

Prospect Town Council  
Budget Workshop  
Unapproved Minutes  
May 14, 2020

Chairman Slapikas called to order the Virtual Budget Workshop of the Prospect Town Council @ 5:01 p.m. The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Attending:**

A roll call for attendance was taken by Chairman Slapikas.

**Via Online:** P. Murray, T. Graveline, S. Pilat, R. Blanc, P. Geary, L. Fitzgerald, M. Patchkofsky & S. Lusas Kolodziej

**Also, in Attendance via Phone:** Mayor Robert J. Chatfield

There were additional callers online that could view, listen or chat.

Chairman Slapikas questioned if any Council members had any further recommendations as to Budget line items.

T. Graveline commented on line item #5950-01 CCM. CCM had sent an email to Council members advising that the Town's dues, as a one-time payment, would be cut by 50%, but the full payment would be made first, then CCM would reimburse the Town. Disc. Chairman Slapikas suggested to leave the monies in place, take the credit and push toward next year as the Mayor may need monies for other line items in the future.

A request for further discussion was made.

**Town Council:**

**Line item #6050-01 Meeting Clerk:** The Salary Review Sub-Committee met and advised that a change would be made to Meeting Clerk #6050-01 for an additional amount of \$1,151 to increase the line item from \$4,699 to \$5,850 as it was evident, that due to the amount of work of the Meeting Clerk, the Meeting Clerk was the lowest paid; the increase will put this line item in range with the other clerks of Land Use. **Motion** made by T. Graveline, seconded by S. Lusas Kolodziej to increase line item #6050-01 Meeting Clerk from \$4,699 to \$5,850 for an increase of \$1,151 for a new bottom line total of \$16,650. Disc. A rollcall vote was taken. **Approved/** J. Slapikas, P. Murray, L. Fitzgerald, M. Patchkofsky, S. Lusas Kolodziej, S. Pilat, R. Blanc, P. Geary, T. Graveline **Opposed/None. Motion carries.** Disc.

Questions were raised on Reval, meeting clerks and transfers. The Mayor stated that the Board of Assessment Appeals meets in February and March and one in September or more. No definite predictions were made as to the number of meetings.

Chairman Slapikas questioned if there are any other questions for this proposed Budget. P. Murray questioned what constitutes full time and part-time hours. The Mayor stated that Town Hall employees work 30 hours; Public Works 40 Hours. The Police Dept. work more than 40. P. Murray stated that the Council tried to make cuts and there should be no exceptions as to Police Dept. P. Murray continued that Lt Abarzua was hired at part-time but moved to full time. P. Murray suggested to reduce Lt. Abarzua's time to less than 40 hours as this would reduce cost, but also eliminate the amount of \$1,500 for an employee that does not have benefits. P. Murray advised that he did not feel this position constituted full time. Mayor Chatfield stated that he could not support this change at this time. Council members discussed the necessity of the fulltime position, not having knowledge that the position was changed from part-time to full time and questioned if the Lieutenant was in charge of supervising the officers. P. Geary stated that she felt this was a discussion for an Executive Session. Both S. Lusas Kolodziej and M. Patchkofsky commented that Lt. Abarzua's position would be helpful at this time as the St. Trooper 's time in Town would be less. T. Graveline commented that she did not like the way this situation was handled. P. Geary commented that she would like to table this discussion. P. Murray commented that he felt this topic needed more discussion. Chairman Slapikas questioned if anyone would like to make a motion on this discussion. No motions were made. Chairman Slapikas advised that the Council would need to be careful with what goes into an Executive Session at this time as this is an open area.

Chairman Slapikas asked if there would be any other discussion on any other line item.

Council members questioned line item #6200-00 Substitute Staff within the Category of BTE (Benefits Town Employees). The Council questioned if this line item would be available for all departments. The Mayor stated in the past, this line item was Vacation & Holiday and was used for summer help. During this Budget Workshop of Fiscal Year 2020-2021, it was requested to change the name to Substitute Staff and had been done. The Mayor stated that this line item could be used for other departments including the Town Clerk, though at this time it was not. P. Murray questioned the temporary staffing for the Building Official. The Mayor stated that in the past, this temporary staffing for the Building Official was through volunteerism. A request was made to check with the Attorney on this matter. Chairman Slapikas commented that if this situation arose again with the Building

Official, then there would be a discussion with the Mayor. The position would be per diem for a part-time inspector and the monies would come out of this line item.

The Chairman commented that the Mayor has his work cut out for him as 21 pages of the Budget were reviewed and Budget cuts were made. The Mayor has 9 members of the Council that are willing to work with him. Chairman Slapikas commented that he would recommend more office help for the Mayor's office as they are understaffed. Chairman Slapikas stated that if there were no other concerns with the Budget, then he would call for a Motion to send the Budget for Fiscal Year 2020-2021 to the Town Meeting on Tuesday, May 26, 2020 @ 7:00 p.m. **Motion** made by S. Lusas Kolodziej, seconded by P. Geary to send the Budget for Fiscal Year 2020-2021 to the Town Meeting on Tuesday, May 26, 2020 @ 7:00 p.m. This will be a virtual meeting. Disc. Council members stated that they were pleased with the Budget and everyone's cooperation.

Council members questioned the Police K-9. Chairman Slapikas commented that he received an email with the proposal from Lt. Abarzua Re: K-9 Program Expenditure and had forwarded the information to the Council. Chairman Slapikas commented that he did not have a problem with the canine once the proposal was received, but did not agree with using donations for the canine. Chairman Slapikas advised that due to the situation with COVID-19 no one knows what will happen. The Chairman stated that he did not have a problem with adding the canine to the Budget. M. Patchkofsky commented that she felt the problem was that the Council found out about the K-9 second hand and they did not know how the project would be funded. The Mayor commented on using Police Over-time. Chairman Slapikas commented on putting the K-9 in the Police Budget and not Police Over-time, but the Council would need to set the Budget tonight as the Town Meeting was set for May 26<sup>th</sup>. Chairman Slapikas suggested setting \$3,800 aside for the Police K-9. The discussion continued with changing the Town meeting. M. Patchkofsky commented that the actual cost for the K-9 would be \$3,258.48 and stated to take \$3,258.42 from line item #6700-00 Police and create a new line item #6700-11 K-9 in the amount of \$3,258.42. P. Geary stated that the Council is always under the gun and advised that she felt the Town was well covered and did not need a K-9. Chairman Slapikas commented that the Mayor approved this addition as of February. Chairman Slapikas also commented that he was in favor of the idea and felt that there was a need for the K-9. T. Graveline commented that she felt there were hidden costs; extra cost of the vehicle, the cost of gasoline from Prospect to the officer's home 30 miles away and she questioned overtime. T. Graveline requested regular reports to the Council on the cost of the K-9. L. Fitzgerald left the meeting @ 6:00 p.m. The Council continued with S. Lusas Kolodziej requesting to add another line item under Police. **Motion** made by S. Pilat, seconded by S. Lusas Kolodziej to create a new line item #6700-11 K-9 in the amount of \$3,500 for a new bottom line of 1,122,957. Council members advised that they did not feel more money should be added to the budget, but to take \$3,259 from line item #6700-00 Officers and create a new line item #6700-11 K9 in the amount of \$3,259 and to keep the bottom-line total of \$1,019,457. **Motion** made by S. Pilat, seconded by S. Lusas Kolodziej to amend the motion and to create a new line item of #6700-11 K9 in the amount of \$3,259 and to take \$3,259 from line item #6700-00 Officers for their new total of \$685,590 for a bottom-line total of \$1,019,457. There was no other discussion. A rollcall vote was taken. **8 Approved/J. Slapikas, M. Patchkofsky, R. Blanc, P. Geary, P. Murray, S. Lusas Kolodziej, S. Pilat, T. Graveline Opposed/None. Motion passes.**

Discussion:

**Motion** made by S. Lusas Kolodziej, seconded by P. Geary to send the Budget for Fiscal Year 2020-2021 to the Town Meeting on Tuesday, May 26, 2020 @ 7:00 p.m. The meeting will be a Virtual meeting pursuant to Executive Orders issued by Governor Lamont in response to COVID-19. A rollcall vote was taken. **8 Approved/J. Slapikas, R. Blanc, P. Geary, P. Murray, S. Pilat, S. Lusas Kolodziej, M. Patchkofsky, T. Graveline Opposed/None. Motion carries.**

**Discussion: Motion** made by P. Murray, seconded by S. Lusas Kolodziej to approve sending the Resolution of the Town Council following Town Meeting of the Town of Prospect, Connecticut for approval at the Town Meeting on May 26, 2020 @ 7:00 p.m. 'as it is deemed to be in the best interest of the Town of Prospect Connecticut to continue to finance the Highway Safety 2020 Program and it is deemed to be in the best interest of the Town to finance the installation of radio repeater communication facilities for fire and public safety purposes (the "Public Safety Communication Facilities"); as it is deemed to be in the best interest of the Town to appropriate the sum of \$785,000 to be used for the costs to finance the continuation of the Highway Safety Program for road reconstruction, milling and paving; to be in the best interest of the Town to appropriate the sum of \$115,000 to be used toward the costs to install the Public Safety Communication Facilities, design, engineering, financing, legal and construction costs'. A rollcall vote was taken. **8 Approved/J. Slapikas, P. Murray, R. Blanc, M. Patchkofsky, S. Pilat, S. Lusas Kolodziej, P. Geary, T. Graveline. Opposed/None Motion carries.**

**Public Participation:**

Chairman Slapikas stated that public participation was now open and asked that if anyone would like to speak to the Mayor or to the Council to hit \*6 and state their name and address. The request was made 3 times. No callers responded. The Chairman closed Public participation.

Mayor Chatfield thanked everyone and advised that the notice for the Town Meeting will run in the Waterbury Rep-Am and is also posted online. Chairman Slapikas asked for further comments. T. Graveline questioned the Revenue Sheet and stated that the

monies earmarked for Region 16 that the Town received back from Region 16 had not been posted for that purpose. Mayor Chatfield advised that he had spoken with the Superintendent, more monies would be coming to the Town due to COVID-19 but that would not be until a later date. The Council had advised a large amount had been received and should be posted. The Council discussed the numbering system used for this purpose. The Mayor was hopeful to set the mil rate at the Town Meeting on May 26, 2020 and hoped that the Superintendent could give an exact amount for this purpose. Chairman Slapikas asked for further comments. No other comments were made.

**Adjournment:**

Motion made by S. Lusas Kolodziej, seconded by R. Blanc to adjourn the meeting. Unanimous. The meeting adjourned @ 6:26 p.m.

*Jeff Slapikas*  
*Chairman*