

**SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
TOLLAND TOWN COUNCIL
HICKS MEMORIAL MUNICIPAL CENTER
6th FLOOR COUNCIL ROOM
MARCH 13, 2013**

Present: Jack Scavone, Chairman
Richard Field, Vice-Chair
Joshua Freeman
Mark Gill
Jan Rubino
Benjamin Stanford
Sam Belsito

Also Present: Steven Werbner, Town Manager
Michael Wilkinson, Director of Administrative Services
Linda Farmer, Director of Planning
Glen LeConche, Building Official
Linda Calabrese, Collector of Revenue
Meg Devito, Town Clerk
Jason Lawrence, Assessor
Lisa Hancock, Director of Finance and Records
Clem Langlois, Public Works Director

Meeting called to order at 7:31 pm.

Town Manager, Steve Werbner began the discussion of his proposed operating budget and the impact of the Governor's budget on Tolland, including \$366,120 in grants eliminated with additional dollars for LOCIP and Town Aid Road. ECS funding shows a one time-adjustment of \$83,687. Total net revenue decrease is \$134,608. Grand List growth is 0.20% or \$78,363. Use of fund balance in the budget is up to \$361,042 but not considered a long-term funding solution. Overall expenditure increases is 0.58% for Town, 1.0% for BOE, down from their original requested 3.78%. A list of Tolland measures were compared to State averages including equalized mill rate and total expenditures. It was stated that Tolland has the 30th highest mill rate, but also much lower expenditures when compared to State of CT peer Towns. A list of proposed expenditure reductions is reviewed including, but not limited to: eliminating the monthly bulky waste pickup for 6 months (every other month) for an estimated savings of \$40,560; eliminating the Zoning Enforcement Officer (\$50,860); eliminating the Assistant Recreation Director (\$74,314); eliminating Truck Driver after retirement (\$55,903); eliminating street sweeping (\$30,000); elimination of one year contribution to revaluation (\$38,400). A list of proposed expenditure increases is reviewed including, but not limited to: health insurance premium adjustment estimated to be at the rate of 5% results in an increased expenditure of \$39,384; tree trimming program over two years using LOCIP funds at \$163,830 per year; \$300,000 in borrowed funds for fiber cable to connect all Town buildings. Also, expand the Library into the gym area recommended for a November 2013 referendum question. The Town Manager also recommends putting together a blue ribbon committee to look at overall sustainability through 2030. Mill rate impact and tax impact was discussed. New mill rate is 30.19 up 0.20 mills.

Steve Werbner discussed Finance and Planning and Development.

Finance was reviewed including the areas of Revenue Collection, Town Clerk, Assessment and Accounting. Various accomplishments, goals and needs were reviewed for all departments. Mr. Jeff Johnson from

Quality Data Services gave a presentation on public access to the Tax Collection Database and online payment options. There would be no cost in first year for the program.

The Planning and Community Development budget is adjusted mainly due to the reduction of the zoning position. The Chair of the Inland Wetlands Commission gave the Town Council a letter relating to the work of the eliminated position.

Jack Scavone, Richard Field, Joshua Freeman, Mark Gill, Jan Rubino, Benjamin Stanford and Sam Belsito had questions during the presentation on various topics including the ability to do zoning enforcement in the future; questions and clarifications QDS software issue; State budget issues, among other questions.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Wilkinson
Director of Administrative Services