

Board of Finance Meeting
Approved Minutes
Council Chambers, Trumbull Town Hall
June 5, 2025
7:00 pm

Call To Order

Chairman Lainie McHugh called the meeting to order at 7:08 pm in the Council Chambers. All joined in the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a moment of silence for the Jane Ryan and TPS family recognizing the loss of one of their teachers and community member.

Present

Chairman Lainie McHugh, Marty Isaac, Paul Timpanelli, David Galla, Scott Zimov, Vincent DeGennaro (alternate voting for Rosemary Seaman), Christine El Eris (alternate)

Absent

Marc Mascola (alternate); Rosemary Seaman

Also Present

Maria Pires, Director of Finance; Daniel Schopick, Esquire, Town Attorney, Vicki Tesoro, First Selectman and Kathleen McGannon, Chief Administrative Officer

SETTING THE MILL RATE

The Chair referred to the spreadsheet distributed to the Board with the projected mill rate calculation. Motion was made by Mr. Zimov to set the 2025-2026 Fiscal Year mill rate and tax rate. Seconded by Mr. Timpanelli.

Mrs. Pires reviewed the information presented for consideration.

The following line items were discussed under Property Tax Revenue:

1. Mr. Zimov questioned the increase in the Incremental Property value from \$275,000 to \$375,000. Mrs. Pires noted, in discussion with the Assistant Tax Assessor, penalties have been added to the assessment for I&E (Income & Expense) Reports not submitted on time. If I&E Reports are not submitted on time, they are penalized 10% of the assessment. None are under appeals.
2. Mr. Zimov questioned the gross tax levy. Mrs. Pires clarified the amount on the presented spreadsheet was accurate at \$175,311,063.

The following line items were discussed under Education Program Grants:

1. Special Education Grant for \$37,000 has been added. This is a new grant but it is unknown how the funds will be disbursed.

3. Vo-Ag is being presented at \$1,342,595. They have already received YTD \$1,426,378. This is a result of the State paying a portion of the Vo-Ag tuition directly to the Town instead of the Board of Education. The Board of Education tuition received line item reflects this change. Both revenues are on the Town side, it is just a matter of where it is reported.
4. Mr. Zimov questioned if the new Special Education Grant would be recurring. Mrs. Tesoro noted in the budget just approved there is money to continue this grant. This is a result of problems with special ed funding throughout the State and was approved by a committee charged with rectifying this situation. This funding was given for FY 25 and FY 26.
5. Discussion was held regarding the Board of Education surplus and how it is accounted for in the budget.

The following line item was discussed under State Revenue – Other:

1. Sales Tax Program has been eliminated for FY 25 and FY 26 for a loss of \$800,000.

The following line items were discussed under Town Permits, Fees and Fines:

1. Mr. Zimov questioned why lines have been increased for next year in departments where the projected income this year is down. Mrs. Pires noted more income from construction and also looking at historical amounts.
2. EMS increase is higher because they are adding staff and the billing rate has increased. They expect to be covering more calls.
3. Mary Sherlach Counseling has not finalized changing their fee schedule.
4. Tuition (A) is the reduced amount to the Board of Education due to the Vo-Ag tuition being paid by the State directly to the Town.
5. Parks & Rec amount does not include the Theater.

Summary Page

1. Estimated Mill Rate is 35.69, mill rate increase 1.01, percent increase 2.91%

Mr. Zimov motioned to reduce EMS \$300,000 to \$2,500,00 from \$2,800,00; seconded Mr. Isaac. Discussion was held regarding staffing and billing. VOTE: Motion **FAILED** 1-5 (In favor Zimov)

Mr. Zimov motioned to increase Parks and Rec by \$50,000 to \$675,000; seconded by Mr. Timpanelli. Discussion was held regarding the theater group and their funding. VOTE: Motion **FAILED** 3-3 (In favor DeGennaro, Timpanelli, Zimov) (Against Galla, Isaac and McHugh)

Mr. Zimov motioned to reduce the use of fund balance by \$2,800,000 to Zero; seconded Mr. Isaac. Discussion was held regarding usage. Motion **FAILED** 1-5 (In favor Zimov)

Mr. Zimov remarked on the Board of Education and their IT. Discussion was held regarding their use of budgeted funds. Paul Hendricks will be retiring on June 30 and this is the appropriate time to conduct an audit. Budget shortfalls and requests were discussed. Mr. Isaac also commented on the proposed Senior Center and the vote by the Town Council Republicans to request additional funding to do more work when it was ready to bring to a referendum vote. He felt they will come back and cut functionality within the plan and take funding from the seniors. There are other places to look for efficiencies.

Mrs. Tesoro commented on the fund balance noting the money belongs to the people of the town and supports using the \$2,800,000 and giving it back to the taxpayers. She expects the grand list for October 2025 will continue to grow noting some projects that will be moving forward such as the PHA medical facility, Gateway Commons Mixed Use Development, 6 Cambridge Drive and Quarry Road storage facilities and the Lake and Main convenience store. Other commercial projects approved potentially impacting the grand list in October 2026 include 48 Monroe Turnpike (senior housing), Trefoil Drive (under appeal) and Trumbull Center Mixed Use (stalled by environmental issues to be cleared up within the next six weeks or less).

Mrs. Tesoro also addressed the loss of \$800,000 for FY 26 and FY 27.

Roll Call vote was taken to set the mill rate for the Town of Trumbull for the FY25-26 with budget and expenses at \$211,017,914 for an estimated mill rate of 35.69 which would be a tax increase of 2.9%

VOTE Passed 5-1 – (In favor) McHugh, Galla, Isaac, Timpanelli, DeGennaro; (Against) Zimov

Adjournment

There being no further business, motion was made by Mr. Zimov to adjourn the meeting at 8:06 pm. Seconded by Mr. DeGennaro and approved by unanimous consent.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Crandall
Acting Clerk