

**COMMITTEE OF THE CHAIRS**  
**Special Meeting Minutes**  
**April 3, 2019 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 Mark Sciota

Also present: Jack Perry, HQ

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 March 6<sup>th</sup> 2019 meeting. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

Board Communications

Chairman Goralski announced he was pleased with an email that the committee received thanking us.

TM Mark Sciota stated is happy with the collaboration between the Town and BOE regarding an issue with a dead tree. Between the Highway Dept. and Pete Romano's office the tree will be removed.

Superintendent Tim Connellan also stated he too was happy with the collaboration between the Town and BOE. A parking lot issue came up with the Southington High School, many pot holes, Pete Romano reached out to Annette at the Highway Department and they were able work together for a solution.

Chairman DelSanto stated they are still looking for money for West Street. Keep us on your radar (Town Council). Our State Legislation is also aware.

Items for Discussion

19/20 Budget

Chairman Palmieri stated the BOF passed their budget, .39 mil rate increase. He thanked the incredible work of our Town Departments, Grand List increase of \$1.8 million which is a 1.49 percent increase.

Chairman John Leary stated he will go through the summary of the budget at the Public Hearing. The big items, where roughly \$2 million, taking out of excess fund balance and \$1.8 million of new tax dollars. When you put these numbers together, it is around \$4 million which saved us about a \$1 million. The impact on the tax payers will be 1.9% increase.

Chairman Palmieri stated in the budget it represents two collaborations. Next FY the Town of Southington is absorbing the Director of STEPS salary and the BOE is taking over the Assistant to the Director of STEPS salary. The grant from state has expired and we are unable to apply again. We are hoping to put the Municipal Center out for referendum.

TM Sciota stated we will introduce this to the council the second week of May. We are looking to purchase the Municipal Center building. We now pay a substantial amount for rent. When using the numbers towards purchase makes more sense.

Chairman Goralski stated he will be in attendance at the Public Hearing to advocate and support STEPS. He feels it is very important for our community.

**Chairman Palmieri announced that April 22<sup>nd</sup> is the Public Hearing, at the Municipal Center and May 13<sup>th</sup> is when the Town Council will adopt the budget.**

#### Southington Public Schools Coalition for Social Justice

Superintendent Tim Connellan stated we had our first meeting on March 19<sup>th</sup>. He sent an update to all Southington Public Schools staff members, families and the Town Manager. Shipman and Goodman did touch base with a representative from the FOI Commission; although sympathetic that the FOI act is so rigid it does not allow for an accommodation, we will redesign that particular phase of the training. We will find an appropriate way to conduct in a public session without members needing to share inner thoughts. We identified 7 potential sub committees, any of these committees that meet with other members, other than staff, those will be held similar to how we do board committee. The next meeting will be after the school break, towards the end of the month. We will be placing all information moving forward on our website so it is visible to all.

Chairman Goralski urges everyone to review minutes from our last BOE meeting (3/28/19). This is not a reaction of what happened in December. This was a direction of our administration. This is a collaboration with our community.

#### Town Policy Diversity Committee

Chairman Palmieri stated he asked Mark Sciota to chair this committee. This committee, we decided, not to have elected officials or politicians serve. Mark opened up to all Town employees. We will review and Mark will make a decision on who will be on it along with Dave Lapreay, Chief Daly or Deputy, and Michelle Passamano will also be on this committee. The purpose of this committee is to review all Town policies, including law enforcement, recreation, town procedures and hiring practices. Meetings

will be held in afternoon/evenings and open to the public. Any recommendation from these meeting will be sent to the Town Council.

Public Communications

None

Old Business

None

New Business

Chairman Palmieri stated we will keep the May meeting and cancel June meeting.

Adjournment

A motion was made to adjourn at 5:10p.m.