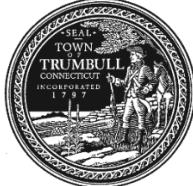


Town Council
Town of Trumbull
CONNECTICUT
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TOWN HALL
Trumbull

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MAY 8, 2025
FY 2025-2026 BUDGET VOTING SESSION
MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Massaro called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. All present joined in a moment of silence and the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL: The clerk called the roll and recorded it as follows:

<u>PRESENT:</u>	Mary Isaac	Ann Sather	Jason Marsh
	Jennifer Winschel	John Foreman	Joe Pifko
	Tony Scinto	Bill Mecca	Steve Lemoine
	Anthony Dorsey	Richard Wolf	Scott Wich
	Ashley Gaudiano	Carl Massaro	Veronica Lenzen
	Nicole Satin	Michael Colohan	Mike Buswell
	Kevin Shively (via Zoom)		

ABSENT: Kelly Mallozzi, Joy Colon

ALSO PRESENT: First Selectman Vicki A. Tesoro, Chief Administrative Officers Cynthia Katske and Kathleen McGannon, Town Attorney Daniel Schopick

1. RESOLUTION TC30-143: Moved by Dorsey, seconded by Lenzen
BE IT RESOLVED, That the annual budget for the Town of Trumbull for fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025 and ending June 30, 2026, as recommended by the Board of Finance and amended by the Town Council, be and the same is hereby adopted and that the sums stated therein as amended for their respective purposes be and the same are hereby appropriated.

The Chair noted the BOF recommended budget is \$225,106,027 and explained under the Town Charter the Town Council can reduce any line item in part or in full by a majority of the Council who are present and voting, however, additions to the budget require a 2/3 affirmative vote of the full Council, (14 affirmative votes), only to the extent that such items were included in the budget proposed by the First Selectman and any increase shall

not exceed the amount of said item in the budget proposed by the First Selectman.

The Town Council reviewed the budget department by department and the following motions and votes are as follows:

01 General Government

Technology

01012600-581888 – Capital Outlay

Moved by Satin, seconded by Gaudiano to increase 01012600-581888 – Capital Outlay By \$40,750.

Councilman Satin explained the department head was going to come back during the fiscal year for a supplemental and would like to see it transparent in the budget.

William Chin, Director of Technology explained:

- The funds allocated in Capital Outlay for the replacement of laptops and wireless access points were removed by the BOF and asked him to make it a supplemental appropriation.
- It would be easier for his department to have it in the budget because the replacement of workstations and laptops is important for the Windows 10 upgrade which expires/end of life this October and have to make the purchase of additional laptops to be ahead of that expiration to stay up to date with the desktop software.
- The wireless access points' end of support is July 2026, which does not leave a lot of time in next year's fiscal budget to purchase, acquire and install the second half of those access points.
- \$15,000 will get them half of what is needed for those access points.
- At some point, he would either come for a supplemental appropriation on the remainder of \$15,000 or in speaking with the Finance Director, would allow an early purchase prior to July of 2026, so they can finish that project.

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

	Aye	Nay	Abstain
Mike Buswell	✓		
Mary Isaac	✓		
Michael Colohan	✓		
Bill Mecca	✓		
Ann Sather	✓		
Jennifer Winschel	✓		
Veronica Lenzen	✓		
Richard Wolf	✓		
Jason Marsh	✓		
Anthony Dorsey	✓		
Ashley Gaudiano	✓		
Carl Massaro	✓		
John Foreman	✓		

Joe Pifko	✓		
Scott Wich	✓		
Steve Lemoine	✓		
Tony Scinto		✓	
Kevin Shively	✓		
Nicole Satin	✓		

VOTE: Motion CARRIED 18-1 (AGAINST: Scinto)

NEW TECHNOLOGY TOTAL - \$1,470,024

06 Education

- Councilman Gaudiano acknowledged the parents at this meeting and their advocacy for rugby. Many of the parents had emailed the Council for their support. She explained the control of rugby does not sit with the Council, the Council votes on the BOE budget and what the BOE and Dr. Semmel choose to do with that is up to them and encouraged the parents to continue to advocate for the support of the BOE and superintendent. She extended her gratitude to them for their emails.
- Councilman Marsh noted that the Council is voting to approve the BOF increase of \$600,000 and hopes the BOE fulfills its stated promise to look for cost efficiencies, particularly with the bussing and other areas, to help offset some of the bus going forward.
- The Chair explained by state statute, the BOE, once its budget is appropriated, can realign its expenditures as it sees necessary, and we've always, over the years, had great confidence that our BOE and superintendents do the best they can for our students, teachers and administrators. It's quite a bit of money that they're charged with. We hope and expect that they'll do a great job with the funds appropriated.

Education Total - Unchanged

08 Recreation and Parks

Parks

01080600-522205 – Program Expenses

Moved by Isaac, seconded by Satin to increase 01080600-522205 – Program Expenses/Community Theater by \$25,000.

- It was explained the BOF did not have the P&L when they voted on this, and thought the program was self-sufficient, it is not. Hopefully, in the future it will be.
- Councilman Satin supported the motion, it's for the community and encourages multi-generational interaction. Anytime you bring the community together there is value for all.
- Councilman Gaudiano supported the motion noting endless amounts of money spent on sports which everyone agrees is valuable. This arts program is equally as valuable. When it started, it was known it would take time to be self-sustaining, it has only been one year, noting \$25,000 in a \$225 million budget is a very small

percentage.

- Councilman Dorsey noted he struggled with this because there had been several budget hearings, and this is the first they are hearing of this; it was presented as being self-sustaining to the Finance Committee.
- First Selectman Tesoro advocated for this program. She did put the additional \$25,000 into the budget, and did not want to speak to whether the information was forthcoming on time, if it wasn't, they apologize for that. This program is only in its second year. It would like to be self-sustaining at some time and hopes that it is. It does provide a sense of community for those who participate in the program and joy to the community. They did the same production the second year to save money, they had to deal with the holidays in December, which impacted them as well. If the money is not put back in the budget, they would have to come back for a supplemental and if that did not pass that could be the end of the program. Not giving a program like this time to grow is not the best way to treat the people that want to participate and the community members that would like to come and enjoy a program during the holidays.
- The Chair noted this is how budgets grow.
- The first year the program was in the red \$10,000 and the second year they were in the red \$30,000, it could have been because it was the same show. Ticket sales were down.
- Councilman Wich spoke in favor of the motion, noting the value community theater brings to a town and every time someone looks at the town of Trumbull favorably and thinks it would be a good place to live, we all benefit, because when more people want to live here our property values increase.
- It is an unknown how many years for the program to be self-sustaining. It is hoped that it will be sooner than later. They did very well the first year, the second year not as well, which could be because they did the same show. There are many variables that affect this.
- There were more children the first year, the second year they did charge the children \$75 to participate to offset the cost of those paid to manage/watch them. There were 29 children participating.
- Councilman Foreman suggested a motion to reduce to \$12,500.
- Councilman Shively spoke in favor of the \$25,000 increase.
- First Selectman Tesoro explained they had a preliminary meeting for the next production. There is some discussion of trying to find a different location for the show, to give more flexibility as to the show's schedule. They're not doing the same show again, that should boost ticket sales. There was savings from doing the same show, they didn't have to buy the rights again or build another set.
- Councilman Sather is a theater mom, and explained the shows are not a profit-making venture. Her concern is that they must buy the rights, build new sets and pay for childcare and is concerned this program will add to the budget. There is plenty of theater programs available, they aren't community theater programs, but there are plenty available just as there are sports programs that you pay to be part of them. She is concerned this will be a continual expense.
- It was noted the ARPA money was seed money for this program. The ARPA funds dedicated the program were used for one-time expenses. Those funds were never

meant to be for the on-going program.

- First Selectman Tesoro noted she too was a theater mom, and it provides lifechanging events for them, this program gives older people the opportunity to share their talents. There is a lot of talent in this town. This is about a sense of community.
- Councilman Shively noted these votes send a message to the community what our priorities are and holding back on this is sending a message of what is valued and what is not valued.

Motion made by Isaac, seconded by Lenzen to amend the motion to increase 01080600-522205 – Program Expenses/Community Theater by \$13,000.

VOTE: Motion CARRIED by unanimous consent.

NEW PARKS TOTAL - \$3,882,705

NEW RECREATION and PARKS TOTAL - \$4,210,882

EMPLOYEE BENEFITS – No Change

01 GENERAL GOVERNMENT NEW TOTAL - \$29,754,342 an increase of \$40,750 APPROVED by unanimous consent.

GENERAL FUND NEW TOTAL - \$211,017,914 an increase of \$53,750 APPROVED by unanimous consent.

10 ENTERPRISE FUNDS – No change

NEW GRAND TOTAL – \$225,160,577 and increase of \$53,750

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

	Aye	Nay	Abstain
Mike Buswell	✓		
Mary Isaac	✓		
Michael Colohan	✓		
Bill Mecca	✓		
Ann Sather	✓		
Jennifer Winschel	✓		
Veronica Lenzen	✓		
Richard Wolf	✓		
Jason Marsh	✓		
Anthony Dorsey	✓		
Ashley Gaudiano	✓		
Carl Massaro	✓		
John Foreman	✓		
Joe Pifko	✓		

Scott Wich	✓		
Steve Lemoine	✓		
Tony Scinto		✓	
Kevin Shively	✓		
Nicole Satin	✓		

VOTE: ADOPTED 18-1 (AGAINST: Scinto)

The Chair declared the budget adopted and thanked Maria Pires, Finance Director, the finance department, First Selectmen, the BOF, all the council members. It's a deep dive, every year, people do their best to appropriate for the best purposes and for the people who live in this town.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to discuss and upon motion made by Lenzen, seconded by Pifko the Trumbull Town Council adjourned at 7:44 p.m. by unanimous consent.

Respectfully Submitted,

Margaret D. Mastroni
Margaret D. Mastroni, Clerk