

TOWN OF WEST GREENWICH
TOWN COUNCIL

SPECIAL MEETING
MARCH 2, 2015

A meeting of the West Greenwich Town Council was held on March 2, 2015. Present were Mark Tourgee, Susan Woloohojian, Robert Andrews, Thomas Mulcahey and Linda Rekas Sloan. Also present were Town Administrator Kevin Breene, Town Treasurer Danielle Andrews, Tax Assessor/Collector Charlene Randall and Chief Richard Ramsay.

A. CALL TO ORDER – 6:30 P.M.

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 P.M.

Council Vice President Woloohojian moved to open the meeting and dispense of the reading of the minutes from the previous meeting. Councilwoman Rekas Sloan seconded.

VOTED: Tourgee - aye, Woloohojian - aye, Andrews - aye, Mulcahey –aye, Rekas Sloan - aye

2. WORK SESSION ON FY 2015/2015 BUDGET

Town Administrator Breene commented on the financial condition of the Town and bond savings of 600,000.00.

Discussion ensued on bond savings.

Discussion ensued on taxes in comparison of other communities. Charlene Randall, Tax Assessor/Collector advised she could have figures for Wednesday's Town Council Meeting.

Discussion ensued on effects of snow storms with current budget.

Town Administrator Breene discussed the Public Works Dept. budget and need for new sweeper. He advised the Town Planner had submitted a grant to offset the cost of the sweeper.

Town Administrator Breene discussed the Fire and Rescue Budget and Board of Engineers.

Town Administrator Breene updated the Council on the proposed budget and as prepared reflects a 3% overall increase.

Council President Tourgee suggested keeping 3% raise in consistent with the union employees.

Town Administrator Breene and Town Treasurer Andrews updated the Council on the following proposed budgets: General Gov't health benefits, retirement, floating clerk, per-diem, audit, computer equipment fund, server replacement, meetings and educational dues and legal advertisement.

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Council Vice President Woloohojian questioned the legal advertisement requirement. Town Clerk Liese advised the Charter would need to be changed in order to eliminate advertisement in newspapers and place notices online.

The Water Dept. budget was reviewed.

Council President Tourgee questioned water supply. Town Administrator Breene advised two households received bottled water.

The Summer Concert series budget was reviewed.

Council Vice President Woloohojian questioned the increase for funding the concert. Tax Assessor/Collector Randall advised it was for mosquito control and free hot dogs at last concert.

Councilman Andrews questioned the status of the farmers market. Council Vice President Woloohojian advised on status of farmers market and stated the Conservation Commission is working on this.

Discussion ensued on summer concert series.

The Town Administrator's budget was reviewed.

Town Administrator Breene requested his salary line item be split to reflect Clerk Brown. She was included in his line item last budget.

The Town Clerk's budget was reviewed.

Town Administrator Breene discussed the need to codify ordinances. Town Clerk Liese advised the office is currently out to bid and cost would be hard to explain until the bid opening held March 18th.

The Tax office budget was reviewed.

Tax Assessor/Collector Randall advised the 5% increase was for Deputy Tax Collector Jarvis reached her additional step.

Discussion ensued on Town Council stipends and the consensus was a 5% increase.

The Building Inspector Dept. budget was reviewed.

Discussion ensued on the reduction of salary.

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Discussion ensued on the Building Official's new vehicle request.

The following budgets were reviewed: Tax Board of Review, Town Sergeant, and Development Commission.

Discussion ensued on the Education budget.

Emergency Mgt. and Police Fire Accident and Sickness line items were reviewed.

Discussion ensued on hydrant rentals.

The following Community and Social budget requests were reviewed: RI League of Cities and Towns, Memorial Day Parade, Happy Seniors, Historical society, EWG TV and Henry B. Wright Scholarship.

Council Vice President Woloohojian recused.

The Louttit Library budget was reviewed.

Town Administrator Breene questioned Mr. Woloohojian on increase. Mr. Woloohojian explained the increase would raise the salaries; however there is not a capital improvement budget in place.

Discussion ensued on library grants and library budget.

Discussion ensued on library roof.

Council President Tourgee requested the Library Board come to the next Budget Workshop.

The Conservation Commission, Land Trust, Open Space Grant, Sports and Human Services budget was reviewed.

Discussion ensued on tax revenue.

Discussion ensued on GTECH.

Charlene Randall, Tax Assessor/Collector departed at 8:22 P.M.

The Police Dept budget was reviewed.

Chief Ramsay reviewed his proposed budget and explained the following increases: Animal Control 19%, Civilian Base Salary 5%, Officer Salary 7%, Officer Sick Incentive 22%, Officers Sick

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Buy Back 18%, Civilians Sick Buy Back 7%, Equipment Contracts 13%, Employee Benefits, Vehicle Maintenance, Range Ammo, Capital Improvement request and Computer Server upgrade.

Discussion ensued on vehicle purchase fund and decline of police details.

Chief Ramsay departed at 8:43 P.M.

The General Fire & Rescue budget was reviewed.

Councilman Mulcahey explained the increase request of Lake Mishnock and Hianloland and 0% requested increase of West Greenwich Fire and Rescue.

Discussion ensued on per diem personnel.

Town Treasurer Andrews advised on funding the per diem personnel.

Discussion ensued on fire dept audits.

Discussion ensued on fire fee collection.

Council Vice President Woloohojian moved to adjourn at 8:59 P.M.

Councilman Andrews seconded.

VOTED: Tourgee - aye, Woloohojian - aye, Andrews - aye, Mulcahey –aye, Rekas Sloan - aye

**ERIN F. LIESE, CMC
TOWN CLERK**