BLOOMFIELD TOWN COUNCIL
GOLF SUBCOMMITTEE

There was a regular meeting of the above referenced subcommittee held on Monday, June 24, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers, Bloomfield Town Hall, 800 Bloomfield Avenue, Bloomfield, CT.

Committee members present were: Councilors Joseph Merritt and Kevin Gough, Ciaran Carr, Mark Mansur, Bradley Klein, Rosemary Gunning and Robert Morisse

Also present were: David Melesko, Director of Leisure Services and India Rodgers, Clerk of Council

Absent were: Deputy Mayor Rickford Kirton, Ryan Phelps, Rhoan Stewart, Byron Lester, Lynette Easmon, Gregory C. Davis and Jon Colman

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m.

STATUS OF PROPERTY

Mr. Ciaran Carr, General Manager of Wintonbury Hills Golf Course presented an update of golf financials and course operations for May 2019.

The first two weeks of May was bad weather relative to business at the golf course. However, there was a strong come back in the last two weeks in May into June.

The course is slightly behind budget for revenues and public rounds for the month. However, outing rounds continue to be the strong point for business. In total, there were 174 under for the month of May. The event rounds for the year are up 735, total rounds for the year are up 207. It also noted that public rounds decreased by 395 over prior year.

Total revenues year to date is up approximately $65,000. The Total Cash and Short Term Investments is $310,888. The course is $12,000 under in the Labor line item for 2019. There was a savings of $35,000 in the maintenance line item, which was attributed to timing of invoices for fertilizers.

There were some additional expenses in May 2019 which included:

- $4,600 in additional range balls. Normally, the course uses $12,000 - $15,000 in range balls. However, due to the extreme wet weather, balls have disappeared. There was a brief discussion on how to deter stealing.
- $3,600 for new tables and chairs for the Tap Inn Restaurant

Councilor Merritt inquired if the course is tracking playable days.

Mr. Robert Morisse inquired about the outing schedule in the next few months relative to the increase in rounds.
Marketing and Programming 2019

Mr. Carr mentioned the upcoming following events at Wintonbury Hills Golf Course:

- Advantage Card Sales are up $39,893, approximately $4,393 to prior year. Increased sales due to word of mouth promotion.
- SNAG Days in Summer – June 30th, July 27th, August 17th
- Junior Summer Camp – 2 week session in July
- 1st Annual Duane Haley Open – 2 Man Modified Event, Saturday, August 3, 2018 “Best Amateurs”
- CSGA – CT Public Links Championship – August 6-7, 2018 (will do an article on the golf course and the event)

Maintenance

Mr. Mark Mansur, Superintendent noted that the golf course is in great shape, despite the bad weather in May. The course received over 10 inches of rain during this rainy period. The greens are firm and fast for play.

Middle School Program Update

Mr. Carr noted that the Middle School Program completed spring instruction with 13 students. The program has been very successful since its inception. Mr. Carr is looking to expand this program into the fall. He would also like to see some of these students transition into the PGA Junior Golf League for next spring.

OLD BUSINESS

Status Update regarding the Proposal (RFP) for Management Services for the Wintonbury Hills Golf Course

There will be a meeting held on June 26, 2019 with Billy Casper Golf. A small presentation and a series of questions will be asked during this process.

Golf Cart Leases

The current golf cart lease agreement will reach the end of the full 5 years with Club Car. This allows management to explore opportunities to review the three major companies that offer golf cart leases.

Mr. Carr presented an example quote from Club Car completed last fall. There are more options to charge batteries, in which they now offer lithium batteries. The major difference between the lead and lithium batteries is cost of $19,000 more per year for 60 month lease option. The benefits in choosing lithium batteries, they charge in a 1/3 of the time, lighter in weight and longer service life.

The current GPS package cost is $42,000 per year. However, with the new and improved Fleet Management system, the course could save $18,000 with more robust GPS. Management can select what to purchase within the GPS system by the month.

The timeframe to replace this equipment is tentatively set for the beginning of October. It was noted that the Golf Course budget is due to the town by October 2019.
Mr. Carr will compare the three companies of wants vs. needs for GPS and Carts.

**Range Dispenser**

The cost estimate for a new Range Ball Dispenser is approximately $15,000, with an additional $500-$800 internet bridge for the capability to take electronic forms of payment. The current system is using tokens.

There was some brief discussion about the installation of a wireless Camera system of approximately $3,000-$4,000 to prevent theft.

**Fairway Mowers/Units**

Mr. Mark Mansur, Superintendent expressed some concerns about the current equipment and hours of use. He noted that the current units are 7 years old with 1800 use hours on each.

Mr. Mansur is requesting approval to make the necessary repairs to the current units. The purchase of 3 new units would cost $50,000 each. This price includes the municipal & BCG discounts. The course received a quote of $52,626 for 15 reels on all units including labor for another 5 years of use.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

It was moved by Councilor Gough, seconded by Councilor Merritt and voted unanimously to approve the meeting minutes of May 28, 2019.

**ADJOURNMENT**

It was moved by Councilor Gough, seconded by Councilor Merritt and voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:00 p.m.