

Prospect Town Council
Special Budget Meeting
Approved Minutes
March 14, 2015

The Special Meeting of the Prospect Town Council was called to order by Chairman Thomas J. Galvin @ 9:00A.M. and commenced with the Pledge of Allegiance. The meeting was held at the Prospect Public Library, 17 Center Street.

Members Present: T. Graveline, S. Pilat, C. Graveline, D. Merriman, Al Delelle, J. Slapikas, P. Geary, Carla Perugini-Erickson and T. Galvin

Members Absent: None

Solid Waste #6950:

$\$524,500.00 + \$17,500.00 = \$541,700.00$ (Increase \$17,500.00).

Mayor Robert J. Chatfield discussed brush chipping, recycling, and the \$62.50 per ton fee for residential trash burning at Covanta. Mayor Chatfield requested a motion to continue with the budget on Solid Waste. **Motion made by T. Graveline, seconded by Al Delelle to approve the Mayor's recommended amount of \$541,700.00.** Council members questioned the amount of \$62000.00 up \$14,200.00 from \$47,800.00 for line item #6950-01 Labor PWE. Mayor Chatfield advised that he was considering an additional Public Works Employee to work at the Recycling Center; there are usually two people working at the Recycling Center, both in two different areas. Mayor Chatfield explained that if extra people were needed, there would be money in the budget. P. Geary questioned the hours for the Recycling Center. Mayor Chatfield advised that it is open two days a week, Wednesdays and Saturdays from 7:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Council members discussed hourly salary for the Public Works employees and hours worked.

Motion made by P. Geary, seconded by S. Pilat to decrease line item #6950-01 Labor PWE from \$62,000.00 to \$50,495.00 for a difference of \$11,505.00. Unanimous.

Motion made by T. Graveline, seconded by Al Delelle to amend the original budget of Solid Waste from \$541,700.00 to \$530,200.00 for a difference of \$11,500.00. Fritz Bonyai, 18 Woodcrest, advised that he wasn't aware that the Town paid for residential trash burning and questioned the fee for the trash burning. Council members advised that the cost is \$62.50 and advised that it is more prudent to recycle than to put items into the trash. A vote was called for. **Unanimous.**

Town Roads #7000:

$\$254,218.00 + \$1,356.00 = \$255,574.00$ (Increase \$1,356.00).

Mayor Chatfield reviewed the Town Roads budget. T. Galvin requested a motion to discuss this budget. **Motion made by T. Graveline, seconded by J. Slapikas to approve the budget of Town Roads in the amount of \$255,574.00.** Mayor Chatfield stated that he increased line item #7000-00 Labor PWE from \$88,911.00 to \$94,000.00 for an increase of \$5,089.00. Mayor Chatfield advised that this additional increase is due to the consideration of an additional employee for call outs and as needed personnel. After discussion, the Council members asked to modify line item #7000-00 Labor PWE

from the Mayor's recommended amount of \$94,000.00 to the proposed amount of \$91,134.00 for a decreased amount of \$2,866.00 for a bottom line total of \$ 252,708.00. T. Galvin requested a motion. **Motion made by P. Geary, seconded by T. Graveline to approve the amended budget of line item #7000-00 Labor PWE from \$94,000.00 to \$91,134.00 for a decrease amount of \$2,866.00 and for the overall total from \$255,574.00 to \$252,708.00. Unanimous.**

Ice & Snow #7050:

\$624,000.00 + \$42,000.00 = \$666,000.00 (Increase \$42,000.00)

Mayor Chatfield advised that the cost of Salt is \$72.91 per ton and the Town had used over 700 tons of salt this season. P. Geary requested the number of hours each member of the Public Works Department worked. A motion was called for. **Motion made by C. Graveline, seconded by T. Graveline to approve the budget of Ice & Snow in the amount of \$666,000.00.** After discussion, a vote was taken.

8 Approved/1 Abstained, P. Geary. **Motion passes.**

Town Trucks #7150:

\$264,500.00 - \$253,120.00 = \$11,380.00 (Decrease \$11,380.00)

Mayor Chatfield advised that the Town was locked-in at the rate of \$2.55 per gallon for diesel and \$2.189 per gallon for gasoline. Mayor Chatfield advised that approximately 21,000 gallons of Diesel and 8,000 gallons of Gasoline are used. **Motion made by J. Slapikas, seconded by S. Pilat to approve the budget of Town Trucks in the amount of \$253,120.00. Unanimous.**

Town Aid Roads #7200

\$36,000.00 (No Change). **Motion made by D. Merriman, seconded by J. Slapikas to approve the budget for #7200 Town Aid Roads in the amount of \$36,000.00. Unanimous.**

Road Reconstruction #7250

\$229,423.00 + \$1,680.00 = \$231,103.00 (Increase \$1,680.00)

Motion made by P. Geary, seconded by C. Graveline to approve the budget of #7250 Road Reconstruction in the amount of \$231,103.00. Mayor Chatfield advised that the roads were hit hard this year due to the weather. J. Slapikas questioned if there was sufficient monies in line item #7250-04 Paving. Mayor Chatfield advised that he is waiting until the frost is gone to see what type of damage was done to the roads. The Mayor advised that he is considering applying for a 'bond' to pave the roads if necessary. The Mayor stated that previously 'bond' was used for 4.5 miles of roads. T. Graveline stated she agreed with J. Slapikas and she was concerned that there wouldn't be sufficient monies to maintain the roads in line item #7250-04 Paving. T. Graveline commented that the Council should look to plan for the future and build-up this line item.

T. Galvin called for a vote. **8 Approved/1 Opposed, T. Graveline. Motion passes.**

Mayor Chatfield advised that the Scott Road Phase II Project is scheduled to begin April 1, 2015.

Parks #7300:

\$133,085.00 + \$6,185.00 = \$139,270.00 (Increase \$6,185.00)

Council members advised that they would like the caption of 'Parks' changed to 'Town Parks' and remove the subsection of 'Parks and Recreation' to 'Recreation'. The Council continued; place the 'Town Parks' under the header subsection of 'Public Works' and to place 'Library' under the new header subsection 'Recreation'. **Motion made by J. Slapikas, seconded by Al Delelle to change the caption of 'Parks' to 'Town Parks' and remove the subsection of 'Parks and Recreation' to 'Recreation'. The 'Town Parks' will be added as an extension of 'Public Works' and placed under the subsection header of 'Public Works' and the 'Library' will be placed under the new subsection header 'Recreation'. Unanimous.**

A motion was called for to approve the budget of #7300 'Parks' in the amount of \$139,270.00. **Motion made by J. Slapikas, seconded by C. Graveline to approve the amount of \$139,270.00 for #7300 'Parks'.** A discussion took place regarding overall line items for this budget. P. Geary made a recommendation to combine line item #7300-06 Porta John Rental in the amount of \$5,000.00 to be added to Recreation's line item #7400-05 Port-O-Lets in the amount of \$2,800.00 for a total of \$7,800.00. Mayor Chatfield advised that he will decide which category this combined total will go into.

P. Geary commented that the line item #7300-00 was more than a 5% increase and requested to modify the line item back to the proposed amount of \$69,510.00. **Motion made by P. Geary to modify line item #7300-00 Labor PWE from the Mayor's recommended amount of \$72,000.00 to the proposed amount of \$69,510.00 with a decrease of \$2,490.00. Motion seconded by T. Graveline.** C. Perugini-Erickson questioned line item #7300-04 Summer Support in the amount of \$13,000.00.

C. Perugini-Erickson asked Mayor Chatfield for the number of people hired, the hourly wage and what tasks were involved. Mayor Chatfield advised that there are 3 people at an average of \$10.50 per hour. Mayor Chatfield stated that this coming year will be different for the people hired. Each one of the summer help will be placed with one Public Works employee. **Motion made by J. Slapikas, seconded by C. Graveline to approve the budget of #7300 'Parks' as amended, \$139,270.00 - \$2,490.00 = \$136,780.00. Unanimous.**

Library #7350:

\$278,140.00 + \$2,457.00 = \$280,597.00 (Increase \$2,457.00)

Mayor Chatfield advised that the Town will be getting reimbursed from Hartford Steamboiler in the amount of \$17,000.00 for the boiler replacement. Mayor Chatfield stated that the monies, including the \$1,000.00 deductible for insurance, will go into the General Fund as the Town paid for the boiler.

Mayor Chatfield introduced Library Director, John Wiehn and Library Board Chairperson, Susan H. McKernan. A handout was given to the Council regarding book collections, the number of patrons of the Library, programs attended and operating expenditures. Chairman McKernan advised the Council that the Library building will be celebrating 25 years and events are planned beginning in July 2015. A discussion took place regarding the Library budget. **Motion made by J. Slapikas, seconded by P.**

Geary to approve the budget of #7350 Library as submitted in the amount of \$280,597.00. Council members discussed the position of the Asst. Librarian's wage, line item #7350-01, in the amount of \$42,873.00. Director Wiehn advised that this is the 4th Asst. Librarian in approximately the same amount of years. Council members questioned the reason for the departure of the Asst. Librarian. Both Director Wiehn and Chairperson McKernan advised that the cause is due to the amount of the money the Asst. Librarian is paid. Chairperson McKernan advised that a new Asst. Librarian was hired; this being her first full-time position. The discussion continued with the Asst. Librarian's wage. **After discussion, motion made by J. Slapikas, seconded by P. Geary to approve the 2014-2015 budgeted wage in the amount of \$41,828.00 for line item #7350-01 Asst. Librarian. Unanimous.**

Council members reviewed line item #7350-05 Utilities in the amount of \$20,000.00. After discussion, **motion made by J. Slapikas, seconded by P. Geary to change the amount of line item #7350-05 Utilities from \$20,000.00 to \$17,000.00 for a decrease of \$3,000.00. Unanimous.**

A discussion took place regarding wages for the 5 Library clerks, the 2 pages and the 1 janitor. Director Wiehn advised that the Library clerks are paid \$11.00 to \$14.50 per hour, including the longest hired personnel of approximately 21 to 22 years, the pages are paid minimum wage and the janitor is paid \$10.00 per hour. The discussion continued regarding library fines and donations. **Motion made by J. Slapikas, seconded by P. Geary to approve the amended amount of \$280,597.00 - \$4,045.00 = \$276,551.00 for the budget of the #7350 Library. Unanimous.**

C. Perugini-Erickson remarked that the Library's staff did an excellent job with the amount of monies that they were paid, which was quite low compared with the amount paid to the summer support staff, which were highly paid per week. Mayor Chatfield advised that the summer support staff was not highly paid for the amount of hours that they worked and that he will be placing the summer support into to different areas with Public Works. Council members commented that they would like to discuss wage parameters and job descriptions.

Adjournment: Motion made by D. Merriman, seconded by S. Pilat to adjourn the meeting. Unanimous. Meeting adjourned @ 11:19 A.M.

Thomas J. Galvin, Chairman

Rosalyn B. Moffo, Clerk

