PROSPECT TOWN COUNCIL
Regular Meeting
Tuesday, October 20, 2026
Unapproved Minutes

Chairman Michael Palmerie Jr. called the Regular Meeting of the Prospect Town Council to order at 7:00 p.m. The meeting was held in person at Prospect Senior Center and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.
Organizer of Meeting Present: M. Palmerie Jr. A call for attendance was taken by Chairman Michael Palmerie Jr.
Council Members Present: Mike Palmerie Jr., Roger Sherman Jr., Rich Blanc, Stan Pilat, Scott Martin, Loreen Elbakry, Jessica Hughes, Christina Inzitari, Chaka Felder.
Council Members Absent: none
Others Present: Mayor Robert Chatfield

Mayor's Report

1. Pumpkin Festival huge success.
2. Long range forecast winter, mild weather
3. Sand delivered tomorrow for $15 per yard less than last year.
4. Fire Alarm at Senior Center-needs to be updated.
5. He mentioned the last section of roof on the Firehouse that needs to be replaced.
6. MOU between Waterbury & Prospect PD Firearms Range Usage
   Our insurance company requested to review the packet. The highlighted item is what needs to be changed in the contract. This is for us to continue using the Waterbury Firing Range.
   C. Inzitari asked why we can't use the Prospect gun range.
   Motion made by R. Sherman, seconded by R. Blanc to approve the MOU. R. Sherman asked about Highrock. Lt. stated the Waterbury range has everything there.
   C. Inzitari asked what the cost to the Town is. Lt. stated there is no cost to use the range, we clean up after ourselves, utilize our own targets. We do barter back and forth with instructors. **Unanimous**.

7. EC140E1 excavator
   The Mayor referred to the photo in the packet. It's also highlighted on the ATESD Transfers sheet.
   C. Felder asked if we can move to New Business so we can discuss thoroughly.
   Motion made by R. Sherman, seconded by R. Blanc to discuss the purchase of the EC140E1 excavator.
   Nick Tuccillo explained that there are 2 machines. Re: EC140E1 Excavator a list of all the jobs we need this piece of equipment for has been provided in tonight's packet. The full price would be $213,929 for a complete buyout vs. 5-year lease $243,000. The Mayor mentioned the lease option. The Mayor clarified this money is coming from the speed cameras monies.
   J. Hughes asked what we do if we didn't have it. The Mayor stated they have been renting one every time we need to replace pipes etc. Our little machine isn't strong enough. Nick referred to the list of locations that needs these pipes replaced. M. Palmerie explained instead of purchasing with Public Works money, we would be using the ATESD Money. C. Felder asked the balance of the ATESD Account. Lt. explained we are just over $1 million. She would like to know a running register of the income and expenses. Lt. explained they are preparing a spreadsheet as discussed at the last Council meeting. C. Felder stated this is a large financial request, she just wants to back it against the financial records. R. Sherman asked if we will actually see the report of the income. Lt. stated yes. Brenda can absolutely provide the actual monthly balance.
   L. Elbakry asked what the rental cost typically is. Nick stated its usually a couple thousand per month, every month; he doesn't know the exact number.
   S. Martin asked how the price of the machine is negotiated. Nick stated its through a Sourcewell contract, fixed by the state. C. Felder asked why we wouldn't buy the vehicle outright if funds are there, it would save us $30,000. Lt. stated the only concern is we just received our second transfer through ATESD; public perception is a concern, that's why we opted for the lease to buy. C. Felder stated if we don't know the future and the funds are there right now, why wouldn't we pay in full right now? Lt. stated we have other projects, crosswalks, stop signs with LED lights etc. C Felder asked if we can prioritize the order according to the Towns plan.

L. Elbakry asked if the rental of the machine is coming out of the same funds. Nick explained, next year with all the pipes that need to be replaced, we will probably exceed these rental fees. He mentioned for example Horizon View was starting to collapse. J. Hughes clarified there is no prepayment penalty so that means we can do the lease and then next year if we want to we can pay it off in full. Lt. agrees 100% with that statement.
S. Martin understands the point of not paying the machine upfront and doing the lease, can pay off without penalty. He also things that spreadsheet, one of the concerns is the program itself. Will it be here in 5 years when final payment needs to be made. If we know the balance in that fund, we should assume the balance of the liability against it before we make other expenditures. There is little risk here as long as we are managing those funds.
R. Sherman, we need a mechanism to keep tabs on it as well. We should have a report for vehicles we are leasing. Nick stated it will be included in his report, Public works if we did approve.
Motion R. Blanc, C. Felder to lease vehicle. Unanimous.

8. T86 compact track loader

The Mayor explained this can be used at every construction site.
R. Sherman, R. Blanc for discussion. C. Inzitari asked if Public Works operates this? Nick stated only Public Works will be using this.
R. Sherman asked if the plan is to utilized to clear sidewalks for snow. Nick sidewalks require a specialized piece of equipment that can only be used for sidewalks. 4' wide. Nick stated the overall width of the machine is over 4'
J. Hughes are we financing. Finance at 0% $143,589.55
Bumper to bumper coverage per Lt. 2 years Volvo is 5 years.
J. Hughes asked if we have something like this that we are replacing. Nick explained, we didn't do any paving this year. This has a 40" mill head, a lot of the roads have very large potholes, takes too much time by hand vs. multiple sections in a day. J. Hughes anything we are making payments on just makes her nervous, we need to be able to follow closely.
C. Felder stated we have the ATESD Funds, she would like to see a public works plan presented to us of the things that are needed to support the town vs. the biweekly presentations. She would just like a plan. M. Palmerie referred to all the work that has to be done. C. Felder stated it doesn't give the expenses for that proposed work, timeline. She doesn't feel like she's a good steward of the money right now. Lt. explained a meeting they had plan and discussed. C. Felder it wasn't presented to Council. The Mayor stated every year he presents a 5-year capital plan. It lists what streets needs to be addressed. C. Felder stated the plan needs to be adjusted with these new funds. C. Felder is not saying we don't need these materials, she is just asking for a plan in place. M. Palmerie stated that if we don't discuss and vote on this soon we will end up paying it out of our Public Works line item.
Motion made by R. Blanc, seconded by R. Sherman to approve the purchase of the T86 track loader for 0% financing-C. Felder asked when we will get a written plan. The Mayor stated it was submitted with the last budget; "Capital Plan". C. Felder would like to see a plan with the current funds in place. The Mayor stated it will be updated to include these funds when he turns in the next budget.
L. Elbakry opposed. Motion carried.

9. Transfer #26/27-08

Motion made by S. Pilat, seconded by R. Sherman to add to the agenda Transfer #26/27-08. **Unanimous.**

From:	To:
ATESD Funds	Line Item # 7150-03 Town Trucks- Parts/Supplies
	1) Check #81125 DiGennaro Service LLC $671.14
Total $ 671.14	Total $ 671.14

Motion made by R. Blanc, seconded by J. Hughes to approve Transfer #26/27-08 in the amount of $671.14 from the ATESD Account to Town Trucks Parts & Supplies.
Unanimous.

Chair's Report

1. Forensic Audit Update
   M. Palmerie stated we will be having a meeting on October 30th in person. He will leave that for discussion under subcommittees.

2. FOI Update-he received a letter from the Mayor's Office from Megan Patchkofsky stating that she was rescinding her letter for the FOI. He received a letter from the State of CT FOI stating that the case is closed.

Approval of Minutes:

- October 6, 2026, Regular Meeting
  Motion made by R. Blanc, seconded by J. Hughes to approve the October 6, 2026, Regular Meeting minutes.
  Unanimous.

New Business

1. Discuss Event Vendors
   L. Elbakry referred to the Pumpkin Festival, she was curious to know how much we made. The Mayor explained that we don't charge for vendors, we never have, it's a community event; Same for the car show. If we charge, they will charge more and the Pumpkin Festival is a huge success. The Mayor stated we do receive donations to the Pumpkin Festival. L. Elbakry mentioned that we don't charge but then there is a line item in the budget for $18,000 for this event. Even a $25 vendor fee would help with the cost. She thinks this is a missed opportunity to offset the cost of a great event. M. Palmerie mentioned revisiting that during budget season.
2. Fuel Fund & Food Pantry
   L. Elbakry is curious as to why we don't promote the food pantry. She feels there are a lot of situations where Towns people don't know what we have. J. Hughes stated let's bring some joy and good news to the Town and promote some of the things we are doing for our community members.
   The Mayor referred to the Fuel Fund. They first tell them to go to Waterbury, if they don't qualify for the federal plan, we will help them with that. M. Palmerie mentioned sitting with the Mayor and getting this stuff on our website. L. Elbakry stated that Chris Moffo is posting about the grant for bike helmets etc.
3. Refunds
   10 Tax Refunds for a total of $2,584.68
   Motion made by R. Blanc, seconded by R. Sherman to approve the 10 Tax Refunds for a total of $2,584.68. **Unanimous**.

4. Resignations-
   M. Palmerie read a letter into the record re: David Cocchiola resigning from the Antiblight Commission

5. Appointments

- M. Palmerie read into the record a letter nominating Frank Monteiro to the BOE; filling the vacancy left by Nazih Noujaim.
  Motion made by R. Blanc, seconded by S. Pilat to approve the appointment of Frank Monteiro to the BOE. **Unanimous**.

- M. Palmerie read into the record a letter nominating Ben Fidanza, to the Inland Wetlands Commission filling the vacancy left by Tim Clark.
  Motion made by R. Sherman, seconded by C. Felder to approve the appointment of Ben Fidanza to the Inland Wetlands Commission. **Unanimous**.

6. Bids/Grants
   M. Palmerie referred to SLR Rt. 69 Sidewalk extension and illumination- bid analysis. Complete LLC has done the work on our sidewalks in the past. M. Patchkofsky explained Complete was the lowest on the Old Schoolhouse Road sidewalk. The STEAP Grant-SLR was previously hired for analysis. This is their breakdown and recommendation as to what we do next. They are recommending a pre-award meeting, to make sure we have funding, and we do have $125,000 worth of ARPA money that needs to be spent before end of year. They are hoping to do a change of scope order, preorder lighting fixtures. DOT already has everything and we already requested our 1 extension. J. Hughes asked if we have to award the bid prior to purchasing the lighting. M. Patchkofsky stated yes. We need to have a meeting, then we vote to award grant to them, then talk about lighting and change of scope. M. Palmerie mentioned subcommittee meeting first then bring recommendations back to the Council.
   S. Martin clarified the bid is $200,000 greater than the grant. That is based off of the engineer's opinion.
   S. Martin mentioned Priority being the lowest but they have the least municipality experience.
   C. Felder asked if there is a policy that we need to go with the lowest bidder. M. Patchkofsky stated no.
   R. Blanc asked what the Town has to pay. M. Patchkofsky stated that STEAP Grant is a 20% of $500,000. If the project is over that we have to cover the cost. The Council discussed the previous quote for lamp posts were around $10,000, they are now around $4800 not including installation.
   J. Hughes wanted to comment-we have already spent the match money. We can talk about changing the scope, it's just a matter of making sure we spend that money in some other way before the end of the year.
   C. Felder asked for clarification on the 30 days from Sept 22nd to issue the bid award. M. Patchkofsky stated the State of CT authorized us to move forward with this project last year. PAL-Project Authorization Letter.
   M. Palmerie asked M. Patchkofsky to check on the timeline. The subcommittee needs to get a meeting together before the next Council meeting and put on the agenda for the next regular meeting.

Old Business

1. Economic Development Commission
   M. Palmerie has been speaking with the members. They are looking forward to holding a meeting. We still have an open seat.
2. Recycling Center
   M. Palmerie sat with the Mayor and at this time no changes have been discussed. He will keep following up. He brought to them all the Council recommendations and ideas; No changes yet.

3. Spending Freeze/Hiring Freeze
   Hiring Freeze- Open positions
   Town Clerk-1, Tax- 1, Assessor-1, Public Works-3, Public Safety-2, Library-1 for a total of 9 open positions currently. The Mayor is not open to discussing for the same reason we aren't changing anything at the recycling center.
   J. Hughes asked where is the $ coming from to pay the loan back. The Mayor stated the General Fund. She asked how that is playing into the vacancies that we have that are also budgeted. The Mayor wants to build up our fund balance. M. Palmerie stated some positions were full time, some part time. Is it possible to make them part time to start filling positions? The Mayor stated he has unions to worry about, he doesn't think that would work.

4. Hybrid Meetings- L. Elbakry stated she spoke with Mary and Wendy. They showed her how the program works. We have 2 Go-To-Meeting accounts. 1 concern was the internet not being great. She mentioned perhaps an extender was needed. They also addressed the laptops. They mentioned the Clerk laptop. Once the meeting is complete, it saves on the platform and then Wendy can upload it to the website with the agenda, minutes etc. The virtual link has to be listed 48 hours before the meeting. She recommends a new link every time. We may need a longer HDMI cable. M. Palmerie stated his concern is protocol. If the computer shutdowns, we have to recess until it goes back live, if it never starts back up we have to cancel the meeting. L. Elbakry stated you can access it from anywhere. L. Elbakry will send the link to M. Palmerie for next meeting.
5. Discussion and possible action re: Re-naming Community Center
(per Chair 2-minute time limit for Public Comments.)
M. Palmerie explained there was a technicality on the vote that meeting.

Katie Reed is asking that the Council reconsider and rescind that vote. She read a letter into the record. (see correspondence -to be added when minutes are approved)

Kevin Killeen, 21 Peach Orchard Road, it was his understanding a vote took place and it was unanimous that the Mayor deserved the honor that was being put forth. There was a recognition and question on process appropriate voting and actions within public meetings, Robert Rules., procedurally, to protect our freedoms, process and our Town. Apart from this procedural issue, the vote should not change and by all due rights the Mayor should be given that honor. The Mayor also honored his community and country in serving his community. He implores the Council to return to the unanimous vote and that the Mayor be given this honor and that it moves forward in all of our children's children's history.

Alan Gerard, 50 Heritage Drive, 100% in favor in changing the name. The Mayor is a fixture and the state know and recognizes this. He thinks for the younger generation he shows a positive hard work ethic and longevity.

Loreen Gomez, Skyline Drive, agrees with Katie Reed. it isn't about Mayor Bob and all his years of service, it's about the process. We don't want to rush it. We need more information in waiting for the forensic audit. She is under the impression that buildings are named posthumously. No rush.

Kevin Killeen stated it his understanding, that the premise of taking that vote was that a letter was presented from community members requesting that take place. He thinks over the history of him being Mayor, he thinks we would find this community wholly behind this motion.

R. Blanc wanted to reiterate, the Mayor is the backbone of the Senior Center, the Community Center has been there for years. The Senior Center he fought to get this center here. It his opinion to rename the Sr. Center.

J. Hughes agrees with R. Blanc. L. Elbakry agrees with R. Blanc. It's also in better shape to be able to proudly put one's name on it. It's a big project he built from the ground up.
R. Sherman re: posthumously. Its ok to recognize people while they are still alive. It is a nice gesture to someone who has dedicated most of his life to this Town. L. Elbakry explained its typically done when people are no longer in office. R. Sherman is understanding he is still in office. He is the longest serving Mayor in CT history, we can buck the system. Understanding we have had our struggles; it doesn't change what he has done for this Town. It ok to recognize while they are still in office and while they are still alive.
R. Blanc mentioned the John Rowland building.

S. Martin stated this definitely was not rushed. It's taken 50 years to get to where we were. Tonight's meeting, discussion is because of a procedural issue. This meeting was made public, an agenda was filed. Something is agreeable with a 9-0 vote. This is not something we bring to referendum. Anyone can come in tonight and

speak. He totally disagrees that someone has to be deceased in order to be honored. The Town Council has the autonomy to make a decision, a pretty simple decision which is why it was 9-0.

S. Pilat believes the Community Center is a more appropriate representation of the Town and everyone who's in it.

L. Elbakry disagrees, she thinks it was quite rushed. Correspondence was not given ahead of time. There was hardly anyone in the audience to hear what was going on. This is definitely necessary and is on the agenda, now there is an opportunity for people to speak and share.

R. Blanc stated this came up about 2-3 years ago, we decided to wait until it got closer to the end of term. It was not rushed; it has been brought up before and we waited.

Katie Reed referred to the agenda; it doesn't reference "Robert J. Chatfield" center.

S. Martin respects what she is saying and understands her point. He is not minimizing the attendance.

Katie Reed asked why not do it the right way, get through the forensic audit, celebrate him more wholeheartedly with all of the town.

Leslie Latozas asked how the forensic audit relates to us changing the name. It has nothing to do with it.

R. Blanc stated he would like to make a motion to pick either the Community Center or the Senior Center
M. Palmerie stated the letter asked that we pick the Community Center. M. Palmerie mentioned taking 2 votes.

Motion made by R. Sherman, seconded by S. Martin to rename the Community Center "Robert J. Chatfield Community Center"
L. Elbakry asked if we are going to consider the Sr. center. M. Palmerie stated we are going to take a vote and then tally. He took a roll call.
S. Martin, S. Pilat, R. Sherman, R. Blanc, M. Palmerie in favor
C. Inzitari, L. Elbakry and J. Hughes opposed
C. Felder abstained. **Motion carried**

M. Palmerie stated for the record the vote is 5-3 in favor.

M. Palmerie mentioned taking a vote on the Sr. Center. The Council discussed that we can't because we can't override the vote that took place. It was in favor to rename the Community Center not the Sr. Center the Robert J. Chatfield Community Center.
Mayor Chatfield would rather the Community Center. It's where he graduated grammar school, he's been there for all the additions, he took his oath of office there several years. He was very happy and honored to have the Community Center named after him.

6. Lt. Nelson Abarzua-all set, Transfer already approved

Subcommittees

1. Sidewalk Task Force-discussed
   J. Hughes mentioned that in the last Town Council Meeting M. Patchkofsky send a new estimate from SLR for inspection costs for the CCG Grant. We originally approved $61,000 for that. They came back with a higher proposal estimate of $76,000. That doesn't take into consideration the reduction in scope, it shouldn't be that

much because the change of scope will reduce it. This needs Council's approval to accept that new estimate so we can move forward with the inspector and move forward with the construction.
Motion made by J. Hughes, seconded by L. Elbakry to approve the revised inspection proposal for the CCG project from SLR included in the correspondence from the October 6th Council Meeting.
R. Blanc clarified this is a $15,000 increase. J. Hughes stated, that is an estimate and keep in mind the original estimate was from 3 years ago and this doesn't include the change of scope which should decrease it.
R. Sherman asked if we openly confirmed we are able to use ATESD funding for sidewalk projects. Lt. stated yes, under CT General Statute.
R. Blanc opposed. Motion carried.
The Mayor stated we should take a recess on sidewalks in the near future.

2. Pension- S. Pilat stated no update yet
3. Ordinance- R. Sherman stated they had a meeting earlier this evening. They agreed to take the sidewalks off of the ordinance meeting under the guise that we will be able to use funds from ATESD funding to clear sidewalks. They are also moving forward re: a tax abatement ordinance. Still working on that.
4. Salary Review- no update
5. Town Building- no update
6. Forensic Audit-
   J. Hughes stated there is no update other than they are coming on October 30th and they are going to start collecting any information that they have been unable to collect electronically. They are also going to be interviewing some of the key dept. heads in town.

Motion made by R. Sherman, seconded by R. Blanc to change the agenda and move Public Comments before the Land Use & Acquisition discussion. **Unanimous**.

Public Comments (3-minute time limit)
A member of the public thanked Public Works, they do an excellent job. The life expectancy of these machines are pretty far out there. It will be paid off and used long after. They maintain the stuff very well. The other thought, re: renaming the Community Center. Renaming PES was an issue in the past because it was regional. This is appropriate what happened tonight.

Alex Peck, Cambridge Drive re: C. Felder's comments and equipment we are purchasing, if we are doing a 5 year lease, what happens if the money dries up in 2 years? We are roughly spending $383,000 over 5 years. If you buy it outright, we save $30,000. Everything is on the burden of the tax payer, vendor costs etc. The excuse of that's how we have always done it is why we need a forensic audit. Why are we not fiscally responsible? Has anyone done a pedestrian traffic study for Old Schoolhouse Road? We are in a crisis, we just borrowed $1.5 million.

Katie Reed, thanked the Council for any time we are being creative coming up with ways to offset costs. She appreciates the due diligence with the procedure and ensuring the process is followed. She appreciates anytime there is discussion and seeing both sides talking together and trying to work out solutions that are best for the tax payers. She respects when there is that dialogue and effort.

M. Patchkofsky mentioned the Notice of the Grant Award for McGrath walking trail in the last meetings correspondence.

Loreen Hayes, asked if Council members are concerned, or have questions in light of recent news about the Council Chairman. Has the Town Council brought this up? Maybe the Chair taking a temporary leave. The Town is in crisis and she is not convinced he would be able to put his full devotion into what the Town needs right now.
The Mayor stated there is nothing that covers that in the Town Charter.

Motion made by J. Hughes, seconded by L. Elbakry to amend the agenda to put acceptance of the CT Recreational Trails Program FY2026 Grand. **Unanimous**.

Motion made by R. Blanc, seconded by R. Sherman to accept the CT Recreational Trails Program FY2026 Grant award through the CT DEEP, to pay the $6,900 Town match (20%) and for a Resolution to be drawn up for next meeting. M. Patchkofsky clarified this is to except the grant award which is strictly for design of the trail down at McGrath. It's through CT DEEP with a 20% match of $6900. R. Sherman asked if there is a timeframe to accept the grant. Megan explained there is a webinar scheduled for Oct 26 to go over the parameters. She didn't see a hard deadline. She doesn't think it's in our best interest to be in limbo. The Mayor mentioned the middle school cross country team using this track. The Council mentioned having a conversation with someone from LRMS. M. Patchkofsky stated this is only for a loop around the pond, it doesn't go by the school. It will have ADA accessibility. It shouldn't interfere with the middle school running. The Resolution is for the match.
L. Elbakry asked if this coincides well with one of the proposals the TAP Grant. We did talk about walking trails being an option. M. Patchkofsky stated Naugatuck Valley COG recommended first design then next year apply again. There is no limit on the amount of the grant. **R. Blanc stated he is opposed** because of the fact that he loves the idea, however, he wants to be careful with anything we spend right now. **Motion carried.**

7. Land Use & Acquisition-potential real estate purchase.

Motion made by R. Sherman, seconded by L. Elbakry to add Executive Session to the agenda to discuss a potential real estate purchase. **Unanimous**.
Motion made by R. Blanc, seconded by R. Sherman to go into Exec Session at 9:08 p.m. to discuss a potential land purchase, inviting Mayor Chatfield and all present Council Members. **Unanimous**.
Executive Session ended at 10:08 p.m. No votes or action was taken during Exec. Session.

Correspondence & Action on Correspondence :

1. *General Fund Expenditures Report – September 30, 2026*
2. *General Fund Income Report – September 30, 2026*
3. *Zoning Inspectors Report – September 2026*
4. *ZBA Report – September 2026*
5. *Prospect Public Library – September 2026 Treasurer's Report*
6. *Prospect Volunteer Fire Department – Treasurer's Report, October 9, 2026*
7. *Fire Marshal's Report – September 2026*
8. *Town Clerk's Report – September 2026*
9. *Building Department – Permit Receipts Report*
10. *Treasurer's Report – September 2026 (General Fund)*
11. *Treasurer's Report – September 2026 (Capital Grants)*
12. *Tax Collector's Report – September 2026*
13. *Public Works Department – Equipment Purchase Proposals*
14. *Tax-Exempt Municipal Lease Proposal – Volvo EC140EL Excavator*
15. *Tax-Exempt Municipal Lease Proposal – Bobcat T86 Compact Track Loader*
16. *Authorization for Electronic Payment/Transfer – Request #2027-08*
17. *Waterbury Police Department – Limited Access and Use Agreement for the Waterbury Police Firearms Range*
18. *State Route 69 Sidewalk Extension and Pedestrian-Level Illumination – Bid Analysis*
19. *Coachlight Waterline Extension – Bid Results*
20. *Tax Refunds – October 20, 2026*
21. *Resignation Letter*
22. *Appointment Letters*
23. *ATESD Approved Transfers*

Motion made by R. Blanc, seconded by R. Sherman to accept the correspondence and place on file. **Unanimous**.

Adjournment :
Motion made by R. Blanc, seconded by L. Elbakry to adjourn the meeting a 10:11 p.m. **Unanimous**.

Mike Palmerie Jr., Town Council Chairman

RECEIVED FOR RECORD
TOWN CLERKS OFFICE
PROSPECT, CONN
2026 OCT 22 PM 1:03