

**Prospect Town Council
Budget Workshop
Approved Minutes
March 10, 2021 Virtual Meeting**

Chairman Slapikas called to order the special meeting of the Prospect Town Council @ 6:03 p.m. The meeting was a Virtual Meeting by video conference via GoToMeeting as authorized by Executive Orders 7B and 7I. The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Organizer of Virtual Meeting Present: J. Slapikas. A roll call for attendance was taken by Chairman Slapikas.

Council Members Present via online: J. Slapikas, R. Blanc, P. Geary, S. Pilat, S. Lusas Kolodziej, T. Graveline, L. Fitzgerald, K. O'Leary & M. Patchkofsky

Council Members Absent: none

Guests: Mayor Chatfield

Firehouse Bunkroom Discussion & Action:

Motion made by L. Fitzgerald, seconded by M. Patchkofsky to approve the Firehouse Bunkroom. **7 in favor, 1 opposed. Motion carries.**

Transfer for Bunkroom Funds & Action #3.10.2021:

The Fire Dept. requested a transfer of \$3000. They still have the entire \$10,000 that was budgeted for this fiscal year. They also used \$482 from donations.

Motion made by P. Geary, seconded by S. Lusas Kolodziej to approve the transfer #3.10.2021 in the amount of \$3000. **7 in favor, 1 opposed. Motion carries.**

Bonadio Update

J. Slapikas stated Bonadio Group has received all the information they needed/requested from the Town. They will be done with their Preliminary Report by the end of this week. Chairman Slapikas will set up a virtual meeting with them; he will inform the Council when this is scheduled.

Discussion & Action for a Minority of the Council to present with the Chair during Virtual Meetings with Bonadio Group:

The Council discussed and came to a consensus that T. Graveline will sit in on the virtual meetings with the Bonadio Group. **Motion** made by K. O'Leary, seconded by M. Patchkofsky to approve T. Graveline attending the virtual meetings with the Bonadio Group along with J. Slapikas & S. Pilat. P. Geary stated she is happy about this decision. She feels it is important for the minority to have representation and have a second pair of eyes at the meetings. L. Fitzgerald thanked J. Slapikas for the bipartisan. He feels it is good to show that the Council is united and both parties are dealing with the audit. This is for the betterment of the Town and improvements going into the future. T. Graveline wants to make it clear that they do not doubt that J. Slapikas has presented all the information they needed to hear. The thought is that having representation from both sides of the table reinforces to the public the integrity and transparency through the whole audit process. She thanked the Council and Chairman Slapikas for being open to this. K. O'Leary stated he feels it is important to reassure the residents that the Council and the Town are doing everything they can to make sure they are accountable to what happened. **Unanimous.**

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Chatfield first wanted to welcome Michelle Parlor, a new resident of Prospect who is on the virtual meeting call this evening. The Mayor is presenting the 2021-2022 budget to the Council tonight. He delivered today, to the Council and the Clerk, hard copies of the New Budget, the Revenue Page, the list of line items for discussion and possible approval tonight, the Budget Workshop meeting dates, the 2021 Budget Info, the Information Booklet and the Budget Schedule. All this information has been posted on the Town website as of 3 p.m. today. The Budget will go online tomorrow after it is presented to the Council this evening. There will also be copies on the table in the vestibule at the Town. The Mayor thanked M. Patchkofsky for coming up with new ideas for the budget layout. Mayor Chatfield briefly mentioned as of today there have been 717 cases of Covid in Town, so Prospect is still a "red town". The Mayor briefly reviewed the Budget. He stated there are less pages but the same amount of line items. There are 4 unions now: Public Works, Police Union, Town Hall Regular Employees and Town Hall Supervisors. He also mentioned the insurance for the Police that is mandated by new legislature. There are also new mandates required dash cameras for every cruiser as well as individual cameras specific to one officer only. He will discuss further when they get to this line item. He also stated that Prospect is paying 65% of the Region 16 budget. The Region 16 budget just changed due to two special ed. Children moving to the region. This added \$290,000 to their budget; these students are being send to another school out of the district. J. Slapikas clarified that tonight is just the submission of the budget and a streamlined quick explanation. Nothing in the budget will be affected tonight except for the 28 standard line items presented for possible approval. These items can still be discussed before the budget is submitted for Town Meeting after the budget workshops.

The Mayor stated that there has been an approximate increase in the budget of 2.7%. J. Slapikas discussed that the increase minus salaries is 1.87%. He feels the Mayor did a good job wit the budget so far. It is a good steppingstone for the Council to start reviewing.

Motion made by R. Blanc, seconded by S. Lusas Kolodziej to accept the budget that was submitted tonight for review. There will be further discussion as well as specific department presentations as the Council moves forward with the budget workshops. **Unanimous.**

Take Action on 28 line items of the budget:

Motion made by R. Blanc, seconded by S. Pilat to accept and approve the 28-line items, to be revisited if necessary during budget workshops. L. Fitzgerald questioned the "Legal Fees #5450". The Town has gone over on this line item for the last 2-3 years and the Council ends up transferring money into it. He would like to look into this further. The Mayor stated there were a few larger cases in the past few years that are no longer. T. Graveline agrees with L. Fitzgerald; she would rather not approve this line item this evening. She would also like to remove "Technology #9200" from the list. She wants to have significant discussion on this. R. Blanc and S. Pilat amended their motion to approve 26 of the 28-line items, removing *Technology* and *Legal Fees*.

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| 1) Probate Court #5050 | 10) Postage #6250 | 20) Holiday Observances #7450 |
| 2) Auditor #5200 | 11) Anti-Blight Commission #6300 | 21) Youth Summer Activities #7500 |
| 3) Board of Assessment Appeals #5300 | 12) Conservation Commission #6350 | 22) Health #7550 |
| 4) Advertising & Printing #5700 | 13) Inland Wetlands #6400 | 23) Debt Service Interest #7800-01 |
| 5) Social Security #5750 | 14) Historic Preservation #6550 | 24) Debt Service Principal #7800-12 |
| 6) Auto Process of Records #5800 | 15) Hydrants #6655 | 25) Truck Lease #7850 |
| 7) Municipal Organizational Fees #5950 | 16) Emergency Management #6800 | 26) Storm Water #8000 |
| 8) Town Council #6050 | 17) Household Hazardous Waste #6855 | |
| 9) Unemployment Compensation Tax #6150 | 18) 911 Service #6900 | |
| | 19) Street Lighting #7100 | |

Motion unanimous.

Meeting dates discussion and possible action on new dates:

The Council discussed the cancellation of the March 16th meeting. J. Slapikas asked if anyone had any conflicts with the listed meeting dates for the Budget Workshops. P. Geary asked if Dept. Heads have been informed that they are on the agenda for a specific workshop date. The Mayor stated he has not informed them yet. P. Geary thinks they should see this list now so they can be prepared on those nights. J. Slapikas stated that the departments will be given a copy of the meeting dates tomorrow.

Motion made by R. Blanc, seconded by S. Lusas Kolodziej to accept the listed dates as presented. J. Slapikas stated that the Council can add or subtract dates in the future if needed. These dates are not set in stone. T. Graveline motion that we accept these dates and add Thursday, March 18th at 7 p.m. and Saturday, March 27th 9-11 a.m., lunch 11-12 and then come back 12-1:30 p.m. She wants to try and avoid having any Budget Workshops too close to the Public Hearing. Last year there were a lot more Budget Workshops held. had a lot more meetings. List meeting dates. Richard B. Stephanie amend adding two dates. **Unanimous.**

Public Participation: (5 Minute Time Limit)

Kenyon Parlor, 72 Smokerise Circle wanted to introduce himself along with his wife Michelle. They just moved to town.

James Borbas Jr. 29 Beach Drive questioned when in there will be "in person meetings" again. J. Slapikas stated the Council has not discussed this yet. The Mayor needs to get the okay from Chesprocott. The Council is fine with virtual meetings. The public still can have their voices heard. J. Slapikas stated he is looking forward to getting back to in person in the future but there is no timeline as of yet. There will be an article in the newspaper when this decision is made.

The Mayor thanked the Council for their time this evening.

Correspondence:

- Agenda
- Transfer
- The Budget
- Budget Workshop Schedule
- Budget Info.
- Budget Info. Booklets
- Streamlined budget items
- Revenue sheet

PROSPECT, COAH
 TOWN CLERKS OFFICE
 RECEIVED FOR RECORD
 2021 MAR 18 PM 1:39
 Mayor J. Slapikas
 TOWN CLERK

Motion made by L. Fitzgerald, seconded by S. Lusas Kolodziej to accept the correspondence and place on file. **Unanimous.**

J. Slapikas reminded everyone that starting next Tuesday, March 16th, the Town Council's regular meetings will go back to 7 p.m. He also mentioned that he received the updated audit from the auditor with the changes. He will email this to the Council tomorrow. Chairman Slapikas thanked everyone for their hard work. Hopefully this process will go nice and smooth. The Mayor did a good job considering \$72,000 of the increase in the budget was salaries The Council will cut where they can and add where they believed is needed.

Adjournment:

Motion made by S. Lusas Kolodziej, seconded by R. Blanc to adjourn the meeting at 6:53 p.m. **Unanimous.**

Jeff Slapikas, Chairman