

MEETING MINUTES

TOLLAND TOWN COUNCIL

HICKS MEMORIAL MUNICIPAL CENTER 6TH FLOOR COUNCIL CHAMBERS

FEBRUARY 21, 2013 – 7:30 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jack Scavone, Chairman; Richard Field, Vice-Chair; Sam Belsito; Joshua Freeman; Mark Gill and Jan Rubino

MEMBERS ABSENT: Benjamin Stanford

OTHERS PRESENT: Steven Werbner, Town Manager; Lisa Hancock, Director of Finance and Records; Beverly Bellody, Human Services; Michael Wilkinson, Director of Administration Services; Clem Langlois, Public Works, John Littell, Public Safety/Fire Chief; Barbara Pettijohn, Director, Library Services; Dale Bertoldi of Tecton Architects, Inc.

1. Call to Order: Jack Scavone called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

2. Public Hearing Item

2.1 Consideration of the Proposed 5-Year Capital Improvement Plan

Mr. Werbner gave a presentation to the Council and those in attendance using a PowerPoint. He began by explaining the capital budget process and what capital items are. The budget process for the capital plan started back in October and ends on May 7, 2013.

Some revisions made to his original budget submitted to the Council in December include:

- ~Removed reserve for depreciation for municipal vehicle replacement by \$25,906;
- ~Moved to Year 2, BOE replacement of '98 Jeep with 2014 Van \$25,500;
- ~Added \$300,000 in non-referendum borrowing under Public Facilities for the Fiber Installation Project.
- ~Changed replacement of '96 truck with an F-550 at \$58,000;
- ~Moved replacement of Truck #6 from Year 2 to Year 1 due to the damages resulting from the 2013 blizzard;
- ~Removed replacement of Truck #32 for \$155,000 from Year 4 for immediate replacement
(*This truck was severely damaged during the blizzard. An emergency Town Council meeting will be held tonight to discuss its replacement*);
- ~Added a placeholder for the conversion of a portion of Parker School to Elderly Housing;
- ~Added \$29,000 from the General Fund for the design of Level 1 elevator in the Hicks Building in Year 1;
- ~Removed from Year 1 under Public Facilities \$186,340 in non-referendum borrowing for Library expansion and combined this expense with construction costs in Year 2;
- ~Replacement of Station 140 roof was moved out to year 3 (\$30,000) from year 2;
- ~Increased the amount for tree trimming to \$163,830 in Years 1 and 2 utilizing LOCIP funds pursuant to the Governor's budget proposal;
- ~Changed funding for drainage design;

- ~Reduced in Year 1 non-referendum borrowing for pavement management by \$169,713 due to increase in State funding;
- ~Eliminated the use of \$20,000 of LOCIP funds in Years 1 and 2 for paving with all LOCIP funds being used for tree trimming;
- ~Increased the amount of Town Aid Road Funds the \$189,713;
- ~Changed Years 2 through 5 for non-referendum borrowing for road maintenance due to increased LOCIP funds; and increased the Town Aid Roads in each of those years pursuant to the Governor's budget proposal;
- ~Moved replacement Truck #35 from Year 5 to Year 2 and increased the cost to \$180,000 for the inclusion of a wing plow;
- ~Moved replacement of ball field groomer from Year 2 to 3;
- ~Changed the funding source for the Hicks roof – Gym and Level 1;
- ~Removed from Year 2 under Public Facilities \$440,000 in non-referendum borrowing for the Firehouse/EOC replacement and put in Year 3;
- ~Removed from Year 3 the Tolland Green Route 195 and Route 74 Corridor Improvements as this project is included in Year 1 and no additional grant funding is anticipated at this time for any further phases beyond year 1;
- ~Removed roof replacement in Modular Classrooms from Year 4;
- ~Reduced miscellaneous drainage construction in year 4;
- ~Added replacement of the all season dump body for Truck #23 in Year 5 for \$80,000 with non-referendum borrowing.

Mr. Werbner reviewed the different types of funding: General Fund Contributions; Capital Non-Recurring Fund; Ambulance Fees; Cemetery Funds, etc. A slide was shown of Truck #32, which is in need of immediate replacement. This truck sustained a blown engine during Storm Charlotte which would cost about \$39,000 to fix, with repair time in excess of eight weeks. The truck is 13 years old and repair is not advised at this time. This is a front line vehicle. He recommends using \$30,000 from Town Aid and \$140,000 from CNRE funds to purchase a 2013 six wheel International truck, with a wing plow assembly.

Slides were show outlining the FY13-14 Significant Capital Projects: Which include, in part: Year 1: Phase II of the WPCA state mandated Facility Plan; design of the Level 1 elevator in Hicks Building; drainage design (Torry Road box culvert); replacement of culvert and detention basins; fiber project to connect town facilities as recommended by the Tech Task Force; lights and turf for stadium field at THS; parking lot paving/loading area paving at TIS; replacement of 2000 Freightliner truck #6; tree trimming; Johnson Road drainage and pavement; road maintenance.

Barbara Pettijohn Director, Library Services spoke of the importance of Libraries within a Community.

The following provided public comment on the Library expansion:

MaryJo Leahy, Vice President of the Library Foundation: She supports the project. The Library does so much (job search; access to databases). The Library is one resource that everyone can use.

Kate Farrish of 423 Old Post Road, Secretary of the Library Foundation and the Advisory Board: Our Library is small for a town our size. The size issue is felt most with the program room. Programs have been offered, but some have had to be moved due to the demand. The current layout of the library makes it difficult to have programs for children. They believe the expansion would remedy these problems and make the Library a true gathering area. She asked the Council to support this project.

Linda Byam, President of the Library Foundation: The Library is undersized. She spoke of the size of libraries in surrounding towns. She urges the Council to approve the expansion. The financing will not affect the mill rate.

Betty Lou Griffin of 40 Cervens Road, Founding President of the Library Foundation: She agrees with the Library expansion. The elevator proposed will assist the handicap with gaining access to the Town Hall. She urges the Council to approve this project without delay.

Dale Bertoldi of Tecton Architects, Inc. spoke and presented a plan outlining the details of the new Library expansion. There will be an adult quiet wing; a new second entrance; the program room will be enlarged; a larger staff workroom. He added that by reorganizing the main library there could be small study/tutor rooms; the children would have their own wing. The geothermal already installed will function with the new plan. The second level will be accessible by the elevator.

Mr. Werbner continued with his presentation:

Year 2: TIS: repair building façade cracks; Highway: replacement of truck #35 and ten year old field mower; Fire and Ambulance: Ambulance 640 replacement.

Year 3: TIS: removal and replacement of asbestos floor tile; skylight replacement; TMS: removal of gym bi-folding door; Highway: replacement of Truck #63 and ball field groomer.

Year 4: Birch Grove: parking lot paving; TIS: removal of gym doors and replace with electronically operated roll down curtain; TMS: locker front replacements; Fire: replacement of rescue 240; Parks & Rec: athletic court resurfacing at Heron Cove.

Year 5: Birch Grove: paving phase 2; Parker: roof & boiler replacement; Capital Equipment: replacement of dump truck body.

Slides were shown for: The past 5 years General Fund capital contributions. The Town Manager proposes FY 14 = \$141,991 or .27% of Town-wide Operating Budget; Equipment aging schedule; and FY 13-14 Capital Plan by program area.

The debt service for budget year: \$4,735,624: 32% town; 68% School.

Mr. Werbner closed by mentioning the upcoming dates concerning the budget.

Rick Field moved to open the public hearing for the purpose of public input on the Capital Improvement Plan; Seconded by Mark Gill. All in favor. None opposed.

Frank James of 88 Sherry Circle: He has conducted programs at the Library and finds the space inadequate. The size, lighting, and lack of electrical outlets are bothersome. The expansion is needed to serve the number of patrons. The Library staff does an excellent job with what they have. He added that the road crews are doing an excellent job.

Ken Houck of 314 Grant Hill Road: He hopes that the voting place will be retained, as finding adequate facilities have been a problem in the past. He would like to see a task force created along with the Registrars if the space becomes an issue.

Rich Bozzone of 9 Elm Road: He is a heavy user of the Library. There is so much available within the Library, although he feels it is too small and would like to see more space. What is being proposed is long overdue. Libraries are becoming more of a community meeting place.

Gayle Dembeck of 45 Weigel Valley Drive: The Library is a place to go to feel a sense of the community. Even though she uses a Kindle, she finds herself in the Library more. Book Clubs are hot now. It is like candy when you start reading. Electronics doesn't take away from the library.

Bob Rubino of 296 Weigold Road: What is the total scope of the Capital Plan of this year compared to last year?

Mr. Werbner said the Capital expenditure is staying about the same.

Rick Field moved to close the public hearing; Seconded by Mark Gill. All in favor. None opposed.

- 3. Adjournment:** Rick Field moved to adjourn the meeting; Seconded by Josh Freeman at 8:49 p.m. All were in favor.

Jack Scavone, Council Chair

Michelle A. Finnegan
Town Council Clerk