

TOWN COUNCIL
Town of Trumbull
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TOWN HALL
Trumbull

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LEGISLATION & ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE
MINUTES
April 26, 2021

CALL TO ORDER: The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. All present joined in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL:

The clerk called the roll and recorded it as follows:

PRESENT: Chairman Jason Marsh, Vice Chairman Thomas Whitmoyer, Eric Paulson, Joy Colon, Steve Lemoine, Carl Massaro Nicole Satin, Alternate, Tony Scinto, Alternate

ALSO PRESENT: First Selectman Vicki A. Tesoro, Chief Administrative Officer Cynthia Katske, Town Council Chairman Dawn Cantafio, Town Council Members Lisa Valenti, Ashley Gaudiano, Lori- Rosasco-Schwartz, Mike Miller, Kevin Shively, Town Attorneys Daniels Schopick and James Nugent, Human Services Director Michele Jacob, BOE Finance Committee member Scott Kerr

The Chair congratulated the We the People Team who are competing in the nationals today, they are in the top 12 and competed again this morning. He is very proud of them and as a town we should be. They will recognize them at the full Town Council meeting.

1. RESOLUTION TC28-176: Moved by Paulson, seconded by Colon
BE IT RESOLVED, That the First Selectman having recommended Sujata Gadkar-Wilcox of 36 Overlook Place for appointment to the Ethics Commission, Sujata Gadkar-Wilcox is hereby appointed as a member of the Ethics Commission for a term extending to the first Monday of December 2023. (2/3 Vote of the Town Council Required)

Ms. Sujata Gadkar-Wilcox of 36 Overlook Place was present and indicated it was a privilege to be considered again for a position on the Trumbull Ethics Commission. She hopes it turns out differently this time because she really looks forward to this opportunity to serve the people of this town she loves in a way that utilizes her skills and expertise as well as this one does.

She received her undergraduate degree in government from Cornell University, her law degree from the University of Pennsylvania. In the course of that training she took courses in legal ethics and professional responsibility, and learned these topics through a course on constitutional law and philosophy. As an associate professor of legal studies at Quinnipiac University she has incorporated ethics into a number of classes including a legal internship seminar which required a legal ethics component, introduction to law and constitutional law with constitutional and political ethics and American constitutional law. She has also served on the Academic Integrity Board. For many years, she was a Carnegie New Leader with the Carnegie Council for ethics and international affairs and a Robert J. Meyers fellow in 2017-2018. In her prior employment as director of a juvenile law program, a nonprofit program teaching young people about their legal rights and responsibilities she also discussed ethical issues as part of that curriculum. Over the past few years, she has had the privilege of getting involved in Trumbull through her engagement with the Trumbull Rotary, PTA, and most importantly the THS We the People program. Her focus in all of these has incorporated ethics and community engagement. She is passionate about working with others to consider solutions to problems that will build trust in the institutions of this great community. As a member of this commission, she would consider the issues brought before them in a thoughtful, compassionate, and nonpartisan manner and extended her gratitude for the committee's consideration.

Ms. Gadkar-Wilcox stated at this time she had no plans to run for office but would not rule it out. The last time she was nominated she had asked if that was standard asked of anyone else. She has spoken with many republicans, democrats and unaffiliated voters in this town, and hopes her conversations with them stand for themselves. She has always tried to incorporate ethics into almost every aspect of her career and has tried to be objective. Including on their campus as it doesn't lean on any particular direction when it comes to party affiliation. She has to be very careful about being bipartisan in her classroom and tries to be open to all perspectives. This is required of the Charter and would fully conform to that. Mr. Massaro stated his intent was not to disqualify her or any other candidate who has political aspirations but he has pointed out over the years most members of the Ethics Commission are people who were speaking relatively apolitically, who did not run for office or hold a point of office elsewhere. He had also pointed out that some members of the council and the first selectman and her husband had contributed to her campaigns. A conflict of interest is there and wouldn't like to put a candidate as qualified as she or any other candidate in a position to decide whether they would have to recuse themselves on certain matters. Ms. Gadkar-Wilcox noted the maximum contribution accepted was \$100, the original limit. That doesn't equate to a significant influence. It is her understanding there is currently a former first selectman on the commission, knows others have served in office and have run for these commissions.

There is a standard applied to her that she is not sure was applied to anyone else. If there was ever a conflict of interest she would recuse herself, in her capacity right now there is nothing that presents a conflict. Mr. Massaro doesn't want to make it difficult for anyone who wants to volunteer and hopes the commission never has to meet. Ms. Gadkar-Wilcox indicated she wasn't sure how that isn't true for anybody serving on any commission. Mr. Massaro agreed.

Ms. Colon extended her gratitude to Ms. Gadkar Wilcox for putting herself out there again and echoed Mr. Massaro on how credentialed Ms. Gadkar-Wilcox is. She looks forward to her service.

The Chair noted the standard Mr. Massaro raised is arbitrary given that Mr. Walkley who is stepping down ran for office and served on the commission honorably and without issue and former First Selectman Vance has served on the commission both honorably and with distinction. He appreciates the concern raised but is one that theoretical and not proven to be true in practice. He asked the committee to give full weight and credential to Ms. Gadkar-Wilcox's appointment.

The clerk called the roll call vote and recorded it as follows:

	AYE	NAY	ABSTAIN
Jason Marsh	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Thomas Whitmoyer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Eric Paulson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Joy Colon	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Carl Massaro	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Steve Lemoine	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Nicole Satin, Alt. (Not Voting)

Tony Scinto, Alt. (Not Voting)

VOTE: Motion CARRIED 4-2

(AGAINST: Massaro, Lemoine)

2. RESOLUTION TC28-177: Moved by Whitmoyer, seconded by Colon
BE IT RESOLVED, That the First Selectman having recommended Mary Beth Thornton of 40 Sturbridge Lane for appointment to the Police Commission, Mary Beth Thornton is hereby appointed for a term extending to the first Monday of December 2022.

Ms. Mary Beth Thornton of 40 Sturbridge Lane was present and indicated her party affiliation as democrat. She is honored to be asked to serve on the commission. The current chair of the commission inquired to see if she wanted to serve a term, she said yes. Her reasoning is not because she has experience with the police but she feels adding herself to the commission brings bipartisan and a fair voice to the commission. She thinks this is very important with current national events and even in our town, even though we don't have the same problems in our town. She brings a different perspective and a moderate voice. She wants to serve the residents in Trumbull in a fair way.

The Chair noted this position is open due to a resignation by Mr. Zamary and wished him the best.

VOTE: Motion CARRIED unanimously.

3. RESOLUTION TC28-178: Moved by Massaro, seconded by Colon
BE IT RESOLVED, That the submission of the funding application for the Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities of the Federal Transit Administration, Section 5310 Program is hereby authorized, and;
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That Vicki A. Tesoro, First Selectman is hereby authorized as the individual to sign the application and all subsequent amendments, reports and related documents in order to administer and implement the project. (Full Resolution Attached)

Ms. Michele Jacob, Human Services Director was present and indicated the grant is for a new vehicle for the Senior Center. They apply for it every five (5) years to replace the busses. Usually after the fifth year the vehicles go to auction where we recoup the 20% requirement. Usually the state funds up to 80% of the vehicle, but she just found out after submitting the resolution the state will be covering 100%. Ms. Jacob confirmed it is the same grant program the percentage is different. Ms. Katske noted the 80% reference is in the full resolution.

Moved by Paulson, seconded by Whitmoyer to amend the full resolution to read as, "100%" not 80%. VOTE: Motion CARRIED unanimously.

VOTE: Motion CARRIED unanimously.

4. RESOLUTION TC28-179: Moved by Lemoine, seconded by Whitmoyer
BE IT RESOLVED, That the submission of the funding application for the Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities of the Federal Transit Administration 5310 Program: Operating Funds, is hereby authorized, and; BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That Vicki A. Tesoro, First Selectman is hereby authorized as the individual to sign the application and all subsequent amendments, reports and related documents in order to administer and implement the project. (Full Resolution Attached)

Ms. Jacob Human Services Director was present and indicated she applies this grant annually, it covers the bus drivers' operating expenses for any service offered that are not transportation to and from the Senior Center. The amount is \$58,000 over a two (2) year period. Usually there is a 50% match but the state is matching 100% this year.

The Chair confirmed the percentage is not stated in the resolution and the resolution does not need to be amended. It was confirmed neither this or the previous resolution needs to be emergency legislation.

VOTE: Motion CARRIED unanimously.

5. RESOLUTION TC28-180: Moved by Scinto, seconded by Colon
BE IT RESOLVED, That Antinozzi Associates is hereby approved as the architect for the Middlebrook School Roof project as recommended by the Middlebrook Elementary School Roof Building Committee.

Mr. Vincent DeGennarro of the Building Committee was present.

Mr. Whitmoyer moved and seconded by Paulson to ENTER into Executive Session. Attorney Nugent stated this was a RFQ for qualifications, it was not a matter based on a low bid process. The Chair asked if there would be any questions regarding the terms of the RFQ, hearing none it was not necessary to go into Executive Session.

Mr. Vincent DeGennarro of the Building Committee was present and indicated the building committee had their first meeting on March 17. The goal of the committee is to put a new roof on the Middlebrook School. Being new to the process they got a late start.

The committee contacted the Town Purchasing Agent Kevin Bova and he gave them a list of approved vendors for an architectural development of a RFP. Out of the list of five (5) they selected three (3).

At the following meeting on March 24, they interviewed in Executive Session each one of the vendors. They all gave a presentation of their capabilities; all had done work for the town in various projects. After which there was a discussion of who they thought were the best of the three (3) when they narrowed it down to two (2). The following week of March 31, they had cost information from two of the vendors. After talking through those and the abilities of each vendor, having interviewed them as well as them talking about what they had done for the town and their experience levels they selected Antinozzi by a 6-1 vote of the committee.

It was their understanding there would be no contract until the council approves the selection. Antinozzi started work on the project to develop the RFP. They anticipate having the magnitude of cost of the project potentially on the 28th. Antinozzi also went through the list of logistics of the project, consequently he has done some work on the project to get the roof done by the end of the summer.

The most important reason why they selected this vendor is he gave a “not-to-exceed” number for the project and in addition he did a more complete detail on the follow-up costs while the other vendor gave them an ala carte approach with no firm final figure. In addition to that, they knew the other vendor through the purchasing agent the other vendor is very busy in the summer and we would probably be the “b” team. They were not comfortable with that and it would require more coordination on their part. They had done work on other Trumbull projects and the town was pleased with them and they had more experience with roofs. They were not the lowest but the other option was an ala carte bid and never got a full development of a bid.

VOTE: Motion CARRIED unanimously.

6. RESOLUTION TC28-181: Moved by Colon, seconded by Whitmoyer
BE IT RESOLVED, That the Trumbull Veterans & First Responders Center Building Committee final plans, specifications and estimated costs are hereby approved.

The Chair noted Mr. Wiles could not be at this meeting to present and had intended to upload the full site plan to the cloud, but due to technology that didn't happen. The intent is to get the full plan to the Council before the full council meeting. Mr. Wiles will present at the full council meeting.

Ms. Thornton, the Vice-Chair of the Building Committee noted Mr. Wiles had forwarded a large file containing the plans and specs but didn't get to where it needed to be because of the form it was in. It was her understanding that it was posted on the town website on Friday and didn't know until this evening that it hadn't been. Mr. Wiles will be sending the file to the webmaster to post tomorrow morning. She apologized, it was through no one's fault it wasn't posted.

The Chair asked if there were questions regarding the plans to email them to Chairman Cantafio, Mrs. Thornton or himself so they can be given to Mr. Wiles before the full council meeting.

Moved by Massaro, seconded by Lemoine to pass without recommendation.

VOTE: Motion CARRIED unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business and upon motion made by Paulson, seconded by Colon the L&A Committee adjourned by unanimous consent at 7:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Margaret D. Mastroni
Town Council Clerk

FULL RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION TC28-178:

Whereas, the Federal Transit Administration Section 5310 Program, Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities, offers grants through the State of Connecticut, Department of Transportation; and

Whereas, funds may be used to finance capital expenses not exceeding 80% of the cost; and

Whereas, the Town of Trumbull will submit an application for traditional funding to purchase an accessible bus, replacing an older one.

Therefore, the Trumbull Town Council authorizes the submission of the funding application for the Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities, Vicki A. Tesoro, First Selectman, as the individual authorized to sign the application and all subsequent amendments, reports and related documents in order to administer and implement the project.

RESOLUTION TC28-179:

Whereas, the Federal Transit Administration Section 5310 Program, Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities, offers grants through the State of Connecticut, Department of Transportation; and

Whereas, grants are to be used for capital and operating expenses for public transportation services and alternatives beyond those required by the ADA, designed to assist seniors and individuals with disabilities; and

Whereas, grants cannot exceed \$58,000 and shall be used for salary, maintenance and fuel; and

Whereas, the Town of Trumbull will submit an application for funding to enhance Senior Center transportation services by filling in the gaps in public transportation in Trumbull by going beyond services required by the ADA, servicing eligible riders not within a three-quarter mile of a bus stop.

Therefore, the Trumbull Town Council authorizes the submission of the funding application for the Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities, Vicki A. Tesoro, First Selectman, as the individual authorized to sign the application and all subsequent amendments, reports and related documents in order to administer and implement the project.

