

**TOWN OF WINDSOR
TOWN COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
APRIL 23, 2018
APPROVED MINUTES**

1) CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Trinks called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

Present: Mayor Donald Trinks, Councilor James Govoni, Councilor Donald Jepsen, Councilor Jill Jenkins, Councilor Joseph McAuliffe, Councilor Richard O'Reilly, Deputy Mayor Jody Terranova, Councilor Michael Tustin, and Councilor Kenneth Wilkos.

2) PUBLIC COMMENT

George Slate, 74 Ethan Drive, asked the Council to keep enterprise funds such as Other Post Employment Benefits (OPEB) in mind when making the price guide. If they are not collecting costs, it is an unfunded liability. He stated that the Board of Education food service fund is not fully collecting costs. The point of an enterprise fund is that whomever uses the services should be the one(s) who fully pays for them. The \$60 million unfunded OPEB balance keeps being kicked down the road, but open space was funded quickly. On average, the town tries to repave roads every 25 years but there are many that have not been paved in 30 years. Ethan Drive has been there about 30 years and Day Hill Road is abysmal. Taxpayers on Day Hill Road pay millions of dollars each year in taxes, yet employees from those facilities have to use these roads and they are in bad condition.

Leonard Lockhart, 57 Columbia Road, stated that the mission of Windsor Public Schools is to create lifelong learners. He is advocating for the Board of Education (BOE) budget. As a citizen, senior services, public safety, and the Department of Public Works (DPW) are important. They are basic responsibilities of the town. He has concerns about the aging fleet of the DPW and noted that especially during the winter, these vehicles need to be operating well because we all drive on these roads. We want to make sure the town has the proper equipment to keep roads safe. He thanked the Council for their service.

David Furie, 37 Lighthouse Hill Road, echoed Mr. Lockhart's comments urging the Council to approve the BOE proposed budget. Last year was difficult with a zero percent increase and the proposed budget passed unanimously within the BOE. He hopes that the Council is able to preserve items like senior services and safety services. The senior center is now a place to be proud of. The Windsor Library is very valuable to students and all citizens. The last open space vote showed that people value open space and he hopes that this budget will allow the town to keep up with the parks as well, because Windsor is worth it.

Kristen Triff, 245 Prospect Hill Road, asked that the councilors pass the Board of Education budget. She teaches at Trinity College and stressed the importance of educating students. She claimed that the effects of a 0% increase last year was very noticeable. She thinks that approving the BOE budget as proposed will make her own children's and other students' futures brighter.

William Herzfeld, 1031 Windsor Avenue, stated that he is looking at placing his house on the market and is thinking about what makes Windsor attractive to new families. The Council shapes the reality of a well-run town. If people go elsewhere, it's not because of a lower mill rate. Windsor has a low mill rate, but does Windsor support schools, kids, roads, and buildings? He is hoping to see a 9-0 vote on the budget. He thinks it is reasonable and should go out to the voters.

3) CAPITAL SPENDING

Town Manager, Peter Souza, presented the following on capital spending:

This portion of the budget is found within General Services and serves as a source of pay-as-you-go cash funding for a variety of capital projects. There was approximately \$1.3 million set aside in FY 18 and the FY 19 budget proposes to increase it to \$2.4 million, which is approximately a \$1 million increase.

This increase proposes the following changes:

- An increase to the pavement management program of \$200,000 for a total of \$850,000 to repave approximately 4.5 miles of roadway.
- An increase to the sidewalk and curb replacement budget of \$75,000 for a total of \$150,000. The \$150,000 budget would equate to approximately one mile of sidewalk being repaired or replaced to eliminate tripping hazards.
- The public works fleet budget is proposed to increase by \$30,000 up to \$650,000.
- Costs associated with improvements to parking in the town center which includes additional design money to change traffic patterns on Broad Street and working with private property owners to increase public parking on Union and Central Streets.
- The FY 19 budget proposes that the town set aside \$500,000 per year for the next six years to reduce long-term borrowing and interest costs associated with purchasing fire department apparatus. If approved, the town would avoid paying \$1.2 million in interest costs over a 25-27 year period. This year specifically, instead of borrowing the full \$900,000 to replace a twenty-five year old fire truck, the town would only need to borrow about half that amount.

- Proposes that \$100,000 be set aside for Board of Education (BOE) technology program improvements and then to migrate to using the money toward the replacement of Chromebooks in schools on a regular basis.

In total, these costs would be \$2,400,000 and is where we need to be in order to maintain the aforementioned items.

Councilor Jepsen stated that this would right some of the wrongs of the past where things were taken out of the budget. He asked if the approval of this budget would automatically approve the projects or if the town would seek further Council advice. Town Manager Souza stated that traditionally, a Council approval would begin all of these projects.

Councilor Jepsen asked if there could be any amendments to the way the money was allocated. Town Manager Souza responded that it could be changed.

Councilor Govoni asked about sidewalk and curb replacement and if it included storm damage from the winter season. Town Manager Souza responded that he believes that it does, perhaps with a small amount coming out of the operating budget. Councilor Govoni believes that it may belong in the storm control program but either way it supports the sidewalk budget and he thinks that it gives taxpayers a lot of added value.

Councilor O'Reilly asked what would happen if the town was unable to follow through with the purchase of the Chromebooks. Town Manager Souza responded that the Board of Education would have to reallocate money within their own budget or delay the purchase. Councilor O'Reilly believes that these purchases help allow equitable opportunities for success of the students and helps to narrow the achievement gap, so he supports accomplishing that mission.

Councilor Govoni stated that he has heard of towns using Chromebooks at home during snow days and getting credit for the school day. He supports the money going toward that cause and anticipates it being an annual cost.

Councilor Jenkins stated that regarding the Chromebooks, it would be unacceptable for today's children to not have access to this technology. Children can learn when school is not in session and without question it needs to happen.

Councilor Jenkins asked how the town determines which areas of sidewalks are the most important to replace given such a tight budget. Mr. Bob Jarvis, Town Engineer, stated that the construction inspector goes out annually and rates the sidewalks. They also receive many phone calls from residents regarding trip hazards and deterioration. All of the funds are used to repair the sidewalks and they try to get the largest amount of value. He stated that he thinks they are doing well and unsafe sidewalks are replaced in a timely manner. Town Manager Souza noted that the money only allows the town to repair 2% of the sidewalks and bringing the cost up to \$150,000 is the bare minimum to maintain them.

Councilor Tustin asked about the increase in the cost of the replacement of a fire engine. Last year it was budgeted at \$907,000 and this year it is budgeted at \$930,000. Town Manager Souza responded that there has not been a change in the scope of work, but they are simply accounting for inflation, which is generally about 4%.

4) PRICE GUIDE

There are many proposed changes and many of them have previously been discussed, so rather than provide an overview, Town Manager Souza invited questions from the Council regarding the price guide.

Deputy Mayor Terranova asked about increases to the Police Private Duty line. Town Manager Souza responded that it is reviewed each year and this year they are adding funds for salary and benefits and the cost of fuel and maintenance of vehicles. Councilor Jepsen asked if there were increases to the pension plan included here. Town Manager Souza indicated that there were.

Councilor Jepsen stated that overall there were very few changes this year to the price guide.

Councilor Govoni asked about motor vehicle location approval. Mr. Eric Barz, Town Planner, stated that it refers to a ZBA application required by the Department of Motor Vehicles for locating dealers and repair licenses.

5) PRELIMINARY DELIBERATIONS

Moved by Councilor Jepsen, seconded by Deputy Mayor Terranova to move onto final deliberations and vote.

Motion Passed 9-0-0

6) FINAL BUDGET DELIBERATIONS AND VOTE

FINAL MOTIONS:

Board of Education

MOVED by Councilor O'Reilly, seconded by Councilor Jepsen to approve the Board of Education's FY 19 proposed budget in the amount of \$69,068,800.

Councilor O'Reilly thanked the Board of Education for providing a budget that is responsible and serves students well. He invited citizens with any further questions to reach out.

Councilor Jepsen agreed that it is a good budget and stated that the Council supports education.

Motion Passed 9-0-0

Town Support for Education

MOVED by Councilor Jenkins, seconded by Councilor Jepsen to approve the Town Support for Education's FY 19 proposed budget in the amount of \$5,229,500.

Motion Passed 9-0-0

Safety Services

MOVED by Councilor McAuliffe, seconded by Councilor Jepsen to approve the Safety Services' FY 19 proposed budget in the amount of \$10,346,090.

Motion Passed 8-0-0 (Councilor Tustin recused)

Recreation and Leisure Services

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Terranova, seconded by Councilor Jepsen to approve the Recreation and Leisure Services' FY 19 proposed budget in the amount of \$1,538,390.

Motion Passed 9-0-0

Human Services

MOVED by Councilor Jepsen, seconded by Councilor McAuliffe to approve the Human Services' FY 19 proposed budget in the amount of \$865,940.

Motion Passed 9-0-0

Health Services

MOVED by Councilor Tustin, seconded by Councilor O'Reilly to approve the Health Services' FY 19 proposed budget in the amount of \$494,800.

Motion Passed 9-0-0

Library Services

MOVED by Councilor Govoni, seconded by Councilor McAuliffe to approve the Library Services' FY 19 proposed budget in the amount of \$1,678,840.

Motion Passed 9-0-0

Development Services

MOVED by Councilor Wilkos, seconded by Deputy Mayor Terranova to approve the Development Services' FY 19 proposed budget in the amount of \$1,318,030.

Motion Passed 9-0-0

Community Development

MOVED by Councilor O'Reilly, seconded by Councilor Jepsen to approve the Community Development's FY 19 proposed budget in the amount of \$103,800.

Councilor Jenkins expressed her enthusiasm for the support to small businesses included in this line item and thanked Town Manager Souza for including it.

Motion Passed 9-0-0

Public Works and Engineering

MOVED by Councilor Jenkins, seconded by Councilor McAuliffe to approve the Public Works and Engineering's FY 19 proposed budget in the amount of \$6,260,520.

Motion Passed 8-0-0 (Councilor Govoni recused)

Information Services

MOVED by Councilor McAuliffe, seconded by Councilor Jepsen to approve the Information Services' FY 19 proposed budget in the amount of \$491,270.

Motion Passed 9-0-0

Administrative Services

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Terranova, seconded by Councilor Jepsen to approve the Administrative Services' FY 19 proposed budget in the amount of \$2,313,740.

Motion Passed 9-0-0

General Government

MOVED by Councilor Jepsen, seconded by Deputy Mayor Terranova to approve the General Government's FY 19 proposed budget in the amount of \$1,015,240.

Motion Passed 9-0-0

General Services

MOVED by Councilor Tustin, seconded by Councilor Jenkins to approve the General Services' FY 19 proposed budget in the amount of \$14,494,970.

Motion Passed 9-0-0

Expenditures

MOVED by Councilor Govoni, seconded by Deputy Mayor Terranova to approve the proposed total General Fund expenditures for the FY 19 budget in the amount of \$115,219,930.

Motion Passed 9-0-0

Revenues

MOVED by Councilor Wilkos, seconded by Councilor McAuliffe to accept the total revenue amount for the FY 19 budget of \$115,219,930.

Motion Passed 9-0-0

Tax Collection Rate

MOVED by Councilor O'Reilly, seconded by Councilor Jepsen to approve the FY 19 proposed tax collection rate of 98.8%.

Motion Passed 9-0-0

Senior Tax Relief

MOVED by Councilor Jenkins, seconded by Councilor Jepsen to approve the Senior Tax Relief's FY 19 proposed budget in the amount of \$130,000.

Councilor O'Reilly asked what this line item is. Town Manager Souza responded that this is a tax relief for senior residents aged 65+ or disabled who meet certain income requirements.

Motion Passed 9-0-0

Landfill Enterprise Fund

MOVED by Councilor McAuliffe, seconded by Councilor Jepsen to approve the Landfill Enterprise Fund's FY 19 proposed budget in the amount of \$1,989,330.

Motion Passed 9-0-0

Resident Transfer Enterprise Fund

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Terranova, seconded by Councilor Jepsen to approve the Resident Transfer Station Enterprise Fund's FY 19 proposed budget in the amount of \$175,280.

Motion Passed 9-0-0

Caring Connection Adult Day Care Center Enterprise Fund

MOVED by Councilor Jepsen, seconded by Councilor McAuliffe to approve the Caring Connection Adult Day Care Center Enterprise fund's FY 19 proposed budget in the amount of \$499,290.

Councilor Jepsen stated that this was an area of great discussion and the business is losing money. However, the town is gaining around \$43,000, so it is in the town's best interest to keep the operation going for another year to see if they can turn it around.

Motion Passed 9-0-0

Child Development Center

MOVED by Councilor Tustin, seconded by Councilor McAuliffe to approve the Windsor Child Development Enterprise fund's FY 19 proposed budget in the amount of \$1,159,200.

Motion Passed 9-0-0

Price Guide

MOVED by Councilor Govoni, seconded by Deputy Mayor Terranova to approve the FY 19 proposed Price Guide as presented.

Motion Passed 9-0-0

7) SET DATE FOR ANNUAL VOTE ON BUDGET REFERENDUM

MOVED by Councilor Wilkos, seconded by Councilor Jenkins that the annual vote on the budget be held on Tuesday, May 8, 2018 between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. at all 7 polling locations.

Councilor Jepsen thanked staff for their hard work in presenting the budget and the BOE for preparing such a responsible budget as well.

Councilor McAuliffe stated that his first time through the process was made easier by the professionalism of town staff.

Councilor Jenkins stated that it is a very fair budget and town employees have gone above and beyond. She asked citizens to come out and support the budget.

Councilor Govoni stated that it is a good, solid budget that will keep Windsor moving forward and supports it 100 percent.

Mayor Trinks expressed his appreciation for all of the hard work done by town staff and thanked everyone on behalf of the Council. He is proud to go out and support it.

Motion Passed 9-0-0

8) ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by Councilor Jenkins, seconded by Councilor Jepsen to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 P.M.

Motion passed 9-0-0

Respectfully Submitted,

Erin Rand
Clerk of the Council