

COMMITTEE OF THE CHAIRS
Special Meeting Minutes
March 8, 2018 at 4:30 p.m.
Town Hall – Finance Department Conference Room

Present: Christopher Palmieri, Brian Goralski (arrived at 4:37pm), John Leary (via teleconference), Michael DelSanto, Timothy Connellan, and Emilia Portelinha

Call to Order

Chairman Palmieri called the meeting to order at 4:30.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

A motion was made to approve the minutes of the February 7, 2018 meeting. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

Board Communications

Chairman Palmieri asked if there were any specific items from the BOF. John Leary confirmed there were none.

Michael DelSanto announced they are having a workshop on Wednesday the 14th for planning and zoning members, (for newer members), regarding FOI info, etc. Meeting will take place at the Municipal Center.

Chairman Palmieri announced there will be a Public Hearing for the blight ordinance Monday night, 3/12/18, Town Council meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Items for Discussion

2017/2018 Deficit Mitigation Plan

Chairman John Leary stated the BOF has met with BOE and understands their concerns.

Chairman Goralski stated the BOE has a meeting tonight, and one of the things they would like to be considered is recommending the usage of the Self Insurance Excess. Last year the BOE ran short due to excess Special Education costs, and requested an additional appropriation which was denied and at the end of the year, the Town had a surplus. The sooner the decision the better, if layoffs, the worse possibly scenario has to happen.

Chairman Palmieri stated no one is necessarily opposed to using the funds; it may be the timing of it. People are concerned about approving using Self Insurance funds in

March when we need to get through claims in April, May and June. Also stated this is the second year the teachers are on the High Deductible Health Plan which is the largest in the group.

Emilia Portelinha, Director of Finance, stated we do not have a policy on a specific fund balance. She stated the next Self-Insurance meeting will be held at the end of the month. Claims are drawn on our account on a daily basis and a summary report is provided by Anthem monthly. We still have to receive February through June Claims reports.

Chairman Palmieri would like to make a recommendation to the Self-Insurance Committee that we do set up a policy. It would be too late for the current budget year.

Tim Connellan, Superintendent, stated if a recommendation needs to come from the Self-Insurance Committee to the Town Council it would be wise for all members of the Self-Insurance Committee to sit down and look over the data Joe Spurgeon put together. Chairman Palmieri agrees that information can be dispersed to the SIC before the meeting. Ms. Portelinha will speak with Joe Labieniec to request information be provided prior to the next Self Insurance Committee.

Mr. Goralski stated the Town's reductions do not meet the BOF's Deficit Mitigation Plan. Ms. Portelinha informed everyone that the projects, programs or capital expenses would not be expended this year, nor would they be requested in future years, which meets the parameters set by the BOF. Mr. Leary confirmed that the cuts do meet the BOF request.

Chairman Palmieri will reach out to Joe Labieniec to ask him to add to the agenda for the upcoming March meeting, a recommendation will be made but ultimately will be the council's decision.

Planning for 2017-2018 Budget

Chairman Leary would like to resolve the current years issue prior to bringing up next years. We have to look at what our Deficit Mitigation is going to have an impact on first.

A letter was shared from the State of Connecticut regarding the MBR .The State of Ct calculates the MBR based on appropriations. Mr. Connellan sent a response letter to the State. Ms. Portelinha analyzed the MBR letter from the State.

Chairman Goralski said that the BOF had a question on the BOE base line budget. The BOF had asked why the \$94,208,909 was used as the BOE Budget starting point, which came from town's budget page 5.

The intent was for the BOE budget to be \$94 million. The governor put out his budget with a certain structure that included a \$8.3 million dollar Special Education Grant, which was supposed to go directly to the BOE. The vote was on the appropriation of \$87 million instead of \$94 million. The structure of the budget dollars, (Mr. Goralski is

referring to) that were always intended to go to the BOE including the state dollars and \$1.9 million was supposed to equal the \$94 million dollars. The intent was for the BOE budget to be \$94 million with all of those components.

Ms. Portelinha stated that we did take \$8.3 million of Revenues and Expenditures out of the General Fund Budget last year because we were told that an \$8.3 million Special Education Grant was coming from the state and going directly to the BOE. We believed we would be getting the \$8.3 million from the State which we did not, which made up the majority of the \$5.1 million dollar deficit. The Town had put the \$3 million aside in contingency.

Chairman Palmieri asked Ms. Portelinha to forward the BOE members as well as Mrs. DiNello her analysis of the State of Connecticut MBR letter sent to the BOF and Town Council.

Chairman Goralski stated an open letter to the community will be published in local paper informing the citizens of Southington to come to their meetings and share their thoughts.

Medical Marijuana

Chairman DeSanto stated he cannot speak about it, a public hearing was on Tuesday evening and it remained open.

Public Communications

None

Old Business

None

New Business

None

Adjournment

A motion was made to adjourn at 5:14p.m.