

TOWN COUNCIL
Town of Trumbull
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TOWN HALL
Trumbull

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November 2, 2011

LEGISLATION & ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE
MINUTES

Councilman Chadwick Ciocci called the regular Legislation & Administration Committee meeting to order at 7:37 p.m. All present joined in a moment of silence and the pledge of allegiance.

Members present: Chairwoman Suzanne Testani (arrived at 7:43 p.m.), Vice-Chairman Jeff Jenkins (arrived at 7:39 p.m.), Chadwick Ciocci, Mark Altieri, Michael Rappa and Kristy Waizenegger.

Also Present: Chief of Staff Daniel Nelson, Town Council Chairman Carl A. Massaro, Jr. and Mr. Mark Getz of the Greater Bridgeport Regional Council.

By unanimous consent the Legislation & Administration Committee took Resolution TC23-191 as the first item of business.

1. RESOLUTION TC23-191: Moved by Ms. Waizenegger, seconded by Mr. Rappa.

WHEREAS, the Greater Bridgeport Regional Council (GBRC) intends to apply for grant funds under the Regional Performance Incentive Program (RPIP), a state-funded program to encourage regional cooperation, referenced in Section 5 of Public 11-61 (An Act Concerning Responsible Growth); and

WHEREAS, the proposed project will create and develop a regional Geographic Information System for the member communities of the Greater Bridgeport Regional Council and the intent of the project is to jointly and cooperatively establish a regional system for developing, maintaining, updating and disseminating geographic information; and

WHEREAS, the total funding request will be \$1,400,000.00; and

WHEREAS, the GBRC will work with member communities to prepare and adopt a Memorandum of Understanding for the operations and maintenance of the regional GIS;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That the Town Council of the Town of Trumbull approves and endorses the Regional Performance Incentive Program (RPIP) grant application by the Greater Bridgeport Regional Council to be approved by the Connecticut Office of Policy and Management and certifies that pursuant to Section 8 of Public Act 02-239 that there are no legal obstacles to the provision of the services as outlined in the RPIP project.

Mr. Getz of the Greater Bridgeport Regional Council explained that the Regional Incentive Grant is administered by OPM.

(Mr. Jenkins arrived at 7:39 p.m.)

The previous grant was in 2008 with approximately \$8.6 million in grant funds available. There were four major categories funded, including GIS or IT, Administrative Services, Public Safety and Public Works related. The Executive Director of the Council's initiative is a transportation plan; a major component and informational source in transportation planning is high quality GIS data. The application is to be build a seamless GIS data set for the region to support not only the functions of the municipalities but regional planning of transportation or conservation planning. The focus of the application will be developing a land base similar to what Trumbull received a year and half ago throughout the region and to provide update services on a continual basis at a far less cost and at a higher quality then using consultant. There is a proposal for another flight for Trumbull and Bridgeport and will provide that service from scratch for Easton, Monroe and Stratford; there will be parcel data for the region at a high level.

(Ms. Testani arrived at 7:43 p.m.)

The approval of this resolution would be the endorsement of the Greater Bridgeport Regional Council to apply for state funding so that other towns can have the same GIS system as Trumbull, this will allow for even greater regional economic growth. Developers and realtors will have a better sense of the region's economics and will ensure that the investment Trumbull has made in their GIS will not go to waste and the data will be maintained at a high level. Mr. Nelson clarified that Trumbull has a two year contract with CDM for hosting the system, after the contract is up, it will have to go in-house or potentially be hosted by the region. The Greater Bridgeport Regional Council will be able to leverage federal highway funding to offset costs locally and to keep the same level of service Trumbull has. In the long run this program will reduce the costs of maintaining the GIS. Mr. Getz came from the north east council governments, they had received approximately \$800,000 from the previous grant; they basically built-out a 12-town parcel data set and now has that data available on the web. When the community can access this information the area and towns become more attractive to businesses. Typically it is not a short term return. The state of Indiana recently did ROI (return of investment) and it resulted in a \$9 million return on their \$1 million annual investment based on the usage by the

consulting engineering firms. The money does not come in hard dollars; it comes back as more economic activity in the area.

Mr. Nelson stated that Trumbull's cost a year and half ago was approximately \$300,000 bonded over 3 years. Mr. Getz stated the more applications that utilize the GIS data such as acid management, work order systems, the 311 programs the more you get a return on your dollar. The worst thing is if GIS data set gets stale and outdated. Mr. Nelson explained that the town goes through a layering process, Trumbull is currently at the initial stages. There are many advantages to GIS from a public safety standpoint. Trumbull still has data drops and layering to catalogue the infrastructure inventory, but in two years when the contract ends with CDM, Trumbull will either have to invest internally with a new server and host our system ourselves which will require a maintenance cost or the region may provide this service to Trumbull when the contract runs out. This benefits not only Trumbull but other towns by cataloguing data and creating a master list of towns and parcels and identification marks etc. Mr. Getz further explained the GASB 34 reporting can be tied into this infrastructure. It would normally take a few weeks to complete the GASB 34 report but with this technology it would allow reduce that time. Trees can be catalogued, with the right system the town could generate a report and give it to FEMA after a storm, which would in turn FEMA would immediately be able to write the town a check based on that report. Trumbull's GIS system is a very good base layer but the back end intelligence is not in the system yet. Mr. Nelson stated that Public Works would need to in put the detail to layers. Mr. Getz would expect the next flyover of Trumbull would be in 2013. There is room for improvement in the parcel data, they could begin to input parcel easements and add layers for wetlands and subdivisions applications to assist town staff and the commissions in the decision making process. Consultants are great for short term projects, but long term planned projects with a GIS system is best left internally because the town understands the specific needs and conditions that occur in their town. Not only do the towns have a need for this data, but so do the state agencies. We hope to become the model of doing GIS properly for the state.

The Greater Bridgeport Regional Council is applying for a grant in the amount of \$1.4 million; if the grant is awarded to them they would be willing to share the data and flyover with Trumbull and will not cost the Town of Trumbull anything. Part of the \$1.4 Million will fund Monroe and Easton to set up the initial GIS for their towns, a lot of the work will benefit them directly, by spreading the work out Trumbull will get a reduced cost for any of the work the consultants do and Trumbull will be hosted in a year and half. Mr. Nelson stated that would save the town the cost of having to post the data locally and buying servers etc.

Mr. Getz explained that there is not much commercial development in Trumbull, to a lesser degree in Monroe, although in the long term companies that are looking to relocate here will look at the demographics of the surrounding areas. All of the census data is dependent upon local data as well; eventually all of this GIS data does get

filtered up to census data which is ultimately used by those companies looking at demographics. The other towns or cities have not voted on this resolution to date, but the Council does have verbal support from the chief elected officials. Bridgeport and Trumbull currently has GIS, Stratford does have a web presence, with the exception of Easton; all towns have some parcel data. Monroe's being the worst, their parcel data has to be redone. It will be a complete build-out for Easton, but they only have 3,000 parcels and will not be a big job. Fairfield does have data but it needs work.

VOTE: Motion carried 3-1-1 (Against: Ciocci) (Abstention: Altieri)

2. RESOLUTION TC23-189: Moved by Mr. Altieri, seconded by Mr. Jenkins.

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Town of Trumbull shall acquire title to parcels of real property located in the Town of Trumbull, parcels being known as 290 Oakland Drive, 167 Southgate Road, 9 Friar Lane, 11 Foxwood Road, 75 Huntington Road, 254 Stonehouse Road, and 264 Meadow Road, from Trumbull Land Trust, Incorporated for the collective sum of \$7.00 and:

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That First Selectman Timothy M. Herbst, be and the same, is hereby authorized to accept deeds transferring legal title to said parcels from Trumbull Land Trust, Incorporated to the Town of Trumbull.

Mr. Nelson explained that the Trumbull Land trust is off-loading their inventory of properties and would like to give it to the town as open space for a simple \$1.00 for each. Deeds have been drafted and distributed to the Town Council yesterday. The original deeds did not include the prohibitive language on its use; it has been added to the deeds (indicated by the bold language on the first page of the deed language). The Trumbull Land Trust wanted to make sure that these properties were not built upon or sold and to be used as recreational space and open space only. The revised quick claim deeds had just been received by the Land Trust; they would like time to review them with legal counsel, therefore Mr. Nelson recommended holding this resolution in committee until all parties are in agreement.

Mr. Nelson stated that these parcels would need to be added to the Town's liability insurance and is a consideration. The properties in themselves are either wetlands, land locked parcels with no easements or systems structures with no ability to build on them. The approximate total acreage is 40 acres.

Mr. Altieri requested when this resolution comes back to the committee to have a picture of each parcel so the committee may better understand each property as to where it is and what it abuts.

Mr. Nelson and Mr. Massaro stated the Trumbull Land Trusts receive the properties as charitable donations; some were parcels from Bridgeport Hydraulic that no longer served a useful purpose. The Land Trust is not viable in terms of its operations and

would like to see the properties preserved as open space. This list of properties is their inventory of land. The Land Trust could dissolve once the properties are off-loaded.

Mr. Altieri stated that the Land Trust has been a valuable entity to the Town. Over the years, they have done a good job as an intermediary; they have dealt with the Land Acquisition Committee. There have been some owners of properties that have been willing to give the land to the Land Trust but not the town. They have done a good job and it would be unfortunate if they were to dissolve.

Moved Mr. Atieri, seconded by Mr. Rappa to hold Resolution TC23-189 in committee.

VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

3. RESOLUTION TC23-190: Moved by Mr. Ciocci, seconded by Mr. Jenkins
BE IT RESOLVED, That Timothy M. Herbst, First Selectman of the Town of Trumbull, be and the same, is hereby authorized to apply for the Fiscal Year 2012 Comprehensive Driving Under the Influence (DUI) Enforcement Program and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Timothy M. Herbst is authorized to sign and execute agreement and all documents between the Town of Trumbull and the State of Connecticut Department of Transportation for the Federal Highway Safety Program.

Mr. Nelson stated that this is a federal grant program that the state uses as a pass through for the town to receive funds to do DUI checkpoints as long as the town follows all of the provisions of the grant. There are no tax dollars expended.

Mr. Jenkins noted that this is federal money given to the state; noting that the federal government has no money to give away, the state then gives it to the town of Trumbull to do what they should be doing all along.

Mr. Nelson stated this grant is an offset to checkpoints that the Town would have to do as well as the money that would have to be expended over time.

Mr. Ciocci stated that there are attachments to accepting grant monies such as this, which do not serve our state, towns or individuals well.

Mr. Jenkins fully supports DUI checkpoints, but the grant is a pass through that costs the taxpayers money, therefore he will vote against this resolution. Ms. Testani agreed.

VOTE: Motion failed 2-4 (Against: Testani, Ciocci, Waizenegger and Jenkins)

By unanimous consent the Legislation and Administration Committee adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Margaret D. Mastroni, Town Council Clerk