

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

Tuesday, April 13, 2004

Town Council Chambers
7:04 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:

Town Manager Kilduff advised the Council that the budget cuts made the previous evening brought the mill rate to 30.72 mills.

Under Health Services, the Town Manager distributed letters of request from the following agencies for the Council's review: Regional Mental Health Board, Community Renewal Team, Women and Family Center, Domestic Violence of Greater New Haven, and SAGE Services of Connecticut. He noted that they have not received anything in writing from the VNA. It was noted that the East Shore Health Department also does blood pressure screening and flu shots and that this could be a duplication of services with the VNA.

Under Section 10-14 of the North Branford Town Charter, Mayor Doody declared and disclosed that he is the Deputy Police Chief of the North Branford Police Department.

- a. Capital Improvements Plan

Town Manager Kilduff reviewed with the Council Capital Improvements Plan requests and proposed funding. He indicated that \$443,466 is proposed to come from budgeted funds with the remainder of the funding coming from other outside funding sources.

The Town Manager reviewed the requests under General Government which continues to fund for revaluation. Under Public Safety, he pointed out that \$20,000 has been included for an architectural study for the addition to the police department facility. The Equipment Reserve for

the Fire Department continues to be funded as well as radio replacements and communication upgrades for the Fire Department and Police Department.

With respect to the Public Works Department, Town Manager Kilduff noted that funding continues to be maintained for equipment reserve and ongoing roadwork within the Town. Under Recreation/Senior, the Town Manager pointed out that funding has been included for field improvements to Jerome Harrison School as well as the painting of the exterior of the Senior Center. The Town Manager reviewed the funding contained under Culture for the Smith Library.

Under Education, Town Manager Kilduff reviewed the requested capital improvements for the bleacher/press box renovations at the high school and the water improvements to the Northford schools.

Deputy Mayor Candelora questioned if the architectural study for the police department could be delayed. He noted that as this property abuts the Swajchuk property the Town should prepare a plan for development of that property prior to any improvements to the police department building.

MOTION: Deputy Mayor Candelora moved, seconded by Councilor Fucci, to reduce the Capital Improvements Plan by \$20,000 under Public Safety, Police-Garage.

There was a brief discussion on this between Council members.

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

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

ABSTAIN: Mayor Doody

There was discussion by the Council on the improvements to the Jerome Harrison field. Town Manager Kilduff indicated that this is being proposed to make the field useable as a practice field. He indicated that it would not be used for competition. The Town Manager reviewed the work to be done which included grading and filling holes in the outfield in order to make this field safe and useable.

Under Education, there was discussion by the Council on the bleachers and the funding from prior years. It was confirmed that that funding was still available.

Dr. Wolfe indicated that the funding being requested for the bleachers had been a bid figure and that a small amount of that funding had been used for A&E to go out to bid. It was noted that the press box is approximately \$60,000 and that this is included in the funding request. Dr. Wolfe pointed out that the State has waived the requirement for the width of the aisle for the bleachers.

Donald Winnicki, Business Manager for the Board of Education, reviewed the press box which is a modular construction. He also spoke on the improvements needed to the bleachers in order to bring them up to code, including an area for handicap access and seating. Mr. Winnicki confirmed that this is a reconstruction of the existing bleachers and not new bleachers.

MOTION: Councilor Fucci moved, seconded by Councilor Guertin, to reduce the Capital Improvements Plan to \$20,000 for Education, Bleacher/press box renovations.

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

The Council requested to return to the General Government Services portion of the budget.

MOTION: Deputy Mayor Candelora moved, seconded by Councilor Lappie, to reduce Department 4150, Town Attorney, Account #211 Books & Publications by \$1,000.

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

MOTION: Deputy Mayor Candelora moved, seconded by Councilor Guertin, to reduce Department 4305, Public Works, Account #320 Other Contractual by \$3,740 eliminating line stripping.

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

MOTION: Deputy Mayor Candelora moved, seconded by Councilor Lappie, to reduce Department 4305, Public Works, Account #206 Construction Materials by \$2,000 for sand.

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

MOTION: Deputy Mayor Candelora moved, seconded by Councilor Lappie, to reduce Department 4305, Public Works, Account #104 Seasonal by \$1,600, reducing the number of weeks to ten weeks.

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

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

OPPOSED: Councilors Esposito and Fucci

MOTION: Deputy Mayor Candelora moved, seconded by Councilor Guertin, to reduce Department 4416, Library, Account #405 Technical Equipment by \$2,000 for adult books.

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

MOTION: Deputy Mayor Candelora moved, seconded by Councilor Lappie, to reduce Department 4309, Street Lighting, Account #310 Equipment Maintenance by \$1,000.

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

The Council reviewed Senior Services request for a part time van driver. Town Manager Kilduff noted that the full time program director's duties have been increased under the recently approved job description to include programming and fund raising and that one-quarter of the program worker's salary will come from the 802 fund under the proceeds for fundraising. He noted to eliminate the van driver would result in a net decrease of \$1,157.

MOTION: Deputy Mayor Candelora moved, seconded by Councilor Fucci, to reduce Department 4220, Fire Department, Account #202 Technical Supplies by \$6,000 eliminating the knox box key safety system.

Town Manager Kilduff stated that this is meant to work with the Ordinance that is proposed with respect to knox boxes. He confirmed that the Council has not taken any action with respect to this proposed Ordinance.

VOTE: Passed 6 to 3 in a roll call vote.

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

OPPOSED: Councilors Mary Bigelow, Andrew Esposito and Ashley Joiner

MOTION: Deputy Mayor Candelora moved, seconded by Councilor Joiner, to reduce Department 4210, Police, Account #403 Automotive Equipment by \$26,870 eliminating one police cruiser.

VOTE: Passed 6 to 2 with 1 abstention in a roll call vote.

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

OPPOSED: Councilors Andrew Esposito and John Lappie

ABSTAIN: Mayor Doody

MOTION: Councilor Joiner moved, seconded by Councilor Bigelow, to reduce Department 4210, Police, by \$37,597 in the appropriate accounts eliminating the new officer.

VOTE: Failed 3 to 6 in a roll call vote.

FOR: Councilors Mary Bigelow, Donald Fucci and Ashley Joiner

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

MOTION: Deputy Mayor Candelora moved, seconded by Councilor Fucci, to reduce Department 4501, Health, Account #320 Other Contractual by \$15,000 eliminating the Visiting Nurse Association.

VOTE: Passed 6 to 3 in a roll call vote.

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

OPPOSED: Councilors Mary Bigelow, Andrew Esposito and Ashley Joiner

Under Health, Deputy Mayor Candelora had questions with respect to the Community Renewal Team which the Town Manager responded to.

MOTION: Councilor Wentworth moved, seconded by Deputy Mayor Candelora, to reduce Department 4501, Health, Account #320 Other Contractual by \$500 under the Community Renewal Team.

VOTE: Passed 7 to 0 with 2 abstentions in a roll call vote.

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

ABSTAIN: Councilors Mary Bigelow and Ashley Joiner

MOTION: Councilor Joiner moved, seconded by Councilor Bigelow, to reduce Department 4210, Police, Account #103 Over Time by \$30,000.

Chief Canelli was present and noted that the new police officer would not be coming in under the current budget for six months and that there would be additional time of five to eight months for training. He felt that a cut of \$30,000 in overtime would place this account in the red.

AMENDMENT: Councilor Joiner amended her motion, with Councilor Bigelow's consent, to reduce Department 4210, Police, Account #103 Over Time by \$20,000.

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

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

ABSTAIN: Mayor Doody

MOTION: Deputy Mayor Candelora moved, seconded by Councilor Fucci, to reduce Department 4674, Engineering, Account #101 by \$19,000 eliminating the Civil Engineer Technician.

Town Manager Kilduff distributed the job description for the Civil Engineer Technician to Council members for review. He noted that half of this position comes under engineering and half comes under the sewer fund.

Town Engineer Kurt Weiss was present and reviewed the responsibilities of this position with the Council. He noted that half of this position entails field work and half is office work. He stated that this position supports the sewers, engineer, inland wetlands agency and is a link between the office and the field.

Town Manager Kilduff pointed out that the elimination of this position would increase the workload on the Town Engineer and could delay reviews and applications.

Town Planner Carol Zebb also spoke in support of the full funding for this position.

Councilor Lappie pointed out that the Town's efforts toward economic development could be counterproductive with the elimination of this position.

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

b. Education

MOTION: Councilor Guertin moved, seconded by Councilor Fucci, to increase the Board of Education's budget by \$675,909 over last year's budget.

It was confirmed that this is a 3% increase over last year's budget.

VOTE: Passed 6 to 3 in a roll call vote.

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

OPPOSED: Councilors Mary Bigelow, Andrew Esposito and Ashley Joiner

Town Manager Kilduff advised the Council that the cuts made to the budget this evening reduce the mill rate to 29.12, a 1.22 mill increase over last year.

There was a brief discussion among Council members of the vote to eliminate the police officer.

3. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Deputy Mayor Candelora moved, seconded by Councilor Wentworth, to adjourn the meeting at 8 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Rosanne Krajewski,
Clerk to the Council