

BLOOMFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

FINANCE SUBCOMMITTEE

There was a regular meeting of the above referenced subcommittee held on Tuesday, February 17, 2015 a 5:30 p.m. in Conference Room #5, Bloomfield Town Hall, 800 Bloomfield Avenue, Bloomfield, CT.

Committee members present were: Councilors Hypolite, DeLorenzo, Merritt and Deputy Mayor Gamble

Also present were: William Hogan, Director of Finance, Philip K. Schenck, Jr., Town Manager, and India Rodgers, Clerk of Council

The meeting was called to order at 5:35 p.m.

Discussion regarding the January Financial Report

- The Department of Public Works may need to transfer \$115,000 to cover overage in the snow budget expenses.
- All revenues have increased of approximately \$237,000, attributed to building permit fees with CIGNA, \$25,000 motor vehicle supplemental taxes as well as the 2nd installment for Emergency Medical Services (EMS) ambulance fees.
- The tax collection period ended on February 2, 2015.
- On March 9, 2015, Seabury Retirement Community would like to propose a \$42M expansion of their programs and services. A public hearing is needed with the Council to discuss semi-public financing and building fees.

Councilor Hypolite inquired about bond premiums relative to cash given, short term benefits with long term expenses.

Mr. William Hogan, Director of Finance stated that bonds have a competitive sale process, not refunding. There are no upcoming bond sales in the near future. There may be a possibilities for future sales if Town Administration and the Council decide to fund major capital projects with the Library and Public Works garage. It was noted that the town do not budget or solicit bond sales.

Councilor Hypolite inquired about the preliminary 4th quarter transfer request from Public Works. It is currently estimated that the Public Works department will need a transfer of

approximately \$40,000 for salt and \$70,000 in overtime to cover the overage in the snow removal budget line for FY 2014/2015.

In the FY 15/16 budget, the town lost \$1,200,000 in revenues with the Grand List relative to the revaluation process. Some line items that have increased the proposed budget are: Board of Education request for an increase of \$750,000 (1.85%), MDC: 7.5% increase (200,000) totaling approximately \$2,000,000.

The current Fund balance is 20%, approximately \$15,000,000. The town will request an additional withdraw in a revaluation year to balance the budget. Residential properties are down 6%-7%, while commercial, industrial and apartments have significantly increased. Personal property increase as well with a \$42,000,000 increase for CL&P.

The Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) are currently funded at \$1,600,000 in this year's budget from the State for \$900,000 in roads and \$500,000 in equipment purchases.

There are currently twenty CIP projects – town signage, streetscape improvements at Filley Park, Blue Hills Avenue and the Town Green.

The Board of Education has requested funding from their Non-Recurring Capital Improvement Account to make repairs to the roof of the Administration building, which is estimated to cost \$600,000. They are also requesting \$1,200,000 to purchase a new athletic field at Bloomfield High School with an artificial turf. The Board currently has \$1,500,000 in the Non-Recurring account. There is a shortage of approximately \$300,000 - \$500,000 with the required 1% budget payment for FY 2015/2016 made on July 1, 2015.

Adjournment

It was moved by Councilor Merritt, seconded by Deputy Mayor Gamble and voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting 6:05 p.m.