

Prospect Town Council
Regular Meeting
Unapproved Minutes
October 4, 2016

Chairman Thomas J. Galvin called to order the regular meeting of the Prospect Town Council @ 7:00 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, Al DeLelle, D. Merriman, Pat Geary, Carla Perugini-Erickson, Larry Fitzgerald, C. Graveline and S. Pilat

Members Absent: None

Also in attendance Mayor Robert J. Chatfield

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Robert J. Chatfield requested a transfer from the Police Overtime Account to the Police Officer's Account #6700 in the amount of \$42,979.00

Police Overtime #6700-07	\$39,925.00
Social Security #5750-01	<u>\$ 3,054.00</u>
Total	\$42,979.00

Motion made by D. Merriman, seconded by J. Slapikas to approve the transfer from the Police Overtime Account to the Police Officer's Account #6700 in the amount of \$42,979.00.

Police Overtime #6700-07	\$39,925.00
Social Security #5750-01	<u>\$ 3,054.00</u>
Total	\$42,979.00

Unanimous.

Mayor Chatfield advised that the Town is in hurricane mode as Hurricane Matthew is expected to hit Connecticut by Sunday. Mayor Chatfield stated that according to his weather sources, the Town should be getting 1-3" of rain. The Mayor has activated the C.E.R.T. team for assistance. The Mayor also stated that he has enlisted the C.E.R.T. team's help for the Pumpkin Festival as he is anticipating a larger crowd than usual. C. Graveline questioned if Community School would be used as a shelter and command center during the storm. Mayor Chatfield advised that the building is still in need of a generator.

C. Graveline questioned the grant for the 'Road Safety Audit which will be conducted from the end of Center Street/Rte 69 to Hotchkiss House which will be completed in 2017'. Mayor Chatfield advised that the work should start soon and proceed through 2017.

Refunds: **Motion** made by J. Slapikas, seconded by P. Geary to approve the Tax Refunds dated October 4, 2016 in the amount of \$159.84. **Unanimous.**

Chair's Report:

CRC Update: T. Galvin advised that the Town Clerk had received proofs back from the Town's Attorney John Yarbrough, for the (5) ballot questions and explanatory text to be published in the Prospect Pages. T. Galvin also advised that the first run of the (5) Ballot questions with explanatory text was published in the Prospect Pages with one more to be published for the November edition and one at the end of October to be published in the Citizen's News. T. Galvin thanked Gwen Fischer for her editorial expertise in condensing the size of the documents for the Prospect Pages.

Follow-up on Re-Balancing of the 2016-2017 Budget: The discussion continued with the deficit to line item #5750-00 Social Security that has accrued through the past several years. Mayor Chatfield advised that he will add to this line item when the renovations to Community School have been completed as there was a surplus from the monies allotted for the new roof.

T. Galvin commented that there are still several unresolved financial questions, recommendations from the Auditor and open items pertaining to the current year's budget. T. Galvin continued that to date, the questions have not been resolved and 'asked the Council if they would like to be proactive to pursue the answers to the questions, stop looking for answers and drop the questions, keep the questions open and wait for updates as they are doing now or if there are any other options'. Mayor Chatfield stated that he has not transferred any monies into line item #5750-00 Social Security as he had on previous occasions from the Police Overtime Account. The Mayor stated that he expected a surplus and did not know what that would be. P. Geary commented that since previous years, this line item has not had adequate monies budgeted. T. Galvin stated that 7.6% of salaries should be allotted for it and be done automatically. P. Geary stated that this needs to be corrected as it is a top priority and needs to be budgeted. P. Geary also stated that she found it very frustrating that the Audit sub-committee has not been able to meet with the Town's Treasurer. P. Geary stated that the Council needs to move forward with hiring a new Auditor and needs the Treasurer's input as to what had been done previously. P. Geary also commented that she would like a letter sent to the Treasurer asking him to meet with the sub-committee and schedule a meeting or have the Treasurer attend a Town Council meeting. Mayor Chatfield advised that he will see what he could do.

Guests: None

Public Participation:

Theresa Graveline, 20 Corinne Drive, commented on the speeding of vehicles on the Town and State roads and would like to have digital signs placed to discourage this from happening. T. Graveline stated that the speed limit applies to everyone and she would like to see the Town do more. C. Graveline commented that he approves of placing these signs in Prospect. D. Merriman also commented that he would like to have a sign on Merriman Lane. Fred Bonyai, 18 Woodcrest Dr. commented on proposing speed limits on State roads. Council members stated that they would like to see the signs placed on Scott Road, Summit Road, Straitsville Road and Rtes 68 & 69 and throughout the Town.

J. Slapikas commented that he would like the Town to place ‘No Turn on Red’ at the top of Summit Road and at the intersection of Rte 69 to Old School House Road as he is concerned with fatalities. Mayor Chatfield advised that he has looked into the pricing of these signs and has found them to be \$3,500 for each one. The Mayor also advised that he will discuss this matter with the Prospect Police department.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion made by D. Merriman, seconded by C. Graveline to approve the regular meeting minutes of September 20, 2016 and the special meeting minutes of September 26, 2016.
Unanimous.

Correspondence:

Police Overtime Account transfer dated 10/4/16 in the amount of \$42,979.00
Tax Refunds dated 10/4/16 in the amount of \$159.84
Letter from Attorney Yarbrough to Town Clerk dated 9/27/16 RE: Explanatory Text (5) Ballot Questions and Explanatory Text for Ballot Questions dated 9/27/16 from Attorney Yarbrough
Grants Awarded 10/4/16
Treasurer Report dated 8/31/16
Tax Collector’s Report August 2016
Savings Report by Month (Prescriptions) 8/31/16
Questions from T. Galvin for 10/4/16 meeting

Motion made by J. Slapikas, seconded by A. Delelle to place correspondence on file.
Unanimous

New Business:

Refunds – Already acted upon
Transfers – Already acted upon
Resignations – None
Appointments:

Motion made by P. Geary, seconded by C. Graveline to approve the appointment of Carl Montagno as a Regular member from an Alternate on ZBA. **Unanimous.**

Bids – None
Grants- Already acted upon.

Public Participation: None

Sub-committee Report:

Audit Sub-committee Report: No meeting.
Ordinance Sub-Committee on Elderly Tax Relief: J. Slapikas commented that once the Council comments on the final draft, the ordinance will be re-represented to the Council and a public hearing will be set.

C. Perugini-Erickson asked Mayor Chatfield if he had obtained Ordinances on sidewalks from other towns to present to Prospect’s Ordinance sub-committee. Mayor Chatfield advised that he will work on getting that information.

Council members questioned the timeframe of the Town Buildings sub-committee meeting. T. Galvin advised that the organizational meeting is scheduled for 10/17/18 @ 7:00 p.m. at Community School. Mayor Chatfield advised that Fred Harkins and the Community School Building sub-committee along with Joe Gomes will be invited. Council members commented on the use of Community School. Mayor Chatfield advised that the vote was by the people to purchase Community School as a Community Center and Rec Center. Mayor Chatfield advised that once the final inspections are made, the Center will be open; rooms have been assigned to Parks & Recreation, Youth Services, several Town committees and groups and the Prospect Gun Club will use the facilities for their meetings. P. Geary commented that the Town Buildings sub-committee will be for all Town Buildings and not just Community School and asked that the Mayor consider what the Town's groups and organizations would like to see at Community School. T. Galvin stated that the members of the Town Buildings sub-committee are: Stan Pilat, Doug Merriman, Pat Geary, Larry Fitzgerald and Mayor Chatfield.

Council members questioned when the next Pension & Benefits sub-committee meeting would be. T. Galvin stated that Mayor Chatfield had contacted the insurance rep. for options to supplemental insurance for retirees. Mayor Chatfield informed the Council that he would like to have the next meeting of the Pension & Benefits sub-committee meeting on October 18, 2016 prior to the Town Council meeting.

Adjournment:

Motion made by D. Merriman, seconded by C. Graveline to adjourn the meeting. **Unanimous.** The meeting adjourned @ 7:50 p.m.

Thomas J. Galvin

Thomas J. Galvin
Chairman