

COMMITTEE OF THE CHAIRS
Meeting Minutes
March 6, 2019 at 4:30 p.m.
Town Hall – Finance Department Conference Room

Present: Christopher Palmieri, Brian Goralski, John Leary (via teleconference), Michael DelSanto, Timothy Connellan, Mark Sciota

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 January 2, 2019 meeting. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

Board Communications

TM stated he shared at the Department Heads meeting that we are all proud of how they handled the fire at Tops Supermarket. Thanks to AMR, Town Managers of Cheshire, Plainville, Meriden and Farmington who assisted us. Special thanks to the owner and manager of McDonalds for all their help.

Items for Discussion

Discussion on 19/20 Budget

Chairman Leary stated workshops will start beginning tonight and tomorrow night, also a few scheduled for the following week. Tonight will be the general government and tomorrow will be BOE. We will start a “questions grid,” which is where questions go into a Word document, they are numbered and the person who asked the questions is in a column and then people can respond. All responses are made available on the website.

Chairman Goralski would like people to be involved from the beginning. Share the questions with colleagues. He would like to be able to input the grid as a Google doc instead of a large email. He would like to look for ways to improve it.

Chairman Palmieri stated the increase to our grand list has been a huge savings to us in calculating this year’s as well as last year’s budget. He thanked all the departments who assisted in easing the burden on our taxpayers.

Tobacco/Vaping Public Hearing

Chairman Palmieri stated it was originated through STEPS; it will move forward Monday night at a public hearing at the Town Council meeting. Thanked Shane Lockwood, PD

and Superintendent Connellan for their support. We took Hartford's ordinance, which was passed, and it was modified to the needs of Southington.

Chairman Goralski stated he sits on the STEPS advisory committee. The process to get here, the information we learned is what we already know. This is a policy that lets us be leaders. The community stands behind it.

Chairman DelSanto was concerned about the businesses supporting this ordinance.

Chairman Palmieri stated many of the retailers prefer it; it will now be 21 for everything - tobacco and alcohol.

Signage Regulation

Chairman DelSanto stated a public hearing (March 19th) is coming up so he cannot go into many details. We still need to revamp, height and size of signs.

Public Communications

None

Old Business

Superintendent Connellan stated the state Education Resource Center (ERC) has agreed to be the facilitator for our work. Southington Public Schools Coalition for Social Justice Advisory Council will be the name. There is another layer below which will be the district equity leadership team. We have parents and students, both middle school and high school. We also have staff members. CREC has also agreed to be partners. We would like to have BOE and Town Council involved. Our first meeting will be March 19th. The purpose of these meetings is to help raise awareness and advocacy of our students and staff members.

New Business

Chairman Palmieri would like to keep the April meeting due to the budget.

Adjournment

A motion was made to adjourn.