

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

Monday, April 12, 2004

Town Council Chambers
7:08 p.m.

SALUTE TO THE FLAG

1. ROLL CALL: Present were Mayor Michael Doody, Deputy Mayor Vincent Candelora, Council Members Mary Bigelow, Andrew Esposito, Donald Fucci, George Guertin, Ashley Joiner, John Lappie and Joanne Wentworth. Also present was Town Manager Karl Kilduff.

2. FY 2004-05 BUDGET DELIBERATIONS:
 - a. Revenues

Town Manager Kilduff stated that the revenues in the budget are based on the proposed figures for State aid as contained in the Governor's budget although this might not be what is ultimately passed. He confirmed that the Tax Collection Rate has been budgeted at 98.2% and noted that this could be increased by .1%

MOTION: Deputy Mayor Candelora moved, seconded by Councilor Lappie, to increase the Collection Rate to 98.3% for fiscal year 2004-2005.

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

- b. General Government Services

Town Manager Kilduff reviewed the General Government portion of the budget with the Council. Under Mayor & Council, he indicated that there is the potential of \$400 savings under Advertising by switching from the New Haven Register to The Sound newspaper. He noted that this savings could also be seen in the Water Pollution Control Authority budget.

The Town Manager could not recommend any decreases in the Town Manager's Department, Finance Department, Tax Collector, Assessor, or Board of Assessment Appeals. Under Central Services, Town Manager Kilduff noted that the overtime account could be reduced by \$299 eliminating ten hours from snow removal and \$500 could be cut from Facility Maintenance.

MOTION: Deputy Mayor Candelora moved, seconded by Councilor Esposito, to reduce Department 4136, Central Services, Account #103 Overtime by \$299 and the related amount in Account #120 Pension & Social Security for this reduction, and Department 4136, Central Services, Account #311 Facilities Maintenance by \$500.

Councilor Joiner questioned the items contained under Office Supplies Miscellaneous. Town Manager Kilduff briefly reviewed this.

With respect to the increase in Utilities, the Town Manager indicated that there has been a projected 10% increase in UI's rates.

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

Town Manager Kilduff noted that the Town Clerk's Department has decreased by 4% from last year, and he could not recommend any further reductions. Under Elections, the Town Manager advised that the primaries have already been removed from the budget. He reviewed the increases in the rates under Account 102 Part Time, which total \$407. There was also discussion on the costs for the custodians at the schools and telephones.

Town Clerk Lisa Valenti was present and confirmed that there was no cellular service in Northford and that a separate line is needed there.

MOTION: Deputy Mayor Candelora moved, seconded by Councilor Fucci, to reduce Department 4141, Elections, Account #102 Part Time by \$407 and the related amount in Account #120 Pension & Social Security for this reduction.

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

FOR: Mayor Doody, Deputy Mayor Candelora, Councilors Mary Bigelow, Donald Fucci, George Guertin, Ashley Joiner, John Lappie and Joanne Wentworth

ABSTAIN: Councilor Andrew Esposito

The Council then reviewed the Town Attorney's account. Town Manager Kilduff confirmed that the Books & Publications are used by the Town Attorney and stored in his offices.

Town Manager Kilduff reviewed the Permanent Project Building Committee and Technology accounts. He noted that the GIS maintenance costs and broadband internet have been included in the Technology budget.

The Town Manager next reviewed the Public Safety portion of the budget with the Council. He indicated that one new police officer is proposed to start on January 1, 2005. With respect to the vehicle replacement program, he indicated that he has trimmed the budget to only include two new vehicles this year.

Police Chief Matthew Canelli was present and reviewed the number of vehicles with the Council.

Councilor Joiner questioned the percent of officers per capita as compared with surrounding towns.

Chief Canelli reviewed the shifts of the police officers and the problems entailed with having only two officers on duty during the evening shifts. There was further discussion between Chief Canelli and Councilor Joiner with respect to this issue.

Councilor Joiner also questioned the overtime costs and whether or not these would be reduced with an additional police officer. She also questioned the amount budgeted for uniforms.

Chief Canelli stated that with a full staff money could be saved in the Overtime account. He indicated that under the union contract the officers receive a uniform allowance. Upon questioning, Chief Canelli confirmed that the Town garage repairs the police department's vehicles.

Town Manager Kilduff reviewed the Fire Department and Ambulance with the Council. He noted that after review of the current revenues being generated under the ambulance he felt that this account could be reduced by \$90,000.

MOTION: Councilor Joiner moved, seconded by Councilor Bigelow, to reduce Department 4225 Ambulance, Account #308 Contributions & Subsidies by \$90,000.

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

Under Fire Hydrants, Town Manager Kilduff noted that the number of hydrants is increasing due to the new hydrants being installed on Clintonville Road. The Town Manager advised that the increase in Communications for Professional Development is for a required recertification program for the dispatchers. He also briefly reviewed Civil Preparedness and Animal Control.

With respect to Refuse Removal, Town Manager Kilduff confirmed that this is going out to bid and suggested that this could be reduced by \$5,000. Upon questioning, he confirmed that the tonnage has been very consistent with the current trash hauler.

MOTION: Councilor Lappie moved, seconded by Councilor Guertin, to reduce Department 4302, Refuse Removal, Account #320 Other Contractual by \$5,000.

VOTE: Passed 7 to 2 in a roll call vote.

FOR: Mayor Doody, Deputy Mayor Candelora, Councilors Andrew Esposito, Donald Fucci, George Guertin, John Lappie and Joanne Wentworth

OPPOSED: Councilors Mary Bigelow and Ashley Joiner

Town Manager Kilduff next reviewed the Public Works portion of the budget. He indicated that there is one new laborer proposed to assist with grounds maintenance and noted that the seasonal employees have been reduced to two. He spoke on the impacts due to the federally mandated Storm Water Management program.

The Town Manager had no suggested reductions under Street Lighting.

Under Culture and Recreation, Town Manager Kilduff pointed out that the Recreation Department budget decreased by 7.6% as the special fund can now stand on its own. He also confirmed that the Community Center should end the fiscal year in the black.

The Town Manager then reviewed with the Council Public Celebrations, Senior Services, and Elderly Housing. The increase in Elderly Housing is due to the increase in the sewer user fee. He also noted that the funding for Building Maintenance in the Reynolds/Beers House will

come from the Tourism Fund. Under Library, the Town Manager noted that the funds in Facilities Maintenance cover any problems that may occur with the buildings.

Town Manager Kilduff reviewed the Health and Welfare portion of the budget with the Council. He pointed out the elimination of payment to the Greater New Haven Family Counseling and indicated that this service has been brought in-house. Under Human Relations, the Town Manager noted the new department for Family Counseling Service. The Council reviewed with the Town Manager Social Services, Probate Court, and Haz Waste/Recycling. The Town Manager pointed out that the Probate Court is requesting a filing cabinet. Under Haz Waste/Recycling the \$10,000 increase is due to the satellite collection that the Council previously approved.

Under the Planning Department, Town Manager Kilduff pointed out a potential savings in the Full Time account due to the replacement of the secretary. He had no suggested reductions for the Planning and Zoning Commission.

MOTION: Deputy Mayor Candelora moved, seconded by Councilor Lappie, to reduce Department 4670, Planning Department, Account #101 Full Time by \$3,270 and Account #120 Pension & Social Security by \$500.

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

For the Zoning Board of Appeals, the Town Manager suggested reducing the Professional Development and Other Contractual accounts to zero.

MOTION: Deputy Mayor Candelora moved, seconded by Councilor Fucci, to reduce Department 4672, Zoning Board of Appeals, Account #319 Professional Development by \$150 and Account #320 Other Contractual by \$100.

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

Town Manager Kilduff briefly reviewed Economic Development Commission, Engineering, and Conservation & Inland Wetlands Agency. He reviewed the inclusion of a part time Wetland Officer under Other Contractual and the elimination of the part time Secretary for the Conservation & Inland Wetlands Agency. The Town Manager spoke on the need for public education with respect to wetlands and conservation, possible regulation changes tied to the Plan of Development and the need for better enforcement of the wetlands regulations.

The Council next reviewed Beautification and Land Preservation.

MOTION: Deputy Mayor Candelora moved, seconded by Councilor Fucci, to reduce Department 4677, Beautification, Account #202 Technical Supplies by \$1,000.

VOTE: Passed 8 to 1 in a roll call vote.

FOR: Mayor Doody, Deputy Mayor Candelora, Councilors Mary Bigelow, Andrew Esposito, Donald Fucci, George Guertin, John Lappie and Joanne Wentworth

OPPOSED: Councilor Ashley Joiner

Under the Building Department, the Town Manager noted that the savings for the replacement of the secretary could also be seen in this department.

MOTION: Councilor Wentworth moved, seconded by Councilor Joiner, to reduce Department 4681, Building Department, Account #101 Full Time by \$3,213 and Account #120 Pension & Social Security by \$500.

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

Town Manager Kilduff had no suggested reductions under Property & Liability Insurance or Employee Benefits.

c. Dept Service

Town Manager Kilduff advised the Council that there is no new debt anticipated for this budget. He pointed out that the Town has recently refinanced its debt and the reductions are shown.

The Council further reviewed the budget. Upon questioning, the Town Manager confirmed that there is no salary included in the budget for the Probate Judge or the Probate Secretary.

Under Land Preservation, there was discussion on the \$4,000 budgeted for appraisals. Due to the two recent land purchases by the Town, the Council did not feel this would be needed in the upcoming fiscal year.

MOTION: Councilor Lappie moved, seconded by Councilor Esposito, to reduce Department 4678, Land Preservation, Account #320 by \$4,000.

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

MOTION: Councilor Guertin moved, seconded by Councilor Fucci, to reduce Department 4110, Mayor & Council, Account #304 Advertising by \$400.

Town Manager Kilduff confirmed that The Sound newspaper is considered a paper with town-wide circulation.

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

Town Manager Kilduff requested the inclusion of an executive session regarding pending litigation.

MOTION: Deputy Mayor Candelora moved, seconded by Councilor Wentworth, to amend the Town Council Agenda for an Executive Session regarding litigation.

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

MOTION: Councilor Wentworth moved, seconded by Councilor Lappie, to place an Executive Session regarding Pending Litigation on the Town Council Agenda.

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

Town Manager Kilduff advised the Council that the cuts made to the budget this evening totaled \$109,305.

ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION RE: PENDING LITIGATION, PURSUANT TO CGS 1-200 (6) (B)

MOTION: Deputy Mayor Candelora moved, seconded by Councilor Esposito, that the North Branford Town Council hereby adjourns to Executive Session at 8:15 p.m. to discuss pending litigation, pursuant to CGS Section 1-200(6)(B); and that attendance at said Executive Session be hereby limited to Town Council members and the Town Manager.

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

MOTION: Deputy Mayor Candelora moved, seconded by Councilor Wentworth, to return to open session at 8:24 p.m.

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

3. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Councilor Esposito moved, seconded by Councilor Guertin, to adjourn the meeting at 8:24 p.m.

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosanne Krajewski,
Clerk to the Council