

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

TOWN HALL
Trumbull

TELEPHONE
(203) 452-5000



FINANCE COMMITTEE
MINUTES
JULY 27, 2020

Call to Order: The Chair called the virtual meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. All present joined in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The clerk called the roll and recorded it as follows:

Present: Chairman Kevin Shively, Vice Chairman Dawn Cantafio, Michael Miller, Tony Scinto (joined at 7:03 p.m.) and Mary Isaac, Alternate.

Absent: Lisa Valenti, Lori Rosasco Schwartz, and Donna Seidell, Alternate

Also

Present: First Selectman Vicki A. Tesoro, Town Council Chairman Mary Beth Thornton Chief Administrative Officer Cynthia Katske, Town Attorney Daniel Schopick, Director of Finance Maria Pires, Director of Economic & Community Development Rina Bakalar, Veterans and First Responders Center Building Committee Chairman Raymond Baldwin and Pension Board Chairman Jim Lavin.

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1. RESOLUTION TC28-91: Moved by Miller, seconded by Cantafio
BE IT RESOLVED, the submission of the Town of Trumbull State of Connecticut STEAP Grant is hereby authorized in the amount of not to exceed \$1,000,000.00 for the construction of the Veterans and First Responders Center on the Kaatz Pond site; and Vicki A. Tesoro, First Selectman is hereby authorized as the individual authorized to sign the application and all subsequent amendments, reports and related documents in order to administer and implement the project. (Full Resolution Attached)

Ms. Bakalar explained the following:

- In the past the grant was capped at \$500,000 that has changed.
- \$15 million has been allocation at the state level.
- It's necessary to gauge what is a competitive proposal.
- The \$1 million gives the Town more leeway.

- The grant will be submitted by August 14th noting emergency legislation is necessary because the First Selectman needs to be empowered before submittal.
- The application will be specific for capital construction costs and will cover a percentage across the entire construction budget.
- It is required the project be shovel ready or near shovel ready. We qualify as near shovel ready, because there is a full concept, a site committed, the BOF and Town Council have dedicated the design funding, and a RFQ has gone out for the architect. The fact that we have a site secured and an architect secured and will be in the design phase makes this a near shovel ready project. It doesn't mean we will go out for construction bid tomorrow that would be shovel ready.
- The Committee that oversees the project is meeting tomorrow for final interviews to select the architect and will immediately go into full design.

There had been a detailed conversation with the legislative delegation asking them to support the application. This will be an extremely competitive application because the grants had been on hold for several years and due to the economic landscape due to COVID-19 everyone is looking for every dollar. We need the delegation's support and believes the conversation they had was excellent. Ms. Bakalar will follow up on their conversation on August 4th or 5th.

The Town has already contributed the \$200,000 as a match for the grant and has also dedicated more. The property has been committed to the project, that has value and other items that are in-kind also have value and there is a future dredging project that also has value and is a contribution to the project. The match is not a dedicated amount, it has to show there is skin-in-the game and that has been demonstrated.

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"/>
Dawn Cantafio	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Michael Miller	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tony Scinto	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mary Isaac	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

VOTE: Motion CARRIED unanimously.

2. RESOLUTION TC28-92: Moved by Scinto, seconded by Cantafio
BE IT RESOLVED, That Blum Shapiro is hereby appointed as the Independent Auditor for FY 2019-2020.

Ms. Pires explained this is for the annual audit required required by the state that the Town be audited by an independent auditor every year. They went out to bid and had

only one bidder, Blum Shapiro. The intent is to go out to bid in January for the next year. The reason the other bidders didn't bid was because they either couldn't meet the deadline or they are not in the municipal business anymore. Attorney Schopick clarified this resolution is for the audit that needs to start now, the bid in January would be for the next year's 2021 audit. Ms. Pires stated because they didn't get many bids for the FY2020 they thought they should go out to bid earlier for FY2021 to give other bidders the chance to bid. This year's results may have been impacted by COVID.

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"/>
Dawn Cantafio	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Michael Miller	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tony Scinto	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mary Isaac	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

VOTE: Motion CARRIED unanimously.

3. RESOLUTION TC28-94: Moved by Isaac, seconded by Cantafio
BE IT RESOLVED, That the Town of Trumbull Retirement Plan is hereby amended.
(Full Resolution Attached)

Mr. Jim Lavin, Chairman of the Pension Board explained it was brought to the board's attention this year of an unfair and inconsistent practice. A Town employee passed away while in service, the employee had more than 5 years of service but less 10. The benefit the plan called for only allowed the beneficiary to receive the insurance payment of \$25,000 plus return of his contributions plus interest. This was inconsistent with the practice of other employees who get a prorated benefit based on their years of service between 5 and 10 years. The board discussed this at their June meeting and were convinced it was an inconsistent practice and thought in terms of fairness the employee was working for the town in an interval of 5-10 years should be treated the same. The board passed the resolution unanimously.

The amendment is retroactive to July 1, 2019 would affect the person who passed away. The board in fairness wants to cover this individual. The resolution is very narrow and doesn't expect a lot of issues with it, but does wish to be consistent with Article 9 and how to treat deferred vesting. This is a housekeeping amendment that was triggered by this employee's death.

Ms. Pires confirmed the employee was a union employee, this individual passed away several years ago but was not eligible because of their age. Now the spouse is eligible to start collecting the pension. This is when they realized this wasn't consistent with other

employees, it was an unequitable way of treating someone who passed away on the job and will make it consistent with how they handle other retirees.

This would not change the contract. The employee passed away more than 5 years ago. The employee was partially vested at the time of the passing, the beneficiary couldn't collect on the pension because the employee wasn't 62 when he passed. He would have been 62 in January of this year, therefore his beneficiary is now eligible. The current policy is if someone passes away and is not fully vested, the beneficiary would only get the \$25,000 life insurance and contributions plus interest as one-lump sum and would not have the option to take the 10-year benefits. The change will allow the beneficiary to receive a monthly pension for the next 10 years but not the \$25,000. The Chair explained on other situations there is a choice available and in this case the choice wasn't offered and is now making the choice available.

Ms. Pires confirmed if an employee passed away at the age of 52 this would benefit the employee because the person would have been partially vested. The new plan would allow the option described in the above paragraph. Either way they would have to wait the 10 years until they would have been 62. The Chair added that the Pension Board did pass this unanimously.

Ms. Pires stated they brought this to their actuary and it was determined it would not be a material impact to the pension plan. It would be an impact of approximately \$2,000 per year. They don't believe there are a lot of individuals in this category because the plan has been closed. There would be a handful of people. Ms. Pire could get more accurate data on that for the full Town Council meeting.

The Chair clarified this plan is no longer offered to new employees. Ms. Pires explained they have interpreted the plan to allow for the option it is just that the plan is not as clear as they believed it to be or should be. The Chair stated this would align to what the plan had been assumed to be.

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"/>
Dawn Cantafio	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Michael Miller	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tony Scinto	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mary Isaac	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

VOTE: Motion CARRIED 4-0-1 (ABSTENTION: Scinto)

Adjournment: there being no further business to discuss and upon motion made by Cantafio, seconded by Miller the Finance Committee adjourned by unanimous consent at 7:28 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Margaret D. Mastroni

Margaret D. Mastroni
Town Council Clerk

FULL RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION TC28-91:

Finance Committee July 27, 2020

WHEREAS, the State of Connecticut, Office of Policy and Management is coordinating the Small Town Economic Assistance Program (STEAP); and,

WHEREAS, grant funds are for capital projects only and should fund economic development, community conservation and quality of life projects for localities that are ineligible to receive Urban Action bonds; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Trumbull will submit an application for funding in an amount not to exceed \$1,000,000 for the construction of the Veterans and First Responders Center on the Kaatz Pond site; and

WHEREAS, an unspecified municipal match is required that can include the costs of design and other capital costs associated with the project; and

WHEREAS, the Trumbull Town Council and Trumbull Board of Finance has already authorized the project and the design costs associated with the project; and

WHEREAS, the project will serve Trumbull and the region's Veterans by providing a home for services including access to health services, job training, social services and social and business events; and

WHEREAS, the facility will be utilized for first responder training for Trumbull and the region filling a current void of an adequate training facility; and

WHEREAS, the facility will support Long Term Recovery efforts due to COVID-19 such as a flu and vaccine clinic location, training associated with preparedness for future events, and access to job skills and services for unemployed veterans; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Trumbull Town Council authorizes the submission of the STEAP funding application for the Trumbull Veterans and First Responders Center, and authorizes 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.

**RESOLUTIONS TO BE ADOPTED
BY THE PENSION BOARD
OF THE
TOWN OF TRUMBULL**

WHEREAS, the Town of Trumbull (the "Town") maintains the Town of Trumbull Retirement Plan (the "Retirement Plan") for the benefit of the eligible employees of the Town of Trumbull and the Board of Education of the Town of Trumbull; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 21.1 of the Retirement Plan, the Town Council, acting upon the recommendation of the Pension Board of the Town, can amend the Retirement Plan; and

WHEREAS, it is desirable that the following amendment to the Retirement Plan be adopted:

- (a) Amendment No. 1 to the Retirement Plan, which incorporates an additional death benefit option for a death benefit payable after July 1, 2019 to a designated Beneficiary of a Participant who dies while an Employee on or after completing five (5) or more Years of Vesting Service; and

WHEREAS, it is desirable that the Pension Board adopt the foregoing amendment, authorize the execution of the amendments on behalf of the Town, and recommend that the Town Council ratify and approve the adoption of the amendments by the Pension Board and their execution on behalf of the Town.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED: That Amendment No. 1 to the Retirement Plan relating to the additional death benefit option to be offered to the designated Beneficiary of a Participant who dies while an Employee on or after completing five (5) or more Years of Vesting Service; and further

RESOLVED: That the First Selectman of the Town, and any other officer of the Town designated by her, be and hereby are authorized and empowered for and on behalf of the Town to execute the amendment presented to this meeting and to take any and all other actions which may be necessary or desirable to effectuate the intention of the foregoing resolution; and further

RESOLVED: That the Pension Board does hereby recommend that the Town Council ratify and approve the Pension Board's adoption of the amendment presented to this meeting, and the execution of such amendment on behalf of the Town by the First Selectman of the Town or any other officer of the Town designated by her.

**THE TOWN COUNCIL
OF THE
TOWN OF TRUMBULL**

WHEREAS, the Town of Trumbull (the "Town") maintains the Town of Trumbull Retirement Plan (the "Retirement Plan") for the benefit of the eligible employees of the Town of Trumbull and the Board of Education of the Town of Trumbull; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 21.1 of the Retirement Plan, the Town Council, acting upon the recommendation of the Pension Board of the Town, can amend the Retirement Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Pension Board of the Town has approved the following amendment to the Retirement Plan and has authorized its execution on behalf of the Town:

(a) Amendment No. 1 to the Retirement Plan, which incorporates an additional death benefit option for a death benefit payable after July 1, 2019 to a designated Beneficiary of a Participant who dies while an Employee on or after completing five (5) or more Years of Vesting Service; and

WHEREAS, the Pension Board has recommended that the Town Council ratify and approve the adoption of the amendments by the Pension Board and the execution of the amendments on behalf of the Town.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED: That the Town Council does hereby ratify and approve the Pension Board's adoption of Amendment No. 1 to the Retirement Plan relating to the additional death benefit option to be offered to the designated Beneficiary of a Participant who dies while an Employee on or after completing five (5) or more Years of Vesting Service; and further

RESOLVED: That the Town Council does hereby ratify and approve the execution of such amendments on behalf of the Town by the First Selectman of the Town or any other officer of the Town designated by her; and further

RESOLVED: That the First Selectman of the Town be, and hereby is, authorized and empowered, for and on behalf of the Town, to execute such documents and to take any and all other actions which may be necessary or desirable in order to effectuate the intention of the foregoing resolutions.

**AMENDMENT NO. 1
TO THE
TOWN OF TRUMBULL RETIREMENT PLAN**

The Town of Trumbull Retirement Plan, as amended and restated effective as of July 1, 2015, is hereby amended as follows:

(1) Effective as of July 1, 2019, Section 11.1 of the Plan is amended to read as follows:

“Section 11.1 In the event a Participant dies while he or she is an Employee:

(a) If the Participant dies before completing ten (10) Years of Vesting Service, the Participant’s designated Beneficiary shall receive a death benefit equal to the sum of:

(i) the Participant’s Accumulated Contributions; *plus*

(ii) the proceeds of a term life insurance Contract maintained on the life of the Participant in the amount of \$25,000.

The death benefit described in this subsection (a) shall be paid to the Participant’s designated Beneficiary in a single lump sum as soon as practicable following the date of the Participant’s death.

(b) If: (i) the Participant dies on or after April 12, 1999 after completing ten (10) Years of Vesting Service or the Participant dies after completing five (5) or more Years of Vesting Service and the death benefit under this subsection (b) shall commence after July 1, 2019; (ii) the Participant’s designated Beneficiary elects not to receive the death benefit described in subsection (a); and (iii) the Participant’s designated Beneficiary assigns the proceeds of the term life insurance Contract described in subsection (a)(ii) to the Plan, then the Participant’s designated Beneficiary shall receive, in lieu of the death benefit described in subsection (a), the death benefit described in this subsection (b).

The benefit described in this subsection (b) shall commence on the Participant’s Normal Retirement Date or age sixty-two (62) if the Participant dies prior to completing ten (10) Years of Vesting Service (or on the first day of the month following the Participant’s date of death, if later) and shall continue for a period of one hundred twenty (120) months. The amount of such death benefit shall be equal to the monthly retirement benefit or vested deferred benefit that the Participant would have received if he or she had incurred a severance from employment on his or her date of death and had elected to receive his or her Accrued Benefit in the normal form of benefit commencing on his or her Normal Retirement Date (or on the first day of the month following his or her date of death, if later).

An election not to receive the death benefit described in subsection (a) and to receive the death benefit described in this subsection (b) must be made within sixty (60) days following the date of the Participant's death."

(2) All section numbers and cross references thereto are appropriately amended to effectuate the intention of the foregoing amendments.

Dated this ____ day of _____, 20____.

Witness:

TOWN OF TRUMBULL, CONNECTICUT

By _____

Title: