

**TOWN OF HAMDEN, CONNECTICUT**  
**LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF MEETING**  
**June 15, 2020**

A meeting of the Legislative Council was held on Monday, June 15, 2020. This meeting was held electronically, via Zoom, due to the Covid-19 Pandemic. The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM by the Council President. The Clerk took the roll followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence.

<b>MEMBERS PRESENT:</b>	Mick McGarry	Dominque Baez
	Harry Gagliardi	Justin Farmer
	Athena Gary	Valerie Horsley
	Berita Rowe-Lewis	Brad Macdowall
	Austin Cesare	Betty Wetmore
	Kristin Dolan	Kathleen Schomaker

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Marjorie Bonadies; Mike Colaiacovo

**PRESIDING:** Mick McGarry, President

**PUBLIC HEARING:** Opened at 7:11 PM - Mr. McGarry read out loud 103 emails submitted on the purchase of the Brooksvale property all in favor with the exception of 4 who were opposed. - Public Hearing closed at 8:20 PM

Mr. McGarry called for a 10 minute recess.

In recess at 8:21 PM  
Out of recess at 8:34 PM

**PUBLIC INPUT:** Mr. McGarry read out loud 80 emails submitted. Public input closed at 9:28 PM

**CORRESPONDENCE:** None

**REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT:** Mr. McGarry said he'd meet with the administration to talk about the street lights.

**REPORTS OF BOARDS AND DEPARTMENTS:** A financial report on May 2020 was given.

**REPORTS OF COUNCIL LIAISONS:** None

**APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:** Mr. McGarry moved a motion to approve the minutes from the meeting held May 18, 2020. Seconded by Mr. Gagliardi and approved unanimously. Mr. McGarry then moved a motion to approve the minutes of the meeting held June 1, 2020. Seconded by Mr. Gagliardi and approved unanimously.

Mr. McGarry moved a motion to suspend their rules to approve everything tonight, seconded by Ms. Schomaker and approved unanimously.

**AGENDA:**

- 1. Refund of property taxes collected prior to July 1, 2019 – (3) totaling \$382.01**  
-- Moved by Mr. McGarry, seconded by Mr. Farmer and approved unanimously.
  
- 2. Refund of property taxes collected between July 1, 2019 and June 30, 2020 - Overpayments on current Grand List – (24) totaling \$7,681.38**  
-- Moved by Mr. McGarry, seconded by Mr. Farmer and approved unanimously.
  
- 3. Order authorizing intradepartmental transfer 2019-2020 Fiscal Year Budget –Public Works & Parks Leaf Overtime - \$28,509.08 (FROM MULTIPLE ACCOUNTS)**  
-- Moved by Mr. McGarry, seconded by Mr. Gagliardi. DISCUSSION: Public Works Director Mr. Cesare explained how leaf overtime works in the contract. Ms. Bonadies asked about a private contractor. Mr. Cesare said his understanding is it used to be outsourced but it didn't work out and came back to this. A vote was taken and the item passed unanimously.
  
- 4. Order authorizing intradepartmental transfer 2019-2020 Fiscal Year Budget – Police Dept. Extra Duty - \$200,000 (FROM REG. SALARIES)**  
-- Moved by Mr. McGarry, seconded by Ms. Wetmore. DISCUSSION: Police Chief Cappiello explained how due to the recent re-opening construction has picked up needing the extra duty.  
  
Mr. Farmer asked how they can keep overtime down. Chief Cappiello said this is reimbursed by a 3<sup>rd</sup> part vendor and is also outlined within the open-hole ordinance.  
  
Mr. Macdowall asked if any of this overtime was worked prior to today. The Chief said yes and when he saw this account go down he put in for this transfer and this was the first meeting since that.  
  
Ms. Baez asked if they could have the invoices of the people asking for this extra duty.  
  
Mr. Gagliardi asked for a copy of the open-hole ordinance.  
  
Mr. Cesare asked if extra duty counted towards the pension. The Chief said not for the Town but maybe for CMERS.  
  
A vote was taken and the item passed with 3 opposed (Gagliardi) (Farmer) (Macdowall)
  
- 5. Order authorizing interdepartmental transfer 2019-2020 Fiscal Year Budget – (Omnibus Transfer) - \$2,139,920.39 (FROM MEDICAL SELF INSURANCE TO MULTIPLE ACCOUNTS)**  
-- Moved by Mr. McGarry, seconded by Ms. Schomaker. DISCUSSION: Finance Director Mr. Eatman explained this transfer and said that they found a \$5,000,000 savings in medical.  
  
Mr. Gagliardi said he doesn't like using this money with bills still coming in.

Mr. Macdowall said they'll have a long list of backlogs coming on so this is a concern.

Mr. Farmer asked if this would be a one-time transfer and Mr. Eatman said yes.

Ms. Dolan asked what if they say no. Mr. Eatman said it wouldn't be good for the Town and would hurt the reputation of the Town.

Mr. Macdowall said he's not sure why they didn't get a plan to get them out of debt that they asked for weeks ago. Mr. Eatman said they were sent one a week ago. Mr. Macdowall said he didn't see a plan with the gaps closed.

Mr. Farmer moved a motion to divide the question. The motion was seconded by Mr. Macdowall and failed with only 3 in favor (Gagliardi) (Farmer) (Macdowall)

Mr. Gagliardi said he's just ready to vote to bring MARB in and he knows others also are.

A roll call vote was taken and the item passed with 3 opposed (Gagliardi) (Farmer) (Macdowall)

**6. Order authorizing the Town of Hamden to extend the License Agreement with Yale University (Use of Community Room at the Brundage Branch Library)**

-- Moved by Mr. McGarry, seconded by Mr. Farmer. DISCUSSION: After an explanation on this agreement from Deputy Chief of Staff Mr. Donnelly a vote was taken and the item passed unanimously.

**7. Order authorizing the acceptance and expenditure of funds from the Office of Justice Programs, Department of Justice "BJA FY 20 Corona Virus Emergency Supplemental Funding Program"**

-- Moved by Mr. McGarry, seconded by Ms. Rowe-Lewis. DISCUSSION: After an explanation of this \$82,363 grant and a list of some of the things it would be used for Mr. Gagliardi asked why a drone? The Chief said they would be using it for social distancing and said they have speakers to give instructions so that officers don't have to get close.

Ms. Horsley expressed concern with this and asked if there was a policy. The Chief said currently there is not but when they get the drone officers will be trained and a policy will be put in place developed by the police dept. and a vendor and approved by the Police Commission.

Mr. Macdowall stated he will be opposed to this unless the drone comes out.

Mr. Farmer said so we have money for a drone but not to help people with others things. He said he has no words.

Mr. Cesare said he likes the idea because it can be used for good things such as finding lost or injured people on Sleeping Giant but he definitely agrees that there needs to be a policy. He said he's surprised some council people have a problem with this but not the cameras around Town on the traffic lights.

Ms. Dolan said she doesn't like it either and asked if there were other options. Could they use the funds for things other than the drone? The Chief said sure, there are always other options but after doing research this is what they chose. He said they've been positive for others and

are being used everywhere. Ms. Dolan said she would like to see a list without the drone. The Chief said they'd have to resubmit the list and wait for approval.

**Ms. Horsley moved a motion to revise this and remove the part that says “DJI Matrice 300 TRK combo with camera/accessories/warrant/training” in the BE IT FURTHER ORDERED paragraph.** The motion was seconded by Mr. Gagliardi. DISCUSSION: Ms. Bonadies said she doesn't want to remove this. She said it's very valuable for finding missing people etc. She said she concerned about privacy and COVID use but it's a valuable tool and just needs to be controlled.

Mr. Farmer stated he'd like a public hearing on a policy for this.

Ms. Clouse said she'd like to see a policy before money is expended on this.

Mr. Cesare said he'd like to see this remain. He said you create a policy and you enforce it.

Ms. Gary said she will not support a drone.

Ms. Baez said she is uncomfortable with this and that we should be using money to help people with needs instead. She said this is spending dollars on things that aren't necessary.

Mr. McGarry said maybe the drone is something to consider at another time.

Ms. Rowe-Lewis said she is not in support of the drone tonight. She said they have it look at this more closely and be sure it's COVID related.

A roll call vote was taken and it passed with 3 opposed (Bonadies) (Cesare) (Wetmore)

**Mr. Farmer moved a motion to table this item.** The motion was seconded by Mr. Macdowall and it failed with a tie roll call vote of 7 in favor (Baez) (Dolan) (Farmer) (Gagliardi) (Gary) (Macdowall) (McGarry) and 7 opposed (Bonadies) (Cesare) (Clouse) (Horsley) (Rowe-Lewis) (Schomaker) (Wetmore)

After a brief discussion Mr. Gagliardi moved a motion to postpone this until the next meeting, seconded by Mr. Macdowall and approved by a roll call vote with 3 opposed (Cesare) (Horsley) (Rowe-Lewis)

**8. Resolution authorizing the Town of Hamden to accept the donation of fitness equipment from the Medtronic Corporation**

-- Moved by Mr. McGarry, seconded by Mr. Gagliardi. DISCUSSION: Mr. Macdowall asked what business the Town has with Medtronic Corp. Mr. Donnelly said none that he's aware of and this is just a donation. A vote was taken and it passed unanimously.

**9. An ordinance appropriating \$300,000 for the acquisition of 370 Brooksvale Avenue, Rear, Hamden, Connecticut and authorizing the use of \$300,000 of unexpended bond proceeds of the Town to meet said appropriation**

-- Moved by Mr. McGarry, seconded by Mr. Farmer. DISCUSSION: After Mr. Donnelly explained the process for this item Mr. McGarry said he knows everyone is concerned with the Town's finances but this is a unique opportunity for the Town and something to have for a long time to come so he supports it.

Ms. Schomaker said she echoes what Mr. McGarry said. She said this is an opportunity to steward on our ecological grand list, environmental and (unintelligible) and they need to take all these types of opportunities so she strongly supports this.

Ms. Bonadies said she agrees with both of them and that these are precious resources and she supports it.

Mr. Farmer said he will support this but these decisions have consequences and he expects that southern Hamden will also be taken care of.

Mr. Macdowall said this is an amazing opportunity and he'll be supporting it and he appreciated the Beers for this. He said he also echoes Mr. Farmer about making investments throughout the Town.

Mr. Cesare said he supports this as well and pointed out that Villano Park was \$8,000,000 so he thinks they do invest fairly all around Town.

Ms. Wetmore said this was a hard decision but so many people want and support this so she will as well.

Mr. Gagliardi said economic development needs to be redeveloped on every end of Town and then said he'll support this.

Ms. Rowe-Lewis said she will be supporting this. She said she totally believes in saving green space and in the long run it will serve well.

Ms. Horsley said she will be supporting this. She said we don't have the money but the grant helps. She said she's been spending a lot of time there during COVID.

Mr. McGarry thanked the Beers for their patience and generosity. A vote was taken and the item passed unanimously.

**10. Capital Projects transfer request – Mayor's Office Animal Control Facility Acquisition/Design/Construction – Open Space Acquisition (\$250,000)**

-- Mr. McGarry asked Bond Attorney Mr. Panico if they needed to do item number #10 or is that included with #9. Mr. Panico said the ordinance also contained the capital money so you don't need to do #10.

**11. Order authorizing the Mayor on behalf of the Town of Hamden to purchase 370 Brooksvale Avenue, Rear, Accept and expend grant funds under the Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Program, Enter into a Financial Assistance Agreement and a Conservation and Public Recreation Easement, Accept and expend funds from the Hamden Land Conservation Trust and execute a Memorandum of Understanding with the Hamden Land Conservation Trust (\$676,000)**

-- Moved by Mr. McGarry, seconded by Mr. Macdowall. DISCUSSION: Mr. Donnelly said the price for this should be \$665,000.

Mr. McGarry moved a motion to amend this price to \$665,000, seconded by Ms. Bonadies and approved unanimously.

A vote was then taken on the item as amended and it passed unanimously.

**12. Order authorizing the Mayor to apply for, accept and expend funding up to \$250,000 in State of Connecticut Local Capital Improvement Program (LoCIP) Funds for Animal Control Facility**

-- Moved by Mr. McGarry, seconded by Ms. Bonadies. DISCUSSION: Ms. Bonadies asked if the Town would have to issue grant anticipation note to expend the money. Mr. Panico said that depends on the Town's financials. Mr. Donnelly said they don't expect that and explained their plan. A vote was taken and the item passed unanimously.

Mr. Donnelly thanked the Council for their support on this and said in the beginning of July the Mayor would announce the Animal Control Construction Committee.

There being no further business Mr. McGarry announced they were adjourned at 11:46 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Kim Renta,  
Clerk of the Council

- Meeting Recording: <https://zoom.us/rec/share/1cBZLJvCzkZLYNaW5GbTAKUeWdzGX6a8h3QZqft-bzE0dmGlpdaFUIZldiQuFrdJf>
- Access Password: 3K.Q9964