

Prospect Town Council
Regular Meeting
Approved Minutes
March 15, 2016

Chairman Thomas J. Galvin called to order the regular meeting of the Prospect Town Council @ 7:13 p.m. The meeting was held at the Prospect Town Hall, 36 Center Street and began with the Pledge of Allegiance. The meeting was taped.

Members Present: T. Galvin, Jeff Slapikas, Pat Geary, Al Delelle, D. Merriman, Carla Perugini-Erickson, S. Pilat, C. Graveline and L. Fitzgerald @ 7:28 p.m.

Members Absent: None

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Robert J. Chatfield advised that the Town Meeting for the purchase of Community School went well and the vote passed unanimously. Mayor Chatfield stated that there will be a Regional School District 16 meeting on March 23, 2016 at Long River Middle School for both towns to vote on this purchase.

Mayor Chatfield requested two transfers:

Motion made by J. Slapikas, seconded by P. Geary to approve the transfer from the Police Overtime Account to the Police Officers' Account #6700:

Officers' Account #6700	\$31,096.00
Social Security	\$ 5,000.00

Total: \$36,096.00

Unanimous.

Motion made by C. Graveline, seconded by Al Delelle to approve the transfer

From: I & S Salt	\$7,755.85
To: I & S Contractors	\$7,755.85

Total: \$7,755.85

Unanimous.

Chair's Report:

Regional School District 16's Financial Report Update: Superintendent Yamin thanked the Council for allowing him to come to the meeting. Superintendent Yamin advised that the previous year's school budget increased by 2%, but for the 2016-2017 fiscal year, there will be a -0- increase. Superintendent Yamin also stated that the Region is in the final stages of the 47 million dollar project with a 'CO' coming on March 17th for the new district office; some of the offices will be moved in by May 1st and his will be in June. Superintendent Yamin advised that the Region is allowed to keep approximately 3% of the monies but will only use a small portion to upgrade bathrooms and lockers at

LRMS. Reserved monies will be used to repair the roof at Woodland Regional High School. An amount of \$179,000 will be put into a non-recurring account to pay for the expenses to pave the parking lot at the new administrative offices on Coer Road. C. Graveline thanked Superintendent Yamin for the -0- increase to the Budget.

Carla Perugini Erickson also thanked Superintendent Yamin for the good work that he is doing and also for bringing back the TAGS program. C. Perugini Erickson questioned the amount of students per class. Superintendent Yamin advised: Kindergarten 15 students to 1 teacher, an average of 19-22 students to 5th grade, 6th & 8th grades have 19-22 students per class per teacher along with other staff. Superintendent Yamin advised that there is a higher percentage in 7th grade. The High School has an average of approximately 17 to 1, while the college courses have approximately 10 students per class. The history classes are approximately 25 to 1. Mayor Chatfield asked Superintendent Yamin to clarify an article that occurred in the Rep-American Newspaper. Superintendent Yamin advised that this was a tremendous inconsistency. The State of CT tested the most at risk class at Woodland Regional High School; the class consists of 36 children, 34 were present and 2 were absent. A low rating was given to the entire school of 700 children. Superintendent Yamin advised that he had contacted numerous people at the State level to declare his concern and annoyance on this testing. Superintendent Yamin stated that a new 12 point differential indicator will be used instead of the SPI which the State used to test the children. Superintendent Yamin continued that the Sophomore class will be tested on PSATs. If any one student is not performing on the PSAT level, then that student will be assigned to an SAT teacher. Superintendent Yamin stated that since all the building projects are done, he will be concentrating on the students and helping them to increase their Math scores, preparing them for college and beyond. Superintendent Yamin advised that he will be bringing in 'Chrome' books for each child to have throughout their 4 years of high school. Theresa Graveline, 20 Corrine Drive, commented that she applauded Superintendent Yamin's acknowledgement of the issues at the Region and his continuing with the UCONN Co-op courses and bringing back the TAGS program. T. Graveline asked Superintendent Yamin to continue courses in Personal Finance and investments as this will help the students in their future endeavors. T. Graveline appreciated the improvements to be done at LRMS but asked Superintendent Yamin to consider redoing the gym floor and changing out the burnt toilet seats at Woodland. T. Galvin thanked Superintendent Yamin for his leadership and budgeting practices.

Charter Revision Commission Update: T. Galvin stated that the CRC is meeting twice a month and moving forward with their draft. T. Galvin also stated that the CRC will be working closely with the Town Council for several weeks as they will look to the Town Council to make recommendations.

Town's Auditor – Mike Battiste: T. Galvin expressed his annoyance that he has left numerous messages for the Town's Auditor, Mike Battiste and has not received a reply. T. Galvin stated that he had asked M. Battiste after last year's budget meetings, for answers, without a reply. T. Galvin stated that currently he asked for M. Battiste to contact him via email with questions from this year's Audit that was reviewed on January 5, 2016 and has not heard from him. T. Galvin reiterated that he finds this very

frustrating. T. Galvin stated that the CRC chairman, Glenn Gruber has also sent emails to M. Battiste without getting a response. C. Graveline and P. Geary stated that it is common courtesy to receive a reply. C. Perugini-Erickson stated that she thinks this is awful, and if it was herself or the Mayor, there would be a request for a replacement and she feels it is time to find someone else as the Town's Auditor. D. Merriman stated that she feels the Auditor should come to the next meeting on April 5, 2016. Mayor Chatfield advised that he will continue to contact M. Battiste to set up a meeting.

Guests: Theresa Graveline, 20 Corrine Drive, asked Mayor Chatfield to post signs around Town advising of the Regional vote for Community School on March 23, 2016. T. Graveline stated that everyone should know the facts. T. Galvin asked Mayor Chatfield to contact the Rep-Am for a notice in the paper about the meeting.

Public Participation : None

Approval of Minutes:

Motion made by D. Merriman, seconded by P. Geary to approve the Special Meeting minutes of February 29, 2016. **Unanimous.**

Motion made by P. Geary, seconded by L. Fitzgerald to approve the Budget Workshop and the Regular Meeting minutes both dated March 1, 2016. Discussion. **Motion** made by P. Geary, seconded by L. Fitzgerald to approve the Budget Workshop and to amend the Regular meeting minutes of March 1, 2016. **Unanimous.**

Motion made by P. Geary, seconded by Al DeLelle to approve the minutes of March 9, 2016. **Unanimous.**

Correspondence:

Transfer Requests (\$7,755.85 & \$36,096.00) dated 3/15/16

Tax Refunds \$577.20 dated 3/15/16

February 2016 Building, Electrical, Plumbing and Heating Permits

February 2016 Tax Collector's Report

February 2016 Zoning Inspector's Report

February 2016 Prospect Police Patrol Report

2016-2017 Superintendent's Proposed Budget Recommendations dated 3/15/16

Prospect Republican Town Committee Recommendations for Appointments 3/9/16

Motion made by J. Slapikas, seconded by C. Graveline to place correspondence on file. **Unanimous.**

New Business:

Refunds – Motion made by C. Graveline, seconded by S. Pilat to approve the Tax Refunds dated March 15, 2016 in the amount of \$577.20. **Unanimous.**

Transfers – **Already acted upon**

Resignations – None

Appointments – Motion made by C. Graveline, seconded by J. Slapikas to approve the recommendations for appointments that were approved by the Prospect Republican Town Committee:

Inland Wetlands Commission (Alternate)
Timothy M. Clark – 63 Straitsville Rd.

Term:
1/1/16 – 1/1/18

Water Pollution Control Authority
Joseph R. Hawthorne – 5 Cambridge Dr.

1/1/16 – 1/1/20

Unanimous.

Bids – Bids will be going on for lawn mowing; incorporated in the bid will be fertilizing.

Grants – None

Public Participation: None

Old Business:

Subcommittee Reports: J. Slapikas, Chairman of the Ordinance subcommittee commented that he and the members of the Ordinance subcommittee attended the EDC meeting. J. Slapikas stated that he gave the EDC info and they are going to create a simple ‘Draft’ to be reviewed by the Ordinance sub-committee for the Small Business Tax Incentive that they are working on. Currently the Ordinance sub-committee is working on a General Fee Ordinance and an Elderly Tax Credit Ordinance.

Adjournment:

Motion made by D. Merriman, seconded by P. Geary to adjourn the meeting.

Unanimous. The meeting adjourned @ 8:05 p.m.

Thomas J. Galvin

Thomas J. Galvin
Chairman