

20E

HEALTH, HOUSING & SOCIAL SERVICES
APRIL 21, 2009

Chairman Charles Trombetta called the meeting to order at 7:31 p.m. In attendance were committee members Jack Knapp, Louise McMahon, John Esposito and Paul Rotello, ex-officio Colleen Stanley, Jane Diggs, Duane Perkins, Ben Chianese, Joe Cavo, Mary Teicholz, Fred Visconti, Warren Levy and Gregg Seabury, Mayor Mark Boughton, Chief of Staff Wayne Sheppard, Director of Finance David St. Hilaire, Assistant Director of Finance Dan Garrick, Director of Health Scott Leroy, Police Chief Baker, Fire Chief Herald, Building Director Leo Null. Chairman Trombetta asked Mr. St Hilaire to go over the line items:

Police Dept.: Overtime has leveled off, the vehicle replacement program has been stretched out over a longer period of time, a reduction and phasing out of the use of special police, a 42% reduction in motor fuel over last year, no out-of-state training and reduced in-state training.

Animal Control: due to state health requirements the cost to dispose of animals has gone up, but DAWS grant contribution is notable.

Fire Dept.: the overall budget is smaller by \$300,000. They are 4 vacancies and equipment is down \$30,000. The medical supplies account will be funded through the ambulance fund. A contractor has offered to donate his labor if materials are purchased for paving at Eagle Rd. (engine 24) which would result in huge savings. The rest of the repairs cost \$150,000. The amount for volunteer companies hasn't changed for 8 years. The 12 volunteer companies provide services for free and no career trucks have the same capabilities (brush, lighting, etc.). The savings to the City is \$2.5 million based on the water capacity the volunteer companies provide. There's also a huge savings in insurance rates.

Buildings: overtime and part-time was adjusted, conferences, training and office supply were reduced.

Civil Prep.: the new addition is the War Memorial which was in Grants last year at \$75,000. This year it's \$50,000 for our staging area and housing in emergencies.

Consumer Protection: anything not used last year was cut out.

UNIT: has eliminated one position, and a rotating Deputy Fire Marshal that was charged under Fire dept. is part of the UNIT where it should be. The Public Service Rep. answers 311 calls and maintains records for 7,000 calls last year. A Police Officer assigned 2-3 days to target specific areas for UNIT is part of the Police Dept. budget.

Health: new line items include Danbury Youth Services and the Women's Center which total \$300,000. The CIFIC is going to help fund them, but they will have to adjust. Health Dept. will be restructured due to 5 retirements and 1 departure.

Veterans Advisory: funded slightly less last year.

Aging & Elderly Trans.: the coordinator position has been replaced with a part-timer. Transportation remains intact at \$12,000.

Downtown Council: flat funded, last year in Grants, now in Community Services.

United Way: \$275,000. for economic, \$100,000. for education, and \$125,000. for health, plus the fee. This year's grants total \$800,000. to \$900,000. Last year we gave out \$1.2 million. We have to be smarter with the money we give out and we want to get a good return. We are one of the only cities in CT that donate anything to grant agencies

Volunteer Center: last year \$2,100., this year \$7,500. They have a new task – the SAVE program, being undertaken without the \$15,000. grant from the State this year.

Ambulance Fund: has been operating at a surplus, proposed budget is flat. Some items that need to be replenished by fire/police will come from this fund instead of the general fund.

Ms. McMahon moved to accept the budget for Health, Housing, Public Safety and Social Services as submitted by the Mayor. Seconded by Jack Knapp. The motion passed unanimously. Mr. Esposito moved to adjourn. Seconded by Ms. McMahon. The meeting ended at 9:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles Trombetta, Chairman

Jack Knapp

Louise McMahon

John Esposito

Paul Rotello