

COMMITTEE OF THE CHAIRS
Meeting Minutes
August 1, 2018 at 4:30 p.m.
Town Hall – Finance Department Conference Room

Present: Christopher Palmieri, Town Manager Mark Sciota, Brian Goralski, Michael DelSanto, and Timothy Connellan

Absent: John Leary

Call to Order

Chairman Palmieri called the meeting to order at 4:37.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

A motion was made to approve the minutes of the May 2, 2018 the motion was seconded and approved.

Board Communications

None

Items for Discussion

Hatton Path

Chairman Palmieri informed everyone that residents are concerned about the path; safety issues. Peter Romano has been informed and has addressed issues.

The Town received a quote to improve it for \$34,524.

TM Sciota questioned how often this path is being used. This may be something that between the Town and BOE can be improved.

Chairman Goralski informed everyone he has no prior knowledge of this and would like to be involved in future improvement decisions.

Chairman Palmieri suggested this issue be tabled and brought up next month.

Bradley Memorial Hospital

Chairman Palmieri informed everyone he met with Gary Havican a month ago and informed him that the TOS would like to maintain medical facilities as well as an emergency care on the Meriden Avenue campus.

Chairman DelSanto stated he was approached by the VP secretary looking for a meeting. I advised her proper procedure would be to fill out an application/permit so it can be discussed with the entire board.

Chairman Palmieri suggested two options for HHC to review.

Chairman Goralski questioned how much control the TOS actually has.

Chairman DelSanto informed everyone that HHC is stipulated on the Queen Street facility not to have emergency room services. The only way to change that is to file an application.

Budget Closeout 17/18

Chairman Palmieri asked for an update.

Chairman Goralski stated this is already in the process

Superintendent Timothy Connellan stated Sherri DiNello has been going thru final work. The state has changed the reporting process this year.

Chairman Goralski stated more information will be given next Thursday at their next meeting. The latest numbers are showing that there will be a surplus due to few projects that were not complete.

Town Manager Mark Sciota stated that the BOF approved minimum surplus to be used in next fiscal year for capital items. Funds could go towards the boilers that need to be replaced.

Chairman Goralski stated the other items that they would like to use are items that were put off i.e. sidewalks, painting etc. These capital items were previously approved.

Town Manager Sciota stated we won't know the full number until the first week of December when audit report comes back.

Planning Process for Budget 19/20

Chairman Palmieri stated the request to discuss the planning process for budget 19/20 was Chairman Leary's request. Chairman Leary is not present at the meeting.

Town Manager Mark Sciota spoke on his behalf. The plan is at the September meeting it will be a brief business meeting. Discussion of how to work the budget this year will take place. TM Sciota asked for a second meeting for December for the same purpose, after elections. We would like to have two workshops prior to submitting budgets.

Tilcon Request

Chairman Palmieri informed everyone presentations were given at previous Town Council meetings regarding this project by Tilcon, as well as the Attorney that is representing the other side. Tilcon is trying to give us more open space, which would benefit Crescent Lake but there would be other environmental ramifications.

Southington Water Department came to the last Town Council meeting, strongly opposed. At the September Town Council meeting we will see where the council stands.

Downtown Plantsville Project

Chairman Palmieri is happy to announce we will finally be able to make some much needed renovations.

Town Manager Sciota stated the grant received is for \$2.5 million. The Public Works Committee is approving and will send the final design to the Town Council on its August 27th meeting. The State would not approve a municipal parking lot; therefore the money will be put away for next year's capital budget. .

Property Tax Relief Committee

Chairman Palmieri stated this is a new initiative he would like to start up in September. The charge of the committee will be to look at any sort of tax relief for residents that are on fixed income, who are elderly, or in the military. Our ex officio members will be Teresa Babon and Janet Melon. Voters members will be: Jim Bowes, Chair, Kelly Morrissey, Chris Poulos, and a republican member of the Council, Brian Goralski will give a name of one BOE member. John Leary will give two names from the BOF (one D and one R). The committee will be named at the August 27th Town Council meeting.

Public Communications

Bonnie Sica would like to comment on Hartford Healthcare. It is not a private entity, it is a public nonprofit, not a private company and highly regulated by the State of Connecticut. They would have to go to P&Z first, based on the stipulation. We could fight them in court, if they won. They would then have to go to the State of Connecticut. Any hospital in this state cannot buy equipment or move anything without getting approval from the State of Connecticut, Office of Health Care Access. We would then ask the Town to file as an interested party, then you are able to present your case, the committee would also file as an interested party and present our case. It is similar to a trial. Would like to give some statistics as to how important the Bradley Hospital is to our community. In 2017 1,249 people were transported from the Bradley ER. It takes 4 hours to transport a patient, 4,996 hours that was taken out of our AMR services. 96 hours a week, 12 8 hours shifts per week. Fire department will go to the scene when an ambulance is unavailable. Please continue to support our community hospital.

Chairman Palmieri stated the council signed a new council with AMR, huge benefit to the town. We negotiated an additional first responder, at no charge. This is a benefit to our resident's.

TM Mark Sciota questions whether or not AMR said those transports are coming away from the two transports. AMR contract specifically says transport ambulances are part of the two ambulance services. Mark will reach out to the contact person from AMR that made the statement provided by Bonnie.

Jack Perry from HQ Dumpsters, stated that BRRFOC, Murphy Road Recycling, sent a letter to 14 communities stating they would be kicking Southington out due to Southington having private haulers. The agreement was made when there was a nice rebate in the recycling market, the 14 communities agreed to go in at a zero rate, now the spot rate has gone up. The process normally is they bill the Town and the Town billed them. This month it was changed, they charged us from July 1-July 15th. On July 3rd the letter was written and July 5th the tickets were made to the haulers.

Chairman Palmieri stated the Town does have an attorney and we will be pursuing.

Old Business

None

New Business

None

Adjournment

A motion was made to adjourn