

**MINUTES
SPECIAL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, JUNE 30, 2009 AT 7:45 PM**

1. ROLL CALL: A Special meeting of the Town Council was called to order at 7:15 pm, in the Richard E. Mastrangelo Council Chamber at 7:45 PM. Present for the meeting were Councilors Stephen P. Corbett, Marilyn M. Petitto Devaney, Susan G. Falkoff, Jonathan Hecht, Angeline B. Kounelis, John J. Lawn, Jr., Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr., and Council President Clyde L. Younger. Also present were the Town Manager Michael J. Driscoll, Town Attorney Joe Fair and Council Clerk Valerie Papas. Councilor Sideris was absent.

2. MOTION TO CONVENE EXECUTIVE SESSION

Councilor Kounelis moved to go into executive session in order to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining, seconded by Falkoff and adopted by unanimous roll call vote. It was noted that the Council will return to open session following the adjournment of the executive session.

3. RECONVENE OF OPEN SESSION:

The Special Town Council meeting reconvened at 8:45 pm.

The Town Manager reviewed the Fire Department's proposed budget. He indicated that spreading out leave time during the entire fiscal year will help avoid the layoffs of four active firefighters. He further indicated that there were discussions today with the Fire Department Union President who indicated that there had been a problem with the ballot and requested additional time on the matter.

The Manager reviewed the Police Department proposed fiscal year 2010 budget. He requested that the Council adopt the budget with an increase of \$58,940, noting that discussions will continue on the Quinn Bill with the Police union.

Mr. Tracy noted that at the June 23rd meeting, there was a "pass" on the personnel related Police and Fire Department budgets. He noted that is what is before the Council tonight.

Councilor Lawn recused himself from discussion and vote on the Police Department budget.

Councilor Falkoff moved the police department budget, seconded by Councilor Kounelis.

Councilor Devaney stated that she hopes the Manager keeps communications open and that the Quinn Bill is funded for the entire year. The pay cut is quite substantial for many of the officers she noted and that some towns are funding the town and state portion. Unions made a lot of concessions when they accepted GIC and she thanked them for that.

Councilor Kounelis stated that she is from a union family and she is not union buster. It is difficult times and we need to work together for a give and take. She indicated that this is a very complicated matter and she wished she could do more.

Councilor Corbett stated that this is a collective bargaining issue to which both parties need to work toward a solution with the hopes that officers are paid fairly comparable to their counterparts in other communities.

The Chair thanked those who have reached out to the Administration, and asked that they continue negotiations until a resolution is reached; bargaining is not a one way street.

Councilor Devaney asked if she could accept only the \$58,940 and not accept the budget. She noted that she previously requested that monies be taken from the Stabilization Fund and therefore she cannot vote the police budget as it is under funding the Quinn Bill. Upon a roll call vote, the Police Department budget was adopted by a vote of 6 for, 1 against and 1 abstaining.

The Auditor introduced the previously “passed” budget of the Fire Department.

Councilor Falkoff moved the Fire Department budget, seconded by Councilor Kounelis.

Councilor Devaney stated that the four firefighters included a paramedic who served in Iraq. She noted that she did not want to see a loss in this position. Councilor Devaney noted that she is pleased that the four positions are in the budget tonight but that she would be unhappy to learn that they would be laid off during the year.

The Manager clarified the fire department budget by stating that the onus remains with the unions receiving a favorable response from their membership. The budget does not include the four firefighters, which will be held in abeyance for ten days.

The budget was adopted by a roll call vote of 8 for 0 against.

Mr. Thomas Tracy, Town Auditor read the bottom line of the budget: \$94,808,413

Councilor Hecht moved to reconsider the budget with the hope that it fails, seconded by Councilor Falkoff and adopted by 7 against and 1 for, with Councilor Devaney voting in the affirmative.

There being no further business to come before the Town Council, Councilor Falkoff moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:20 pm, seconded by Councilor Corbett and adopted by voice vote.

I hereby certify that at a regular meeting of the Town Council for which a quorum was present, the above minutes were adopted on August 11, 2009 as written.

Clyde L. Younger, Council President