

MINUTES
Town Council
Town of East Greenwich
Special Session
May 11, 2016 @ 6:00pm
Swift Community Center, 121 Peirce Street, East Greenwich, RI 02818

Town Council Present: M. Isaacs, S. Cienki, M. Schwager, W. Stone, S. Todd

Town Staff Present: T. Coyle, III, K. Benoit, L. Botello, J. Duarte, W. Schmidle, E. McAndrew, C. Bradley, R. McGillivray, S. Brown, S. Cirella, L. Bourbonnais, L. Anthony-Hitchen

Others: V. Mercurio, C. Mark, M. Fain, D. Osborne, G. Wilcox

1. General Discussion and Adoption of FY 2017 Budget

The Town's tax appropriation amount to the Schools, based on the amount of fund balance being allocated from their surplus in the West Bay Healthcare account, was discussed.

Councilor Stone moved to increase the amount of appropriations to the Schools from the amount that was reflected in the Town Manager's budget by \$86,000, seconded by Councilor Schwager.

After further comments by Council members, a lengthy discussion followed about the list of capital improvement projects for the schools as presented by the Building and Facilities Committee. The fluctuation of debt payments for bonds was reviewed. The time line for going forward to prepare for projects in the summer of 2017 and funds to pay for the replacement of the turf field was discussed. The curb stop at Cole and the installation of a control valve at the high school shall be reconsidered and moved to the School to be paid for by bond money, which exists due to efficiencies found during construction on other projects. Using school bond money to resurface tennis courts will be addressed to identify if it is eligible for RIDE reimbursement.

Tricia Colgan voiced her concerns over the entrance to Hanaford and why it is not done yet to which Dr. Mercurio explained the project needs to be resubmitted to RIDE for approval since the initial approval lapsed.

Council provided additional comments related to the use of the school's surplus funds for capital projects, avoiding structural deficits, reasons for their increased budget, lack of progression on IT consolidation and the maintenance of effort clause.

Council voted 4-1 with VP Cienki voting no, motion carried.

Councilor Stone moved to remove \$4,600 from the Town's budget for the curb stop and control valve, seconded by Councilor Todd. Voted 5-0 all in favor, motion carried

Councilor Todd moved to reduce the amount to the Animal Protection League from \$9,000 to \$6,000, seconded by VP Cienki. Discussed and voted 2- 3 with Councilor Todd and VP Cienki voting aye and President Isaacs, Councilor Stone and Councilor Schwager voting no, motion failed.

Councilor Stone moved to reduce the amount to the Animal Protection League from \$9,000 to \$7,500, seconded by Councilor Schwager. Discussed and voted 2-3 with Councilor Stone and Councilor Schwager voting aye and President Isaacs, VP Cienki and Councilor Todd voting no, motion failed.

Councilor Todd moved to reduce the amount to the Animal Protection League from \$9,000 to \$7,000, seconded by VP Cienki. Voted 2-3 with Councilor Todd and VP Cienki voting aye and President Isaacs, Councilor Stone and Councilor Schwager voting no, motion failed.

Councilor Stone moved to reconsider the previous motion to reduce the amount to the Animal Protection League from \$9,000 to \$7,500, seconded by Councilor Schwager. Voted 4-1 with President Isaacs voting no, motion carried.

Councilor Stone moved to reduce the amount to the Animal Protection League from \$9,000 to \$7,500, seconded by Councilor Schwager. Voted 3-2 with Councilor Stone, Councilor Schwager and Councilor Todd voting aye and President Isaacs and VP Cienki voting no, motion carried.

Councilor Todd moved to add \$2,000 to the Main Street Association. The motion died for lack of a second.

General discussion followed on reallocating funds to the remaining organizations.

Councilor Stone moved to increase the grant to the East Greenwich Chamber of Commerce from \$6,000 to \$7,500, seconded by Councilor Todd. Discussed and voted 5-0 all in favor, motion carried.

Previous discussions about the IT budget, including capital, were revisited.

Councilor Todd moved to reduce the software maintenance line item by \$2,280 and to add that amount to the line item Website, seconded VP Cienki. Voted 5-0 all in favor, motion carried.

The Novus Agenda software program was explained as a scalable tool for Town, School and all Boards and Commissions. The investment includes a subscription and installation over 2 years and the recurring annual expense could be shared between both budgets.

Councilor Stone moved to remove from Capital the Employee Self-Service Module reducing the budget by \$9,755, seconded by Councilor Todd. Voted 5-0 all in favor, motion carried.

VP Cienki moved to remove from Capital the Citizen Self-Service Module reducing the budget by \$10,463, seconded by Councilor Stone. Voted 5-0 all in favor, motion carried.

Councilor Schwager moved to add \$20,000 to Capital Expenditures specifically for Novus Agenda, seconded by Councilor Todd. Voted 5-0 all in favor, motion carried.

Councilor Stone moved to increase the Equipment Lease line item by \$1,000 for an additional copier in Finance, seconded by Councilor Todd. Voted 5-0 all in favor, motion carried.

Ms. Hitchen presented recommendations from the Cove Commission and Catherine Bradley on increasing mooring fees for residents, non-residents and commercial mooring holders which have not been increased since 2002.

VP Cienki moved to raise the fees according to the recommendation of the Cove Commission to increase the residential mooring fee to \$175, non-residential mooring fee to \$350 and to leave Commercial mooring fee alone, seconded by Councilor Schwager. After further discussion including the idea of increasing the cost for dinghy racks, it was voted 4-1 with Councilor Todd voting no, motion carried.

Councilor Stone moved to raise the line item for Mooring Fees revenue by \$2,070, seconded by VP Cienki. Voted 4-1 with Councilor Todd voting no, motion carried.

As a follow up to a previous discussion on dredging and Council's request for more information, Ms. Hitchen and Ms. Bourbonnais presented information on waterfront plans in six comparable communities.

VP Cienki moved to reallocate \$30,000 in Capital from Dredging to the Waterfront Master Plan, seconded by Councilor Stone. Voted 5-0 with all in favor, motion carried.

Discussion continued regarding potential uses for the \$30,000; specifically areas related to the Comprehensive Plan.

President Isaacs moved to adopt a total Town budget of \$62,190,871, seconded by Councilor Stone. The result is a 1.88% tax increase. Voted 4-1 with VP Cienki voting no, motion carried.

The budget will be presented at the Financial Town Meeting on June 14th. The tax rate could be subject to slight modifications based on the final certification of the tax roll.

2. Approval of the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Town of East Greenwich and the International Brotherhood of Police Officers Local 472 for FY 2016 – 2019.

Councilor Stone moved to approve, seconded by Councilor Todd. Voted 5-0 all in favor, motion carried.

VP Cienki moved to adjourn at 8:15pm, seconded by Councilor Todd. Voted 5-0 all in favor, motion carried.

Leigh A. Carney, CMC
Town Clerk

APPROVED BY TOWN COUNCIL AUGUST 22, 2016