

Prospect Town Council  
Budget Workshop  
Unapproved Minutes  
April 3, 2018

Chairman Jeff Slapikas called to order the regular meeting of the Prospect Town Council @ 6:00 p.m. The meeting was held at the Prospect Town Hall, 36 Center Street and began with the Pledge of Allegiance. The meeting was taped.

**Members Present:** J. Slapikas, Pat Geary, D. Merriman, M. Patchkofsky, R. Blanc, S. Pilat, T. Graveline and C. Perugini-Erickson

**Members Absent:** L. Fitzgerald

**Also in Attendance:** Mayor Robert J. Chatfield

Mayor Chatfield asked Regional School District 16's Superintendent, Michael Yamin, to begin the Budget Workshop. Superintendent Yamin stated that he came before the Council today to present his rough draft of the Region's budget that he will present at the Annual Budget presentation of the Board of Ed on April 11, 2018; showing a decrease of 0.2% or \$80,000. Superintendent Yamin commented on improvements including that he has instituted a program for Gifted students, as well as adding SAT courses and extracurricular activities including a Math club. Superintendent Yamin continued that all students at the high school level have Chrome Books. P. Geary complimented the Superintendent for his work in decreasing this budget and questioned the result of the vote for Security at the schools. Superintendent Yamin advised that in a vote of 6 Approved/2 Opposed, the Region will hire either Active or Retired Police Officers. T. Graveline asked for clarity as to the steps for the reduction in the Budget and C. Perugini-Erickson questioned what changes were made. Superintendent Yamin commented that changes were made to structures and systems with computerization in place and spreadsheets, hiring of permanent Substitutes, reduction in the Tech Budget due to more Apps than necessary and to expending monies more wisely. P. Geary commented on addressing the mental health issues of some students and Council members questioned class capacity. Superintendent Yamin stated that the mental health issues are being addressed; he has increased staffing as to adding a Guidance Council and Social Workers; as to class sizes, at the high school level are 17 to 1; Kindergarten are 16 to 1 and grades 3 & 4 are 22-23 to 1. Next year, the Region will have one instructional aide in every classroom. After discussion, Superintendent Yamin thanked the Council for their time.

Mayor Chatfield continued the meeting:

**#9100 Community Center (\$105,400):**

**Motion** made by P. Geary, seconded by S. Pilat to approve the Budget of the Community Center in the amount of \$105,400. Mayor Chatfield explained that next year the line items of #9100-08 Insurance and #9100-09 July-August Cleanup will be removed from the Budget. P. Geary questioned line item #9100-01 Maintenance Salaries and the Mayor advised that there are 3, non-Union, part-time people that are custodians; their duties include nights and weekends for events. Discussion. **Unanimous.**

**#7300 Town Parks (\$74,200):**

**Motion** made by C. Perugini-Erickson, seconded S. Pilat to approve the Budget of Town Parks in the amount of \$74,200. Mayor Chatfield commented on lawn mowing and stated that the irrigated fields are mowed twice a week by the Town. Mayor Chatfield also commented on line item #7300-07 Lawn Treatment, stating that the treatment is applied 4 times a year, with the heaviest in Spring and Summer. The Mayor advised on line item #7300-04 Summer Support, stating that he will be hiring, depending on college schedules, 2 to 3 part time employees at 15-25-30 hours per week @ \$11.00 per hour. The Mayor stated that the work will be for park maintenance; he will be hiring fewer people, but increasing the hours. T. Graveline commented on #7300-07 Lawn Treatment \$9,500 and requested a reduction of \$2,500 to \$7,000.

**Motion** made by T. Graveline, seconded by P. Geary to approve a reduction to line item #7300-07 Lawn Treatment from \$9,500 -\$2,500 to \$7,000 and for a bottom line of \$74,200 - \$2,500 = \$71,700. Mayor Chatfield requested to keep the line item as is. Vote. **6 Approved/2 Opposed, R. Blanc & S. Pilat. Motion Carries.** C. Perugini-Erickson commented that she felt this was a great opportunity and stated that for line item #7300-04 Summer Support, she would like to see the Mayor provide to hire at least 4 college students from Town for this opportunity. J. Slapikas requested a vote for line item #7300 Town Parks in the amount of \$71,700. Discussion. **Unanimous.**

**#7000 Town Roads (\$180,960):**

**Motion** made by D. Merriman, seconded by S. Pilat to approve the Budget of Town Roads in the amount of \$180,960. Discussion. **Unanimous.**

**#6950 Solid Waste (\$489,066):**

**Motion** made by P. Geary, seconded by R. Blanc to approve the Budget of Solid Waste in the amount of \$489,066. Discussion. The Mayor advised that water testing costs have increased; the Town tests quarterly at the Recycling Center and at the Town Garage. Mayor Chatfield asked the Council to change line item #6950-05 from Landfill Maintenance to Recycling Center Upgrades, as the upgrade is only to this part of the Recycling Center and the "Fill" would still be under line item #6950-03. **Motion** made by S. Pilat, seconded by M. Patchkofsky to change line item #6950-05 from Landfill Maintenance to Recycling Center Upgrades. **Unanimous.** The Mayor continued that the cost for the Town is \$62.50 per ton, as more people are recycling. T. Graveline and P. Geary questioned the number of Custodians and hours. Mayor Chatfield advised that there are two custodians that are non-Union and work part time. The Custodians wages are \$15.49 and \$19.46 per hour; one of the two employees is a spare relief driver for winter storms. The Recycling Center is opened two days per week on Wednesdays and Saturdays from 8:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., with 4 holidays being closed. A rotation of the Town's Public Works' employees takes place in their schedules, with that employee paid at an overtime rate for working Saturdays. A vote was taken. **Unanimous.**

**#6200 Benefits Town Employees (BTE) (\$763,285):**

Mayor Chatfield requested of the Council to accept as is the Budget of BTE as the rates have not been received and at the Budget Workshop of 4/17/18, changes could be made. **Motion** made by M. Patchkofsky, seconded by S. Pilat to approve the Budget of Benefits Town Employees in the amount of \$763,285. P. Geary commented that she would like to wait until the meeting of 4/17/18 for more details. P. Geary also questioned line item #6200-07 Supplemental and line item #6200-06 Dental as there were increases. Mayor Chatfield advised that line item #6200-06 Dental also included Vision. Mayor Chatfield asked to amend line item #6200-05. Motion made by P. Geary, seconded by T. Graveline to change line item #6200-05 from 30 Year Payment to add Vision. Discussion. **Motion** made by P. Geary, seconded by T. Graveline to amend the prior motion and to change line item #6200-05 from 30 Year Payment to be left 'blank'. **Unanimous.** P. Geary questioned the number of people covered under line item #6200-07 Supplemental to which the Mayor replied 5 people. P. Geary commented that a sub-committee of the Town Council needs to address benefits. T. Graveline commented on the 36% increase in benefits in mid year and asked that the Mayor review this. A vote was called for. 6 Approved/2 Abstained, C. Perugini-Erickson, P. Geary. **Motion passes.**

**Adjournment:** **Motion** made by D. Merriman, seconded by S. Pilat to adjourn the Budget Workshop. **Unanimous.** The Budget Workshop adjourned @ 7:02 p.m.

*Jeff Slapikas*  
*Chairman*