

Town Council Finance Committee
Aug 18, 2015
Meeting Minutes

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Frink at 6:00pm.

Roll Call

Members Present: Councilors Antipas, Frink, Granatosy and Watson.

Also present was Town Manager Mark Oefinger.

Calendar and Communications

None

New Business

2015-0202 City Highway Budget Committee - Update

1. The committee discussed the potential transition of the City Highway Maintenance funding methodology to Town Staff. During discussion, Frink explained that 'funding methodology' referred specifically to the calculation that is used to determine the dollar amount that the Town Council should 'move' during the Towns annual budget preparation. Frink handed out the calculation sheet that was used during the FYE 2016 budget development process. After discussion it was unanimously agreed, that at this time, the Committee should take no action regarding the calculation and that we will maintain the status quo.

During discussion Granatosky said that she was not in agreement with the methodology the Town Council used. Granatosky stated that a fairer method would be to take into consideration the type of road and the variance in cost to maintain different types of roads. Reference was made to a Town Planning document that classifies six different types of roads as per the CT DOT, within the Town of Groton. Granatosky stated that devising a formula reflective of variance in road types would be a fairer method than strictly center line road miles, as this does not account for any variance in use or type of road. Frink questioned the validity of applying Road Classifications to determining highway maintenance costs and was advised by Granatosky to read the applicable POCD sections before deciding. Oefinger said he would provide an update on the application of road classifications for roads in the Town including Town roads that are in the City.

Granatosky referenced 2.5 of the Town charter, "Nothing contained in the Charter shall be construed to supersede, repeal, amend, impair or affect any provision of the charter of any subdivision of the Town, or any other special act or parts of special acts, or any ordinance or bylaw relating to such subdivisions, or any general statute relating to cities, boroughs or fire districts, all as heretofore enacted, except as legislation may be altered by the act of consolidation of a subdivision with the Town, pursuant to the provisions of Section 2.6 of this Charter." Granatosky's concern is that by assigning the responsibility of determining Town contributions for City Highway maintenance to the Town Public Works staff, the provisions of the

City charter specifying budget appropriations may be violated, or superseded. Frink said that, as far as he was concerned, that none of the items under discussion at this meeting would violate the language of Sec 2.5 primarily because the committee had no need, or desire, to propose changes to the Town Charter.

Antipas indicated that providing funding for the maintenance of Town roads that are in the City is an annual event that is a 'bone of contention' every year. And that we need to get to a methodology we can agree on to reduce or eliminate annual disputes.

2. The Committee discussed potential oversight of maintenance of Town roads in the City. Frink handed out a list of questions he developed based on the City of Groton, Quarterly Report (April – June 2015) for Highway Dept and General Ledger Highway Expenditures report that was transmitted to Mark Oefinger on July 15, 2015. During discussion Frink suggested that the City should provide separate reports for Highway Maintenance, Paving and Projects, since items for all three seem to be reflected in the current quarterly highway maintenance reports from the City and it is difficult to correlate maintenance activities with maintenance costs. Oefinger took the list of questions for further action.
3. The meeting was adjourned at 7:05 pm. Motion by Frink, second by Watson.