

21-E-1

CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORT
Budget Hearing
Health, Housing, Public Safety, Social Services
April 25, 2014

Chairman Phil Curran called the meeting to order at 6:04PM in the Caucus Room, 3rd Floor, Danbury City Hall, 155 Deer Hill Avenue

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Phil Curran, Jack Knapp, Andrew Wetmore, John Priola and Paul Rotello

ALSO PRESENT: David St. Hilaire, Director of Finance, Chief Alan Baker, Danbury Police Department, Fire Chief Geoff R. Herald, Fire Department, TJ Wiedl, Deputy Fire Chief, Paul Estefan, Civil Preparedness and Airport, Shawn Stillman, Director of Health, Housing and Welfare, David Newland, Building Department, Patrick Waldron, Director of Veteran Affairs, Susan Tomanio, Director of Elderly Services, Scott Leroy, Director of Health and Housing Welfare

Others in attendance included Ex-Officio members: Warren Levy, Ben Chianese, Colleen Stanley, Vinny DiGilio, Michael Haddad, Peter Nero, Fred Visconti, Duane Perkins, Irving Fox and members of the public.

Chairman. Curran opened up the meeting to Mr. St. Hilaire. Mr. St. Hilaire reviewed the line items as follows:

Veterans Advisory:

Budget was increased from \$67,000 to \$68,695 increased slightly due to the funding related to the parades and part time salary for Mr. Waldron.

Elderly Services:

Budget request is \$251,858 and the number for the Mayor's proposal is the same. Susan Tomanio explained the part-time positions.

Elderly Transportation/DBY Housing:

Budget remained flat.

Community Services:

Budget request was \$469,000 which was reduced to \$462,898. The higher number represents a duplication for the volunteer center.

Police Department:

Budget request was for 18.1 million dollars which included some capital items. Those were re-allocated elsewhere and the Mayor's proposal is for \$16,401,328 which is a \$600,000 increase over last year. Uniforms were re-classified in a different line item. Discussion included reimbursement from the Whalers and overtime.

Animal Control:

Budget request was for \$372,000 and the Mayor's proposal is for \$314,600. The difference is the request for the fully equipped vehicle for animal transport. \$80,000 is in a reserve in capital for that equipment. There is another capital reserve account for building and structure. The building is in need of repair with an anticipated cost of \$300,000. Overtime was caused by a vacancy in the department. The reserve fund has a little over \$100,000 currently.

21-E-2

Fire Department:

Budget request was for \$13.1 million dollars and the Mayor's proposal is \$12,736,412. Special services was pulled out. Overtime was reduced due to new hires. This also includes a 10% increase to the volunteer fire department. Insurance for volunteers is moving forward. Equipment/Public safety equipment will be dealt with in capital. The department will purchase new portable radios and staffing is at 118 career staff. Discussion included training, benefits and uniform allowances.

Ambulance Fund

Budget request was for \$3.3 million dollars and the Mayor's proposal is the same at \$3,338,500. Transfer of \$300,000 is for the fire school, otherwise the budget is flat. The revenue stream is doing very well. All fire trucks are equipped with advanced medical gear which has been purchased through the ambulance fund.

Building Inspector:

Budget request was for \$682,000 with a slight decrease in the Mayor's proposal of \$681,325. The increase in the salary line is due to 2 open positions anticipated to be filled. The IT budget includes funding for tablets for the department while they are in the field.

Consumer Protection:

Budget request was for \$57,000 and the proposal by the Mayor is \$56,874.

Unified Neighborhood Inspect (UNIT):

Budget request was for \$192,000 and the Mayor's proposal is \$180,045. Reduction reflects overtime.

Civil Preparedness:

Budget request was for \$126,000 and the Mayors proposal is slightly higher at \$126,855. They received a grant for handicapped bathrooms.

Airport:

Budget request was for \$493,000 and the Mayor's proposal is \$544,337. The increase is due to longevity, sick time, etc., not reflected previously. Minor increase for roads and part-time help.

HART:

Budget remains flat at \$733,080.

Health and Human Services:

Budget request was for \$1,326,544 .and the Mayor's proposal is slightly less at \$1,314,544

A motion was made by, Mr. Knapp, seconded by Mr. Wetmore to accept the Mayor's budget on Health, Housing, Public Safety and Social Services as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Mr. Knapp, seconded by Mr. Wetmore to adjourn its meeting at 7:33 pm. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Phil Curran, Committee Chairman

Jack Knapp

Andrew Wetmore

John Priola

Paul Rotello