

**TOWN OF HAMDEN, CONNECTICUT
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING
JUNE 25, 2020**

A special electronic meeting of the Legislative Council was held on Thursday, June 25, 2020. The meeting was called to order at 7:18 p.m. by the Council President. The Clerk took the roll followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Dominique Baez	Athena Gary
Marjorie Bonadies	Valerie Horsley
Austin Cesare	Berita Rowe-Lewis
Jody Clouse	Brad MacDowall
Kristen Donlan	Michael McGarry
Justin Farmer	Kathleen Schomaker
Harry Gagliardi, Jr.	Elizabeth (Betty) Wetmore

MEMBERS ABSENT: Mike Colaiacovo

ALSO PRESENT: Barry Bernabe, Curtis Eastman, Rick Galarza, Sue Gruen, Walter Morton, and David Panico.

PRESIDING: Mick McGarry, President

PUBLIC INPUT: At 7:51 p.m. Mr. Gagliardi requested the letters addressed to the Legislative Council regarding U.I. Corporation street lighting purchase project do not apply to this evening's agenda and to please table them until a future meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE: Those letters received electronically from the public that do apply to apply to this evening's agenda were reviewed and read for the record.

Town Attorney Gruen recommended the letters be placed into the record this evening and are not required to be read. Mr. McGarry requested Attorney Gruen to advise the Council regarding tabling agenda item.

Mr. McGarry noted to move Agenda #3 to be addressed after Agenda #4.

PUBLIC HEARINGS: Mr. McGarry closed the Public Hearing at 8:02 p.m.

AGENDA:

(Regular Agenda: requires a vote of two-thirds of the members present and voting for suspension of the Rules under §14(a) of the Standing Rules):

Request to the Legislative Council to utilize Tax Anticipation Note (TAN) funds for month starting July 2020.

Ms. Schomaker requested to suspend the rules. Ms. Rowe-Lewis seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

At 8:22 p.m. Ms. Wetmore entered the meeting.

Finance Director, Mr. Eatman and Deputy Finance Director, Mr. Galarza spoke to the Council regarding the importance of the town utilizing the TAN for the month of July. Approving the TAN will afford the town in meeting expenses, payroll and assist with the cash flow that is needed for the first two weeks of July. The Council reviewed the information and presented their questions and concerns about the timing of this request.

Ms. Lewis withdrew from the meeting at 9:17 p.m.

At 9:22 p.m. Mr. Gagliardi requested a recess. Mr. McGarry agreed to a recess and the Legislative Council returned at 9:30 p.m.

Ms. Bonadies motioned to hold a call to question and was seconded by Ms. Schomaker. Mr. McGarry called the vote: 9 yea / 5 nay. The motion passed.

Mr. McGarry requested a motion for the Town of Hamden to utilize the Tax Anticipation Note (TAN) fund for the month of July 2020. Mr. McGarry called the vote: 11 yea and 3 nays. The motion passed.

Resolution approving and de-authorizing the appropriation and bond authorization for Shepherd Glen Elementary School.

Mr. Eatman provided the Council a summary explanation where the decision was made not to go forward with the school building project for Shepard Glen Elementary school. Mr. Panico explained the debt service and the issue is also a “clean-up action” more so to the town. Mr. Morton confirmed the intention is to close this school. A discussion ensued where the Councilpersons Cesare, Wetmore, Rowe-Lewis voiced their concern and position about the decision and the majority are not in favor of closing the school. After further discussion, the Legislative Council want the School Board to look at keeping the schools open and consider improving the curriculum. Ms. Rowe-Lewis requested the minutes be pulled from when the Council last voted on the subject of closing of the three elementary schools and the minutes will reflect the Council voted to **not close** the schools, Shepard Glen and Church Street.

Plan - Moved by Mr. McGarry and seconded by Mr. Gagliardi and approved with 1 opposed and 13 in favor.

An ordinance appropriating \$5,000,000 for various public improvements for the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 and authorizing this issuance of \$5,000,000 bonds of the

Town to meet said appropriation and pending the issuance thereof the making of temporary borrowings for such purpose.

Mr. McGarry requested item #4 become two separate items for voting. After discussion, Mr. Gagliardi motioned to approve, and Ms. Schomaker seconded. The motion passed.

Mr. Gagliardi moved to approve the contracting of Revaluating Services, Inc., in the amount of \$374,000, which is to cover the assessor's re-evaluation for the October grand list. The motion was seconded by Ms. Schomaker.

The council reviewed and discussed the outstanding funds toward the remaining line items and not go out to bonding for new monies. Ms. Bonadies asked the finance director to use the funds from the capital budget and previous bond funding in the next fiscal year. Ms. Schomaker noted this maybe a time sensitive window. The council spoke to Mr. Fazio from Revaluating Services, Inc. He provided a timeline of his company's service and the process to complete the property re-evaluation. This process needs to be completed by October 1, 2020 to allow the tax assessor the time to issue the grand list and tax bills January 1, 2021.

Mr. McGarry recommended the remainder of the items on the bond request be tabled to a future legislative council meeting. Due to the time of the evening, the Council were in agreement with this recommendation.

Ms. Bonadies discovered a list of unspent dollars from prior bond funds, going back to 2010. If there are funds not used, we would prefer to those funds to be reallocated and applied toward these capital expenses.

At this time, Attorney Gruen added and agreed that we are late in presenting the bond request to the council. She provided a summary regarding the work behind getting the bids and the importance of getting this process going as soon as possible. Ms. Dolan inquired if the unused bond funds can be moved forward to a current or new project. Mr. Panico confirmed that this can be done, and we need to work through a re-ordinance of bond funds to new projects. He identified a bond project(s) and noted for example, where \$374,000 is currently sitting in a 3R school project and by transferring those funds will afford the hiring of Revaluating Services, Inc.

Ms. Bonadies suggested the Council ask Ms. Renta to place this item (review the unused funds from previous bonds) on the agenda for the July meeting. It was verified that the approximate amount is \$12 million of outstanding bond funds are available.

After no further discussion, Messrs. Gagliardi and Cesare agreed to amend the friendly motion.

Mr. Cesare motioned to hold a call to question and was seconded by Ms. Schomaker. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Gagliardi moved to approve the balance of the bond items noted on this request to be addressed at the July 20, 2020 meeting. Ms. Schomaker seconded, and the motion passed.

Mr. McGarry requested amended motion for the Town of Hamden to utilize bond funds that are available from the 3R School program for the contracting of the revaluation service, in the amount of \$374,000. The vote passed: 11 yea and 3 nays (Nay: D. Baez, J. Farmer, B. MacDowall)

Order authorizing the Mayor to enter into a contract with Municipal Valuation Services, LLC for the complete reappraisal and revaluation of real property (taxable and tax exempt) for the Town of Hamden effective October 1, 2020.

Mr. McGarry requested a motion to authorize Mayor Leng to hire Municipal Valuation Services, LLC for the complete reappraisal and revaluation of the real property for the Town of Hamden's grand list, effective October 1, 2020 be approved. Moved by Mr. Gagliardi, seconded Ms. Schomaker. All in favor.

Resolution with respect to the authorization, issuance and sale of not exceeding \$25,000,000 Town of Hamden, Connecticut General Obligation Refunding Bonds.

Due to the urgency of this bond and the upcoming meeting with the bond rating agencies scheduled on June 30, Mr. Cesare requested a call to question and was seconded by Ms. Rowe-Lewis. All were in favor. The results: 9 yea / 5 nay.

Plan – Moved by Mr. McGarry, seconded by Mr. Cesare and approved: 10 yea / 4 nay. (Nays: J. Farmer, H. Gagliardi, A. Gary, and B. MacDowell)

ADJOURNMENT: At 1:20 a.m. There being no further business Mr. McGarry moved a motion to adjourn and seconded by Ms. Wetmore.

Respectfully submitted,

s/Patrice A. LeMoine
Substitute Clerk for the Council

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