

TOLLAND BOARD OF EDUCATION
Hicks Municipal Center
Council Chambers
Tolland, CT 06084

REGULAR MEETING

7:30 – 10:00 P.M.

AGENDA
March 8, 2017

VISION STATEMENT

To represent education at its best, preparing each student for an ever-changing society, and becoming a full community of learning where excellence is achieved through each individual's success.

A. CALL TO ORDER, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Regular Meeting – February 22, 2017

C. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (2 minute limit)

The members of the Tolland Board of Education welcome members of the public to share their thoughts and ideas at this time. When appropriate to do so, members of the Board and the administration may respond to comments during "Points of Information". However, in consideration of those in attendance and in an effort to proceed in a timely manner, follow-up discussion may need to take place outside of the meeting setting.

D. POINTS OF INFORMATION

E. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES' REPORT - Charles Perosino and Andrew Harger

F. SUPERINTENDENT'S FINAL REPORT

- F.1 Meet Mary Grande, Principal, Tolland Middle School (no enclosure)
- F.2 Monthly Financial Report – February 2017
- F.3 Superintendent Evaluation
- F.4 Cooperative Opportunity
- F.5 TIS Partial Roof Replacement Project
- F.6 Budget Presentation/Discussion/Workshop (no enclosure)

G. COMMITTEE & LIAISON REPORTS

H. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

I. BOARD ACTION

J. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (2 minute limit)

Comments must be limited to items on this agenda.

K. POINTS OF INFORMATION

L. CORRESPONDENCE

- Special meeting – Town Council/Board of Education – February 28, 2017
- Town Council- February 28, 2017

M. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

N. NEW BUSINESS

O. ADJOURNMENT

TOLLAND BOARD OF EDUCATION
Hicks Municipal Center
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Tolland, CT 06084

REGULAR MEETING – February 22, 2017

Members Present: Mr. Sam Adlerstein, Chair; Mr. Patrick Doyle, Vice Chair; Ms. Cathy Gorsky, Secretary; Ms. Michelle Harrold, Ms. Karen Moran, Ms. Colleen Yudichak, Mr. Jeff Schroeder, Mr. Robert Pagoni, and Ms. Susan Seaver.

Administrators Present: Dr. Walter Willett, Superintendent of Schools

Mr. Adlerstein introduced an interactive exercise and reviewed the process. He asked the attendees to address the following for 6 minutes.

- Describe a practice that sets Tolland schools apart

A. CALL TO ORDER, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Adlerstein called the meeting to order at 7:45 P.M. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Regular Meeting –February 8, 2017

Mr. Pagoni motioned to accept the minutes of the February 8, 2017 regular meeting. Ms. Yudichak seconded the motion. Changes: none. All were in favor. Motion carried.

C. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Brenda Falusi, 4 Laurel Ridge Road, in response to the activity presented by Mr. Adlerstein noted that Tolland does things that other towns do not such as having discussions and break-out sessions at the BOE meetings, offering opportunities to speak with the Superintendent at various venues, parental involvement, fiscal responsibility, good communications with the Board, a 5-year capital plan, 84 minute blocks at THS, true teams at TMS, future plans, examining tuition-bearing programs, and a high level of student engagement. Additionally, Tolland's BOE's response to communications is much better than others, the cooperation between the Board and the Town Council is awesome with a working agreement, and the Board offers workshop-style meetings.

Rebecca Risely, 103 Mountain Spring Road, noted that the PTO participates in the Box Tops for Education program. Quite a bit of money is raised from people sending in their box tops through the schools and she recommends reaching out to the community as a whole to encourage involvement. Collection boxes could be made available throughout the community for greater outreach.

Liz Costa, 54 Josiah Lane, commented that during the break-out activity, she spoke with some seniors from THS. They noted that teachers in Tolland care more than those in other communities and due to block scheduling, the students have more time to learn and explore subject material. Further, the town has a good sports program with great participation. Additionally, participation is strong in other groups and extracurricular activities are offered that relate to professions.

Rick Field, 139 Torry Road, commented that he believes that the Board and the Town Council communicate better than other towns's legislative and education boards.

Mr. Adlerstein thanked the following individuals for attending this evening's meeting: Rick Field, Town Council Chair, Bill Eccles, Town Council Vice-Chair, Paul Krasusky, Town Council Member, and Steve Werbner, Town Manager.

Correspondence – Ms. Gorsky noted that the Board received 4 letters which were all in regard to the budget. The first letter requested the following: the development of an online system for the budget with a Q&A, posting of anticipated class sizes, and an inquiry in regard to if the Board's letter to the legislature would have more impact if written jointly with the Town Council. The second letter recommended that there not be any further cuts to the Board's budget and if a 0% budget must be presented, that if the funding from the state does not turn out to be as bad as expected, that the Board ask the Town Manager to commit to reallocate any funds returned to the Board up to the 2.14%. The third letter supported increasing the mill rate to fully offset the reduction in state aid. This would make the town less vulnerable to the whims of the state and keep money in the local community. The fourth letter expressed that it would hurt students if more programs and staff are cut. The community may have to pay higher taxes. The author supports the Iverson Academy and Open Choice and inquired if a split shift school day could be instituted.

D. POINTS OF INFORMATION

Dr. Willett responded to comments made in item C.

Dr. Willett noted that a budget site is set up online. It can be accessed by visiting http://www.tolland.k12.ct.us/board_of_education/budget. A Q&A option is enabled on the site. He added that there has been a series of five budget workshops offered in open format.

Dr. Willett explained that a trend is happening that needs to be understood. In a 5 or 10 year period, the district may find itself down a path it cannot reverse. The question is not about adjusting downward for enrollment – it is where Tolland wants to be in 5 or 10 years. Tolland will either be a district that brings in students and tuition or a district that sends out students and tuition. It will either be a district with local control or one that abdicates control to another entity such as a regional structure. Solutions such as combining bus runs will not provide enough resources to reverse the trend. To address the trend, the district needs to reimagine its operations, recoup outgoing tuition, and expand programs that bring tuition in (tuition bearing programs).

Dr. Willett addressed the suggestion of a split shift school day. Tolland can shut down a school but in the long run it may not be in Tolland's best interest. With fewer seats, there would be fewer possibilities and tuition-bearing options.

Dr. Willett spoke in regard to the budget.

The budget process started in October and a number of budget workshops were held. Ultimately, the Superintendent's budget was a recommendation of a 2.45% increase. This included some reductions and would build internal capacity in an effort to keep more students in-house. The proposed budget was able to be reduced to 2.14% via a number of cooperative actions with the Town. Thus, the BOE adopted budget was 2.14% and it was able to keep a large

number of benefits. Since then, the Governor has released his budget. This budget has some draconian reductions and shifts. Due to this, the school district may face a 0% increase at referendum. If the Governor's budget were to go through as presented, it would result in a loss of \$5M-\$7M to Tolland. In turn, the School District is trying to determine how to navigate these waters.

Dr. Willett explained that whether it is a 0% or 2.14% increase, Tolland is in the process of choosing its path and this is something that will be discussed this evening. Tolland is in a better place than other districts. It has great facilities and could be a place where many students come but it could also go through a series of reductions year after year that could become more severe. This would result in a much different structure. Ultimately, Tolland will decide.

Mr. Doyle clarified that a 0% budget would be equal to the 2016-2017 budget.

Mr. Pagoni commented that during the break-out session, they discussed that the special needs programs are very good and the staff is "top shelf". Additionally, the field trip opportunities are a very good way for students to see the rest of the world. Further, Mr. Pagoni echoed Mr. Field's comment that the communication between the Board and the Town Council is very good as is the communication between the Superintendent and the Town Manager. Additionally, Mr. Pagoni commented that it is great to give the community a venue where it can say what it has to say, get answers, and have people listen. He added that the input from the Student Representatives has tremendous value.

Mr. Adlerstein explained that the 2.14% budget increase was passed by the Board and delivered to the Town Council. The Town Council is now deliberating which includes receiving input from the Town Manager. The Town Manager has recommended a 0% budget increase in reaction to what is happening at the state level.

E. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES' REPORT

- THS Musical, *Singin' in the Rain*, will be performed on March 10th and 11th.
- Mr. THS will be held on March 17th.
- Snowball Dance (freshmen and sophomores) will be held at THS on February 25th.
- A blood drive, sponsored by the NHS in coordination with the Red Cross, will be held on February 28th.

F. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

F.1. Budget Impact on Board of Education (no enclosure)

Mr. Adlerstein noted that Mr. Doyle inquired about the Town Manager's budget. Mr. Doyle asked if the Town Manager is proposing that the Board reduce its budget by 3% to \$38,132,000 or if he is suggesting a 0% budget of \$39,333,000.

Mr. Werbner clarified that he is recommending that the budget be reduced by 3.05% or \$1.2M which will be offset by a new special education grant of the same amount. It would be a direct grant to the Board. Formerly, this \$1.2M was rolled into the ECS which went in as general fund revenue to offset the mill rate. Now, the town manager explained, it is losing \$1.2M+ for general fund revenue. This is now going directly as a reimbursement to the Board as an Special Education grant. The effect is that the Board's budget would be 0%. He explained that the Board's current expenditures for

this year are being reduced by \$1.2M. They are being offset by a grant of an equal amount to make the bottom line the same next year as this year.

Mr. Doyle requested to know a breakout of the revenue sources and the bottom line for the Board's budget including where the Board is anticipating revenue from the state for special education and educational cost share as well as the anticipation of grants from other entities and funds from taxpayers through the mill rate (budgeted from the town budget).

Dr. Willett explained that as part of the Governor's proposed budget, it can be said that they are increasing special education funding for towns. Technically, this is true. The district could receive approximately \$2.5M for special education which replaces part of what was the ECS reimbursement. The district budgeted \$1.3M for this coming year's budget. Thus, there is a \$1.2M differential, and the proposal the TC will consider is to reduce the BOE budget by that additional amount. Dr. Willett explained that in addition to this he would have to make adjustments totaling \$842K to make up the difference between the Board's adopted budget increase of 2.14% and the Town Manager's recommended 0% increase.

Mr. Werbner commented that there is another piece to consider but he decided not to make part of the Board's budget. This is the \$1.934M for the 1/3rd share of the teacher pension costs. A number of towns are allocating that to the school districts as a fringe benefit cost associated with the Board of Education. This year, he allocated it to a separate line item. What the Town Council decides to do for this year or future years associated with that cost as potentially that cost begins to increase exponentially based upon the unfunded liability payments coming to fruition over the next couple of years, remains to be a discussion. He does not believe that any future discussions should not consider this potential cost or be left out of the equation. It will have to be absorbed at some point and in some fashion by the community. Dr. Willett noted that this would be a massive adjustment and would mean a different situation for the Tolland Education System if it were to go through as proposed.

Dr. Willett reviewed the presentation. He reviewed the enrollment and staff reductions but noted that a significant issue is tuition. The District has excellent programs and he is trying to build internal capacity to address the national trend toward charter and magnet schools. As dollars move toward these schools, local schools receive less. He knows that Tolland offers excellent programs and programs that are just as good or better. The SAT and standardized scores are better as well but these schools can use taxpayer dollars for advertising and outreach. Further, Dr. Willett wants to build capacity so there are programs in district that can serve students with behavioral challenges and autism better they currently do. Not only would this avoid outplacements but it would also then allow for the potential for students from other districts to come to Tolland.

Dr. Willett reviewed the numbers. Shutting down a school saves \$200K but in regard to special education, transportation for a single outplacement may be \$30K and outplacements can cost upward of \$100K. This is the problem that needs to be solved. One of his objectives over the next few years is to increase and expand SRBI and RTI

resources which will reduce outplacements. Further, he is looking into creating what he calls an Iverson Academy with close to the same resources utilized now.

Dr. Willett explained that he wants to promote the Tolland schools. The district has an awesome school system and offers many opportunities such as 84 minute blocks and late buses but this will be eroded if the trend is not changed. He encourages all to ask the federal and state government questions. Why is \$20M being spent on the SBAC testing in so many grades? While they are reducing funding in schools, they are deeply funding many other projects. By supporting the budgets and voting at referendum time, the community can put the district in a position where it can recover funds and develop. Tolland can bring kids in and expand and have local control or within 10 years school(s) may be shut down and students from Tolland may be going elsewhere.

Dr. Willett presented and reviewed a matrix with the 3 Cs – Curriculum/Instruction, Comprehensive Assessment, and Culture which included how it looks now and how it may look with reductions.

- Curriculum/Instruction
 - Current: offerings include Writers Workshop, Readers Workshop, Math-In-Focus; staff includes curriculum supervisors
 - Potential reduction: reductions in curriculum staff and resources impacting the overall competitiveness
- Comprehensive Assessment
 - Current: doing many things to identify and respond to student needs with universal screens and focus on mastery based learning
 - Potential reduction: impacts the ability to do universal screening, thereby decreasing the school's ability to identify and serve students and prevent outplacements.
- Culture
 - Current: a culturally responsive education plan
 - Potential reduction: would impact the ability to follow this plan

Mr. Adlerstein explained the next break-out exercise. He added a 4th "C" – Community to the matrix and asked participants to review the information, come up with questions, and help the Board set a direction. He asked that they rate if an area is gaining, maintaining, or losing ground.

After the session, the groups reconvened and reviewed the information. In general, under the proposed budget many believed that in most areas the district was gaining or maintaining ground in regard to priorities but that under the proposal by the governor they would overwhelmingly lose ground.

Mr. Adlerstein thanked everyone for participating and opened the floor to the Board members.

A brief discussion took place regarding the letter being drafted which will be sent to the legislators. It will be shared with the public so the community can see the points of interest. Mr. Pagoni noted that the letter should be sent by both the Town Council and the BOE and it should go out soon. Further, he recommended that a short information page be created that highlights the facts.

Mr. Doyle noted that it is important to be transparent about the budget and added that it should include an anticipated expenditure plan as well as a plan for anticipated revenue sources. He noted that there are many genuine unknowns. Pressure needs to be exerted on the powers that be in regard to items that are not acceptable and do not provide for a quality education. A lot is being done on speculation and it is important to be transparent in that they are doing things based on a "best guess" and things may change.

Ms. Gorsky likes Ms. Rubino's idea of having Dr. Willett record a video. He is a dynamic speaker and while the Board is sending the letter to the legislators, individuals need to write to them as well. It is the legislators' job to ensure the town is provided with what it needs to sustain the levels it has worked so hard to achieve. Tolland is a great town and it is not acceptable that it be punished to the degree in which it is.

Ms. Yudichak noted that the CABA's A Day on the Hill is scheduled for March 8th. The event will be held at the Bushnell Auditorium Great Hall from 8AM – 12PM. She has reserved a conference room for 2PM at the Legislative Office Building and the legislative delegation will be in attendance. Anyone interested in attending should contact Ms. Yudichak.

Ms. Seaver recommended having a letter that the community could access, print, sign, and mail to their legislators. It was noted that the community could also send correspondence to the Connecticut General Assembly Appropriations Committee www.cga.ct.gov/app or the Planning and Development Committee www.cga.ct.gov/pd/

Mr. Adlerstein reviewed what the chairs of other boards are doing. He noted that what Tolland is doing is not what most others are doing at this point in regard to reducing their budgets. The ball is currently in the Town Council's court and no decisions have been made yet. A joint meeting of the BOE and the Town Council is scheduled for February 28th.

Mr. Perosino expressed concern of sending a 0% budget to referendum. He understands that people are concerned with the Governor's budget but is worried that they are setting up Tolland to reduce even further rather than the intention of promoting education.

Mr. Schroeder noted that while the governor does propose a budget, the house and senate vote on their own budgets that get reconciled. Then the governor either votes for it or vetoes it. Going to a 0% budget based on a budget proposal that is non-binding and will not necessarily be included in the ones which are voted upon is presumptuous. It should be noted but it is nowhere near being the final budget.

Ms. Gorsky agreed with Mr. Schroeder and Mr. Perosino. The direction they are taking is jumping the gun. In regard to one of the letters received, one writer commented that if the town does get money back and the state's cuts are not as severe, the writer hopes that the town manager would reinstate the 2.14%. Ms. Gorsky feels this is very important. The Board should be able to recoup the 2.14%. Ms. Moran noted that the staff would not be able to be put back.

Mr. Doyle clarified the process. The Town Manager has made a recommendation to the Town Council and the Board and the Council have a joint meeting scheduled for Tuesday. Mr. Doyle

supports the 2.14% budget that was voted on. At this point it is about dialog and he encourages everyone to be a part of that. The Town Council needs the help, support, and dialog.

G. COMMITTEE AND LIAISON REPORTS

Town Council - Ms. Harrold attended the February 14th meeting. The Council thanked the Negotiations Committee for all of its hard work and the Town Manager noted that they may have to reconsider some of the projects that are scheduled for outlying years that were in the bonding referendum.

H. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT -none

I. BOARD ACTION - none

J. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Jan Rubino, 296 Weigold Road, encouraged the attendees and the Board members to adopt a Town Council person. Speak to them one on one. They will vote and have the voice. They need to know how people feel.

Karen Bresciano, 25 Deer Meadow, commented that when reviewing the budget, there is a list of magnet schools. She noted that some the district does not pay for some of the schools and she would like to know more information on this. Further, even the ones where the district does pay, it is at a cost of \$5K/student. While it would be ideal to have that \$5K stay in district, the per pupil expenditure is approximately \$15K so the district is still able to keep the \$10K difference that was allotted for that student. She would like more information on this and the differences between magnet and charter schools. She added that she supports Open Choice and having students come to the district who are tuition bearing and would provide diversity. Lastly, she would like to have been contacted to learn why she chose to send her student out of the district.

Scott Wells, 37 Shores Drive, commented on the issue of special education. He has worked in this area for many years and in a number of capacities. Special education services are determined by the IEP, not on cost savings. This is a slippery slope because many advocates ramp up when school districts pull in kids. This is in regard to whether the district is providing the appropriate educational program that the student deserves. It is not as easy as saying that \$40K will be saved in transportation. There is the liability of if an appropriate education is being provided and the cost of lawyers to fight this as well as settlements that go beyond what would be the cost of the appropriate education. Further, there may be compensatory damages. The community needs to support its elderly as well as the most vulnerable who are the children who are disabled. He encouraged the town to support the students and the families. Further, a message needs to go to the legislators and governor around how citizens are maintained locally. Some students should be kept in district while others have specialized needs that are better off developing their skill sets and masteries outside of the town.

Ms. Moran motioned to extend the meeting past 10PM. Mr. Doyle seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Amy Raccagni inquired about the Iverson Academy and when it would open.

Dr. Willett explained that this would be a few years out but changes would be made to the operations now. She would like to know more about the culinary and other vo-ag programs.

Liz Costa, 54 Josiah Lane, commented that she would like to understand more about the chart which compares the towns and the outplacements.

Dr. Willett explained that the DRG has multiple districts and some are more like Tolland than others so for comparison, he uses data comparisons to districts similar to Tolland. He added that IEPs are critical, and services need to be provided to students to match their needs. If those needs require outplacement, the district has a moral and professional obligation to provide it. He expressed it is his goal to build the internal capacity of the district to serve students in a way that does not necessitate as many outplacements, and keeps the students closer to home, with local peer groups, and an overall more beneficial situation for them.

Ms. Costa requested further clarification on the \$1.2M vs. the \$843K. The district is situated in a good place given its proximity to rt. 84 and UConn. She agrees with the 2.14% increase and believes the district needs to act now. She agrees with Ms. Gorsky and Ms. Moran in supporting 2.14% and not making the foolish decision of going down the path of 0% unless it is necessary. She suggested that some small cuts be made to appease those without children in the system. Lastly, she encouraged the student representatives to encourage their 17 and 18 year old friends to register to vote.

K. POINTS OF INFORMATION

Dr. Willett spoke in regard to special education. He noted that it is important to recognize that there are students who will need outplacement.

Dr. Willett reviewed the budget number slide.

L. CORRESPONDENCE

- Town Council, Planning & Zoning Commission, Board of Education Meeting – February 7, 2017
- Town Council Meeting – February 14, 2017
- Town Council Meeting – Special – February 16, 2017
- Town Council Meeting – Special – February 16, 2017

M. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Cooperative Opportunity

N. NEW BUSINESS - none

O. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Pagoni motioned to adjourn the meeting at 10:17PM. Mr. Doyle seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Lisa Pascuzzi
Clerk



TOLLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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OFFICE OF THE
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Walter Willett, Ph.D.
Superintendent

TO: Board of Education

F2

FROM: Mark S. McLaughlin, Business Director

RE: Monthly Financial Report-February 2017

Date: March 6, 2017

CC: Walter Willett, Ph.D. Superintendent of Schools

Please find attached the financial report for the month of February 2017, 8th month of the 2016-2017 fiscal year. This report represents a snapshot of the financial condition for FY16-17. The financial attachment is provided in an object format to clearly show the adopted budget and the expenditures against the budget. The object line items show all expenses and encumbrances such as salaries, health insurance, utilities, textbooks, etc.

The attached February 2017 financial report shows an available balance of \$1,891,428 or 4.81% of the BOE's current budget. The majority of the budget has been encumbered to provide better fiscal management and greater control. Encumbrances provide a better picture of the district's performance vs the approved budget. The overall budget shows PO's that are generated and expenses paid. Some line items are over and under budget, depending on encumbrances and timing of expenditures. Some line items cannot be encumbered such as substitutes, course reimbursement and severance. As part of the UISF agreement the BOE has transferred the designated energy budget to the town. The town pays the invoices based on the BOE funding and any residual balance that remains in the form of cost savings and will remain in the reserve account.

As previously stated, stipends are over budget because of pay to participate funds not yet collected. Out of District Tuitions are adjusted because we have applied the Excess Cost Reimbursement during the month. The BOE did receive \$987,473 for excess cost in February and that represented 75% of the anticipated SDE reimbursement. This payment is the first payment and the second reimbursement payment should be received in May. The last line item, Misc. Expenses, is over budget because the town required the BOE to reimburse the town for the state budget funding shortfall.

An updated chart for the monthly financial spending is attached. The chart will provide a different view of expenditures grouped by major functioning areas.

Respectfully Submitted.

Tolland Public Schools

MM OBJ A Expenditure Report Summary (by OBJ - ???)

From Date: 2/1/2017

To Date: 2/28/2017

Fiscal Year: 2016-2017

☐ Subtotal by Collapse Mask

☒ Include pre encumbrance

☐ Print accounts with zero balance

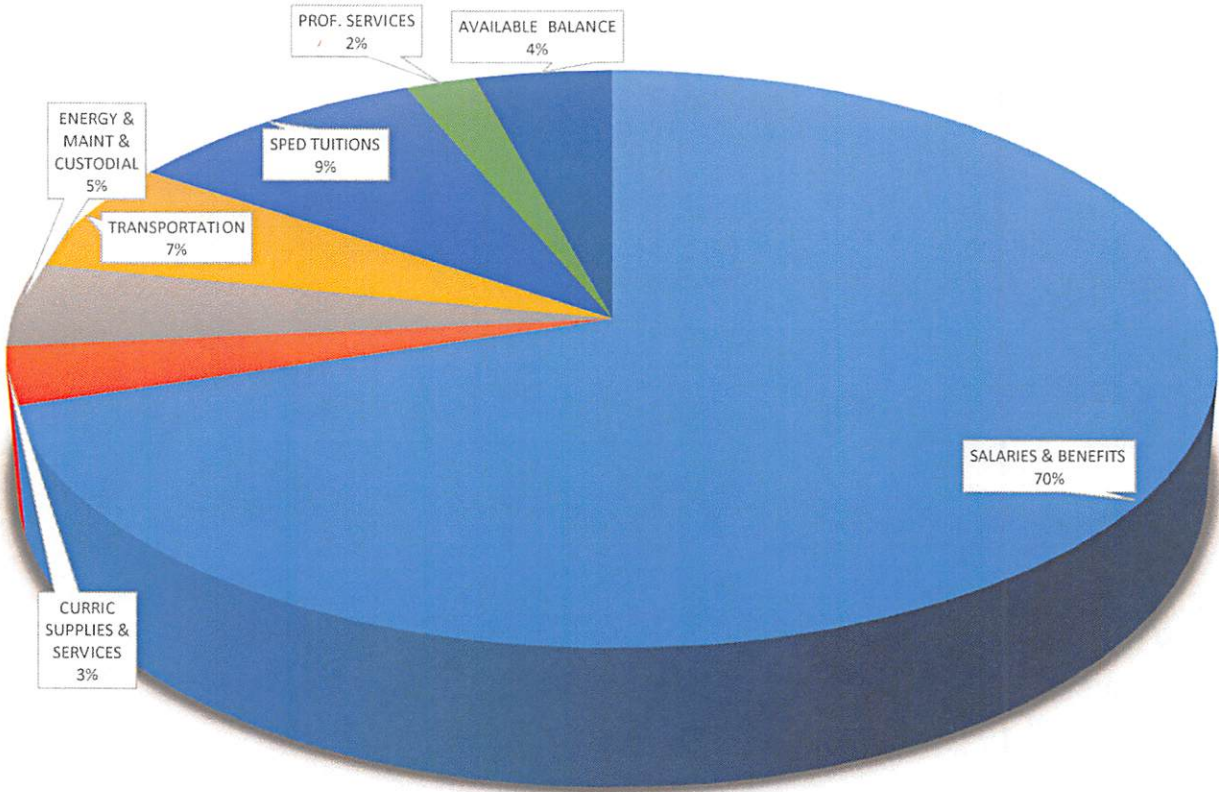
☒ Filter Encumbrance Detail by Date Range

☐ Exclude Inactive Accounts with zero balance

Account Number	Description	GL Budget	Range To Date	YTD	Balance	Encumbrance	Budget Balance	% Bud
0100.0000.110.00.000.1	Salaries	\$21,162,994.00	\$1,622,570.40	\$11,759,047.59	\$9,403,946.41	\$8,752,218.14	\$651,728.27	3.08%
0100.0000.120.00.000.1	Substitutes	\$471,941.00	\$42,793.75	\$213,377.17	\$258,563.83	\$22,225.39	\$236,338.44	50.08%
0100.0000.130.00.000.1	Overtime	\$158,159.00	\$9,950.29	\$100,958.48	\$57,200.52	\$6,756.08	\$50,444.44	31.89%
0100.0000.150.00.000.1	Stipends	\$349,031.00	\$24,176.28	\$115,826.02	\$233,204.98	\$301,429.71	(\$68,224.73)	-19.55%
0100.0000.190.00.000.1	Pension/Severance	\$170,747.00	\$4,000.00	\$105,067.40	\$65,679.60	\$0.00	\$65,679.60	38.47%
0100.0000.200.00.000.1	Employee Benefits	\$324,532.00	\$0.00	\$391,781.05	(\$67,249.05)	\$1,562.50	(\$68,811.55)	-21.20%
0100.0000.210.00.000.1	Health/Life/Disabl Ins	\$5,352,592.00	\$570,088.42	\$3,051,527.19	\$2,301,064.81	\$2,275,672.04	\$25,392.77	0.47%
0100.0000.220.00.000.1	FICA/MED/Soc Sec	\$611,206.00	\$44,677.88	\$326,704.82	\$284,501.18	\$217,962.62	\$66,538.56	10.89%
0100.0000.240.00.000.1	Retirement (ICMA)	\$213,789.00	\$18,216.85	\$131,255.02	\$82,533.98	\$80,011.72	\$2,522.26	1.18%
0100.0000.250.00.000.1	Course Reimbursement-Degree Ch	\$50,000.00	\$17,079.50	\$17,079.50	\$32,920.50	\$7,920.50	\$25,000.00	50.00%
0100.0000.260.00.000.1	Unemployment Compensation	\$56,681.00	\$2,389.00	\$18,802.00	\$37,879.00	\$11,198.00	\$26,681.00	47.07%
0100.0000.270.00.000.1	Workers' Compensation	\$276,021.00	\$0.00	\$208,241.42	\$69,779.58	\$68,751.70	\$1,027.88	0.37%
0100.0000.300.00.000.1	Purch Prof & Tech Servcs	\$41,220.00	\$0.00	\$27,987.85	\$13,252.15	\$120.00	\$13,132.15	31.86%
0100.0000.310.00.000.1	Benefits Consultant Services	\$67,036.00	\$23,753.26	\$45,137.98	\$21,898.02	\$14,256.94	\$7,641.08	11.40%
0100.0000.320.00.000.1	Prof Educ Servcs	\$444,357.00	\$41,333.55	\$194,821.46	\$249,535.54	\$152,250.24	\$97,285.30	21.89%
0100.0000.330.00.000.1	Professional Tech Svcs	\$32,482.00	\$414.20	\$17,131.07	\$15,350.93	\$10,374.08	\$4,976.85	15.32%
0100.0000.340.00.000.1	Legal/Audit/Consult Servcs	\$244,597.00	\$8,176.30	\$101,835.63	\$142,761.37	\$50,462.44	\$92,298.93	37.74%
0100.0000.350.00.000.1	Tech Services	\$446,784.00	\$22,147.04	\$243,495.08	\$203,288.92	\$20,526.62	\$182,762.30	40.91%
0100.0000.410.00.000.1	Sewer/Water	\$43,940.00	\$0.00	\$43,940.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00%
0100.0000.420.00.000.1	Cleaning/Rubbish Services	\$120,457.00	\$6,276.95	\$55,058.95	\$65,398.05	\$18,212.05	\$47,186.00	39.17%
0100.0000.430.00.000.1	Repair and Maint Servs (Facili	\$258,416.00	\$13,498.57	\$140,657.91	\$117,758.09	\$39,317.59	\$78,440.50	30.35%
0100.0000.440.00.000.1	Rentals	\$138,371.00	\$16,810.86	\$93,065.91	\$45,305.09	\$56,113.41	(\$10,808.32)	-7.81%
0100.0000.510.00.000.1	Student Transp Svcs	\$2,493,712.00	\$138,982.83	\$1,262,788.26	\$1,230,923.74	\$1,106,859.75	\$124,063.99	4.98%
0100.0000.520.00.000.1	Property/Liability Insurance	\$180,422.00	\$0.00	\$152,274.67	\$28,147.33	\$44,194.13	(\$16,046.80)	-8.89%
0100.0000.530.00.000.1	Telephone/ Postage	\$46,562.00	\$3,721.42	\$31,296.99	\$15,265.01	\$17,404.65	(\$2,139.64)	-4.60%
0100.0000.540.00.000.1	Advertising	\$2,865.00	\$171.00	\$4,779.34	(\$1,914.34)	\$79.00	(\$1,993.34)	-69.58%
0100.0000.550.00.000.1	Printing and Binding	\$30,940.00	\$39.00	\$7,865.01	\$23,274.99	\$10,826.10	\$12,448.89	40.24%
0100.0000.560.00.000.1	Tuition Educ Agency	\$2,717,299.00	(\$254,378.56)	\$1,632,138.34	\$1,085,160.66	\$1,094,082.31	(\$8,921.65)	-0.33%
0100.0000.580.00.000.1	Travel and Conference	\$29,142.00	\$832.78	\$9,901.73	\$19,240.27	\$1,343.80	\$17,896.47	61.41%
0100.0000.590.00.000.1	Public Officers & State Troope	\$94,322.00	\$15,743.72	\$49,519.37	\$44,802.63	\$32,885.90	\$11,916.73	12.63%
0100.0000.600.00.000.1	General Supplies	\$209,614.00	\$15,696.71	\$144,499.57	\$65,114.43	\$42,017.93	\$23,096.50	11.02%
0100.0000.610.00.000.1	Instr Supplies/Mat'ls	\$361,273.93	\$16,451.25	\$157,885.62	\$203,308.31	\$121,134.23	\$82,174.08	22.75%
0100.0000.620.00.000.1	Energy	\$1,559,025.00	\$12,216.78	\$1,424,246.07	\$134,778.93	\$130,821.24	\$3,957.69	0.25%
0100.0000.640.00.000.1	Textbooks	\$202,980.07	\$3,766.14	\$58,331.45	\$144,648.62	\$54,144.83	\$90,503.79	44.59%
0100.0000.650.00.000.1	Films and Videos Supl	\$1,200.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,200.00	\$887.50	\$312.50	26.04%
0100.0000.660.00.000.1	Computer Software	\$58,525.00	\$96.00	\$51,439.66	\$7,085.34	\$200.00	\$6,885.34	11.76%
0100.0000.690.00.000.1	Misc Supplies	\$62,796.00	\$4,141.19	\$34,719.95	\$28,076.05	\$24,984.81	\$3,111.24	4.95%
0100.0000.730.00.000.1	Equip Instruct - New	\$199,958.00	\$4,537.23	\$138,169.97	\$61,788.03	\$2,364.02	\$59,424.01	29.72%
0100.0000.810.00.000.1	Dues and Fees	\$47,959.00	\$2,577.00	\$46,661.82	\$1,297.18	\$5,344.66	(\$4,047.48)	-8.44%
0100.0000.890.00.000.1	Misc Expense	\$0.00	\$0.00	(\$54.80)	\$54.80	\$38,500.00	(\$38,445.20)	0.00%
Grand Total:		\$39,333,948.00	\$2,452,955.59	\$22,607,122.52	\$16,726,825.48	\$14,835,396.63	\$1,891,428.85	4.81%

End of Report

FINANCIAL SPENDING



- SALARIES & BENEFITS
- CURRIC SUPPLIES & SERVICES
- ENERGY & MAINT & CUSTODIAL
- TRANSPORTATION
- SPED TUITIONS
- PROF. SERVICES
- AVAILABLE BALANCE

SUPERINTENDENT'S AGENDA ITEM BACKGROUND

ITEM: Superintendent Evaluation

ITEM SUBMITTED BY: Walter Willett, Ph.D., Superintendent

For BOE meeting: March 8, 2017

ITEM SUMMARY:

The Board in executive session shall evaluate the Superintendent no later than May 31 of each year of this agreement. The evaluation shall include recommendations as to areas of improvement in areas where the Board deems such to be necessary or appropriate. A copy of the written evaluation shall be delivered to the Superintendent no later than June 30 of each year of this Agreement. The Superintendent shall have the right to make a written reaction or response to the evaluation, which shall become a permanent attachment to the Superintendent's personnel file. No later than July 31 of each year of this Agreement, the Board in executive session shall meet with the Superintendent to discuss the evaluation. The superintendent shall provide the Board with a copy of this contract clause, no later than April 1 of each year of this Agreement.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY: N/A

BOARD ATTORNEY REVIEW: N/A

BOE ACTION DESIRED:

Begin process of evaluation.

SUPPORTING MATERIALS ATTACHED:

N/A at time of publication.

SUPERINTENDENT'S AGENDA ITEM BACKGROUND

ITEM: Cooperative Opportunity

ITEM SUBMITTED BY: Walter Willett, Ph.D., Superintendent

For BOE meeting: March 8, 2017

ITEM SUMMARY:

A possibility exists for Tolland High School to engage in a cooperative agreements with other Towns to accept some of their high school students. As other Town's close their high schools, and seek to have students educated elsewhere, Tolland is in a position to accept these enrollments. There is at least one such opportunity available to Tolland. The sending district would pay the costs of outplacements should the students from the sending Town need it. In addition, the sending Town typically pays the costs of transportation. The High School, for example, could accept one hundred such students as one possibility.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY:

Such an arrangement could mean PPE x number of students enrolled.

BOARD ATTORNEY REVIEW:

An MOU would have to be generated with the sending district.

BOE ACTION DESIRED:

Consideration of this possibility/opportunity and authorization for the Superintendent to pursue such opportunities.

SUPPORTING MATERIALS ATTACHED:

None.

SUPERINTENDENT'S AGENDA ITEM BACKGROUND

ITEM: TIS Partial Roof Replacement Project

ITEM SUBMITTED BY: Walter Willett, Ph.D., Superintendent

For BOE meeting: March 8, 2017

ITEM SUMMARY:

Please review the Tolland Intermediate School Partial Roof Replacement educational specifications. BOE authorization is desired to proceed with this project. It is part of the capital improvements project, and bond.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY:

Please see the attached Educational Specifications for TIS Partial Roof Replacement.

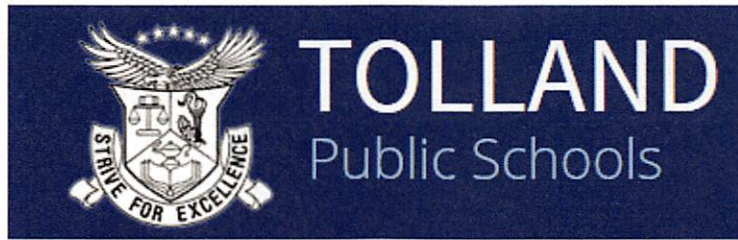
BOARD ATTORNEY REVIEW: [N/A or put in a summary]

BOE ACTION DESIRED:

Proposed Motion: *motion to approve the Educational Specifications for the TIS Partial Roof Replacement project and to accept and authorize this project to be executed.*

SUPPORTING MATERIALS ATTACHED:

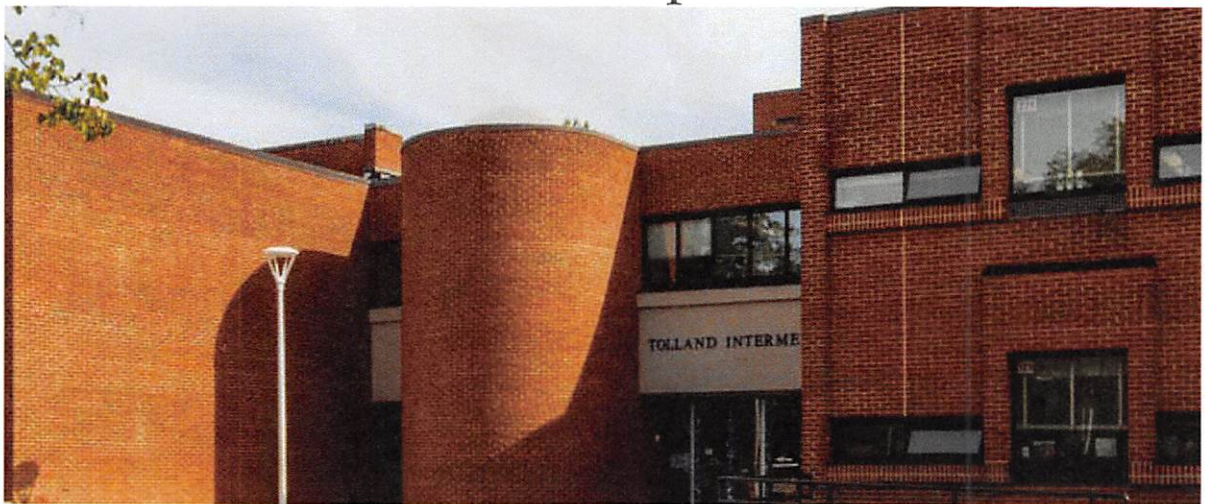
TIS Ed Specs 3.2



Educational Specifications

Tolland Intermediate School

Partial Roof Replacement



TOLLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS

51 Tolland Green, Tolland, CT 06084 BOE Approval: 3/8/2017

TOLLAND INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL

Established in 2008, Tolland Intermediate School offers a grades 3-5 education to students of diverse cultures. We emphasize the social, emotional, physical, intellectual development of each child and strive to instill high standards for academic integrity, and leadership in our students. Through our programs, students are given the technology, skills and knowledge to be effective members of our school community and a global society.

Our campus includes state-of-the-art, student-friendly technology, and a great faculty of ambitious teachers ready to give Tolland Intermediate School the best school experience.

At Tolland Intermediate School, we strive to create a school community in which all students feel a strong sense of belongingness and involvement. Our ultimate goal is for every student to walk through our front doors and feel as if T.I.S. is their home away from home.

PROJECT RATIONALE

Long range planning for the Tolland Intermediate calls for a safe and respectful learning environment for all individuals, which will be accomplished through long-term facility upgrades. The existing roof systems have become prone to leaks and have on occasion caused damage to school equipment, supplies and the facility. Recent preliminary investigations by design professionals, and facilities staff indicates that the original roof system is beyond its useful service life. Preliminary investigations included site visits/investigation and review of all available existing construction documents.

Due to the deteriorated state of the existing roof system, emergency repairs essential to ensuring the water tight integrity of the roof were identified. These repairs will allow the continued safe use of the facility until the permanent partial roof replacement project can be completed.

LONG RANGE PLANS

The Town of Tolland FY 2016-2017 Operating and Capital Budget set a goal to "Enrich the quality of life of our residents and all those we serve by providing cost-effective municipal services while optimizing resources." In order to meet this objective of the plan, the members of the Town of Tolland 's Board of Education have set the plan to research long-term facilities upgrades and usage while maintaining building and grounds that are safety compliant. To accomplish this, it is necessary to replace the existing roof sections of the Tolland Intermediate School.

The Town of Tolland's plan is to continue to utilize the Tolland Intermediate School in its current capacity, for a minimum of 20 years. The new roof systems will meet or exceed the State of Connecticut Department of Education standards including the required minimum roof pitch of 1/4" per ft.

In order to ensure the new roof systems will function properly and provide safe and healthy environment the following associated items of work have been identified as critical to an effective roof replacement project.

THE PROJECT

The built up roofs systems are circa 1991 and 1996 and have exceeded their life expectancy. The Facilities Director describes the roof leaks as continuous and persistent. The repairs have been very difficult and costly. The project would be to remove both systems, down to the deck, and design and install a new roof system that adheres to the all the local, state, and federal codes. As well as all the requirements, given by the Department of Administrative Services' Office of School Construction Grants, to receive full reimbursement to the Tolland Intermediate School Roof Replacement Project.

THE REPORT AND PROPOSED SCOPE OF WORK ARE:

Tolland Intermediate School

Roof Inspection Date

8/11/2015

Roof Identification / Square footage

All roof areas consists of Built-up roofing with modified flashings, with the exception of the EPDM Portables

Total sq. footage of 1991 Built-up area (Sections B, C and D)	27,177 sq. ft.
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Total sq. footage of 1996 Built-up area (Sections E and F)	43,057 sq. ft.
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Total sq. footage of fully adhered EPDM portable Section A Not in Contract	8,880 sq. ft
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Estimated Installation Date:

Built-up Sections B, C and D	- 1991
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Built-up Sections E and F	- 1996
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EPDM Portable Roof Section A Not in Contract	- 2004
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Tolland Intermediate School
1991-YELLOW 27,200 SQ/FT
1996- RED 43,100 SQ/FT



Drainage/Slope:

The existing pitch ranges from 1/8" to 1/4" on the low slope areas

Recommendations:

Replacement of all low slope roofs includes the following:

- 1) Complete tear off of the existing roof down to the structural decking.
- 2) Installation of new tapered board insulation
- 3) Installation of a new roof system
- 4) New metal flashings as specified
- 5) Issue 20 year warranty

BUILDING SYSTEMS

Security:	Not applicable
Public Address:	Not applicable
Technology:	Not applicable
Phone System:	Not applicable
Clocks:	Not applicable
Security camera:	Not applicable

INTERIOR BUILDING ENVIRONMENT

Acoustics:	Not applicable
Lighting:	Not applicable
HVAC:	Not applicable
Plumbing:	Not applicable
Windows/Doors	Not applicable

SITE DEVELOPMENT

Site Acquisition:	Not applicable
Parking:	Not applicable
Drives:	Not applicable
Walkways:	Not applicable
Outdoor Athletic Facilities:	Not applicable
Landscaping:	Not applicable
Site Improvements:	Not applicable

CONSTRUCTION BONUS REQUEST

Tolland Intermediate School does not house any of the special programs eligible for a school construction bonus which can be designated for this project.

School Readiness:	C.G.S. 10-285a(e) – Not applicable
Lighthouse Schools;	C.G.S. 10-285a(f) – Not applicable
CHOICE:	C.G.S. 10-285a(g), as amended – Not applicable
Full-day Kindergarten:	C.G.S. 10-285a(h) – Not applicable
Reduced Class Size:	C.G.S. 10-285a(h) – Not applicable
Regional Vo-Ag Center:	C.G.S. 10-65 – Not applicable
Interdistrict Magnet School:	C.G.S. 10-264h – Not applicable
Interdistrict Cooperative School:	C.G.S. 10-158a – Not applicable
Regional Special Education Center:	C.G.S. 10-76e – Not applicable

COMMUNITY USES

The Tolland Intermediate School is utilized to provide the full range of activities typical of an intermediate school before, during and after school hours and throughout the calendar year.

Additionally various organizations will use the facilities within the building (i.e. Gymnasium, Cafeteria, etc.) when it is not being used by the students, in accordance with Board of Education policy.

**SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA
TOWN COUNCIL/BOARD OF EDUCATION
JOINT MEETING
HICKS MEMORIAL MUNICIPAL CENTER
6TH FLOOR COUNCIL CHAMBERS
FEBRUARY 28, 2017 - 7:00 P.M.**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Rick Field, Chair; William Eccles, Vice-Chair; Robert Green; Paul Krasusky; Kristen Morgan; Joe Sce and David Skoczulek

MEMBERS ABSENT: None.

BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS PRESENT: Sam Adlerstein, Chairman; Patrick Doyle, Vice-Chair; Michelle Harrold; Karen Moran; Robert Pagoni; Jeff Schroeder, Susan Seaver and Colleen Yudichak

BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS ABSENT: Kathy Gorsky

OTHERS PRESENT: Steven Werbner, Town Manager; Walter Willett, Superintendent; Lisa Hancock, Director of Finance and Records; Beverly Bellody, Human Services; Mike Wilkinson, Director of Administrative Services; Sam Belsito, State Representative

- 1. Call to Order – Pursuant to Section § C9-4 of the Town Charter the Town Manager is required to call and attend a joint meeting of the Town Council and Board of Education for the purpose of discussing the appropriation request of the Board of Education – Explanation of the budget process by the Town Manager**

Steven Werbner called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Mr. Werbner began the meeting by giving an update as to what he knows at this time regarding the Governor's budget. There is a lot of confusion as to what is contained within the Governor's budget, and there is confusion as to what is going to happen with the recommendations made by the Governor's budget through the legislative process. There has not been a lot of deliberation about the budget at this point. So, a lot is unknown.

Every town is different. Some towns saw small reductions, while some towns saw reductions of several million. Tolland is on the high side at \$7 – 8m of loss. Some towns have decided to gamble. They don't believe the numbers in the Governor's recommendation are going to come to fruition in the end. If you are gambling on hundreds of thousands of dollars that might be a gamble he would be willing to take. Due to the dollar amount of Tolland's reductions, he is not going to recommend a gamble on \$7 - 8m.

Tolland is in a difficult situation, which is made more difficult by our town Charter. It has a mandatory referendum process, which is difficult to work with based on the time limits associated with it. He explained that the referendum needs to occur the first Tuesday in May, and every two weeks after until a budget is passed with no timeout allowed. The Appropriations Committee reports at the end of April, which will be of no use to us for the first referendum process. Tolland's Council needs to adopt the budget by the first of April. Often, what the Appropriations Committee recommends is not definitive towards what the final approved budget is by the State Legislature. Further complicating the situation is that the tax bills go out July 1st. They need at least two weeks in order to print tax bills and prepare them for mailing on a July 1st deadline. So, ideally the budget needs to be adopted by the beginning of June. If

that deadline is not met, there is statutory language that allows tax bills to be sent out at the current mill rate, and then sending out supplemental tax bills based upon the new mill rate. Should this situation arise, it would need to be examined.

The Legislation may pass some 'not withstanding language,' which may allow towns to delay their budget setting process until sometime in June to allow for definitive numbers to come from the State. Mr. Werbner has asked that if they pass the 'not withstanding language' that they also consider language to allow for extra time to send out tax bills.

From his reading of what is happening at the State level, it is not getting better. The State has a \$1.7 billion deficit, which is only going to get higher. The teacher pension shift was \$400m. If the State wants to correct that, and say the towns won't need to cover those, the State needs to come up with \$400m somewhere else. To say that Tolland will not lose \$7m is very unlikely. It may not be \$7m, but he thinks everyone needs to come to the reality that we are stuck with this.

He had done some projections. If the BOE got their 2.14%, he would not recommend a 2.14% reduction in the town side. He would say the town should get 2%. Also, if they were to lose ESC revenue, he would still be talking about a 5.5 – 13% tax increase. Do you think that is going to pass in Tolland? He wishes the BOE could get what they want. He thought the BOE's budget was very reasonable when it came in, it could've been a budget that would have passed. He also thought that what he originally proposed for the town (less than a 1% increase) would have been reasonable. Being practical and realistic, he doesn't see it in this environment.

He suggests that the Town Charter get revised at some point in the future, although it would be a 6 – 9 month process, and won't help us now. This is his recommendation: For the first referendum, he will present the most responsible budget based upon the numbers that are known from the Governor. He suggests that they put out notices that the budget should not pass based upon the uncertainty associated with the State's numbers. They will investigate if paper ballots could be used to reduce the cost, limit the hours of voting, and limit the voting to one location. Each referendum costs \$3,000. He would rather spend \$3,000 multiple times and get it right, rather than guess on a 14% increase in taxes or a 0% increase in taxes. This has nothing to do with whether the BOE should have 2.14% or the town should have 2%. It is the process we are dealing with, and the circumstances that we are faced with. He is not changing his numbers no matter what anyone says.

2. Recommendations and suggestions to BOE regarding consolidation of non-education services and cost savings (per State Statutes (Public Act 13-60))

Mr. Werbner said this is something they do regularly. Dr. Willett and he talk about things they can do in a collaborative fashion. They most recently have collaborated on the School Resource Officers, and they have been working closely with the health insurance fund. At this point, he doesn't have any other recommendations or suggestions.

3. Questions from the public (2 minute limit) specific to the Board of Education budget with questions being directed by the Town Council Chair to the appropriate body for response

Before the public asked questions, Mr. Adlerstein offered to give some context regarding the BOE's budget.

Sam Adlerstein used a PowerPoint to discuss the BOE's budget, and provided handouts to the Council members. He said they organized their budget around 4 "C's": Curriculum, Comprehensive Assessment, Culture and Community. The BOE wants to be the District that attracts people, and retains students so that they do not leave. He used the analogy involving an egg toss. He commented that Mr. Belsito said at

least week's meeting that the radical numbers the Governor has proposed are not going to happen. It is just a starting point. Mr. Adlerstein said he contacted 25-30 towns and showed slides providing comments regarding what the other towns are doing. Of all the towns that he spoke to, only one other town is doing what Mr. Werbner suggested.

Mr. Werbner said that is incorrect. He is a member of CCM and has contacts all over the State of Connecticut. The vast majority of people are taking the Governor's numbers and using them for revenue; a vast number of the communities are taking the teacher pension and putting it into the BOE as an expense. He said we are not doing that. A vast number are coming up with the types of increases that he is talking about. People are not ignoring what the Governor is recommending; they are doing exactly what Mr. Werbner has done. He is not the only one out of 32 towns that is doing something different. He said Mr. Adlerstein's statement is not true.

Mr. Adlerstein did clarify that he only received the BOE's perspectives. He did not speak to Town Managers.

Mr. Adlerstein continued his presentation quickly in an effort to allow for public comment. A slide was shown titled 17-18 BOE Budget and the content of it was explained. He provided four scenarios. The first scenario is: 2.14% Budget has a 0.8 staff reduction and gets them on track for the 4 C's, maintains the quality of services, draws people in town, and allows them to retain their students. For his next three scenarios, he drew lines through them, because they would consist of huge reductions.

In order to start the regular Town Council meeting on time, questions and public participation were deferred to the 'regular' Town Council meeting. Please refer to those minutes.

4. Petitions and/or questions to the Board of Education from Town Council members specific to the BOE Budget

Joe Sce referenced an e-mail put out by Dr. Willett. He wanted confirmation that to have a 2.14% budget, with essentially no staff increase, means that all their costs have to do with contracted salary increases, which is driving this whole thing. Could it be possible to open negotiations with the Teacher's Union again to revise their contract to not call for increases considering what is going on in the State?

Walter Willett said he can make a request of the Teacher's Union to reconsider. He didn't want to talk for them, but as they went through the process, the agreement settled upon was a result of all kinds of data. Other districts were paying more than Tolland was. The settlement was to balance that out a little bit, even though it didn't make it all the way there. He is not sure how they will react to such a request.

Mr. Doyle also mentioned that the budget presentation document shows other factors impacting the budget.

5. Adjournment: Mr. Werbner adjourned the meeting at 7:31 p.m.

Steven R. Werbner, Town Manager

Michelle A. Finnegan
Town Council Clerk

MEETING MINUTES

TOLLAND TOWN COUNCIL HICKS MEMORIAL MUNICIPAL CENTER 6th FLOOR COUNCIL ROOM FEBRUARY 28, 2017 – 7:30 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Rick Field, Chair; William Eccles, Vice-Chair; Robert Green; Paul Krasusky; Kristen Morgan; Joseph Sce and David Skoczulek

MEMBERS ABSENT: None.

OTHERS PRESENT: Steven Werbner, Town Manager; Mike Wilkinson, Director of Administrative Services; Lisa Hancock, Director of Finance and Records; Walter Willett, Superintendent; Beverly Bellody, Human Services; Sam Belsito, State Representative; Randy Collins, CCM

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Rick Field called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m.
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Recited.
3. **MOMENT OF SILENCE:** Observed.
4. **PROCLAMATIONS:** None.
5. **PUBLIC PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS, AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION** *(on any subject within the jurisdiction of the Town Council) (2 minute limit)*

Mark Fiorillo of 200 Baxter Street – He said the more we increase the taxes, the more people will move away and won't come here. We need good education, but we need to live within our means.

Robert Pagoni of 27 Barbara Road – He said the Board and Dr. Willett are doing a good job. We are at the edge of the cliff. We need to prepare our kids. He finished with three questions to the Council having to do with the BOE's budget.

Charles Parracino of 56 Midland Drive – He has some concerns about the proposal for a 0% budget this year. The Governor's budget is only a recommendation. That recommendation never passes. He is concerned about the politicization of this issue in our town and turning it into a question of how we are going to afford it. The reality is that a 2.14% increase in the education budget will actually be decreasing our services in a town where we already pay our teachers the lowest in the state. He wants to know how they plan to maintain the educational services and maintain the quality and quantity of what Tolland offers.

Liz Costa of 54 Josiah Lane – We need to invest in our future. She is asking for the Council to adopt the 2.14%. She will not support anyone who does not support education. Start high, and let the townspeople tell you we need to go low.

Patrick Doyle of 8 Lakeview Drive Ext. – These are interesting times. A lot of work went into the BOE's budget. Unfortunately, there was not time to review at the joint meeting tonight. Now is the time to review the process, and have these discussions. He hopes that they can continue their discussions.

Amy Raccagni of 21 Woodfield Drive – She has lived here for 23 years, and the school system has been cut every single one of those years. She wants the same opportunity for the kids coming through the system. She doesn't want to see items cut. She is a Para, and they are working with bare bones.

Colleen Yudichak of 12 Blueberry Hill - She reviewed what would happen should there be a zero % increase. By not supporting the BOE, people will start to leave Tolland. It is up to the Council.

Bob Rubino of 296 Weigold Road - The process is unproductive. What is happening in Hartford is that they are bouncing off the walls. We need to start from the bottom. Start at the bottom, formulate what the town needs, and then act on it. He suggested using the Fund Balance.

Laura Roberts of 74 Nedwied Road – She is a resident, a business owner and has a crumbling foundation, but she supports a 2.14% BOE budget. If we don't fund education, why are people going to stay in town.

Sam Adlerstein of 164 Pine Hill Road – He is taxpayer, and he supports the schools. The more clarity that can be given to the school district, the better they will be able to deal with it.

Mr. Field said no one on the Council wants to decimate the BOE. Mr. Field also said that there is no way he can support a 14% / 4 mills increase. There are a lot of things that they need to think about. They are going to end up somewhere between 2.14% and zero%. The BOE budget was a good budget, until the State dropped its bomb. They can speculate that it will go down a little, but he is not sure. We do have to work together to figure out where they can land.

Deirdre Goldsmith of 21 Marlboro Lane – She said Mr. Werbner has put out a creative idea, to say no to the referendum, but she hopes that the public will get more direction than that. She does support the schools, and hopes the Council will do the same.

Karen Moran of 50 Merlot Way - She feels with this budget process they are cutting off the wing of a plane before they know where they are going to land. She moved here for the education system, which is in jeopardy right now. Young families looking to move to this town are going to look at the education system. If we do not invest in the system, it is going to be decimated. She is done, this is not a fight. They need the 2.14%. If they have to cut staff more than they already have, they are out the door and we won't be able to get them back.

Michelle Harrold of 56 Mountain Spring Road – She pointed out in their budget that salaries are only increasing by \$100,000, although that does not include paras. Also, 2 weeks ago they got kudos for their insurance.

Diane Clokey of 29 Tolland Farms Road – She wants to know what kind of advocacy is happening on our behalf at the State level. How much has Connecticut sent to the College Board, on the state level and from the municipalities. Also, how much money is being funneled from our public schools into magnet schools, charter schools and everything other than a local neighborhood school?

Jadey Longo of 152 Woodhenge Drive – Going in with a zero budget is scary. Any creativity you can find would be appreciated by the residents.

Sam Belsito (State Representative) – He's been here since 1969. They are having the worst problem in the State that they have ever faced. They have been spending like there is no tomorrow. Where is the money going to come from? He thinks the Governor is going to raise taxes; perhaps he will institute a mileage tax. There are more and more businesses leaving (ex. Stanley Works). Tolland has one of the best educational systems in the State. Tolland is a safe town. He is searching all over for money. He believes they are going to pull the pensions back, and we won't have to pay for them.

Tammy Nuccio of 71 Webber Road - She thinks the Town Charter does need to be reviewed. The fact that we are losing money because we are doing well is wrong.

Mr. Krasusky apologized to the audience. The Council and the BOE aired a bit of dirty laundry here. They have a working agreement and they are better than this. They work together better than this. He is going to blame it on duress. Let's get back to the working agreement. This was a joint meeting and the BOE should have had more time. A lot of the frustration is on all of them. There are a couple of ways to look at this. Personally, he has children in the system and he would support the budgets as presented. He thought they both were excellent budgets. There is a situational perspective doing this. He has a finance background and he is inclined to view it through that perspective. We are not operating with data, we are operating on speculation. He suggested writing your legislatures, Governor Malloy, our Representative; and Nancy Wyman. He did say he has a concern touching the fund balance. Our triple A rating is a direct correlation to the fact that we have such a strong fund balance.

Susan Seaver of 46 Shores Drive – Her question was directed to Mr. Belsito: Why is Tolland being disproportionately charged by the State and what are you going to do about it.

Mr. Belsito said he wished he could do something about it personally, but it will take a whole group of us to change this around. He doesn't know why Tolland was selected, but it may have something to do with Tolland looking very advantageous to the Governor. We have a good fund balance, a good mill rate, we were doing a lot of things in the town, and it may have something to do with the amount of income that is being made in the town by the citizens of the town. It could have something to do with the amount that Tolland is contributing to the State coffers.

Mr. Field reminded that there will be several opportunities for the public to attend meetings regarding the budget.

6. PUBLIC HEARING ITEMS: None

- 6.1 Consideration of a resolution to approve the acceptance of the property located at 480 Old Stafford Road as a donation in return for forgiving back taxes pursuant to CT General Statue 12-195.

Mr. Werbner said in early January, Mr. Richard Sweet contacted the Town to inquire if we would accept a property donation in return for forgiving back taxes (\$400 worth, \$60.00 yearly). Based upon a review of the situation and a site visit, Mr. Werbner recommends that the town accept the land donation. Despite the small size of the parcel, it abuts another town-owned parcel and contains wetlands which help protect the abutting Brooks Brook. He does not expect that the property would be used for public access due to its small size. Rather its acquisition would be to protect a water resource by preserving it in its natural state. The Town Council voted on February 14, 2017 to set tonight's Public Hearing. The PZC and Conservation Commission have both acted favorably on this.

Bill Eccles moved to open the public hearing; Seconded by Robert Green. All in favor. None opposed.

A straw poll was conducted of all those in favor of taking the property. 12 in favor. 0 opposed.

Bill Eccles moved to close the public hearing; Seconded by Robert Green. All in favor. None opposed.

Bill Eccles motioned to accept the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Council approves the acceptance of the property located at 480 Old Stafford Road as a donation in return for forgiving back taxes pursuant to CT General Statue 12-195.

Seconded by Robert Green. All in favor. None opposed.

7a. **REPORTS OF BOARDS AND COMMITTEES RESPONSIBLE TO THE COUNCIL:** None.

7b. **REPORTS OF TOWN COUNCIL LIAISONS:** **Robert Green, TWC:** They had a very productive meeting; they welcomed their new member, Scot Tardif; everything looks good, fund balances are good and well managed. **David Skoczulek, PZC:** Suspension of Burgundy Hill's Quarry permit was reinstated, so they are able to operate again, but there are a lot of conditions in place; there was discussion on accessory dwelling units. **Joe Sce, Facilities and Finance Committee:** There was discussion about the officers at school events. Sometimes PSO's are required at these events by the head of Public Safety. The PSO's have a 4 hour minimum charge for attending these events. There is some frustration from the people putting on these events, because they are trying to raise money and they need to pay the PSO's for 4 hours, when they are actually only there for an hour. It is taking away from the profits they are trying to make for programs. The alternative is to have an SRO. There is no minimum requirement, and they would only be paid for the time that they are there.

8. **NEW BUSINESS (ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS):**

8.1 Discussion on legislative concerns with State Legislators and Representatives from the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM):

Sam Belsito, State Representative, spoke about the crumbling foundations problem. They still have not come up with a complete answer through the Planning and Development. He commented that Mr. Werbner has had a lot of recommendations on this issue. This foundation issue is a big problem, and they need to come up with a solution. They need to start to help the people in our area. Due to the number of homes in Tolland affected by this, it is going to hurt our town. There are real estate agents that are telling people not to buy in certain towns due to this problem. There are ways that the foundations can be fixed for a lot less than what is being talked about. He has written to Murphy, Courtney and Blumenthal. Most of the State Legislators realize this is a problem that needs to be resolved quickly. With regard to the budget, it is socialism what the Governor has done. This is a major problem that needs to be resolved.

Randy Collins, CCM - He said it was interesting to sit and listen to the BOE to get a better sense of what they are facing. There is no easy solution. They are opposed to the teacher pension issue. If they get their hooks in, it'll be never ending regarding these pensions. He commented on other items in the Governor's budget. He said the Governor's proposal is not going to go through. It is too off balance, and you can see the divisiveness it has created in the towns. CCM is looking into other avenues and working very hard.

8.2 Consideration of a resolution to rescind Resolution 17-09 (School Building Committee for the Tolland Intermediate School Roof Replacement Project) approved on February 14, 2017 and to approve the establishment of a School Building Committee for the Tolland Intermediate School Partial Roof Replacement Project.

Mr. Werbner said as part of the School Building Committee, he recommended that Bev Bellody be on that Committee in her role as an expert in terms of working with the State and grants, and other types of contracts. She has recognized that there is some miswording in the original resolution that was provided, and he would like to rescind the first Resolution 17-09 (School Building Committee for the Tolland Intermediate School Roof Replacement Project) as it does not reflect the correct name of the project and only allows Town Council, not the Building Committee, to approve contracts, schematics, and specifications with architects, engineers, clerk of the works, contractors and others to complete the project. He would like this new Resolution approved, so it can move forward with the State of Connecticut so that they can try to get reimbursed for the partial roof replacement at TIS.

Bill Eccles motioned to accept the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Council rescind Resolution 17-09 (School Building Committee for the Tolland Intermediate School Roof Replacement Project approved February 14, 2017) as it does not reflect

the correct name of the project and only allows Town Council, not the Building Committee, to approve contracts, schematics, and specifications with architects, engineers, clerk of the works, contractors, and others to complete the project.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Council shall establish a School Building Committee in preparation of conducting school capital projects.

BE IT RESOLVED that the building committee be hereby established as the building committee with regarding to the Tolland Intermediate School Partial Roof Replacement Project at 96 Old Post Road.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Council hereby authorize at least the preparation of schematic drawings and outlined specifications for the Tolland Intermediate School Partial Roof Replacement Project.

BE IT RESOLVED the Town Council authorizes the Tolland Board of Education to apply to the Commissioner of Education and to accept or reject a grant for the Tolland Intermediate School Partial Roof Replacement Project.

Such Building Committee is established as the building committee with regard to the Tolland Intermediate School Partial Roof Replacement Project. The Council shall appoint the members of the Committee, designate an initial temporary chairperson and fill any vacancies on the Committee; the Committee shall approve any contracts, schematics, and specifications with architects, engineers, contractors, and others for the Tolland Intermediate School Partial Roofing Project. The Committee will be comprised of Peter Sztaba – District Facilities Director, Scott Lappen – Town Director of Public Works, Anthony Spangle – School Administrator, Beverly Bellody – Town Human Services Director.

BE IT RESOLVED that Committee members shall not receive any compensation for their services. Necessary expenses of the Committee shall be included in the cost of the project. The records of the Committee shall be filed with the Town Clerk and open to public inspection during normal business hours. Upon completion of the project, the Committee shall make a complete report and accounting to the Council and the Town.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Committee is vested with the following powers and duties:

- (i) to approve a design (which considers all methods of construction) which is consistent with BOE-approved educational specifications (the "Project");
- (ii) to approve of any contract, schematics, and specifications with architects, engineers, clerk of the works, contractors, and others to complete the project;
- (iii) to approve design, construction and other expenditures related to the Project consistent with the Project definition;
- (iv) to choose the officers of the Committee;
- (v) to provide quarterly reports in person to the Town Council on the status of the Project timeline/schedule and financing; and
- (vi) The Committee shall comply with the neutrality provisions as outlined in CGS 9-369b relating to all aspects of the project.

Seconded by Robert Green. All in favor. None opposed.

8.3 Discussion on Budget Review Process:

Mr. Werbner said based on the uniqueness of the current events he is proposing that they do their normal review process a bit different. He suggested on the first night (**March 9th**) that they discuss the major changes in service

delivery that he is proposing as well as the other minor changes and the three major additions (recycling, Resident State Troopers, etc.).

The second night (**March 15th**) the Council can discuss where we are at with the budget, the impact of State cuts on the Town, ask general questions, and request any further information. The BOE and Administrators have been invited to attend.

The third night (**March 16th**) could be a discussion with the public (a Town Hall) giving people another opportunity to provide input on the budget and to ask questions in an informal setting.

For the **March 23rd** Public Hearing he suggested a short update on the State budget impact, major changes to the budget, the impact on the mill rate and answer questions related to the budget. He would ask our legislative delegation to be there and give a short presentation and answer questions related to the State budget crisis and its impact on Tolland.

Mr. Werbner did have another comment on the budget process. There were a lot of comments on Fund Balance and things that are stated as facts, but are maybe alternative facts. We need to be careful of what we say. One of the residents mentioned that our teachers are the lowest paid in the state. They are not the lowest paid in the State, nor are they the highest. There was a statement that our Fund Balance is one of the highest in the State. That is not true. Tolland has a good Fund Balance, but not the highest. There is a Fund Balance Policy that the Council adopted many years ago, which has been updated numerous times. We are within the range of our Fund Balance Policy that was established. Our Financial Advisor has advised that if we used a substantial portion of the Fund Balance to offset any loss of State revenue, it would significantly impact our bonding rate. We are in the process, over the next several years, of having to issue \$9.5m of bonds for school improvements, bonds for highway garage improvements, bonds for Library improvements, and bonds for proposed Fire Department and equipment improvements. So, this town will be spending a lot of money over the next ten years on borrowing and on debt and we could easily see our credit rating drop, which would be hundreds of thousands of dollars in interest payments over the next twenty years. Also, it is very easy to say let's take \$1.3m out of Fund Balance and put it into operating expense as a revenue and offset any loss. What would you do the following year? You are delaying for one year the impact that you will need to make up at some point in time, unless you can sustain it. It is highly frowned upon. It is an easy source to use, but not at this magnitude.

David Skoczulek asked if one of the proposed meetings can be a joint meeting with the BOE again. Mr. Werbner said sure, and suggested that it be at the **March 15th** meeting. Sam Adlerstein said he would like to invite the Administrators if that is okay. The Council agreed to that.

The Council agreed to the proposed dates listed above.

8.4 Appointments to vacancies on various municipal boards/commissions: No appointments.

9. **OLD BUSINESS (ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS):** None.

10. **REPORT OF THE TOWN MANAGER (A WRITTEN REPORT SHALL BE PROVIDED THE 1ST MEETING OF THE MONTH ONLY):** Mr. Werbner said there were easily 150 people at the crumbling foundation meeting held at the Capitol today. The Committee is meeting on Thursday to finalize a Bill that incorporates many of their suggestions and the other Bills before the Legislatures. They are looking at three funding sources. This is something that needs to be addressed and it needs to be addressed quickly.

11. **ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

11.1 February 14, 2017 Regular Meeting Minutes: Bill Eccles moved to adopt the minutes *as amended*; Seconded by Robert Green.

The corrections are as follows:

Page 1 under Members Absent: List Joe Sce;

Page 4 under Appointments to Vacancies: Correct Scott Tardif's name (only contains one f); and

Page 4 under Appointments to Vacancies: Add that Mr. Tardif was appointed to the Water Commission.

All in favor. None opposed. Joe Sce abstained.

- 11.2 February 16, 2017 Impact of Governor's Budget Special Meeting Minutes: Bill Eccles moved to adopt the minutes; Seconded by Robert Green. All in favor. None opposed. Kristen Morgan abstained.
- 11.3 February 16, 2017 Capital Budget Special Meeting Minutes: Bill Eccles moved to adopt the minutes; Seconded by Robert Green. All in favor. None opposed. Kristen Morgan abstained.

12. CORRESPONDENCE TO COUNCIL

- 12.1 CT Town and City Magazine
- 12.2 Green Bank Flyer
- 12.3 Three letters from BSA Troop 2
- 12.4 E-mail from Earl Melendy re: Thoughts on the Budget Update
- 12.5 E-mail from John Castleman re: Tax Increase
- 12.6 E-mail from Jaime Holder re: Town Budget
- 12.7 E-mail from Jackie Kolb re: Town Charter Revision
- 12.8 E-mail from Dr. Rudy Fiorillo re: Budget Proposal
- 12.9 E-mail from Shanda Cuscovitch re: Budget Concerns
- 12.10 Letter from David Garritt re: Increasing Tolland 21017-18 Mill Rate
- 12.11 General Assembly Book

13. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: Mr. Field reported the following:

- ~ Thursday is Chair Hour from 6 – 7:30 p.m. at the Town Hall;
- ~ There are 6 budget meetings coming up. He invites the residents to attend; and
- ~ He presented a Proclamation to Brian Foley for Person of the Year from the Irish American Club.

14. COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS FROM COUNCILPERSONS: None.

15. PUBLIC LISTED PARTICIPATION *(on any subject within the jurisdiction of the Town Council)* *(3 minute limit):* None.

16. ADJOURNMENT: Bill Eccles moved to adjourn the meeting; Seconded by Robert Green at 9:15 p.m. All were in favor.

Michelle A. Finnegan
Town Council Clerk

Richard J. Field, Council Chair