

THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL AT THE NEXT BOS MEETING

TOWN OF WESTBROOK, CONNECTICUT  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
SPECIAL MEETING  
Tuesday, February 14, 2023  
Mulvey Municipal Center  
Multi-Media Room/ZOOM

CALL TO ORDER

First Selectman Hall called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. In attendance included: First Selectman Hall, Selectman Campbell, Selectman Bialicki, Donna Castracane, Director of Finance, Eric O'Connell, Press, Terri DiPietro, Middlesex Health, Marilyn Ozols, Chairman Planning Commission, Karl Gelotte, BOF, Heidi Wallace, Environmental Planner, Chief Cusson, Randy Bell, Conservation Commission, John Palermo, Emergency Management Director, and Peter Gillespie, Planner.

First Selectman Hall led the Pledge of Allegiance.

HEALTH INSURANCE

As discussed at the 2/8/23, the BOE has been in discussions with Eastern Connecticut Health and Municipal Cooperative (ECHMC) for Health Insurance. Cost savings, particularly on the BOE's "side" may be realized if we join the ECHMC. The BOE's application into the Cooperative has been accepted. If the Town moves forward with the program, the Town will remain "self-insured" and will gain 2 seats on the ECHMC Board. In addition, there would be no changes to employees health benefits.

Mr. Bialicki made a motion to join the Eastern Connecticut Health and Municipal Cooperative (ECHMC) for Health Insurance and further moved to appoint First Selectman Hall as the Town's representative on the ECHMC Board. Mr. Campbell seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

INDIVIDUAL BUDGET DEPARTMENT REVIEWS

As done in previous years, BOS members agreed that no votes will be taken relative to individual department budgets until all departments have been presented to the BOS.

Ms. Castracane distributed the updated budget documents, as revised during the budget process.

Budgets discussed include: Transfers to Other Funds/Dog Fund, Employee Benefits, Capital (note the CIP will be discussed further at the 2/16/23 BOS meeting), Municipal Insurance, Debt Services, Contingency, Public Works/Facilities.

The Grants Budget was re-visited:

- Terri DiPietro, Middlesex Health Center for Behavioral Health, reported that they provide community behavioral health services to residents of Westbrook. Funds received from the towns are used to off-set costs not reimbursed via health insurance. The BOS discussed their request of \$17,280.00. The Town typically contributes approximately \$3,000 to Middlesex Health Center for Behavioral Health. After discussion the BOS budgeted \$3,000 to this line and encouraged Ms. DiPietro to apply for an ARPA Grant from the Town. Ms. Castracane will forward the ARPA application to Ms. DiPietro.
- Ms. Castracane will update the Grants budget as discussed.

Emergency Management – items placed in Capital budget; i.e. Drone equipment and training, Radio and Weather Station (totaling \$5,377) were transferred into the Operating budget as appropriate.

Public Works/Facilities – Ms. Brainerd has been coordinating maintenance and service throughout the town owned properties and buildings. The Facilities Director job description is currently under review. The BOS discussed the potential of "sharing" full-time Facilities Director with the school system. The schools currently have staff for "inside" maintenance/facilities but no "outside" staff. The consensus of the BOS was to add \$50,000 to Contingency, discuss the proposal with the Superintendent of Schools and develop/update the job description. This item will be discussed further at a future BOS meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Campbell made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:27 p.m. Mr. Bialicki seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Attest,

Suzanne Helchowski  
Executive Assistant

John Hall, III  
First Selectman