tony Scinto (arrived at 7:18 p.m.), Lori Rosasco Schwartz, Bethany Llodra Gilman, Alternate and Vicki Tesoro.

ABSENT: Vice Chairman Cindy Penkoff, Daniel Marconi, and Thomas Christiano

ALSO

PRESENT: Town Council Chairman Carl A. Massaro, Jr., Director of Finance Maria Pires, and Frank Smeriglio, Town Engineer.

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1. RESOLUTION TC25-124: Moved by Ms. Llodra Gilman, seconded by Ms. Rosasco Schwartz.

BE IT RESOLVED, That \$67,720 is hereby appropriated from WPCA Retained Earnings to 20100000-501101/WPCA Salaries/Fulltime \$48,973; and 20100000522210/WPCA Reimbursable Services to The General Fund \$18,747.

Mr. Smeriglio represents the WPCA's request for a supplemental appropriation from its Retained Earnings to fund a Civil Engineer position. The WPCA is under a mandate to analyze and evaluate the existing infrastructure due to a sewer overflow five (5) years ago. The ground water infiltration into the sewer system is what has been mandated to be analyzed and to make the necessary repairs. The existing sewer systems can not handle the extra ground water. As a result of the evaluation there are 15 current projects in various phases either design or construction. This evaluation of the sewer system will be on-going resulting in more projects. The Town's Engineering Department has two (2) engineers. Because of the mandate the Engineering Department's projects are falling to the back burner. The Engineering Department currently has twenty projects of their own. Examples of the Engineering Department projects falling behind are: Evaluation and the

cleaning out 100's of drainage swales throughout the Town. There is no WPCA engineer therefore the Engineering Department's engineers are taking on the WPCA projects. This position was going to be requested in the 2015-2016 FY budget. What has expedited the request is the fact that the WPCA Assistant Sewer Administrator has been out to a long term illness since March 2014 due and potentially will be out through June 2015. In addition to the additional WPCA projects the Engineering Department has taken on the day-to-day WPCA operations. The WPCA Assistant Sewer Administrator is responsible for evaluating the pump stations and maintaining the sewer lines but is not an engineer. The BOF had asked to evaluate whether the funds should come from the Town side or the WPCA because of the multiple WPCA projects. This position would be paid 100% from the rate payers. The funds for this position would come from the WPCA Retained Earnings this year, during the next fiscal year budget process the WPCA budget would be evaluated as a whole to keep the rates as low as possible. Ms. Pires stated the resolution represents 9-months of the fulltime salary. The annual salary is \$79,000, (an entry level civil engineer with 1-2 years experience) not including benefits. Benefits are \$20,000 plus FICA. The next item on this agenda represents the medical component.

Mr. Smeriglio confirmed the Civil Engineer position has been advertised, no one has applied to date but the deadline has not been met yet. (Mr. Scinto arrived at 7:18 p.m.) Mr. Smeriglio indicated for Ms. Tesoro the list of projects included in the capital plan are the Engineering Department's projects referred to earlier at this meeting. The drainage swale projects originate from resident complaints, the roadway paving program includes evaluation of the sewer system as well. If there are any pipes that need repaired they need to do so before the road is paved. The State mandated sewer system evaluation involves cameraing the system, 15 current projects have resulted from the current evaluation with more to come as they further evaluate the rest of the system. This is a lot of additional work for the existing engineers. This position will be requested during the 2015-2016 budget process.

Ms. Pires explained WPCA is also maintaining all of the new lines from the additional sewer users added to the sewer system due to the completion of the Jog Hill and North Nichols sewer projects. Mr. Smeriglio further explained the Assistant Sewer Administrator is responsible for the operations of the Sewer Department, maintaining the pumps and sewer lines, not the additional 15 engineered projects, both positions are needed. The Assistant Sewer Administrator is not an engineer. Ms Pires indicated they would have come forward with a request for a temporary position if that was what was needed. That is not the case.

Mr. Smeriglio indicated what impacts the sewer user rate the most is the rate the Bridgeport WPCA imposes on the Town. Mr. Smeriglio will have to evaluate the overall budget to keep the rates as low as possible. Mr. Massaro stated this supplemental would not impact the rates at all for this year. Ms. Pires stated the WPCA reimburses a small portion of the engineers, staff and benefits to the Town. Mr. Smeriglio stated they have looked into bringing someone in on a temporary basis as a consultant but the cost of that was double. Ms. Pires confirmed for Mr. Scinto that a position had been removed from

the WPCA department several years ago; this would be a different position. The position removed was an inspector.

Mr. Massaro stated the proposal is the best scenario because it is taking money from the Retained Earnings; it will not affect the rate this year and covers the situation on a temporary basis. The new position will come to the Town Council through the First Selectman's budget or not.

VOTE: Motion CARRIED unanimously.

2. RESOLUTION TC25-125: Moved by Mr. LeClair, seconded by Ms. Llodra Gilman.

BE IT RESOLVED, That \$18,747 is hereby appropriated from the Fund Balance to 0103400-51150/Fringe Benefits-FICA \$3,747; and to 01013400-511151/Fringe Benefits-Medical \$15,000.

The Chair noted the Fringe Benefits account number needs to be corrected to read as 01013400-51150/Fringe Benefits-FICA \$3,747 (this adds the number one in the account number).

VOTE: Motion CARRIED unanimously.

There being no further business to discuss and upon motion made by Ms. Llodra Gilman, seconded by Ms. Tesoro the Finance Committee adjourned by unanimous consent at 7:39 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Margaret D. Mastroni, Council Clerk