

**TOWN COUNCIL MEETING  
OF NORTH BRANFORD, CONNECTICUT**

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**Tuesday, April 10, 2006**

**Town Council Chambers  
7:00 p.m.**

**SALUTE TO THE FLAG**

1. ROLL CALL: Present were Mayor Andrew Esposito, Deputy Mayor Joanne Wentworth, Council Members Mary Bigelow, Andrew Bozzuto, Vincent Candelora, Michael Doody, Donald Fucci, and Arthur Hausman. Also present was Town Manager Karl Kilduff.

Council Member Ashley Joiner arrived at 7:03 p.m.

2. FY 2006-07 BUDGET DELIBERATIONS:
  - a. Revenues

Town Manager Kilduff distributed for the Council's review Comparative Budget History FY 2006-07 to FY 1989-1990, noting the revaluation years. He reviewed the Percent Increase in Spending and the Percent Increase in Tax Rate.

The Town Manager also noted a correction in Revenue. Revenue estimates did not reflect the drop in the mill rate for the payment in lieu of taxes made by the Regional Water Authority. He distributed a revised copy of the General Fund Budget Summary, pointing out the adjusted mill rate reflecting a revenue deficit of \$185,000.

**MOTION:** Councilor Candelora moved, seconded by Councilor Fucci, to increase the Collection Rate from 98.2% to 98.3%.

There was a brief discussion on this between Council members and the Town Manager.

**VOTE:** Passed 8 to 0 with 1 abstention in a roll call vote.

**FOR:** Mayor Esposito, Deputy Mayor Wentworth, Councilors Mary Bigelow, Andrew Bozzuto, Vincent Candelora, Michael Doody, Donald Fucci, and Arthur Hausman

**ABSTAIN:** Councilor Ashley Joiner

b. General Government Services

**MOTION:** Councilor Candelora moved, seconded by Councilor Fucci, to reduce Department 4110, Mayor & Council, Account #319 Professional Development by \$60 for conferences.

Councilor Candelora noted that the Council typically does not use this money.

**VOTE:** Passed 9 to 0 in a roll call vote.

Under the Mayor & Council, Town Manager Kilduff indicated a change to the municipal advocate eliminating the dues for CCM and its October annual conference and replacing this with the Council of Small Towns (COST). The cut that was just made reduced the attendance for two to attend the COST annual meeting. He noted that CCM's dues were \$8,700 while COST is \$950.

There was discussion on this between the Council and the Town Manager.

Under the Water Pollution Control Authority, Town Manager Kilduff pointed out savings in advertising costs due to using The Sound newspaper rather than the New Haven Register.

**MOTION:** Councilor Candelora moved, seconded by Councilor Fucci, to reduce Department 4140, Town Clerk, Account #102 Part Time by \$2,476.80.

Town Manager Kilduff noted that these hours were included in order to cover vacation time. He noted that the cut is for 969 hours at \$10.32 per hour.

**VOTE:** Passed 9 to 0 in a roll call vote.

**MOTION:** Councilor Joiner moved, seconded by Councilor Bozzuto, to reduce Department 4136, Central Services, Account #201 Office Supplies by \$1,000 for miscellaneous.

**VOTE:** Passed 9 to 0 in a roll call vote.

**MOTION:** Councilor Candelora moved, seconded by Councilor Fucci, to reduce Department 4141, Elections, Account #102 Part Time by \$1,135.

**VOTE:** Passed 8 to 0 with 1 abstention in a roll call vote.

**FOR:** Deputy Mayor Wentworth, Councilors Mary Bigelow, Andrew Bozzuto, Vincent Candelora, Michael Doody, Donald Fucci, Arthur Hausman and Ashley Joiner

**ABSTAIN:** Mayor Esposito

**MOTION:** Councilor Fucci moved, seconded by Councilor Candelora, to reduce Department 4136, Central Services, Accounts #101 and 120 by \$53,451, eliminating the Custodian position.

Town Manager Kilduff stated that the Council needed to temper the amount of the cut as there are expenses related to eliminating the position such as unemployment liabilities. He

confirmed that the total cut would be \$53,451 and that unemployment liability is \$12,480. He also stated that the elimination of this position would require the redeployment of duties to existing staff.

VOTE: Passed 5 to 4 in a roll call vote.  
FOR: Deputy Mayor Wentworth, Councilors Vincent Candelora, Michael Doody, Donald Fucci, and Arthur Hausman  
OPPOSED: Mayor Esposito, Councilors Mary Bigelow, Andrew Bozzuto and Ashley Joiner  
MOTION: Councilor Candelora moved, seconded by Councilor Fucci, to reduce Department 4210, Police, Account #102 Part Time by \$4,356 eliminating the Supernumerary.  
VOTE: Passed 8 to 0 with 1 abstention in a roll call vote.  
FOR: Mayor Esposito, Deputy Mayor Wentworth, Councilors Mary Bigelow, Andrew Bozzuto, Vincent Candelora, Donald Fucci, Arthur Hausman and Ashley Joiner  
ABSTAIN: Councilor Michael Doody

As Police Chief Canelli was not present, Councilor Doody stepped down in order to address questions of the Council regarding the Police Department.

MOTION: Councilor Joiner moved, seconded by Councilor Bigelow, to reduce Department 4210, Police, Account #103 Over Time by \$26,061 to \$100,000.

Town Manager Kilduff reviewed the overtime liability particularly in light of the elimination of the Supernumerary position. He pointed out that the overtime percentage for the Town of North Branford is lower than the average for Connecticut municipalities. In a survey showing police overtime as a percent of payroll the average is 11.9% while North Branford's is 9.2%.

Councilor Joiner stated that last year the Council hired two new police officers, for a total of 23 police officers. She felt that the overtime account could now be reduced.

There was considerable discussion on this issue between Council members. Councilor Candelora noted that the Town has no control over this figure and pointed out that it has never been as low as \$100,000. He was reluctant to cut this account too low.

Deputy Police Chief Doody also responded to this, noting that the Town never knows what is going to come up. He stated that overtime is not just used for emergencies but also covers coverage of shifts, personal days, contractual leave, DUI patrols, child safety seminars, and training.

AMENDMENT: Councilor Joiner moved, seconded by Councilor Bigelow, to amend the motion to reduce Department 4210, Police, Account #103 Overtime to \$115,000.

VOTE ON MAIN MOTION AS AMENDED: Passed 8 to 0 with 1 abstention in a roll call vote.  
FOR: Mayor Esposito, Deputy Mayor Wentworth, Councilors Mary Bigelow, Andrew Bozzuto, Vincent Candelora, Donald Fucci, Arthur Hausman and Ashley Joiner  
ABSTAIN: Councilor Michael Doody

With respect to the Police Department vehicles, Town Manager Kilduff distributed information to the Council on the mileage for each of the vehicles. He noted that this is a three vehicle year and pointed out that there are five vehicles which are in excess of 100,000 miles.

Deputy Police Chief Doody spoke on problems being experienced and the cost of maintaining older vehicles.

Town Manager Kilduff pointed out that if a vehicle is eliminated it would require an increase in a line item to cover maintenance issues.

There was discussion on the police vehicles by the Council. Councilor Candelora stated that the replacement of the vehicles appears to be a safety issue.

Councilor Bozzuto questioned the uniform allowance for the Police Department.

Town Manager Kilduff confirmed that this is given every year and is set by the union contract.

**MOTION:** Councilor Candelora moved, seconded by Councilor Fucci, to reduce Department 4305, Public Works, Account #104 Seasonal by \$4,400 eliminating one additional seasonal employee.

Councilor Candelora noted that this brings this back to last year's level.

**VOTE:** Passed 9 to 0 in a roll call vote.

**MOTION:** Councilor Fucci moved, seconded by Councilor Candelora, to reduce Department 4305, Public Works, Account #320 Other Contractual by \$2,960 for line painting.

Public Works Director Fran Merola stated that this covers 13 miles of line painting a year.

**VOTE:** Passed 9 to 0 in a roll call vote.

Councilor Bigelow questioned the installation and replacement of guardrails.

Public Works Director Merola stated that they replace older guardrails as well as any that are hit or broken. He noted that the end anchors are the costly item.

Councilor Bozzuto questioned the grass seed.

Public Works Director Merola indicated that this is for 3,000 pounds of seed which is used to reseed all the fields, including the Board of Education facilities.

Councilor Candelora questioned the road sand.

Public Works Director Merola stated that they are implementing a new type of treated salt as sand is becoming harder to obtain and is getting more expensive to purchase.

Town Manager Kilduff also briefly addressed this, noting that the treated sand requires less clean up in the spring as well.

There was some discussion between the Council, the Town Manager and the Public Works Director on the treated sand which will be phased in.

**MOTION:** Councilor Candelora moved, seconded by Councilor Fucci, to reduce Department 4507, Haz Waste/Recycling, Account #320 Other Contractual by \$10,000 eliminating the satellite collection.

VOTE: Passed 7 to 0 with 2 abstentions in a roll call vote.  
FOR: Mayor Esposito, Deputy Mayor Wentworth, Councilors Vincent Candelora, Michael Doody, Donald Fucci, Arthur Hausman and Ashley Joiner  
ABSTAIN: Councilors Mary Bigelow and Andrew Bozzuto

MOTION: Councilor Candelora moved, seconded by Deputy Mayor Wentworth, to reduce Department 4673, Economic Development Commission, Account #202 Technical Supplies by \$500.

VOTE: Passed 9 to 0 in a roll call vote.

MOTION: Councilor Candelora moved, seconded by Deputy Mayor Wentworth, to reduce Department 4673, Economic Development Commission, Account #320 Other Contractual by \$1,000 eliminating the economic development assistance.

VOTE: Passed 9 to 0 in a roll call vote.

MOTION: Councilor Candelora moved, seconded by Councilor Hausman, to reduce Department 4673, Economic Development Commission, Account #319 Professional Development by \$5,638 eliminating the Regional Growth Partnership.

Town Manager Kilduff addressed this, noting that there is a great deal of potential with the Regional Growth Partnership which has not been seen yet. He noted that changes are being made to it. He confirmed that the Yale project will continue to go forward.

VOTE: Passed 9 to 0 in a roll call vote.

MOTION: Councilor Fucci moved, seconded by Councilor Hausman to reduce Department 4400, Recreation, Account #309 Postage by \$2,800.

Town Manager Kilduff noted that that is less than what was budgeted for in the 2003/2004 fiscal year.

There was discussion on placing the Recreation Department brochure in the Totoket Times as an insert, which would be a cost savings.

VOTE: Passed 6 to 2 with 1 abstention in a roll call vote.  
FOR: Mayor Esposito, Deputy Mayor Wentworth, Andrew Bozzuto, Michael Doody, Donald Fucci, Arthur Hausman  
OPPOSED: Councilors Mary Bigelow and Ashley Joiner  
ABSTAIN: Councilor Vincent Candelora

MOTION: Councilor Candelora moved, seconded by Councilor Fucci, to reduce Department 4407, Reynolds/Beers House, Account #320 Other Contractual by \$1,000 to zero.

Upon questioning, Town Manager Kilduff briefly reviewed the history behind the acquisition of the Reynolds/Beers House as it relates to the Atwater Library.

Councilor Bigelow spoke on the leak in the roof which has damaged the kitchen. She also pointed out that there are problems with the chimneys.

Town Manager Kilduff reviewed the work which will be done.

VOTE: Passed 5 to 4 in a roll call vote.  
FOR: Deputy Mayor Wentworth, Councilors Vincent Candelora, Michael Doody, Donald Fucci, Arthur Hausman  
OPPOSED: Mayor Esposito, Councilors Mary Bigelow, Andrew Bozzuto, Ashley Joiner  
MOTION: Councilor Candelora moved, seconded by Councilor Wentworth, to reduce Department 4678, Land Preservation, by \$4,211 to zero.

There was a brief discussion on this.

VOTE: Passed 9 to 0 in a roll call vote.  
MOTION: Councilor Candelora moved, seconded by Councilor Fucci, to reduce Department 4225, Ambulance, Account #308 Contributions & Subsidies by \$20,000 to \$85,000.

Town Manager Kilduff reviewed this. He pointed out that this money is not transferred out until the end of the fiscal year. He spoke on the expansion of services to include paramedics.

It was suggested that the Council meet with the Fire Commission with respect to this issue.

Treasurer/Finance Director Anthony Esposito reviewed page 153 of the budget, Ambulance Service Fund, which shows the funds being transferred out and into the Ambulance Service Fund. The Council reviewed the Ambulance Service Fund.

VOTE: Passed 6 to 3 in a roll call vote.  
FOR: Deputy Mayor Wentworth, Councilors Mary Bigelow, Vincent Candelora, Michael Doody, Donald Fucci, Arthur Hausman  
OPPOSED: Mayor Esposito, Councilors Andrew Bozzuto, Ashley Joiner  
MOTION: Councilor Fucci moved, seconded by Councilor Candelora, to reduce Department 4220, Fire Department, Account #208 Heating Oil by \$6,072.

Town Manager Kilduff noted that there is no lease between the Fire Departments and the Town and that the split originally proposed for the heating oil was 75/25. The proposed cut would split the heating oil 50/50.

There was discussion on this by Council members.

VOTE: Failed 4 to 4 with 1 abstention in a roll call vote.  
FOR: Deputy Mayor Wentworth, Councilors Vincent Candelora, Michael Doody, Donald Fucci

OPPOSED: Mayor Esposito, Councilors Mary Bigelow, Andrew Bozzuto, Ashley Joiner  
ABSTAIN: Councilor Arthur Hausman

There was discussion on the need for a written lease with the Fire Departments.

Town Manager Kilduff stated that the Chairman of the Fire Commission has indicated that a lease will be forthcoming.

Fire Chief Seward was present and spoke on behalf of the Fire Departments and the Board of Fire Commissioners. He pointed out that there was no increase in the rental and confirmed that they will be working with the Co-Captains to have a lease by July.

Councilor Candelora had questions under Department 4501, Health, Account #320 Other Contractual.

Town Manager Kilduff reviewed the figures requested by various agencies which are based on the level of service to the Town.

The Council requested additional information on the Community Renewal Team. The Town Manager will have that information for tomorrow evening's meeting.

Councilor Candelora questioned Department 4703, Reserve for Contingency.

Town Manager Kilduff noted that the Reserve for Contingency covers a base of \$75,000 and an incremental adjustment to deal with the Town Manager's compensation.

MOTION: Councilor Candelora moved, seconded by Councilor Fucci, to reduce Department 4404, Public Celebrations, Account #320 Other Contractual by \$2,500 for the summer concerts.

VOTE: Passed 9 to 0 in a roll call vote.

c. Dept Service

Councilor Bozzuto had questions under Department 4800, Debt Service.

The Town Manager and the Council reviewed the chart on page 134 showing the Use of Bond Proceeds from 2001 through 2003.

Town Manager Kilduff noted that Debt Service is a must pay.

Town Manager Kilduff noted with the actions taken by the Council this evening the mill rate is currently at 23.87. The cuts amounted to \$129,748.

### 3. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Councilor Candelora moved, seconded by Councilor Fucci, to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m.

VOTE: Passed 9 to 0 in a roll call vote.

Respectfully submitted,

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Rosanne Krajewski,  
Clerk to the Council