

BLOOMFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

ADMINISTRATION & EDUCATION SUBCOMMITTEE

There was a regular meeting for the above-referenced subcommittee held at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, June 4, 2012 in Conference Room #5, Bloomfield Town Hall, 800 Bloomfield Avenue, Bloomfield, CT.

Committee members present were: Councilors Rivers, Berman and Gamble, Jacobs, Washington, Banks and Mayor Schulman. Absent was: Deputy Mayor Hypolite

Also present were: Barry Berson, Susan True, Louie Chapman, Jr., Town Manager and India Rodgers, Clerk of Council. Absent was: Naomi Cohen

Guest present were: Anne Wall, Registrar of Voters (Democrat), Barbara Reisner, Registrar of Voters (Republican), Marguerite Phillips, Town Clerk

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m.

Update on all School Building Committees

High School – In the absence of Wayne Casper, Director of Facilities for the Bloomfield Board of Education, Councilor Rivers reported the status of the high school. Councilor Rivers stated that the committee is awaiting bathroom bids for final renovations to begin.

Carmen Arace – The project is 98% completed. There has been no quorum for the building committee to complete the necessary paperwork and review of punch list items. The project was completed with approximately \$22,000,000, instead of the original projected budget of \$24,000,000.

Elementary Schools

Laurel Elementary – The project is on target and schedule to be completed by late July, early August, 2012. It was decided that the political primaries will be held on site.

Metacomet Elementary – The building committee members are reviewing proposals for installation of wall murals. They have also selected a landscape architect for the playground design. A meeting will be held on June 12, 2012 to further discuss plans for the playground area.

Administrative Report from the Town Manager

Mr. Louie Chapman, Jr., Town Manager reported that there was a resignation/retirement within the Police Department over the past month. The department along with Human Resources will begin a new recruitment and will first review applications for certified officers, then general public.

The cooling towers are scheduled to be replaced at Town Hall and Prosser Library. Town Administration is reviewing options to provide alternative cooling during this process.

State Representative David Baram assisted the town to receive an Urban Action Grant in the amount of \$330,000 to replace existing windows at Town Hall.

The assessment phase for renovations at the Senior Center has begun. Approximately, \$150,000 has been allocated for renovation repairs this past budget season. About \$105,000 remains in the current year budget for these repairs.

Mr. Chapman reported that the town will finish the fiscal year in the positive.

Initially, 20 properties were identified for tax sales; however since then 7 have been redeemed for taxes. The list is comprised of more residential properties.

The Wall Street triangle area has been cleaned along with Filley Park grounds and bridge.

All road striping was completed in May from last year. Public Works will work on the paving list for streets in town. Mr. Chapman will also look at adding more lines at the library for more efficient parking space.

The Finance Department began financials for the Library Renovation Project relative to a bond referendum. If approved in November, 2012 Election as a referendum item, funding for plans of specification and design will be needed by early 2013.

The flooding at the library remains an issue with future use of the building. It is not readily apparent on what could be done to rectify this issue.

Discussion of Voting Districts per the Town Clerk

The Town Clerk gave a brief timeline regarding the actions of the Town Council, respective to the number of voting districts in the Town of Bloomfield.

The Town Council received written correspondence from the Town Clerk's Office requesting the Council to reconsider 5 voting districts for all elections. The goal of this recommendation is to have continuity among the voters and avoid confusion of polling places.

Ms. Anne Wall, Registrar of Voters (Democrat) expressed that she agreed with the recommendation of 5 voting districts once the reasoning was explained by the Town Clerk.

Ms. Barbara Reisner, Registrar of Voters (Republican) stated that she was always in favor of 4 voting districts, however she has agreed to support 5 districts to be consistent.

Councilor Berman indicated that he is in favor of consistency, to not confuse the voters. He supports the permanent change to go to 4 voting districts after this year's election.

Mayor Schulman stated that he supports 5 voting districts, which show an even distribution among voters. However, there was discussion regarding the impact and concerns of District #2. If there were 4 districts, an additional 800 persons added and for 5 districts, a decrease of 200 persons. The following figures represent each district proposed for 5:

District # 1 – 2400

District # 4 - 2726

District # 2 – 3031

District # 5 - 3211

District # 3 – 2770

Councilor Jacobs expressed concerns regarding confusion within the Council with the recommendation of the Town Clerk for 5 districts.

Councilor Merritt agreed with Councilor Jacobs about the confusion magnified when going back and forth between 4 and 5 districts.

Councilor Gamble stated her support for 4 districts and also expressed concerns of District #3, with the lack of concern within the district for voter turnout.

Councilor Banks was always in favor of 4 districts, however will support what is best for the Town and not personal gain.

Councilor Washington indicated his concerns regarding District #2 increase in voters when switching to 5 districts. He would like for 4 districts to remain.

Mr. Louie Chapman, Jr., Town Manager commented about the purpose and professional opinion of the Town Clerk.

It was moved by Councilor Gamble, seconded by Councilor Rivers to support the recommendation of the Town Clerk to the Town Council for approval of 5 voting districts for the Town of Bloomfield.

VOTE: AYE: L. Rivers, J. Gamble (under protest)
NAY: R. Berman
ABSTAIN: None

The motion carries.

Discussion regarding Approval of Certificate of Authority

Mr. Louie Chapman, Jr., Town Manager explained the criteria for certain State grants require this certificate.

Mayor Schulman clarified concerns regarding the Town Charter and any other contradictions of the Town Manager's authority to execute and negotiate contracts on behalf of the town.

It was moved by Councilor Berman, seconded by Councilor Gamble and voted unanimously to make a recommendation to Council authorize the Certificate of Authority to the Town Manager until November, 2014.

Discussion to Amend Council's Rules and Procedures for Public Comment

It was moved by Councilor Gamble, seconded by Councilor Berman and voted unanimously to make a recommendation to Council to amend the Rules & Procedures for Public Comment from 3 minutes to 5 minutes.

Executive Session

At 8:00 p.m., it was moved by Councilor Berman, seconded by Councilor Gamble and voted unanimously to move into Executive Session to discuss Personnel Matter regarding a complaint about the Town Manager with the Town Council and Town Manager.