

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

TOWN HALL
Trumbull

TELEPHONE
(203) 452-5000



RULES & RESEARCH COMMITTEE
MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 8, 2020

CALL TO ORDER: The Chair called the virtual meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. All present joined in the Pledge of Allegiance.

PRESENT: Bruce Elstein, Chairman, Eric Paulson, Vice Chairman, Bill Mecca, Joanne Glasser Orenstein, Donna Seidell, (arrived at 7:11 p.m.), Joe Gerics, Alternate, Carl A. Massaro, Jr., Alternate

ABSENT: Steve Lemoine

ALSO

PRESENT: First Selectman Vicki A. Tesoro, Chief Administrative Officer Cynthia Katske, Town Council Chairman Mary Beth Thornton, Town Attorney Daniel Schopick, Town Council members Tony Scinto, Lori Rosasco-Schwartz, Mike Miller, Dawn Cantafio, Kevin Shively, Ashley Gaudiano, Thomas Whitmoyer, Joy Colon, Director of Health Luci Bango, Chairman of the Trumbull Veterans & First Responders Center Building Committee Raymond Baldwin, George Wiles of Wiles Associates.

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1. RESOLUTION TC28-95: Moved by Massaro, seconded by Glasser-Orenstein
BE IT RESOLVED, That the submission of the funding application for Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity (ELC) Enhancing Detection Cooperative Agreement with the State of Connecticut Department of Public Health is hereby authorized and Vicki A. Tesoro, First Selectman, is hereby identified 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)

Director of Health Luci Bango explained the grant:

- It is with the State of CT Department of Public Health and will be used for contact tracing, and response to COVID-19 related items within the Health Department.
- It's a total of \$119,000 over a three (3) year period beginning in May 19, 2020 ending November 17, 2022.

- The grant will be used to make the part time nurse full time, fund the administrative assistant and the Emergency Preparedness Coordinator’s hours for preparing the budgets and other tasks related to COVID-19.

Ms. Bango further explained:

- The nurse currently works 19.5 hours. The grant will allow to make the position full time.
- The nurse’s additional hours have been funded by the COVID Crisis Grant which will end in March. They were only given a certain amount and after March the money is gone.
- Through this grant the nurse will do contact tracing, vaccination clinics, preparation for vaccinations, answering questions with regard to schools and employees and other COVID related questions.
- The Administrative Assistant and the Emergency Preparedness Coordinator will be doing extra work with the budget, additional planning (i.e. vaccination clinics and other COVID-19 related responses).
- As of right now local Health Departments will not be doing the COVID-19 vaccinations, only pharmacies will be because a special freezer is required. The department is making preparations in case the State changes the guidelines and makes the Health Departments responsible.
- The vaccines may be released in November.
- The department will outreach to the community and will work with pharmacies to ensure the vaccine is distributed to our at-risk population.

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

	AYE	NAY	ABSTAIN
Bruce Elstein	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Eric Paulson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bill Mecca	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Joanne Glasser-Orenstein	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Donnal Seidell	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Joe Gerics, Alternate	NOT VOTING		
Carl Massaro, Alternate	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

VOTE: Motion CARRIED unanimously

2. RESOLUTION TC28-96: TABLED

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Town attorney is hereby authorized to settle a workers’ compensation claim known as Donna Marie McCarthy v. the Town of Trumbull BOE.

3. RESOLUTION TC28-97: Moved by Gerics, seconded by Paulson

BE IT RESOLVED, That Wiles Associates is hereby approved as the architect for the Trumbull Veterans & First Responders Center project as recommended by the Trumbull Veterans & First Responders Center Building Committee.

Mr. Baldwin explained the RFQ went out with the guidance of the Town Attorney and Purchasing Agent. 15 submittals were received. The Committee vetted the submittals and

narrowed them down to 3 firms, interviewing the firm in person. The Committee voted unanimously for Wiles Associates.

They used the same 7 questions and rating sheet for all the firms. The rating sheets are available through the Town Purchasing Department. Out of the 15 submittals 3-4 walked the site which was important to the Committee and was a strong reason how they came to decide which 3 firms to interview. Wiles had previously done an impressive preliminary design at no cost to the Town. The Town Attorney and Purchasing Agent guided the Committee in a fair and unbiased way.

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

	AYE	NAY	ABSTAIN
Bruce Elstein	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Eric Paulson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bill Mecca	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Joanne Glasser-Orenstein	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Donnal Seidell	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Joe Gerics, Alternate	NOT VOTING		
Carl Massaro, Alternate	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

VOTE: Motion CARRIED unanimously.

- RESOLUTION TC28-98: Moved by Glasser-Orenstein, seconded by Mecca
BE IT RESOLVED, That Jonathan B. Tropp of 27 Salem Road, be and the same is hereby appointed as a member of the Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Task Force for a term extending to the first Monday of December 2022.

Ms. Katske noted that Mr. Tropp would be at the full Town Council meeting.

VOTE: By unanimous consent the R&R Committee PASSED WITHOUT RECOMMENDATION.

- RESOLUTION TC28-99: Moved by Paulson, seconded by Glasser-Orenstein
BE IT RESOLVED, That Sue Neil of 284 Unity Road, be and the same is hereby appointed as a member of the Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Task Force for a term extending to the first Monday of December 2022.

Ms. Neil of 284 Unity Road was present and indicated her party affiliation as unaffiliated. She stated she would like to serve on the committee because it's needed in Town. She grew up in town and has noticed the town has become a little more racist since then. Some posts on social media show a need for this Task Force.

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

	AYE	NAY	ABSTAIN
Bruce Elstein	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Eric Paulson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bill Mecca	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Joanne Glasser-Orenstein	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Donnal Seidell	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Joe Gerics, Alternate	NOT VOTING		
Carl Massaro, Alternate	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

VOTE: Motion CARRIED 5-0-1 (ABSTENTION: Massaro)

6. RESOLUTION TC28-100: Moved by Mecca, seconded by Paulson
 BE IT RESOLVED, That Melissa Usseglio of 48 Oxen Hill Road, be and the same is hereby appointed as a member of the Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Task Force for a term extending to the first Monday of December 2022.

Ms. Usseglio of 48 Oxen Hill Road was present and indicated her party affiliation as unaffiliated. She moved here 4.5 years ago and indicated she grew up in a small town that kept her unexposed to people who look different than she. That coupled with the fact she is married to a Hispanic man she has a vested interest in making sure her children grow up in a town that accepts them and feels good about how they are treated. She has been inspired by the stories she has heard from the students at Trumbull High School and feels if they can possibly make things better, more equitable and fair for people why wouldn't we do that and would love to be a part of that.

Mr. Scinto spoke against a social media post by the proposed appointee. Ms. Usseglio noted that she had posted on social media but would never make derogatory comments about an individual. She does her best to interact politely on social media. She confirmed a polite conversation with a friend of Mr. Scinto's and ultimately removed the post.

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

	AYE	NAY	ABSTAIN
Bruce Elstein	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Eric Paulson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bill Mecca	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Joanne Glasser-Orenstein	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Donnal Seidell	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Joe Gerics, Alternate	NOT VOTING		
Carl Massaro, Alternate	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

VOTE: Motion CARRIED 4-0-2 (ABSTENTION: Massaro and Seidell)

7. RESOLUTION TC28-101: Moved by Massaro seconded by Mecca
 BE IT RESOLVED, That Ashleigh Pascarella of 9 Southgate Road, be and the same is hereby appointed as a member of the Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Task Force for a term extending to the first Monday of December 2022.

Ms. Pascarella of 9 Southgate Road was present and indicated her party affiliation as democrat. Ms. Pascarella would like to serve on this committee, she moved here 2.5 years ago with her family and would like to see more diversity in education, library systems, and cultural programs within the community to make sure everyone feels included. She is very

excited about the committee and believes it will do a wonderful thing for Trumbull.

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

	AYE	NAY	ABSTAIN
Bruce Elstein	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Eric Paulson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bill Mecca	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Joanne Glasser-Orenstein	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Donnal Seidell	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Joe Gerics, Alternate	NOT VOTING		
Carl Massaro, Alternate	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

VOTE: Motion CARRIED 5-0-1 (ABSTENTION: Massaro)

- 8. RESOLUTION TC28-102: Moved by Glasser-Orenstein, seconded by Paulson
BE IT RESOLVED, That Tara Figueroa of 105 Grove Street, be and the same is hereby appointed as a member of the Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Task Force for a term extending to the first Monday of December 2024.

Ms. Figueroa of 105 Grove Street was present and indicated her party affiliation as democrat. She is a first generation American raising her family here. The call to action is personal. She is following her heart and believes Trumbull only has to gain by greater diversity and inclusion across the community.

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

	AYE	NAY	ABSTAIN
Bruce Elstein	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Eric Paulson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bill Mecca	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Joanne Glasser-Orenstein	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Donnal Seidell	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Joe Gerics, Alternate	NOT VOTING		
Carl Massaro, Alternate	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

VOTE: Motion CARRIED 5-0-1 (ABSTENTION: Massaro)

- 9. RESOLUTION TC28-103: Moved by Gerics, seconded by Glasser-Orenstein
BE IT RESOLVED, That Danny Wasinski of 93 Strobel Road, be and the same is hereby appointed as a member of the Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Task Force for a term extending to the first Monday of December 2024.

Moved by Mecca, seconded by Massaro to amend to correct the spelling of the appointee’s last name to read as “Wisneski”.

VOTE: Motion CARRIED by unanimous consent.

Mr. Wisneski of 93 Strobel Road was present and indicated his party affiliation as republican. He would like to serve based on his previous experience on the executive

committee with General Electric’s United Way campaign for 12 years which covered many of the communities in Southwestern CT and certainly heard many different opinions on how the way the world works, he was also on the Board of Directors Housatonic Community College Foundation for 7 years where he heard a lot from many different people and believes a community benefits from hearing from many different opinions and cultural norms that not everyone is used to hearing.

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

	AYE	NAY	ABSTAIN
Bruce Elstein	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Eric Paulson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bill Mecca	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Joanne Glasser-Orenstein	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Donnal Seidell	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Joe Gerics, Alternate	NOT VOTING		
Carl Massaro, Alternate	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

VOTE: Motion CARRIED 5-0-1 (ABSTENTION: Massaro)

10. RESOLUTION TC28-104: Moved by Paulson, seconded by Glasser-Orenstein
 BE IT RESOLVED, That Lincoln Johnson of 550 White Plains Road, be and the same is hereby appointed as a member of the Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Task Force for a term extending to the first Monday of December 2024.

Mr. Johnson of 550 White Plains Road was present and indicated his party affiliation as unaffiliated. He wants to serve because he thinks it’s his responsibility to make this community better in all that it can be. He came to Trumbull 3.5 years ago because it was the closest to Stonybrook where he grew up. As an educator when he goes into the classroom he has the responsibility of all of the students regardless of their background or economic status. When he looks at Trumbull as many towns in this state, you don’t have to look too far to see not all the residents are reflected in many things, the glaring one is at the school district, curriculum books and teachers do not reflect what his children look like. That is reason enough to serve and to try to bring about change.

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

	AYE	NAY	ABSTAIN
Bruce Elstein	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Eric Paulson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bill Mecca	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Joanne Glasser-Orenstein	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Donnal Seidell	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Joe Gerics, Alternate	NOT VOTING		
Carl Massaro, Alternate	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

VOTE: Motion CARRIED 5-0-1 (ABSTENTION: Massaro)

11. RESOLUTION TC28-105: Moved by Elstein, seconded by Massaro

BE IT RESOLVED, That Amanda DeCosta Wagner of 43 Beech Street, be and the same is hereby appointed as a member of the Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Task Force for a term extending to the first Monday of December 2024.

Ms. Katske stated Ms. DeCosta was not present but would be in attendance at the full Council meeting.

VOTE: PASSED WITHOUT RECOMMENDATION by unanimous consent.

Mr. Massaro indicted to Town Council Chairman Thornton the reason he was abstaining on the appointments was because he had not been consulted as the minority leader or the Town Committee Chairman. Ms. Thornton noted it was a poor reason.

12. RESOLUTION TC28-106: Moved by Paulson, seconded by Glasser-Orenstein

BE IT RESOLVED, That RESOLUTION TC28-88 adopted on July 9, 2020 is hereby amended to read as BE IT RESOLVED, That a special election shall be held on ____ in the Town of Trumbull to fill the vacant Board of Education seat created by the resignation of Kathleen Fearon, for the remainder of the term ending the first Monday in December, 2021. The Town Clerk and the Registrars of Voters are directed to establish the ballots, polling places and dates for party endorsement and a primary election, if necessary, pursuant to law.

Attorney Schopick explained the Secretary of State establishes the special election timeline. As was done in 2014 for the BOF special election the Town Clerk sent the information to the Secretary of State's office immediately but didn't receive a timely response. The Secretary of State's Office has taken the position because the special election was intended to take place at the most convenient time, the Nov. 3rd election, the nominations and primary process needed to follow the same schedule. This was only clarified by the Secretary of State's office 1.5 weeks ago.

The tabulators being used for the November election have to be held until December 1st. If there were to be a primary for the special election it couldn't take place before December 1st, therefore the special election can't take place until January 2021. This is unfortunate and no one is happy about it.

There is a legitimate petition for the special election and will be asking for the date of January 27, 2021 be inserted into this resolution. The Secretary of State was overworked at the time due to the primary, the upcoming election and mail in voting due to the pandemic. He confirmed this timeline is beyond the 150 days rule, but that cannot be met as they can't have the election in October as there would not be enough time for nominations and a primary.

Moved by Glasser-Orenstein, seconded by Paulson to amend by inserting the following date: January 27, 2021.

VOTE: Motion CARRIED by unanimous consent.

Attorney Schopick explained it would be impossible to have the special election on November 3, 2020 as the Secretary of State took the position that the process to follow would be to have the nomination convention in July, the Town didn't get a response from them in time to follow that timeline. The Town Clerk sent them the information the day after the resolution was voted on by the Council.

VOTE: Motion CARRIED as amended by unanimous consent.

There being no further business to discuss and upon motion made by Paulson, seconded by Mecca the Rules & Research Committee adjourned by unanimous consent at 7:59 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Margaret D. Mastroni
Town Council Clerk

FULL RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION TC28-95:

Whereas, the State of Connecticut, Department of Public Health, is offering an Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity (ELC) Enhancing Detection Cooperative Agreement with Local Health Departments; and

Whereas, grants are to be used to enhance detection, response, surveillance and prevention of COVID-19; and

Whereas, the ELC Enhancing Cooperative Agreement Project Period is May 19, 2020 through November 17, 2022, and the Total Allocation is \$119,008; and

Whereas, the total funding is allocated as follows: Year One May 19, 2020 to May 17, 2021, Annual Allocation \$47, 603; Year Two, May 18, 2021 to May 17, 2022, Annual Allocation \$47,603; Year Three (six months), May 18, 2022 to November 17, 2022, Total Allocation, \$23,802; and

Whereas, funding shall be used for salary and fringe benefits, mileage, office supplies, equipment and contractual services; and

Whereas, the Town of Trumbull will submit an application for funding to support the enhanced detection, response, surveillance and prevention of COVID-19.

Now, Therefore, Be it Resolved, That the Trumbull Town Council authorizes the submission of the funding application for Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity (ELC) Enhancing Detection Cooperative Agreement with the State of Connecticut Department of Public Health and identifies 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.