

17-D

~City Council Committee~
Public Works - Budget
Tuesday, April 14, 2015

Chairman Jack Knapp called the meeting to order at 7:17 p.m. on Tuesday, April 14, 2015, in the Caucus Room, 3rd Floor, Danbury City Hall, 155 Deer Hill Avenue. Present were Committee members Phil Curran, Vinny DiGilio, Irving Fox. Also present were representatives as follows: Mark D. Boughton, Mayor; Les Pinter, Deputy Corporation Counsel; David St. Hilaire, Director of Finance; Dan Garrick, Assistant Director of Finance; Antonio Iadarola, Director of Public Works; David Day, Public Utilities Superintendent; Nicholas Kaplanis, Director of Recreation; Jean Natale, Legislative Assistant; Phyllis Cortese, Ives Authority Executive Director; Becky Petro, Tarrywile Park Authority Executive Director; and Bridged Guertin, Danbury Museum Executive Director.

Mr. Knapp introduced the budget sections and invited comments on each.

Tarrywile Park Authority: \$218,153. The budget presented is flat. Ms. Petro discussed the Tarrywile Park Authority acreage and personnel.

Ives Authority: \$55,404 to zero. Mr. Boughton provided information on the renewal that was out and the negotiations with Westcom. Charging for parking was an issue. A new agreement may be executed when the new President comes on board. When the budget was made, they were in negotiations. It will continue in its current form but in the Summer there may be discussion of merging with the Cultural Commission to create the Charles Ives Cultural Commission. Mr. Boughton discussed details of what the Ives Authority currently does and future plans. Ms. Cortese thanked the City for assisting with the negotiations and is looking forward to the merge.

Danbury Museum: \$90,792. Ms. Guertin noted they are active in grant funding and a much larger audience is anticipated next year in conjunction with the Library.

Public Buildings: \$1,225,757. Mr. Iadarola noted it is a \$90,000 cut from there amended budget but they will make it work.

City Hall Building: \$433,440. No comments.

Library Building: \$245,380. No comments.

Police Building: \$505,373. Mr. Boughton and Mr. Iadarola responded to questions regarding details of the building's systems, warranties, and efficiencies that are beginning to come through.

Senior Center Building: \$55,100. No comments.

Old Jail Building: \$31,032. No comments.

Old Ivory Building: \$55,853. No comments.

Park Buildings: \$153,005. No comments.

Public Buildings: \$642,005. It was noted these are primarily the schools. Mr. Iadarola responded to questions regarding the cut in the budget.

Director of Public Works: \$236,997. No comments.

Highways: \$2,862,512. Mr. Iadarola and Mr. St. Hilaire responded to questions regarding adjustments made for the difficult winter, road repairs, road deterioration, overtime, and current funded positions.

State Aid Highways: \$360,000. Mr. Iadarola noted that is what the State provides.

Snow and Ice Removal: \$874,500. Mr. Iadarola noted sand and salt will be replaced with salt mixed with a liquid product, and there is a grant to bridge the gap.

Street Lighting: \$500,000. Mr. Boughton and Mr. Iadarola discussed purchasing street lights switching to LED, and WiFi component and who is responsible for the poles, maintenance, and costs.

Park Maintenance: \$1,216,583. Mr. Iadarola responded to questions regarding grass cutting responsibilities noting over 400 acres are mowed every two weeks, dependent on weather; and they attempt to respond to concerns. He discussed unionized work, who is allowed to do what tasks, and liability.

Forestry: \$281,226. No comments.

Equipment Maintenance: \$1,482,202. Mr. Iadarola responded to questions regarding the bonding package noting as soon as the funds come through, purchases will be made. He noted the wear and tear equipment took due to this last harsh winter.

Recycling and Solid Waste: \$270,250. No comments.

Engineering: \$999,750. No comments.

Construction Services: \$276,755. Mr. Iadarola responded to questions regarding large amount of work done on almost every playground, and now switching to a maintenance mode.

Public Works Employee Benefits: no change.

Sewer and Water: Mr. Iadarola noted no rate increase, expenditures equal revenue. there is an infusion of \$1.6 million for capital work this year, he discussed the phosphorus issue.

Water Fund: Mr. Iadarola noted this \$9.2 million fund is a balanced fund wherein we cannot spend more than we take in. Mr. Day responded to questions regarding replacing fire hydrants.

Recreation: \$343,689. Mr. Kaplanis responded to questions regarding the building of the Dog Park noting those funds come from the Capital Fund.

Cultural Commission: Mr. Boughton discussed several upcoming retirements, volunteers, and responded to questions.

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Lake Kenosia Commission: \$15,236. Mr. Boughton discussed the item, and the Department of Public Health.

A motion was made by Councilman Curran and seconded by Councilman Fox, to accept the Mayor's proposed Public Works budget for the year 2015/2016 and send to a Public Hearing. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Councilman Curran and seconded by Councilman Fox to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously at 8:17 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jack Knapp, Chairman

Phil Curran

Vinny DiGilio

Irving Fox

Ben Chianese