

RTM Finance Committee Meeting November 29, 2012

Members Present: Jeff Wieser, Chair; Lee Arthurs; Arthur Ashman; Allen Bomes; Dick

Lowenstein; John McCarthy; Cathy Talmadge;.

Others Present: Elaine Whitney, Chairwoman Board of Education

Elaine Whitney on behalf of The Board of Education requested that net appropriation adjustments to the Board of Education budget in amount of \$32,371.59 representing all revenues received from the Westport Education Association in payment of the president of the teacher's union for the fiscal year. The \$32,371.59 is the net of the Total Funds Received (\$142,411.98) and Funds deemed appropriated Per CGS 10-222a (\$110,140.39). This net appropriation adjustment is pursuant to a policy approved by the Board of Education (based on an agreement with the Board of Finance).

It was discussed that the Board of Education should meet with Gary Conrad to see if changes can be made to make these adjustments unnecessary in future fiscal years.

The vote by the committee was unanimous: 7-0 to recommend that the sum of \$142,412 to the 2011-2012 Budget, BOE Rentals & Reimbursements Expenditure is appropriated, as follows:

\$110,140 is deemed appropriated in accordance with Section 10-222a of the Connecticut General Statutes; and

\$32,371.59 is appropriated to fund the cost of union personnel reimbursements.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lee Arthurs

RTM Joint Finance and Health & Human Servives Committees Meeting Nov. 29, 2012

Finance Members Present: Jeff Wieser, Chair; Lee Arthurs; Arthur Ashman; Allen Bomes; Dick Lowenstein; John McCarthy; Cathy Talmadge;.

H & H.S. Members Present: Wendy Batteau, Chair; Jonathan Cunitz; Jeff Wieser

Others RTMers Present: Velma Heller; Don Bergmann; Lou Mall;

We began what turned into a long discussion about the Baron's South property with a question as to what aspect of the debate we should be addressing. We had just received the powerpoint presentation from the BOF following their meeting the night before and we were uncertain how that document might be reacted to by the Administration. Opinions ranged from those thinking there was no reason for the RTM to get involved at present; to those thinking we might get the RTM to mediate a conversation between the governing bodies currently struggling with the various approvals.

Jonathan Cunitz suggested that he remained in favor of offering a motion to have the RTM provide a "sense of the meeting" vote on the subject for the following reasons: such a motion would 1) provide an opportunity to gauge the current opinions of RTM members on the subject; and 2) might help move the process along by showing support a) for building Senior Housing on the property, and b) for a rebid process toward that end.

After some discussion, it was noted that while we were having trouble agreeing on many of the particulars of the project, no one expressed direct opposition to the concept of building Senior Housing on the property. Agreement on further concrete points, during this delicate period of discussion between the BOF and the Administration (as well as the P&Z which has not formally weighed in on any of the proposed compromises) was more elusive.

Barbara Butler answered questions proposed by Dewey Loselle about waiting lists, and Marshall Breines provided responses to a number of questions about CCRC's.

Ultimately, Arthur Ashman proposed the motion: "That the RTM should continue to hold a 'Sense of the Meeting' discussion on Tuesday, Dec. 4, 2012 in light of the pending discussions among the various Town bodies on the subject." The vote was 1-6, with only the Chair voting in favor of the motion.

Jeff Wieser Chair RTM Finance Committee

Unlike other towns, Westport has no senior housing for us to move into.

Longshore, Cockenoe Island and the two Baron's properties didn't just happen. It was our foresight, our energy and our tax dollars that acquired these properties for us and for future generations. Now it's your turn to have the vision to do what's right for us and for future Westport seniors (perhaps even yourselves). We have enjoyed living here all these years and want to continue to do so.

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BACK UP MATERIAL

MEMORANDUM

To: Representative Town Meeting From: RTM Ordinance Committee

Date: November 29, 2012

Re: Petition to Take Up Consideration of the Adoption of an Ethics Code

The Ordinance Committee met on November 29th with Pat Porio and Chris O'Sullivan from the League of Women Voters of Westport, Assistant Town Attorney Gail Kelly and Town Attorney Ira Bloom to consider a petition from at least 20 electors of the Town of Westport pursuant to Section C5-6C of the Town Code, for the RTM to place an item on an upcoming RTM agenda, involving a request to take up consideration of the adoption of an Ethics Code such as that prepared by the League of Women Voters of Westport attached to the petition, or as revised by the RTM.

Overview: The Town of Westport currently does not have a specific Ethics Code, although the Town Charter and the RTM Rules contain conflicts of interest provisions. The petition as prepared by the League of Women Voters of Westport requests that the RTM take up consideration of the adoption of an Ethics Code. The Ethics Code attached to the petition is just a suggestion and is based on the Ethics Code of the Town of Wilton. According to the League, as of September 2008, 124 municipalities in Connecticut have a Local Ethics Policy, with 9 more in process to put one in place. The State of Connecticut General Statutes, Title 7, Chapter 98, Section 7-148(c)(10) allows for municipalities to "Adopt a code of ethical conduct," and Section 7-148h permits any town to establish an ethics commission.

<u>Discussion/Action:</u> At the Ordinance Committee meeting it was brought to everyone's attention that item (5) on the December 4 RTM meeting agenda reflects a first reading for an ordinance for an Ethics Code that was prepared by the League of Women Voters of Westport only as an example. However, the petition requests that the RTM vote to take up consideration of the adoption of an Ethics Code, not necessarily in the form attached to the petition. There was also a discussion of making some slight wording changes to the petition language for the RTM to vote on that were agreed to by Pat Porio and Chris O'Sullivan of the League.

The Ordinance Committee also discussed if the December 4 RTM meeting would be the correct timing to vote on the petition especially since the item (5) did not correctly reflect the action that the petition requested. After some discussion the consensus of the committee was that the RTM Ethics Committee should meet before the RTM votes on this agenda item.

In addition, it was discussed at the meeting that if the RTM did approve the petition's request to take up consideration of the adoption of an Ethics Code, what would be the next step for the RTM. The committee believed that in that case an RTM committee, either regular or special, should meet to consider the adoption of an Ethics Code and propose language.

Based on this discussion the RTM Ordinance Committee made the following three recommendations to the RTM.

- 1) That the RTM amend the fifth Resolution on its December 4, 2012 agenda to read "RESOLVED, that the RTM take up consideration of the adoption of an Ethics Code taking into consideration the draft proposal submitted with the petition by the League of Women Voters of Westport."
- 2) To recommended that the amended language for the fifth item above not be voted on by the RTM until there has been a RTM Special Ethics Committee meeting on this subject.
- 3) If this resolution passes the RTM appoint either a regular or special committee to take up consideration of the adoption of an Ethics Code.

The Ordinance Committee voted unanimously on all three of these recommendations to the RTM.

Respectfully submitted,

RTM Ordinance Committee

Eileen Flug, Chair Lee Arthurs, Reporter Allen Bomes Don Bergmann David Floyd George Underhill (absent)