

Prospect Town Council
Regular Meeting
Unapproved Minutes
February 16, 2016

Chairman Thomas J. Galvin called to order the regular meeting of the Prospect Town Council @ 6:30 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, S. Pilat, D. Merriman, Carla Perugini-Erickson and L. Fitzgerald

Members Absent: C. Graveline

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Robert J. Chatfield introduced the Town of Prospect's Assessor, James Clynes to review the Grand List. J. Clynes gave the Council handouts of the October 1, 2015 Grand List and the top 10 taxpayer list for Real Estate, Personal Property and Motor Vehicles for the 2015 Grand List. J. Clynes advised that the October 1, 2015 Grand List is \$11,735,231 higher than last year with a 1.42% increase. J. Clynes stated that the increase is due to the new homes at Toll Brothers Regency. J. Clynes also commented that there is a problem with the DMV software as the information that is coming through to his office shows vehicles that are no longer in town. J. Clynes stated that he had been informed by the DMV that they will resolve the problem and send him new information. J. Clynes also stated that he will keep Mayor Chatfield informed. P. Geary commented on the new bill that Governor Malloy is trying to pass; no back taxes will need to be paid to the towns prior to registering a motor vehicle. P. Geary stated that she hoped both J. Clynes and the Assessor's Association would work aggressively on correcting this matter as the Towns depend on this revenue. J. Clynes commented that both the Assessors Association and the Tax Collector's Association are working to get this bill stopped.

Mayor Chatfield advised that he had received letters from the U. S. Department of Justice and from Joe DeLong Executive Director of CCM 'referencing voting referendum policies under the Americans with Disabilities Act' and accessibility to voting machines with paper ballots. The Mayor stated that the Town's Registrars are aware of this investigation by the Justice Department, but do not know if Prospect will be targeted.

Mayor Chatfield advised that there will be (2) Budget Workshops for Regional School District 16 with their Public Hearing set for March 30, 2016.

Mayor Chatfield advised that Attorney John Yarbrough is still negotiating with Region 16's Attorneys for the purchase of Community School.

Mayor Chatfield advised that he would like to have a meeting on Thursday, February 18, 2016 at 3:30 or 4:00 p.m. to set the Town Meeting and Resolution for Monday, February 29, 2016.

Mayor Chatfield asked for an Executive Session to discuss Real Estate matters. **Motion** made by D. Merriman, seconded by J. Slapikas to add to the Agenda ‘Executive Session’. **Unanimous. Motion** made by D. Merriman, seconded by J. Slapikas to convene to an ‘Executive Session’ and to invite Mayor Chatfield to attend for Real Estate matters. **Unanimous.** The meeting convened to an ‘Executive Session’ @ 6:48 p.m. The regular meeting reconvened @ 6:49 p.m. No motions were made or votes taken. **Motion** made by L. Fitzgerald, seconded by P. Geary to authorize the Land Use Sub-committee to investigate the property prior to any purchase. **Unanimous.**

Mayor Chatfield requested a motion for a transfer in the amount of \$35,000.00. Mayor Chatfield advised that the Alison Automatic Transmission for the 1999 or 2000 Public Work’s truck ‘blew’ and parts and repairs are necessary. **Motion** made by J. Slapikas, seconded by S. Pilat to approve the transfer in the amount of \$35,000.00 from the Fund Balance To:

TT – Maintenance	\$15,000.00
TT – Parts	10,000.00
I&S Maintenance	<u>10,000.00</u>
Total	\$35,000.00

Discussion. P. Geary stated that monies had been budgeted in the previous budget year 2015-2016 for repairs and there should be no need for a transfer. Mayor Chatfield advised that the Public Works’ trucks have worked through several storms recently, repairs needed and all previous monies have been expended. Both P. Geary and C. Perugini-Erickson advised that they would like to see more explanations as to where the monies are used for repairs and parts of the Public Works’ vehicles. A call for a vote was made. **7 Approved/ 1 Opposed, P. Geary. Motion passes.**

Chair’s Report:

Community School: T. Galvin advised that the Town’s Attorney and Region 16’s Attorneys are still negotiating for the purchase of Community School.

T. Galvin also stated that there will be a small increase to the Region’s Budget with Superintendent Yamin’s proposed increase of \$62,506.00. T. Galvin continued that the Region had a decline of 58 students; 22 less in Prospect and 36 less in Beacon Falls. T. Galvin also advised that the Region will have (2) Budget Workshops with a Public Hearing set for March 30, 2016.

2016-2017 Budget Process: T. Galvin commented on the timeframe for the Budget. Mayor Chatfield advised that he would like to have a meeting on Saturday, February 27, 2016. After discussion, **Motion** made by D. Merriman, seconded by J. Slapikas to approve a Budget Workshop at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 1, 2016 prior to the regular Town Council Meeting, **Unanimous.**

T. Galvin advised the Mayor that he had requested of the Town’s Auditor, Mike Battista, answers to various questions that he had. T. Galvin stated that to date, he has not

received an answer from M. Battista. Mayor Chatfield advised that he will contact M. Battista to contact T. Galvin.

Charter Revision Commission: T. Galvin commented on a letter that he had received from the Chairman of the CRC, Glenn Gruber stating that only two sets of minutes had been published to the Town's website. Mayor Chatfield stated that the CRC's minutes would all be published on the website.

Guests: None

Public Participation : None

Approval of Minutes:

Motion made by D. Merriman, seconded by L. Fitzgerald to approve the minutes of February 2, 2016. Discussion. **Motion** made by D. Merriman, seconded by L. Fitzgerald to approve the minutes of February 2, 2016 as amended. J. Slapikas commented on the minutes and the Blight Ordinance that Mayor Chatfield raised his concerns about regarding citations and liens. Mayor Chatfield advised that he would rather have a lien placed on the property and not citations given. J. Slapikas advised that per State Statute a process is followed prior to a lien placed. Discussion. **7 Approved/ 1 Abstained, J. Slapikas. Motion passes.**

Correspondence:

Grand List Comparative Breakdown Totals Dated January 28, 2016
Top 10 Taxpayer list for Real Estate, Personal Property & Motor Vehicles 2015 Grand List Dated January 28, 2016
Draft 5 Year Plan Proposed Capital Projects Dated February 10, 2016
Town of Prospect Revenue Sheet to Date as of January 31, 2016
Email from Joe DeLong Executive Director CCM Dated February 11, 2016 –
RE: Letters: Americans With Disabilities Act and Voting Referendums Policies and Practices
Region 16 Special Board of Ed Meetings Budget Workshops, Public Hearing & Annual District Meeting Dated January 28, 2016
Tax Collector's Report for December 2015 and January 2016
Letter from U.S. Department of Justice RE: Investigation of Voting Referendum Policies and Practices under the Americans with Disabilities Act Dated February 1, 2016
Zoning Inspector's Report January 2016
Prospect Police Patrol Report January 2016
Lists of Treasurer's Reports Dated July through December 2015
January 2016 Building, Heating, Plumbing and Electrical Permits
Missive from Glenn Gruber to Tom Galvin RE: Comments on CRC Minutes on Town Website (Mayor Chatfield advised that they all will be on the Website as most were not received)
Draft of Legal Notice for Special Town Meeting and Resolution
Email from Tom Galvin to Council RE: Region 16 Budget

Email from CCM Public Policy & Advocacy dated 2/12/16 CCM's State Capitol Report – DMV & Motor Vehicle Taxes

Motion made by S. Pilat, seconded by L. Fitzgerald to place correspondence on file. P. Geary stated that she would like to review the Treasure's reports and comment at a later date. **Unanimous.**

New Business:

Refunds – None

Transfers – Already acted upon

Resignations – None

Appointments – None

Bids – None

Grants – None

Public Participation:

Theresa Graveline, 20 Corinne Drive advised that she agreed with P. Geary and C. Perugini-Erickson and asked for more history when requesting transfers for repairs on the Public Works' vehicles. T. Graveline also encouraged Mayor Chatfield to advertize for the Town Meeting for the purchase of Community School as it is important for the residents of the Town to be made aware of this purchase and suggested advertizing in Citizen's News and posting signs around Town. T. Graveline also asked the Mayor to place more documents out for the public to follow with the Council, when at a Town Council meeting. T. Graveline also commented that a process is in place for the Blight Ordinance Sub-committee to follow with timelines to meet before a lien could be placed.

Old Business:

Mayor Chatfield and Carla Perugini-Erickson commented on the Sidewalk Committee Task Force and advised that the last meeting was very informative as the Assistant Engineer from Cheshire was in attendance. C. Perugini-Erickson commented that he advised of the best types of materials to use and to seek grants as Cheshire received grants for their sidewalks.

Sub-Committee Reports: J. Slapikas commented that the Ordinance Sub-committee will be coming before the Council in the next few months for approval on the Citations Ordinance and the Elderly Tax Credit Ordinance.

Mayor Chatfield advised that the Irish Mayor of the Day would be Ed Flynn.

Mayor Chatfield requested a moment of silence for a Prospect resident and an Inland Wetlands Commissioner, Arnie Koehler.

Adjournment:

Motion made by D. Merriman, seconded by J. Slapikas to adjourn the meeting.

Unanimous. The meeting adjourned @ 7:40 p.m.

Thomas J. Galvin, Chairman

Rosalyn B. Moffo, Clerk