



WESTPORT CONNECTICUT

BOARD OF FINANCE

MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING

The Board of Finance meet in executive session on **Wednesday, February 3, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.** in Room 309 of Town Hall for the following purposes:

In attendance: L. Caney, C. Moore, J. Tooker, J. Hartwell, S. Gordon, B. Stern, M. Rea

M.Rea Motion to go into executives session, second by S. Gordon. Vote 7-0-0

AGENDA

1. To discuss matters related to personnel.
2. To discuss the lease of real estate.

Vote to go out of executive sessions at 7:55 P.M. , by M. Rea , second by S. Gordon. Vote 7-0-0

MINUTES OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Board of Finance held its Public Hearing on **Wednesday, February 3, 2016, at 8:00 p.m.** in the Auditorium of Town Hall for the following purposes:

In Attendance: L. Caney, C. Moore, J. Hartwell, S. Gordon, J. Tooker, B. Stern, M. Rea

AGENDA

1. Approved the Board of Finance Minutes of the January 6, 2016, regular meeting.
Motion to approve by S. Gordon, second by J. Hartwell. Vote 7-0-0
2. Financial Report from the Finance Director. (Discussion Only)
3. Status Update from the Internal Auditor. (Discussion Only)
4. In accordance with C.G.S. Section 12-129n, recommended amendments to Article II, Chapter 54 of the Town Code - Tax Relief for Senior Citizens or Permanently and Totally Disabled Persons. Motion to approve by L. Caney, Second by B. Stern. approved unanimously - Vote 7-0-0
5. Upon the request of the Director of Public Works, approved an appropriation of \$850,000 to the Capital & Non-Recurring Fund Account #31503310-500279 for the purchase of five dump trucks to replace five 2002 trucks. Motion to approve made by M. Rea, second by S. Gordon. Motion approved unanimously - 7-0-0
6. Approves a request by the First Selectman for an \$850,000 bond and note authorization for the Capital and Non-Recurring Fund Account #31503310-500279 for the purchase of five (5) medium duty dump trucks with plows. Motion to approve by J. Hartwell, second by L. Caney. Motion approved unanimously -7-0-0
7. Informational briefing and update from the EPC Committee and Consultants AKF (John Rice) NORESKO (John Kauppinen & Anthony Rinaldi) on the Energy Performance Contract project for the Town and Board of Education. No actions taken. (Discussion Only)

Attached at the request of Pippa Bell Ader , a letter read at meeting and made part of the record.

10:30 P.M. Motion made C. Moore to adjourn, Second by L. Caney. Vote unanimous 7-0-0

Note: The practice for upcoming BOF regular meetings will be to close the meetings at 10:00 PM.
Motions to extend individual meetings can be heard.

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To: Board Of Finance

February 3, 2016

From: Green Task Force

Dear Board of Finance members,

Good evening. My name is Pippa Bell Ader, of 62 Woodside Avenue.

Purpose

I am here tonight, to speak on behalf of Westport's Green Task Force in favor of longer term and deeper Town-wide energy, waste and water efficiency and savings measures.

The Green Task Force is a group of volunteers drawn from a variety of backgrounds and experience, and we fully appreciate the Board of Finance's fiduciary responsibility to the Town, and that it exercises all the powers and duties respecting the annual budget of the town and other town appropriations.

Our overall contention, is that in the context of a sufficiently long-term financial outlook, and that the Town recently set itself an ambitious but necessary sustainability goal – that the Board of Finance has an excellent and timely opportunity to explicitly factor in sustainability to its mandate and operational decisions - without compromising its founding responsibilities. We may even venture further to suggest that ONLY by underpinning strategic financial decisions in a sustainable context would the-Board of Finance's responsibilities to future generations be realized.

Background

Westport is known as a forward-thinking, environmentally aware community. In fact, we have set the aspirational goal of achieving 'net-zero by 2050', when the Town will be truly sustainable for future generations; producing or purchasing renewable energy to match the energy it uses; minimizing energy use in the first place through efficiency measures, education and behavioral changes; and dealing with the water supply and waste treatment in a way that is sustainable and resilient.

This goal of net-zero by 2050 is consistent with the need to decrease greenhouse gases, as indicated by the best available science and with the global agreement signed by more than 190 countries at the Paris Climate talks in December. It is also in line with Connecticut's commitment to reduce Greenhouse Gases to 80% below 2001 levels by 2050.

Globally \$90 trillion¹ will be spent on infrastructure over the next 15 years and we all—global and local players alike—have a choice to either make our upcoming infrastructure more climate resilient and less carbon intensive, or pay more later. As outlined in many peer-reviewed papers, addressing sustainability increases social, environmental and economic resiliency through reduced waste of resources and improved health from better air quality, among many other benefits. (This is particularly important, as Fairfield County does not meet the EPA's minimum air quality standards).

The demand to decrease greenhouse gases will be upon Westport imminently. The Green Task Force is interested in the EPC energy reduction figures. We strongly recommend that the Board of Finance be proactive, and consider financing projects that may have a longer return on investment, or may have a pay-off that is less apparent in the short-term. These decisions may include, but not be limited to, infrastructure choices that can keep us on a path to 'Net-Zero' impact and insulate us from future fossil fuel price volatility and regulatory burdens.

Westport, as a forward-thinking town, should be at the forefront in addressing these stated demands, as a leader on a path to climate change resiliency for the health, welfare and safety of all of its residents.

Next Steps

Thank you for this opportunity to express these views of the Green Task Force. We would welcome further opportunities to speak about the goal of Net Zero by 2050 with the Board of Finance in greater detail, and also importantly to discuss how we may be able to work with you and assist wherever practical. There is a broad and deep bench of talent at the Green Task Force, and indeed the wider community of Westport, with regard to lending a hand to making the transition to a safe, clean future for Westport for generations to come.

¹ www.newclimateeconomy.report

Useful Links

On Targets

- Westport's target - <http://bit.ly/wnetzero>
- Connecticut's target - <http://bit.ly/CTTarget>
- The Paris climate deal at a glance (Guardian.com) - <http://bit.ly/COP21Guardian>
- The Solutions Project on 100% Renewable potential: <http://bit.ly/solutionsCT>

At Home

- Insulate/Improve home – EnergizeCT - <http://bit.ly/CThes>
- EnergizeCT on solar - <http://bit.ly/CTSolar>

Transport

- Westport's home-to-train bus service - <http://bit.ly/westportbus>
- CT's anti-idling initiative - <http://bit.ly/CTAntIdle> & film event - <http://bit.ly/idlethreat>

Environment

- Coastal Management – <http://bit.ly/WHarborWatch> & <http://bit.ly/Ctcoastman>
- Runoff: <http://wwhd.org/storm-runoff/> & Septic: <http://bit.ly/wseptic>
- invasive non-native plants and other species: <http://1.usa.gov/1Sg6y98>

Reduce, Re-Use, Re-Cycle

- Shrink Your Waste: <http://bit.ly/shrinkwaste>
- Westport Freecycle: https://groups.freecycle.org/group/Westport_CT/posts/all
- Westport Recycling - <http://www.westportct.gov/index.aspx?page=314>
- Terra-Cycle - many of the harder to recycle items such as toothpaste tubes, deodorants and more can be recycled this way - <http://www.terracycle.com/en-US/>

