

Town of Clinton  
54 East Main Street  
Clinton, Connecticut 06413

## **TOWN COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING**

**Tuesday, March 2, 2021 at 7:00 PM**

**GoToMeeting Teleconference**

**Minutes**

Present: Chris Aniskovich, Carol Walter, Mark Richards, Dennis Donovan, Tim Guerra, Eric Bergman and Christine Goupil

Also present: Karl Kilduff, Town Manager

C. Aniskovich opened the meeting at 6:00 pm and made an opening statement. The meeting was then turned over to the Town Manager.

### **RATIFY ADJUSTMENTS TO THE TOWN MANAGER'S PROPOSED BUDGET**

K. Kilduff reviewed his budget reductions and necessary add on with the council. The recommendations were as follows.

- Reduce Water Hydrants line item by \$22,026 based on conversations with CT Water
- In the General Government Other budget reduce Workers' Compensation by \$12,987 and Employer OPEB Contribution by \$58,500.
- Based on updated information from MIRA the Public Works Landfill Costs line item needs to be increased by \$7,000.
- The total reduction comes to \$86,513.

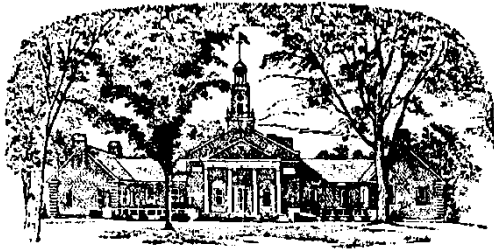
M. Richards made a motion, seconded by C. Walter to reduce Water and Hydrants by \$22,026, Workers' Compensation by \$12,987, Employer OPEB Contribution by \$58,500 and increase DPW Landfill Costs by \$7,000. The motion was unanimously approve.

The council has the option to add the following items back into the budget. The council would need to take action on these items if they were to be added to the budget.

- General Government – COST line item for \$950
- Park & Rec – Repairs & Maintenance line item for \$5,000
- Public Works – Truck Driver position in the amount of \$90,405 which would include salary and benefits.
- Public Works – Assistant Public Works Director Position in the amount of \$111,524 which would include salary and benefits.
- Capital – Public Works Medium Dump Truck with Plow for \$115,000

E. Bergman made a motion, seconded by T. Guerra to add the COST membership of \$950 back into the budget. The motion was unanimously approved.

C. Goupil made a motion, seconded by T. Guerra to purchase the Public Works Medium Dump Truck in the amount of \$115,000 from the undesignated fund balance. The motion failed to pass with a vote of 2



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in favor (Goupil and Guerra) and 4 opposed (Walter, Donovan, Richards and Bergman). No other action was taken by the council.

K. Kilduff reviewed some other possible reductions to the town budget.

- General Government Other – Employer OPEB Contribution for \$10,000
- WPCC clerk from full time to part time for a reduction of \$10,273
- Board of Education budget reduction of \$260,000 due to the lower cost in health care and workers compensation based on renewal rates. This reduction was submitted by the Superintendent of Schools.
- Remove the following items from the Board of Education capital budget and pay for the items from this year's operating surplus funds.
  - FY 22 Security/Communications Upgrade for \$25,000
  - FY22 Equipment Replacement for \$20,000

D. Donovan made a motion, seconded by T. Guerra to reduce the Employer OPEB Contribution line item by \$10,000 and reduce the WPCC position from full time to part time with a reduction of \$10,273. The motion was approved with a vote of 4 in favor (Richards, Donovan, Walter and Guerra) and 2 opposed (Goupil and Bergman).

M. Richards made a motion, seconded by T. Guerra to reduce the Board of Education operating budget by \$260,000 based on a reduction to health care costs and workers compensation renewal. The motion was unanimously approved.

M. Richards made a motion, seconded by T. Guerra to remove the Board of Education Capital Security/Communications upgrade for \$25,000 and the Equipment Replacement for \$20,000 and pay for them from this year's operating surplus funds. The motion was unanimously approved.

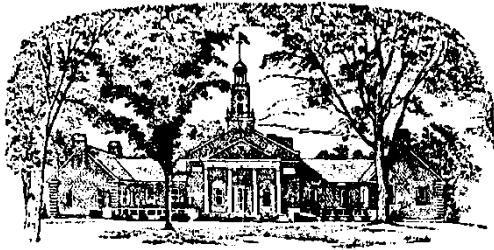
#### Radio Project

The council then discussed how they wanted to fund the radio project. As it stands now the entire cost of project is in the budget and funded from undesignated fund balance. The council also has the option to take the project out of the budget and bond the full amount. After some discussions the council decided to leave the project in the budget.

#### Board of Education Capital

D. Donovan recommended removing from the budget the Board of Education Capital Budget request of \$40,000 for the Truck, \$25,000 for the HVAC Replacement for the Eliot Nurse and Guidance Office and \$128,000 for the Computer Upgrades for a total of \$193,000 and use the money that was put in the Set Aside Non-Lapsing Fund that was created last year. The motion was seconded by T. Guerra. The motion was approved with 5 in favor (Guerra, Richards, Walter, Guerra and Donovan) and 1 abstention (Bergman).

#### Council Statements



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T. Guerra informed the council that at the last meeting he thought it was best to recuse himself because he's a part-time substitute teacher but now realizes that he didn't need to recuse himself.

E. Bergman read a prepared statement regarding his reasoning for recusing himself. E. Bergman will still recuse himself when it pertains to details of the education budget but will vote on the overall budget moving forward to a public hearing.

**RECOMMEND TOWN AND BOARD OF EDUCATION BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021-2022 AND SEND TO PUBLIC HEARING**

D. Donovan made a motion, seconded by T. Guerra to recommend a Town and Board of Education budget for fiscal year 2021-2022 and send to public hearing. There was some discussion by the council that followed. D. Donovan and T. Guerra both took their original motion off the floor. T. Guerra made a motion, seconded by D. Donovan to recommend a Town and Board of Education budget for fiscal year July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022 and send to public hearing on April 7, 2021. The motion was approved with a vote of 5 in favor (Richards, Donovan, Goupil, Guerra and Bergman) and 1 opposed (Walter).

Town Operating Budget	\$16,519,943
Board of Education Operating Budget	\$33,911,057
Debt Service Town	\$2,025,259
Debt Service Board of Education	\$3,136,159
Town Capital Budget	\$2,716,714
Board of Education Capital	\$99,800

The meeting adjourned at 8:52 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Schettino  
Executive Assistant