

Prospect Town Council
Regular Meeting
Unapproved Minutes
June 2, 2020

Chairman Slapikas called to order the Regular Meeting of the Prospect Town Council @ 7:00 p.m. The meeting was a Virtual Meeting by videoconference via GoToMeeting as authorized by Executive Orders 7B and 7I. The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: J Slapikas

A roll call for attendance was taken by Chairman Slapikas.

Via Online: P. Murray, T. Graveline, S. Pilat, R. Blanc, P. Geary, L. Fitzgerald @ 7:05 p.m., M. Patchkofsky,

S. Lusas Kolodziej

Also, in Attendance via phone/online: Mayor Chatfield and Mark Bobman from BRRFOC. There were additional callers online that could view, listen and chat.

Mayor's Report:

-Resolution of the Town Council Authorizing Mayor to Enter into Restated Inter-Community Agreement Regarding the BRRFOC Following Special Town Meeting of the Town of Prospect, CT

Mayor Chatfield advised that Mark Bobman, executive director of BRRFOC would be calling in. Chairman Slapikas asked M. Bobman to press *6 to speak with the Council if he was on the line. The Mayor began by advising that the Town started with BRRFOC in the '80's. The Mayor asked M. Bobman to continue. M. Bobman advised that the Agreement was originally with 8 towns, adding towns over the years and finally adding Seymour and Hartland. M. Bobman advised that prior Agreements were becoming obsolete and the provisions no longer apply. M. Bobman commented that the towns have contact with monitoring operations; tonnage; electrical revenue and outreach; recycling efforts; advocacy of solid waste recycling. Chairman Slapikas asked for further comments. Mayor Chatfield advised that long term contracts are the way to go with solid waste; the town receives a bill monthly; if the town goes over a certain amount, they are notified. The Mayor continued that though the burn plant was built in the 1980's, the agreement was working very well. Chairman Slapikas asked for further comments. M. Bobman advised that the Town of Prospect's tipping fee is \$67.00 which is \$20.00 lower than the market rate right now. P. Geary advised that she had a concern with the length of the long-term contract (until 2034) and after reading the contract, she felt more comfortable as there is a means for the Towns to opt out. Chairman Slapikas asked for a motion. **Motion** made by L. Fitzgerald, seconded by S. Lusas Kolodziej to accept the Resolution of the Town Council authorizing Mayor to enter into restated inter-community agreement regarding the BRRFOC following special town meeting of the Town of Prospect, CT on June 2, 2020 @ 7:00 p.m. A rollcall vote was taken. **9 Approved**/J. Slapikas, S. Pilat, L. Fitzgerald, M. Patchkofsky, R. Blanc, S. Lusas Kolodziej, P. Murray, T. Graveline, P. Geary. **Opposed/None Motion carries.** Chairman Slapikas thanked M. Bobman and wished him luck on the next meeting he was to join. M. Bobman thanked the Council for the opportunity to present the Agreement.

-Mayor Chatfield continued that this afternoon he received the new State Police contract and asked to withdraw the Transfer that he was requesting, #6-02-2020-1, in the amount of \$52,743.58. The Transfer #6-02-2020-1 will be revisited on 6/16/2020.

-Chairman Slapikas asked for a motion to add Transfers to the Agenda. **Motion** made by S. Lusas Kolodziej, seconded by P. Geary to add Transfers to the Agenda. **Unanimous.**

Transfers:

#6-02-2020-2: Motion made by L. Fitzgerald, seconded by S. Lusas Kolodziej to approve the year end transfer for the 2019-2020 Budget #6-02-2020-2 in the amount of \$26,650.00:

From:		To:	
Probate Court #5050	\$ 1,273.00	Legal Fees #5450	\$20,000.00
Street Lighting #7100	\$12,000.00	Asst. Town Clerk #5500	\$ 4,000.00
Public Works OT #7200-1	\$12,000.00	Clerk #5500-02	\$ 1,150.00
Ice & Snow (Salt) #7050-1	<u>\$ 1,377.00</u>	Town Council Clerk #6050	<u>\$ 1,500.00</u>
Total	\$26,650.00	Total	\$26,650.00

Disc. P. Geary commented that she would not be voting in favor of the transfer into the Town Clerk's Office, as she did not understand why the transfer, when two people had resigned from that office. Chairman Slapikas asked for further comments. No other comments were made. **7 Approved/J. Slapikas, S. Pilat, L. Fitzgerald, M. Patchkofsky, R. Blanc, S. Lusas Kolodziej, P. Murray 1 Opposed; P. Geary. Motion carries.** T. Graveline was having difficulties with the meeting site and did not participate at this time.

#6-02-2020-3 Prospect Registrars of Voters:

A request for these transfers were made at the May 14, 2020 Town Council meeting.

From:	To:
Conferences & Training #5150-08 \$ 5,000.00	Computer Set Up #5150-09 \$ 5,000.00
(to purchase updated laptops for elections & primaries)	

From:			
Election Workers #5150-01	\$ 3,000.00	Supplies #5150-02	\$ 3,000.00

The Mayor commented on several items including sanitizers and plexiglass for the upcoming elections. Disc. P. Murray questioned the cost of plexiglass to which the Mayor advised is approximately \$150 per plexiglass. P. Geary commented that a notice was received from CCM advising of available grants for municipalities for computer upgrades that she had sent along to K. Blinstrubas. Disc. Chairman Slapikas asked for further comments. No other comments were made. A rollcall vote was taken. **9 Approved/J. Slapikas, S. Pilat, L. Fitzgerald, M. Patchkofsky, R. Blanc, S. Lusas Kolodziej, P. Murray, T. Graveline, P. Geary. Opposed/None Motion carries.**

-Setting of Mil Rate – Revenue Sheet:

The Mayor reviewed the Revenue Sheet dated May 27, 2020 and printed on 6/2/2020. The Mayor noted the two proposed refunds from Region 16 advising the Council not to expect this amount next year, as some of this proposed amount is due to COVID-19 and cited the following: #23 Reg. S.D. #16 Rebate Cap & Non Re \$488,167.00 and 23A. Reg S. D. #16 Rebate 2021 Cap & Non \$550,000.00. Disc. The Council discussed renumbering the line items. T. Graveline commented on 29B. Cap & Non-Recurring (DECD). The Mayor advised that DECD was an acronym for Dept. of Economic and Community Development and stated that he tried to keep all the grant monies together. T. Graveline suggested to change under each category, the numbering system and begin with one: Licenses & Permits, Certification of Deposit, Revenue from other Agencies etc. Disc. M. Patchkofsky suggested to separate #40. Sales/Recycling to show sales for vehicles and equipment and a separate category for recycling. The Mayor asked to be reminded of these suggestions in November when he begins the Budget process. The Mayor continued with reviewing the rest of the Revenue Sheet and advising that though the Council had cuts to the Budget, there would be an increase to the Mil Rate from 30.95 to 31.60. The Mayor advised that the biggest increase was due to a shift in student population, adding that the cost per child is \$16,000. Council members questioned the number of additional children in the Town. The Mayor advised that he would send to the Council the Region's information regarding the percentage of children in each town. Disc. M. Patchkofsky commented that she, along with the Mayor tried to get the numbers down, but it just didn't work. Chairman Slapikas asked for further comments. No other comments were made. **Motion** made by S. Pilat, seconded by S. Lusas Kolodziej to set the Mil Rate @ 31.60 for the 2020-2021 Fiscal Year. Disc. Council members questioned what the increase would amount to. Council members asked Tax Collector Anne Marie Burr for her recommendation. A. Burr commented that based on a \$200,000 assessment, the increase would be \$120. Council members commented on student enrollment. Mayor Chatfield commented that the Region changed the procedures of registration for students. Chairman Slapikas called for further comments. No other comments were made. A rollcall vote was taken. **9 Approved/J. Slapikas, S. Pilat, L. Fitzgerald, M. Patchkofsky, R. Blanc, S. Lusas Kolodziej, P. Murray, T. Graveline, P. Geary. Opposed/None Motion carries.**

Waive Tax Bills Amounting to less than \$10.00:

The Council received several documents from the Tax Collector, including a request to waive tax bills amounting to less than \$10.00 for the October 1, 2019 Grand List. **Motion** made by P. Geary, seconded by T. Graveline to waive tax bills amounting to less than \$10.00 for the October 1, 2019 Grand List. Disc. A rollcall vote was taken. **9 Approved/J. Slapikas, S. Pilat, L. Fitzgerald, M. Patchkofsky, R. Blanc, S. Lusas Kolodziej, P. Murray, T. Graveline, P. Geary. Opposed/None Motion carries.**

Tax Refund:

Motion made by T. Gaveline, seconded by R. Blanc to approve the Tax Refund dated June 2, 2020 in the amount of \$20.36. A rollcall vote was taken. **9 Approved**/J. Slapikas, S. Pilat, L. Fitzgerald, M. Patchkofsky, R. Blanc, S. Lusas Kolodziej, P. Murray, T. Graveline, P. Geary. **Opposed/None Motion carries.**

Suspense List for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020:

Motion made by L. Fitzgerald, seconded by S. Lusas Kolodziej to accept the Suspense List in the amount of \$6,181.92 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020. Disc. A rollcall vote was taken. **9 Approved**/J. Slapikas, S. Pilat, L. Fitzgerald, M. Patchkofsky, R. Blanc, S. Lusas Kolodziej, P. Murray, T. Graveline, P. Geary. **Opposed/None Motion carries.** Disc. A. Burr advised the Council that she is now using a Marshal to collect outstanding Tax Bills. Council members questioned the amount of monies that the Marshal is paid. A. Burr commented that the Marshal gets 15% of what they collect and fees. Questions were also raised as to applying the Marshal fees to what the taxpayer owes and also using an agency. A. Burr commented that applying the Marshal fees to what the taxpayer would owe, the dealings are then strictly with the Marshal. As to using a Collection Agency, per Statute, the Tax Collector comes before the Council. A. Burr stated that it would be more costly to use a Collection Agency than a Marshal. A Burr stated that she feels more comfortable using a Marshal.

-Chairman Slapikas asked for other comments. Mayor Chatfield advised that he would have a parade for 4th of July and would invite the graduating students to participate by decorating their cars. The parade would begin at PES and go throughout the town. P. Geary requested to allow a vehicle to alert everyone by making some kind of ‘noise’ and not to be so solemn as was the Memorial Day parade as many people missed it. The Mayor was not sure if there would be a car show this year as it would be its 35th year. No other comments were addressed to the Mayor.

-Carmody & Torrance Re: Insurance Coverage Question dated 5/19/2020 - The Council received copies.

Public Participation:

Chairman Slapikas asked the callers to press *6, state name and address.

-Andrea Sutton, 39 Cambridge Dr., commented that she had previously sent in a request to have the ‘PRIDE’ flag flown for the month of June and had not received a response. Disc. The Mayor stated that he is considering the request. Chairman Slapikas commented that the Council discussed this request at the last Council meeting and stated that it was not a Council matter. The Chairman advised that a response will be given within 24 hours.

-Tom Galvin, 27 Rockridge Terrace, thanked the Council for making cuts to the Budget and increasing the total by only \$5,000 or \$6,000. T. Galvin questioned if the Mayor would be taking any monies from Surplus or Police Overtime to reduce the Budget. Chairman Slapikas commented that the amount of \$250,000 was taken out of Fund Balance. M. Patchkofsky commented that the amount of \$75,000 was taken from Police Overtime. T. Galvin again thanked the Council for reducing the Budget.

Chairman Slapikas asked for further comments.

-Katie Blinstrubas, 24 Maple Dr commented on flying the LBGTQ ‘Pride’ Flag.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion made by S. Lusas Kolodziej, seconded by R. Blanc to approve the minutes of 5/14/2020. **9 Approved**/J. Slapikas, S. Pilat, L. Fitzgerald, M. Patchkofsky, R. Blanc, S. Lusas Kolodziej, P. Murray, T. Graveline, P. Geary. **Opposed/None Motion carries.**

Motion made by R. Blanc, seconded by T. Graveline to approve the minutes of 5/19/2020. **9 Approved**/J. Slapikas, M. Patchkofsky, R. Blanc, S. Lusas Kolodziej, P. Murray, T. Graveline, P. Geary, S. Pilat, L. Fitzgerald **Opposed/None Motion carries.**

Motion made by R. Blanc, seconded by P. Murray to approve the minutes of 5/26/2020 Special Meeting and 5/26/2020 Special Town Meeting. **9 Approved**/J. Slapikas, M. Patchkofsky, R. Blanc, S. Lusas Kolodziej, P. Murray, T. Graveline, P. Geary, S. Pilat, L. Fitzgerald **Opposed/None Motion carries.**

Correspondence:

Legal Notice: Solid Waste Agreement

Resolution of the Town Council authorizing Mayor to enter into restated inter-community agreement regarding the BRRFOC following special Town Meeting of the Town of Prospect, CT

Inter-Community Agreement between the cities and towns of Berlin, Branford, Bristol, Burlington, Hartland, New Britain, Plainville, Plymouth, Prospect, Seymour, Southington, Warren, Washington and Wolcott; each a municipality and political subdivision of the State of Connecticut (“Municipality” and, together, the “Municipalities”).

Draft: Prospect Town Council Meeting June 2, 2020; Intercommunity Agreement Bristol Resource Recovery Facility Operating Committee (BRRFOC)

Transfer: dated 5/28/2020 (6/2/2020-1): \$52,743.58

Transfers: dated 5/28/2020 (6/2/2020-02): \$26,650.00

From Anne Marie Burr, Tax Collector: Letter dated 6/2/2020 Re: Waive Tax Bills amounting to less than \$10.00 Letter and Suspense List dated June 2, 2020

Tax Refund dated 6/2/2020 \$20.36

Transfers within the Registrars of Voters dated 5/14/2020

Revenue Sheet dated 5/27/2020; printed 6/2/2020 to set mil rate

Carmody & Torrance dated 5/19/2020

Motion made by R. Blanc, seconded by S. Lusas Kolodziej to place correspondence on file. A rollcall vote was taken. **9 Approved**/J. Slapikas, S. Pilat, L. Fitzgerald, M. Patchkofsky, R. Blanc, S. Lusas Kolodziej, P. Murray, T. Graveline, P. Geary. **Opposed/None Motion carries.**

New Business:

Refunds – Previously discussed

Resignations – None

Appointments – None

Bids/Grants – None

Old Business:

Sub-committee reports:

Land Use & Acquisition: No Change

Ordinance: None

Public Works Maintenance: None

Salary Review: Met and will meet again. M. Patchkofsky will email to subcommittee members a new date.

Sidewalk Task Force: C.O.G and Milone & MacBroom met along with C. Perugini-Erickson and T. Graveline. The C.O.G. made recommendations. Easements are in place. A timeline is to be followed. The process may not start until September, but hopefully will be earlier.

Town Buildings: An email will be sent to set a new meeting date, as previously there were conflicts.

Pension: P. Geary commented on Ascensus and this third party taking a census of the Town employees.

Chairman Slapikas asked for further comments. M. Patchkofsky would like an update on the Union negotiations and what is anticipated. M. Patchkofsky also commented on Salary Review; RFPS for Demos; Auditors. Chairman Slapikas commented that he made of list for updates: RFP for Grange, Meeting Place Roof - hiring an historic contractor and addressing it; Union Update; Payroll Service Updates; Auditor had been contacted after the last meeting; Auditor for 3-year contract. T. Graveline commented on the Do Not Block the Box road painting at Chandler Dr and questioned where this was in process. The Council also commented on the painting of Do Not Block the Box on one lane at the Fire House. Chairman Slapikas commented that he would check into the painting at Chandler Dr. References were made on the Audit Breach, the Pride Flag and end date of claims. T. Graveline commented on the Breach and having the insurance company paying the Town on the breach and then having the insurance company go after the perpetrator for the monies owed.

L. Fitzgerald commented on No Turn on Red at the top of Summit Road. Chairman Slapikas advised that Milone and MacBroom commented on this and that they would address it with the STCTDOT with the sidewalks. Chairman Slapikas commented that he is still pursuing this issue. Chairman Slapikas asked for further comments. There were no further comments.

Adjournment:

Motion made by S. Lusas Kolodziej, seconded by R. Blanc to adjourn the meeting. **Unanimous.** The meeting was adjourned @ 8:38 p.m.

Jeff Slapikas
Chairman