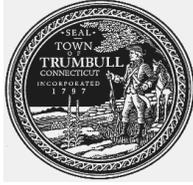


TOWN COUNCIL
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FINANCE COMMITTEE
PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES
MARCH 21, 2015

Chairman Mark LeClair called the meeting to order and opened the public hearing at 10:07 a.m. at the Town Hall. All present joined in the Pledge of Allegiance.

PRESENT: Chairman Mark LeClair, Vice Chairman Cindy Penkoff, Tony Scinto, Lori Rosasco Schwartz and Vicki Tesoro.

ABSENT: Mary Beth Thornton, Bethany Llodra Gilman, and Daniel Marconi, Alternate.

ALSO PRESENT: Town Council Members Ennio DeVita, Scott Wich, Enrico Constantini and BOE Member Susan LeFrance.

There were three (3) people from the public present to speak.

1. Tony DAquila of 29 Valley View Road was present. Mr. DAquila stated that the Director of Public Works had provided the BOF and this Finance Committee detailed cost information with regard to the Town's Leaf program. It is now evident the program is waste of the tax collector's money. The Leaf program cost \$1 million. The Town of Fairfield's cost is \$80,000. The difference is Fairfield's residents are required to bag their leaves. Trumbull's program is neither efficient nor cost effective. The Town officials believe this a policy decision, changing a program to be more efficient is not a policy change. We have been told this decision should be decided by the public by referendum. Fairfield has been bagging leaves for 40 years. Mr. Marsilio did the analysis and would know where the money could be removed from. Mr. DAquila spoke against the leaf program and asked that the program be eliminated and the \$1 million be cut from the budget now.
2. Mr. Ted Chase of 27 Francis Street was present. Mr. Francis is the president of the Trumbull Youth Lacrosse and was also present representing two other Town entities Trumbull Field Hockey and Trumbull Babe Ruth. Mr. Chase spoke on behalf of the three sports groups in support of the new Parks and Recreation Director position. Given the years of experience they have with working with both departments and the Parks and Recreation Commission they believe this new position is a wise investment. Each of the three organizations is a not-for-profit volunteer program run by and is for Town residents. In addition to providing all Town children the opportunity to participate in different sports they contribute to the Town by supplementing the cost of maintaining, repairing and improving facilities. They make sure fields are in safe and playable condition and offer affordable programs to all Town children who wish to play no matter what their skill level is. They also offer financial aide to offset the cost of the programs to those in need.

They are part-time administrators with full-time jobs and need the Town's help in making sure their programs are viable for years to come. Over the past twenty years the courts have defined the responsibilities of sports groups. This will likely vary from year to year as sports related litigation is heard. This presents challenges to organizations such as theirs. This new position will be a great help for them to work together closely so they can meet their collective moral and legal obligations to protect all children from injuries of any kind while under their care and also protect all taxpayers from unnecessary risks and expenses. Maintaining an up-to-date policy is essential to safeguard residents. This new position will provide transparency and adherence to policy and help all volunteer organizations to thrive. They look forward to working together with the new Director of Parks and Recreation.

3. Mr. Nathan Clift of 358 Daniels Farm Road was present. Mr. Clift is president of TYA (Trumbull Youth Association). He attended the Town Council meeting a few weeks ago and wanted to take the time to thank the council for allowing them to continue as they normally would for this year. There was some confusion and concern that the program would not happen this summer. When the show is announced he encouraged all present to attend the show. Mr. Clift reiterated his gratitude and thanks for allowing TYA to continue as usual. He knows the committee will look at all of the letters of support written and spoken at the recent meetings. Trumbull is known for its recreation, Parks and sports, but this is also true for its arts, theatre, dance and music. This was evident by the amount of people who spoke at the meetings on behalf of TYA. TYA is a home to himself and other students and again extended his gratitude to the council.

There being no one else present from the public to speak the Chair closed the public hearing and the Finance Committee of the Town Council adjourned by unanimous consent at 10:18 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Margaret D. Mastroni, Town Council Clerk