

Prospect Town Council
Regular Meeting
Approved Minutes
April 7, 2020

Chairman Slapikas called to order the Regular Meeting of the Prospect Town Council @ 7:00 p.m. The meeting was a Virtual Meeting at the Prospect Town Hall, 36 Center Street with Chairman Slapikas and Mayor Chatfield attending. The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Mavor Chatfield and J Slapikas

A roll call for attendance was taken by Chairman Slapikas.

Via Online: P. Murray, T. Graveline @ 7:15 p.m., S. Pilat, R. Blanc, P. Geary, L. Fitzgerald & S. Lusas Kolodziej

Also, in Attendance via online: Town Attorney, Jennifer Yoxall

Absent: M. Patchkofsky

There were additional callers online that could view and listen.

Mavor's Report:

Mayor Chatfield gave an update on COVID-19 commenting on the Town Hall closing at 3 daily and the offices closed on Fridays. Disc. After hearing no further comments for Mayor Chatfield, Chairman Slapikas requested that Attorney Yoxall continue.

Attorney Jen Yoxall joined the meeting to give an explanation of the Resolution (Schedule A) on Governor Lamont's Executive Orders.

- a. **EO 7C** issued on 3/15/2020 'which provides at Section 5' that "all municipal budget deadlines for the preparation of the municipal budget for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2021 that fall on any date prior to and including May 15, 2020 are extended by (30) days".
- b. **EO 7I** issued on 3/21/2020 Section 13 "of which suspends in-person voting requirements (including referenda and town meetings requiring in-person votes) for purposes of adopting the July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021 fiscal year municipal budgets and setting the mil rate and requires the town's legislative body to authorize the town's 'budget-making authority' to adopt a budget and set a mil rate." Disc. P. Murray questioned if there was a certain date that the Budget would need to be voted on. Attorney Yoxall advised that although the process could change, the vote may be the same day. Attorney Yoxall explained that per the Resolution, 'the date by which the Annual Budget Meeting must be held this year, pursuant to Section 9.01 of the Charter, is extended 30 days, to June 9, 2020'. Questions were raised as to meeting postings; Attorney Yoxall commented that the postings will now be on the website and not in the newspaper.

Chairman Slapikas asked for further comments. No other comments were made. **Motion** made by S. Lusas Kolodziej, seconded by L. Fitzgerald to accept and approve the COVID-19 Resolution Executive Orders of 7C Section 5 and 7I Section 13 issued by Governor Lamont on March 15, 2020 and March 21, 2020. A roll call vote was taken.

Approved 8 /Jeff Slapikas; Paul Murray; Rich Blanc; Stan Pilat; Pat Geary; Larry Fitzgerald; Stephanie Lusas Kolodziej.; Theresa Graveline. **Opposed/ None Motion passes.**

- c. EO 7B T. Graveline questioned public participation at meetings. Attorney Yoxall advised that EO 7B addressed suspending in-person open meeting requirements and allowing virtual meetings; as to public participation, the meeting would need to have the availability of the public to view and listen; but does not require participation from the public in real time.

Chairman Slapikas commented that the public does not have that option at this time; he will take emails. Chairman Slapikas also commented that he will be contacting 'GoToMeeting' to seek a way for real time participation of the public. Attorney Yoxall commented that she will confirm; as with public hearings, public participation is necessary.

Chairman Slapikas asked for further comments. There were no other comments.

A hand out was emailed to the Council RE: Town of Prospect, Assessor's Office; COVID-19 Statutory Changes Governor Lamont's Executive Order No 7S enacts provisions relating to Assessment: Suspension of reapplication filing requirement for homeowners' elderly/disabled circuit breaker tax relief program, (Schedule B). Discussion.

Motion made by S. Lusas Kolodziej, seconded by P. Geary to add to the Agenda Prospect Senior Tax Relief Program. A roll call vote was taken. **8 Approved/J. Slapikas, P. Geary, R. Blanc, S. Lusas Kolodziej, S. Pilat, L. Fitzgerald, P. Murray, T. Graveline. Opposed/None. Motion passes. Motion** made by T. Graveline, seconded by S. Lusas Kolodziej to suspend the reapplication filing requirement under Ordinance #86-11-15-16 Town Ordinance for Property Tax Relief for Certain Elderly and/or Totally Disabled Homeowners, to allow last year's recipients to receive the

benefit for the coming year without recertifying their eligibility. **8 Approved**/J. Slapikas, P. Geary, R. Blanc, S. Lusas Kolodziej, S. Pilat, L. Fitzgerald, P. Murray, T. Graveline. **Opposed/None. Motion passes.** Council members discussed if previously applied and denied applications, what to do. T. Graveline stated that something should be placed on the website and publicized to advise to reapply. Council members asked for applications to be placed on the Town's website. Discussion. No other comments were made.

Transfers:

Mayor Chatfield advised that the following transfer in the amount of \$2,800 was requested to fulfill the contract with the Auditor, Charles Heaven & Co.

-Transfer: #3-17-2020 – 1

Motion made by R. Blanc, seconded by S. Lusas Kolodziej to approve the transfer

From: Ice & Snow Contractors #7050 – 7	\$2,800.00	To: Auditor Acct. #5200	\$2,800.00
Total			\$2,800.00

Disc. After discussion a roll-call vote was taken. 8 Approved/J. Slapikas, P. Geary, R. Blanc, S. Lusas Kolodziej, S. Pilat, L. Fitzgerald, P. Murray, T. Graveline. **Opposed/None. Motion passes.**

-Transfer: #3-17-2020 - 2

Motion made by R. Blanc, seconded by P. Murray to approve the transfer

From: Ice & Snow Salt #7050 – 1	\$16,000.00	To: Community Center #9100-07 Tech Updates	\$ 4,000.00
		Community Center #9100-06 Repairs	\$ 5,000.00
		Police #6700-06 computer	\$ 2,500.00
		Police #6700-03 supplies	<u>\$ 2,500.00</u>
		Town Trucks #7150-01 Tires	\$ 500.00
		Community Center #9100-03 Telephone	\$ 1,500.00
Total_____	\$16,000.00	Total	\$16,000.00

Disc. A roll call vote was taken on the original motion. P. Murray, no; S. Pilat, yes; T. Graveline, no; R. Blanc, yes; P. Geary, no; L Fitzgerald, no; S. Lusas Kolodziej, abstained, J. Slapikas, yes. **Motion fails.**

Council members called for an amended motion. **Motion** made by T. Graveline, seconded by P. Murray to approve the **amended transfer:**

Motion made by T. Graveline, seconded by P. Murray to approve the amended motion: From: Ice & Snow Salt #7050 – 1 \$11,000 to: Community Center #9100-07 Tech Updates \$4,000.00; Community Center #9100-06 Repairs \$5,000.00; Town Trucks #7150-01 Tires \$500.00 and Community Center #9100-03 Telephone for an amount of \$11,000. From: Police Overtime \$5,000 To: Police #6700-06 Computer \$2,500 and Police #6700-03 Supplies \$2,500 for a Total amount of \$5,000. A roll call vote was taken:

8 Approved/J. Slapikas; P. Murray; S. Pilat; T. Graveline; R. Blanc; P. Geary; L. Fitzgerald; S. Lusas Kolodziej. **Opposed/ None. Motion passes.**

-Transfer: #3-17-2020 – 3

From:		To: Fire Marshal Account	
7050-1 Ice & Snow Salt	\$3,094.63	6650-02 Supplies	\$ 2,094.63
		6650-05 Uniforms	<u>\$ 1,000.00</u>
Total:	\$3,094.63	Total:	\$ 3,094.63

Disc. Motion made by P. Geary, seconded by L. Fitzgerald to approve the transfer in the amount of \$3,094.63. **Disc.** A roll call vote was taken. **8 Approved**/ J. Slapikas, P. Murray, S. Pilat, T. Graveline, R. Blanc, P. Geary, L. Fitzgerald, S. Lusas Kolodziej. **Opposed/None. Motion passes.**

Mayor Chatfield advised the Council that a problem in the plumbing line, from outside the building to the furnace room, for the heat line at the Fire House, has been found and repairs will be made in the near future. **Disc.**

Attorney Yoxall rejoined the meeting and advised that per EO 7B, the only real time communication with the public would be for the public to be able to listen and to view the meeting.

Public Participation: None

Guests: None

Chair's Report:

-Budget Dates –

Chairman Slapikas advised the Council that he would like to have the Budget workshop for next week on Monday, 4/13/2020 @ 5:00 p.m. and on Thursday, 4/16/2020 @ 5:00 p.m. The Budget workshop dates of Monday, 4/13/2020 and Thursday, 4/16/2020; both meetings to begin at 5:00 p.m. were set.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion made by R. Blanc, seconded by L. Fitzgerald to approve the minutes of 3-12-2020. Discussion.

Motion made by R. Blanc, seconded by L. Fitzgerald to approve the minutes as amended for 3/12/2020. **Unanimous.**

New Business:

Refunds:

Motion made by T. Graveline seconded by L. Fitzgerald to add to the Agenda Refunds dated 3/17/2020. **Unanimous.**

Motion made by T. Graveline, seconded by L. Fitzgerald to approve the Tax Refunds dated 3/17/2020 in the amount of \$748.62. A roll call vote was taken. **8 Approved/** J. Slapikas, P. Murray, S. Pilat, T. Graveline, R. Blanc, P. Geary, L. Fitzgerald, S. Lusas Kolodziej. **Opposed/None. Motion passes.**

Transfers: None

Resignations: None

Assignments: None

Bids/Grants: None

Correspondence:

Transfer #3-17-2020 – 1, 2 & 3

Tax Refunds dated 3-17-2020

Out of Pocket Costs not to exceed \$17,800 for Charles Heaven & Co (Dated 8/1/2019)

Town of Prospect Assessor's Office - COVID-19 Statutory Changes Governor Lamont's Executive Order No. 7S Enacts Provisions relating to Assessment

Motion made by P. Geary, seconded by T. Graveline to place correspondence on file. **Unanimous.**

Old Business:

Sub-Committees:

Land Use & Acquisition – None

Ordinance- No Update – None

Public Works Maintenance – None

Salary Review – None

Sidewalk Task Force – T. Graveline gave the Council an update advising that though she was unable to connect to the Virtual meeting she was advised that they are looking for temporary easements and the work will be going out to bid.

Town Buildings – None

Pension – None

The Council discussed the new procedures for the meetings, getting the public to participate and moving forward with the new technology. Council members thanked the Chair and wished everyone a Happy Easter.

Adjournment:

Motion made by S. Lusas Kolodziej, seconded by P. Murray to adjourn the meeting. **Unanimous.** The meeting adjourned @ 8:28 p.m.

Jeff Slapikas

Chairman