

TOWN COUNCIL  
**Town of Trumbull**  
CONNECTICUT  
www.trumbull-ct.gov

TOWN HALL  
Trumbull

TELEPHONE  
(203) 452-5000



FINANCE COMMITTEE  
VOTING SESSION MINUTES  
MAY 17, 2021

CALL TO ORDER: The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. All present joined in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call:

The clerk called the roll and recorded it as follows:

PRESENT: Kevin Shively, Chairman, Michael Miller, Vice Chairman, Ashley Gaudiano, Mary Isaac, Lori Rosasco-Schwartz, Tony Scinto and Carole Hans, Alternate

ABSENT: Donna Seidell, Alternate

ALSO

PRESENT: First Selectman Vicki A. Tesoro, Chief Administrative Officers Cynthia Katske and Kathleen McGannon, Town Council Chairman Dawn Cantafio, Town Council members Eric Paulson, William Mecca, Nicole Satin, Patricia Borghesan, Jason Marsh, Joanne Glasser-Orenstein, Joy Colon, Town Attorney Daniels Schopick, Director of Finance Maria Pires, Assistant Director of Finance Dan Martin

---

The Chair explained the BOF recommended budget was unchanged by the BOF, unless there are other discussion items he would entertain a motion to approve the budget as recommended by the BOF.

Moved by Gaudiano, seconded by Miller to approve the budget as recommended by the BOF.

Mr. Scinto added comments to the May 6 and the May 11 Budget Hearings as follows:

May 6, 2021 – Mr. Scinto asked the superintendent of schools if he had enough money to run the school with the first selectman’s budget.

May 11, 2021 – Debt Service (page 6) Mr. Scinto asked how we have a tax increase if we are getting \$5 million from the state and the federal government and that the First Selectman didn’t

have a crystal ball because things are moving.

The committee discussed going line by line or if there were changes to the budget this would be the time to make changes. Mr. Scinto noted this is a recommendation vote to the Council if a motion is made it would still have to be made at the full Town Council and questioned if this was new way of doing the budget? The Chair explained in the past he had never seen a budget come to the Council with no changes by the BOF and the Finance Committee has not made any suggested changes to the budget during the hearings. The Chair explained he asked in the same way, as he asks for any motion, if they would approve the motion by unanimous consent or if there were changes they would effectively not approve the budget as recommended by the BOF. Mr. Scinto noted he didn't want to make changes at this meeting and will be voting no on everything.

Ms. Rosasco-Schwartz questioned whether the full Council will have to go through each line item to discuss whether or not anyone else outside of the Finance Committee has a change and whether there would be an opportunity to present changes at the full Council meeting. The Chair noted that is his understanding.

Attorney Schopick explained this is an opportunity to flush out issues committee members may have. You could say nothing tonight and have the right to make the amendments/changes at the full Council meeting on Thursday night. Making motions at this meeting gives everyone the opportunity to address those issues. The Committee would accept or reject the change. The proposed changes would then become part of this meeting and would be announced at the meeting on Thursday night. The Committee does not have to bring up all of your proposed changes at this meeting and are not precluded from doing that on Thursday. On the other hand, if the proposed changes are brought up at this meeting it would help in terms of others' ability to respond on Thursday and determine how they would vote.

Ms. Rosasco-Schwartz noted she did propose a change or two in one of the other sessions and they were not accepted, but that doesn't mean she wouldn't bring them up again tonight or Thursday. She is fine with doing it on Thursday. Attorney Schopick stated in the past people have gone through department-by-department asking for changes in any of those lines and are reflected in the minutes. You don't have to go line-by-line if nobody has any changes. Ms. Rosasco-Schwartz indicated she had previously proposed changes that were not accepted and that doesn't mean she won't have other on Thursday as she continues to analyze the numbers.

The Chair stated he would leave it open if people want to go line-by-line they would do that. He asked if there were any changes that people need to make tonight, noting they are not in a rush and can take as much time as needed. The Committee has gone through the budget. He didn't know how this was done every single year, he assumes there were other years where they didn't go line-by-line. If the committee feels strongly about going line-by-line they will do so. There will be every opportunity to make changes at the full Council meeting in addition to tonight if the Committee wants to.

Attorney Schopick stated the Committee could go department-by-department and vote because this is a voting session, and not limiting the committee to what had been previously discussed in prior meetings. He confirmed if no changes are made it would be one vote and the committee is done. He didn't suggest that it had been done before or that the Committee should do it that way he only noted that it could be done that way. Essentially that would be passing the budget to the full Council without recommended changes. The Council will then have discussion at the full Council meeting. The Committee has the right to make a change and the votes would be recorded. The Council can add money or cut money but cannot add money higher than the first selectman's number. Going by line-by-line asking for changes and if there are no changes, essentially you accept it as is.

Ms. Pires confirmed if there is no change to a particular account such as the 01 account, there is no reason to take a vote on the department total. The Chair stated they always voted on a changed total. He realizes this is different from what has been done, but this is also very different because the BOF didn't recommend any changes and the Finance Committee didn't recommend any changes during the hearings, the process of going through all of the departments. That in itself is unique.

The Chair asked if there were any objections to passing the budget in as presented by the BOF to be discussed on Thursday and voted on by the full Council.

Ms. Gaudio stated there is a motion on the floor and would withdraw her motion if necessary. She is 99 % happy with the budget as it is, any changes for her would be minimal at best. The Chair added that they would need be reiterated on Thursday. Ms. Gaudio stated normally they go line-by-line because there are significant changes, which is not the case. The Chair added he also has seen where they have skipped over an account because there were no changes and that is effectively what the Committee is doing.

Ms. Rosasco-Schwartz indicated she would vote no for reasons stated earlier in the meeting.

Hearing no objections the clerk called the roll call vote and recorded it as follows:

	AYE	NAY	ABSTAIN
Kevin Shively	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Michael Miller	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ashley Gaudio	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mary Isaac	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lori Rosasco-Schwartz	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tony Scinto	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Carole Hans, Alternate	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

VOTE: Motion CARRIED 5-2 (AGAINST: Rosasco-Schwartz, Scinto)

**Adjournment:** There being no further business to discuss and upon motion made by Rosasco-Schwartz and seconded by Gaudio the Finance Committee adjourned by unanimous consent at 7:25 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

---

Margaret D. Mastroni, Council Clerk