

Lynn Bielawiec

From: Philip Aieta [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, March 27, 2018 4:31 PM
To: Lynn Bielawiec; abigail jeffries; Benjamin Thomas; bryan hurlburt; Hollie Barnas; Lisa Hancock; Lisa Pascuzzi (Clerk); Liz Costa; marilee beebe; Michael Wilkinson; Robert Green; susan Errickson
Subject: Re: Section C9-7

I had a cordial conversation with Lisa this morning. She told me she was going to do some research and let me know what she found. I told her I would attempt to do the same. I was somewhat surprised by her e-mail as her position seems to be that the issue is not going anywhere as there are nothing but obstacles in the way including big expenses involved. The referendum has always had the mil rate in the question presented to the voters. Once adopted the rate has never changed. I am now wondering the rational behind having this language in the Charter. If the Council, after the vote, adopts a different mil rate then why have a referendum in the first place. How do you explain to the voters of Tolland that their vote was nullified? Where is the statues in regards to this? Issues of substantial changes to revenue between the time of referendum and the setting of the mil rate [WHICH HAS BEEN APPROVED BY THE VOTERS] would require another referendum. Paying a lawyer at this point is unnecessary as we can research the statues and get specific section that may clarify this. My position on this is that the voters of Tolland, once voting on a budget and mil rate, should be respected. I do not want to delay this process but if we are spending time on the spelling of mil I think this issue needs further research and discussion and not reasons why it can not be fixed.

On Tuesday, March 27, 2018 1:29 PM, Lynn Bielawiec <Lbielawiec@tolland.org> wrote:

Good afternoon, please see email below.

*Lynn Bielawiec
Executive Assistant
Town Manager's Office
Town of Tolland
21 Tolland Green
Tolland, CT 06084
(p) 860-871-3662
(f) 860-871-3663*

From: Sue Errickson [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, March 27, 2018 12:54 PM
To: Lynn Bielawiec
Cc: marilee beebe
Subject: Fwd: Section C9-7

Please post..and send to commissioners.....thank you

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: Lisa Hancock <l Hancock@tolland.org>
Date: March 27, 2018 at 10:10:25 AM EDT
To: marilee beebe [REDACTED] susan Errickson

Cc: Michael Wilkinson <mwilkinson@tolland.org>

Subject: Section C9-7

Good Morning,

Phil Aieta contacted me regarding Section C9-7. His concern is that he feels that the Town Council should not be able to adopt a mill rate any different than what is on the referendum and that the referendum should adopt the mill rate.

From the best of my knowledge, State Statutes require the governing authority set the mill rate. I think there are different Statutes as they relate to Councils, Board of Selectman and Boards of Finance and I think they refer to them setting the mill rate. At this point we are very far in the process and I do not know if there is sufficient time to research the information. Also we would more than likely have to get the legal opinion from our Attorney which could be very costly to do such research.

As I had try to explain, there are situations where after all the public meetings, etc. on the budget and the timing required to get the proposed budget to referendum that the impact on the mill rate can possibly change. Over the years we have never in this Town have had to change the mill rate vs. what was proposed in the referendum. During the month of March the Town presents information to the public regarding the budget. There are several meetings with all the initial revenue estimates being used to try to provide the estimated impact on the mill rate. There is always a possibility after all of these meetings and the referendum that there could be changes to the grand list due to adjustments allowed by the Board of Assessment Appeals process or other revenues sources that could substantially impact the original estimate that could not have been known or provided at the time of the presentations. The referendum has legal requirements for being posted and advertised which makes it difficult to change information mid-stream. When we compile our estimates to create the mill rate we try to use the best information that we have available. Some Towns in CT that have referendums try to provide the estimated impact on the mill but do not include the mill rate in the language of the referendum question because of the possible changes. I believe State Statute requires the Governing Authority to set a mill rate that will cover the expenditure budget.

If you feel that this is a change that the Commission would like to address this late in the process then please advise so I can see if we can obtain the necessary legal research and also if the Commission would approve the associated cost which could possibly be substantial if significant hours need to be spent on the research. I do not know how long it will take and that could possibly delay your final draft. I would need to ask our Attorney as to what she would think it would take for timing.

Lisa A. Hancock, CPFO, M.P.A.
21 Tolland Green
Tolland, CT 06084
Phone: 860-871-3658
Fax: 860-871-3663