

**TOWN OF SOUTH WINDSOR
SPECIAL BUDGET WORK SESSION MINUTES**

**TOWN COUNCIL
VIRTUAL MEETING**

**THURSDAY, MAY 14, 2020
TIME: 7:00 P.M.**

1. Call Meeting to Order

Mayor Paterna called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Members Present: Mayor Andrew Paterna
Deputy Mayor Liz Pendleton
Councilor Audrey Delnicki
Councilor Erica Evans
Councilor Cesar Lopez
Councilor Karen Lydecker
Councilor Lisa Maneeley
Councilor Janice Snyder

Members Absent: Councilor Mary Justine Hockenberry

Also Present: Michael Maniscalco, Town Manager

3. Public Input

None

4. Communications

None

5. Items for Discussion

A. Board of Education Budget for Fiscal Year 2020/2021

Mr. Craig Zimmerman, Chairman of the Board of Education, came before the Council and thanked the Council, Dr. Carter, and the school administration. He explained that the budget process did not work out exactly how it was originally planned due to COVID-19. There are unexpended funds that have been found, and he is glad the Board of Education was able to reduce the tax rate.

Answering questions from the Council, Dr. Carter explained that there would be renegotiations with the contract with DATCO, who is the bus company that is used by the Board of Education, for lesser than what the original budget had called for.

Deputy Mayor Pendleton gave recognition to Dr. Carter and Mr. Maniscalco for going above and beyond during this budget process.

Councilor Maneeley thanked the Town Manager and Superintendent for their budgets.

ITEM:

5. Items for Discussion (Continued)

B. General Government Budget for Fiscal Year 2020/2021

Mr. Maniscalco reviewed changes to the budget as follows:

- \$41,000 was reduced in solid waste to bring this in line with the approved contract.
- The leaf pickup to be reduced to one pass for a savings of approximately \$100,000.
- Capital Budget reduction in the amount of \$680,705.

There is approximately an \$800,000 surplus which is being proposed to go towards items as follows:

- \$100,000 to go into a COVID-19 Fund.
- \$300,000 to offset projects from the Capital budget.
- \$400,000 to be contributed to the General Fund.

The proposed budget would decrease the mill rate to 37.84.

Mr. Maniscalco answered further questions from Councilor Maneeley, explaining that the three new positions proposed in the budget are for an Assistant Building Official, Parks Maintainer, and Assistant Mechanic. All three positions are important and would provide services to the community. Mr. Maniscalco then explained that the Town currently has two passes done during leaf pick-up and a third pass, which is a targeted pass.

Councilor Snyder stated that the leaf pick-up is not a required service, and the Town should eliminate the \$100,000 from that budget and then look for a different way to provide this service to the residents. Councilor Snyder suggested doing the first pass a little later than originally done and then a second pass to the neighborhoods that desperately need it. The leaf pick-up is a program the Town can deliver more efficiently.

Councilor Delnicki explained that she was in favor of putting the \$100,000 back into the leaf pick-up because if residents need to hire a landscaper to pick up their leaves, that would be a larger burden on them.

Mayor Paterna reminded the Council that the future goal of the leaf collection program is to turn it into a profit for the Town.

(Discussion Continued on Next Page)

ITEM:

5. Items for Discussion (Continued)

C. General Government Budget for Fiscal Year 2020/2021 (Continued)

Mr. Maniscalco told the Council that the Town contracts out services, pays overtime, and leases equipment to get the leaf collection completed. There is a start-up cost and then a cost for each pass. If the Council were to take \$100,000 out of the budget for the leaf collection, the mill rate would be 37.78. If any of the positions were eliminated from the budget, a certain amount of funds would have to be added to the budget to keep functions running smoothly.

Councilor Lydecker stated that she is in favor of keeping all three proposed positions and putting the \$100,000 back into the budget for the leaf collection. No program would be cut, services would be extended for taxpayers, and there would still be a decrease in taxes.

Councilor Delnicki explained that she is not comfortable with the new positions because those costs will be on-going year after year.

Deputy Mayor Pendleton stated that she is supportive of the position for an Assistant Mechanic.

Councilor Snyder suggested holding off on the Park Maintainer and filling the Assistant Mechanic and Assistant Building Official in this budget.

Answering a question from Councilor Evans, Mr. Maniscalco explained that there are items in the Capital plan that will be funded with the surplus. The questions regarding the items that have been taken out of the Recreation Master Plan will be sent to the Council.

Deputy Mayor Pendleton questioned if the trails in the subdivision for \$15,000 could be eliminated from the Master Plan and use those funds to fence the Boundless Playground? Mr. Maniscalco stated he would make this request to the Parks and Recreation Department. Deputy Mayor Pendleton stated that another \$15,000 would be needed to complete the fencing around the Boundless Playground. Mr. Maniscalco explained that something could be figured out.

Councilor Lopez stated that he is in support of all three new positions being proposed and is also in agreement with Councilor Lydecker about putting the \$100,000 back into the budget for the leaf collection program.

Mr. Maniscalco informed the Council that for the Park & Recreation Department to contract to take care of the current schools has been quoted at \$125,000, and this cost will probably go up after the new schools are complete.

(Discussion Continued on Next Page)

ITEM:

5. Items for Discussion (Continued)

D. General Government Budget for Fiscal Year 2020/2021 (Continued)

Mayor Paterna called for a show of hand on items for the budget:

The Leaf Collection Program – there was consensus to restore the program by putting the \$100,000 back into the budget, 6-2.

Assistant Building Official – there was consensus to keep this item in the budget, 8-0.

Parks Maintainer – there was consensus to keep this item in the budget, 7 to 1.

Assistant Mechanic – there was consensus to keep this item in the budget, 7 to 1.

Mr. Maniscalco stated that with the budget as proposed, the mill rate would be 37.88, which is a decrease of .62 mills or a 1.62% decrease from the current budget.

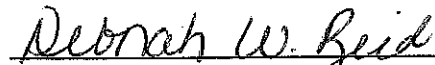
6. Executive Session

None

7. Adjournment

At 8:50 p.m., Councilor Snyder made a motion to adjourn the Special Budget Work Session. Councilor Maneeley seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Deborah W. Reid
Recording Secretary