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# CITY OF DANBURY

155 DEER HILL AVENUE

DANBURY, CONNECTICUT 06810

COMMON COUNCIL

## REPORT

May 2, 2006

Mayor Mark D. Boughton  
Members of the Common Council

Re: **General Government I Budget**

The General Government I Budget committee met on April 24, 2006 at 6:30 P.M. In attendance were committee members Cavo, Seabury, Teicholz, Saadi and Perkins. Also in attendance were Director of Finance & Personnel Dena Diorio, Town Clerk Lori Kaback, Director of the Permit Center Sean Hearty, Airport Administrator Paul Estefan, Corporation Counsel Robert Yamin, Director of Economic Development Wayne Shepperd, Mayor Mark Boughton and Council Members Nolan, Saracino, Riley, Visconti, Chianese, Rotello, Cutsumpas and Taborsak.

Ms. Diorio read from the narratives and explained the functions of the line items.

The position of Assistant City Clerk has been reduced to part-time. Money has been added to the overtime account. Mr. Saadi asked how many years the current clerk has held this position, was the job tested and how had the job changed over the years. Ms. Samaha stated that she has been in the job for twenty years and the job was civil service with a two-part test – written and oral. She stated that the job has changed in many ways. The agenda is compiled in a totally different manner than it was twenty years ago. The workload varies depending on the nature of the Council. Before 1999, ad hoc committee chairmen were responsible for taking the minutes of ad hoc committee meetings and submitting them to the Assistant Clerk along with a completed report for the agenda.

Mr. Saadi said the City Clerk is a partisan position so it is important for the Common Council to have its own full-time staff. The City Clerk's office is an independent office, which has duties that are covered by the Charter. He is not comfortable with the City Clerk covering duties outlined in a civil service job description for the Assistant City Clerk. The Office of the Common Council should have a full-time civil service clerk.

Mr. Saadi made a motion to restore the salary line item to a full-time position at a rate of \$45,000 per year, reduce the overtime account by \$1,500 and appropriate \$17,825 from the Contingency Account and add those funds to the salary account. Seconded by Mr. Perkins.

Mr. Saadi asked the Mayor how he came to the conclusion that this job should be reduced to part-time? Mayor Boughton said charter revision is needed but right now money is being wasted because the City Clerk has nothing to do.

Mr. Nolan said he has not been at odds with Mayor Boughton and now that he is leaving he does not want to be. However, he is concerned about the reduction and assignment of roles. He agrees with Mr. Saadi that the City Clerk is elected and from the day they are sworn in they need not do another thing for two years. They do not have to show up for work, so it puts the administration of the Common Council's office into the hands of another elected office. It does not make sense. Charter revision is needed.

Motion carried with Seabury, Perkins and Saadi voting yes and Teicholz and Cavo voting no.

A raise has been included in the Registrars of Voters budget for six months because they will begin their terms on January 1, 2007. Regarding the Town Clerk's budget, Mr. Saadi asked about the reduction in the legal and public notices line item from \$5,000 to \$2,500. Ms. Kaback said she has already spent \$3,000 and must still publish public notices for the referendum and election. Ms. Diorio said whatever is needed will be funded internally.

In the Planning Department, an Assistant Zoning Enforcement Officer has been transferred to the UNIT. The title of Assistant Planning Director has been changed to Deputy Planning Director. There is one full-time employee in the Office of Economic Development. Some money has been added for marketing and there is some money for conferences. Ms. Diorio said under the Lake Authority line item, this is the City's contribution to Candlewood Lake Authority and it cannot be cut.

One Assistant Library Director's position has been eliminated. The increase in the part-time salaries account reflects the first raise part-time employees have had in three years. The Long Ridge Library is funded at \$6,000 per year.

An Assistant Airport Administrator has been added to the Table of Organization. Mr. Saadi asked if there are Federal regulations or State required qualifications for this position? Mr. Estefan said the City falls under the FAA regulations, Part 139 and he has to certify the staff as it relates to operational procedures at the Airport. He has to forward the employee's credentials to the FAA.

Funding for HART is at \$666,772, which is a slight increase.

Ms. Teicholz made a motion to recommend adoption of the budget as proposed by the committee and add a 3 and ½ percent raise for the Registrars of Voters to take effect January 2007. Seconded by Mr. Seabury. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

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JOSEPH CAVO, Chairman

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GREGG SEABURY

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MARY TEICHOLZ

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DUANE PERKINS

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THOMAS SAADI