

TOWN OF WEST GREENWICH
TOWN COUNCIL

SPECIAL MEETING
MARCH 28, 2018

A regular meeting of the West Greenwich Town Council was held on March 28, 2018. Present were Mark Tourgee, Linda Rekas Sloan, Robert Andrews Thomas Mulcahey and Mark Boyer. Also present Town Administrator Kevin Breene and Town Treasurer Danielle Andrews.

A. CALL TO ORDER - 6:00 P.M.

Council President Tourgee called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.

B. AGENDA:

Council Vice President Rekas Sloan moved to dispense of the reading of the previous meeting minutes. Councilman Mulcahey seconded.

VOTED: Tourgee- aye, Rekas Sloan - aye, Andrews- aye, Boyer- aye, Mulcahey - aye

1. WORK SESSION ON FY 2018/2019 BUDGET

Town Administrator Breene reviewed the Public Works Department. He explained the correspondence with Centreville Bank and RI Infrastructure regarding funding asphalt.

Town Administrator Breene explained roads are in need of repair and chip seal versus asphalt.

Council Vice President Rekas Sloan questioned if the loan rates with Centreville would be best.

Town Administrator Breene advised he would receive the rates from the bank on Friday and he would also check with other banks.

Council President Tourgee questioned if the \$120,000 could go towards the deficit.

Treasurer Andrews explained last year's funding of asphalt.

Councilman Mulcahey explained the financing of the fire station.

Discussion ensued on road financing.

Council Vice President Rekas Sloan explained residents want nice roads.

Council President Tourgee stated ideally we need to get the increase within 4 percent.

Town Administrator Breene advised that was not going to happen; due to the needs of the school. He further explained the funding of the school.

Town Treasurer Andrews stated concern with the trend of the school budget.

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Council President Tourgee suggested a letter needs to go to residents explaining that the budget increase is due to school.

Discussion ensued on the school budget.

Council President Tourgee suggested reaching out to Exeter to develop a study group to identify the benefits of not taking state aid.

Discussion ensued on state aid.

Town Administrator Breene discussed the Louttit Library employee rates. He advised if you give the employees the dollar they should not get the 3 percent.

Discussion ensued on comparing pay schedules of library employees.

Council President Tourgee agreed to give them the \$1 only and not the additional 3 percent.

Council Vice President Rekas Sloan questioned the \$25,000. It was her recollection that it was only supposed to be a one time allotment for a specific reason.

Treasurer Andrews advised on the \$25,000 and agreed with Vice President Rekas Sloan and that the funding was for equipment for the community room or extending Monday hours.

Treasurer Andrews advised on maintenance of effort regarding the library budget.

Discussion ensued on Monday evening hours and the realty conveyance line item.

Council Vice President Rekas Sloan explained she recalled the letter from library and this was a one time expense.

Council President Tourgee would like a break out on what the Monday night would cost.

Councilman Boyer stated he thought the funding was to keep Director Feldman.

Town Administrator Breene stated it was to plug the budget.

Council President Tourgee would like to know where the funding is going besides salaries at the library.

Councilman Mulcahey questioned the library operations line item.

Treasurer Andrews advised it was for salaries.

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Town Administrator Breene called Louttit Library Director Feldman and Director Feldman was put on speaker phone.

Director Feldman advised the \$25,000 was for a hardware budget item. She further explained what was used in the budget. She also explained they need to see what money has to be on the operations side for the state.

Discussion ensued on state aide.

Discussion ensued on funding the library.

Director Feldman stated they could eliminate the additional \$5,000. It was agreed they would remove the \$5,000 from the budget.

Chief Ramsay arrived at 6:56 P.M.

Members of the Fire Board of Engineers (BOE) arrived at 6:57 P.M. and the following Chiefs were present: Chief Andrews, Chief Kelley, and Chief Tyler.

Town Administrator Breene summarized the budgets presented from the BOE.

Chief Kelley presented the budget that was voted on by the BOE. He explained West Greenwich # 1 would receive \$150,191 and Hianloland would receive \$187,438. A budget was not presented from Lake Mishnock.

Bill Barlow, Lake Mishnock Treasurer presented the budget from Lake Mishnock Fire Department requesting \$148,020.

Discussion ensued on rescue recovery.

Treasurer Barlow advised the rescue billing line item was wrong.

Councilman Mulcahey questioned if this budget was presented to the BOE.

Chief Tyler stated it was not.

Councilman Mulcahey stated they advised the BOE to present a unified budget and he recommended giving it back to the Fire Board to make a determination of funds.

Council President Tourgee advised the school budget impact on the town's budget.

Discussion ensued on fire budgets.

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It was determined the BOE would need to have another meeting and submit a revised final budget request.

Councilman Mulcahey suggested having a Council member serve on the board as ex officio liaison roll.

Chief Kelley advised there is a board member appointed by the Council.

Town Administrator Breene advised the Chief of Police is an appointed member.

Discussion ensued on liaison.

Council Vice President Rekas Sloan asked the BOE to focus on the town and not individual fire departments.

Discussion ensued on amending the Charter.

Chief Kelley questioned the funding of fire vehicles. It was determined the town would no longer be financing vehicles as capital expenditures.

Discussion ensued on financing vehicles.

Chief Kelley questioned if the \$60,000 fire apparatus fund would be utilized.

Town Administrator Breene responded they have not gotten that far.

Council Vice President Rekas Sloan stated maybe not this year with the impact on the budget.

Discussion ensued on rescue recovery funding.

Discussion ensued on capital expenses.

Chief Ramsay stated for clarity the town is not funding vehicles.

It was explained the fire apparatus fund was developed to be seed money and not money to make payments.

Council President Tourgee stated the Council has the burden to budget for the entire town and BOE has the burden for the fire department.

It was noted that the BOE had \$460,000 to work with; however the amount could be lower.

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Council President Tourgee questioned if the Lake Mishnock paid men were covered for insurance. Mr. Barlow advised they were and stated there is no funding for workers compensation.

Discussion ensued on workers compensation insurance.

Discussion ensued on Charter review.

Chief Tyler commented on the budget audit.

Discussion ensued on dispatch.

Town Administrator Breene commented on the history of Exeter coverage.

Discussion ensued on dispatch protocols.

Council President Tourgee stated BCI checks should be required every 6 months on all members.

Chief Ramsay stated they did discuss BCI at the last board meeting and that was being taken care of.

Town Administrator Breene stated Chief Andrews will give \$30- \$32,000 to put in per diem rescue recovery. He explained the need.

Vice President Rekas Sloan commented on response time and requested a incident analysis be conducted regarding a comment made to Council President Tourgee during care of a family member.

Chief Tyler stated he had not heard about the incident and gave Council President Tourgee a formal apology. He further explained he would address the inappropriate comment.

Discussion ensued on the incident.

Town Administrator Breene stated to the Chiefs they would need numbers before April 9th.

Treasurer Andrews advised prior to April 9th would be appreciated for packets need to be made prior to the public hearing.

Chief Ramsay reviewed the Police Department's budget.

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Council President Tourgee questioned if the town purchase guns. Chief Ramsay advised yes, but will not need guns for 3-4 years.

Town Administrator Breene questioned the bridge detail money.

Chief Ramsay advised after the purchase of the latest car they have \$70,000 in that account.

Chief Ramsay advised on billing of cars for detail.

Discussion ensued on police detail.

Discussion ensued on police employees.

Chief Ramsay advised on accreditation.

Town Administrator Breene stated he still needs to negotiate a contract with Chief Ramsay.

Discussion ensued on rescue.

Council Vice President Rekas Sloan moved to adjourn at 8:33 P.M.

Councilman Andrews seconded.

VOTED: Tourgee- aye, Rekas Sloan - aye, Andrews - aye, Boyer- aye, Mulcahey -aye

ERIN F. LIESE, CMC
TOWN CLERK