

The Public Works Budget Committee met on March 13, 2007 at 6:00 p.m. in the third floor Caucus Room in City Hall. In attendance were Chairman Cutsumpas, committee members Johnson, Nagarsheth, Chianese, and Stanley.

Also in attendance were Director of Finance and Personnel Dena Diorio, Director of Public Works Antonio Iadarola, Assistant Director of Finance Dan Garrick, Director of Recreation Nick Kaplanis and Council members Cavo, Seabury, McMahon, Rotello, Basso and Taborsak, and members of the public.

Mr. Chianese asked that Mr. Iadarola give an over view for the review of the department changes. Mr. Cutsumpas said he was going to have Ms. Diorio review first as done in past practice.

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

Public Buildings - added a foreman position and a plumber / implementation of 311 monthly charges / utility services \$70,000 request moved over to park buildings & cleaning services & office services. Mr. Chianese asked what buildings are in code 1340 Public works – ancillary buildings general maintenance for all buildings –staff support to maintain the buildings. Ms. Taborsak asked about compliance for underground storage removal – Ms. Diorio said there's no money to fund the study.

City Hall Building – full time maintenance for Jim / need to update fire alarm panel for security / safety equipment new item. Mr. Cutsumpas – do we have a defibrillator at City Hall? Yes on the second floor. Ms. Taborsak – any clean energy money in there? Mrs. Basso – cleaning services – who does background checks? Who pays for this? Ms. Diorio – Custom Care does all our cleaning. Mr. Iadarola said they are bonded.

Library Building – significant increase in utilities – new holiday lights uses more power / cleaning services – explored have custom care in building when Library was open – too expensive – not doing this year.

Police Station Building – utilities increased. Mr. Chianese asked if it's the same cleaning services – Custom Care? \$80,000 cut from Utility Service - what didn't they get? Ms. Diorio said they wanted major upgrades but it is deferred due to new headquarters being built.

Senior Center Building – slight increases in some line items. Mrs. Basso - is this for both buildings? Yes.

Old Library Building – increase in cleaning services to have Custom Care clean the building / replace carpet in Marion Anderson recital hall. Ms. Stanley – no need to increase heating fuel? Ms. Diorio – we should be OK. Mr. Chianese - who else uses the building? Danbury Music Centre. Mr. Rotello – asked how is the roof at the Old Library. Mr. Iadarola said he'll look into it.

Park Buildings – carved out expenditures from park maintenance dept & put them here. Cleaning services for hatter's park banquet hall / outside services for electrician services - lights on field, plumbing for DHS stadium / winterize spray park / maintaining building increase to allow more maintenance / equipment other- 2 new A/C in parks & recreation office. Mr. Chianese – asked Mr. Iadarola – what is your goal? The reason for doing this? Mr. Iadarola said a majority of the maintenance was being farmed out to private contractors – but since we have expertise in house we could do these services better in house and have better control – that is the tone in most of the reorganization.

Mr. Chianese said parks department was to move. Mr. Iadarola said we're moving the director and secretary out of Hatter's park – probably move to garage in Rogers Park and giving more opportunities at 1 Memorial to move Veterans Council and other things there. Not costing any money. Mr. Chianese – once P & R moves out of Hatter – the goal is to possibly lease it to a 3<sup>rd</sup> party? Yes we're preparing RFP to manage the entire complex and possibly the pavilion. Making 1 person responsible for the management and possible damage for events held there. Should be a profitable venture for the City. Are the expenditures for 1 Memorial Drive part of this budget? Mr. Iadarola said its part of Public Building's budget right now. Mrs. Basso said parks used to clean Hatter's Park. Mr. Iadarola said we have a private company that comes in and cleans up after every event. Ms. Taborsak asked if Mr. Iadarola could enumerate the park buildings. Mr. Iadarola will give her a list.

Councilman Saadi joined the meeting at 6:30 p.m.

Highways – salary has 2 changes / secretary for Director of Public Works and a truck driver. Eliminated part time salary / some slight increase across several line items. Mr. Chianese asked re: overall operations changes. Mr. Iadarola wants to create a public service division of public works – with all mechanics and tree division and park maintenance would be managed by highway superintendent – trying to strike a balance in all three divisions. Mr. Chianese asked if the drainage study has been completed. Haestad is doing a study with all discharge points re: storm discharge part of DEP requirement. Do you feel there are enough funds to address the drainage issue? Ms. Diorio said the money for drainage comes out of bond money. Custodial supplies – this is not what the cleaning company supplies i.e. toilet paper etc. Yes.

State Aid – funded by town road aid money we get from the State and we used the Governor's numbers.

Snow and Ice Removal – we don't pay for storm meals – we give employees a lump sum but a few do not get the lump sum /

Street Lighting – increase of 5%.

Mr. Chianese – we had a mild winter for snow plowing – re: ice control materials do you buy as you go or stockpile? Mr. Iadarola said we stock pile- buy at beginning of season. Mr. Chianese asked what we have left- about 5,000 cubic yards. We're very close with these numbers. Last year we spent \$325,000 – and we're budgeting the same but allocating it differently. Utility service includes parking lights in all City lots? No – it's basically our street lights. Mrs. Basso asked are we using the magic salt. Mr. Iadarola said we're investigating all types of products. Ms. Taborsak – does street lighting involve traffic lights? No they are now in Engineering. Ms. McMahon – does magic salt go down before it snows? Mr. Saadi – distinction between amounts requested and what the Mayor gave – Ms. Diorio said it's based on Revenue. Ice Control always funds \$320,000 – we have higher revenue so we can allocate. Mr. Chianese – giving the growth on the Westside of Danbury would you consider putting a storage place for truck over there? Mr. Iadarola- we currently use an area next to the airport – it is critical and we're looking to buy a temporary shed to cover salt & sand.

Park Maintenance & Forestry – staffing changes – reassigned the foreman to public utilities. Deleted 2 park maintenance and added a laborer / part of the consolidation/ OT current / cleaning services & office services moved to new department / cleaning moved to new department & heating fuels / equip other allocated to new department / sewer assessment for candlewood & Hatter's park out of this account. Mr. Chianese – can you elaborate on your major objectives – how will you accomplish them? Mr. Iadarola said we program the changes into a schedule and use our man power to get them down. What do we need to do for the Nutmeg games – extra lining of fields – extra garbage pails –

additional field prep – all are in this budget. Candlewood Park – lots of tree work and removing dead “butts” – reclaim the beach. Mr. Cutsumpas – anything at Candlewood Park to deal with the mill foil? The Candlewood Lake Authority is taking the lead on this. Mrs. Basso asked who will grind the stumps? Mr. Iadarola said we have our own stump grinder now. Ms. Taborsak – Nutmeg games are in July 2008. Starting to get ready now – some prep work to work on the fields.

Mr. Perkins joined the meeting at 6:50 p.m.

Public Building Maintenance & Repair – board of Education buildings / add magnet school to computerized ems system; Mr. Rotello - will the new education building at Town Park be under your department to take care of? Yes – final plans are in the works. We’re hoping to get more funds – perhaps donations.

Equipment Maintenance – outside services increased for towing of city vehicles. Most line items stay the same or increase slightly. We will purchase new radios for some vehicles. Mr. Chianese asked what building we are talking about. Building #4 at Public works complex. Why is it not all combined with the other building? It’s a separate meter – a separate building.

Recycling & Solid Waste – majority of dollars spent to maintain the landfill / permits for yearly fees / reduction in chemicals we don’t have to operate the scrubber any longer. Ms. Taborsak – what portion of outside is payment to AWD for Mom & Pop? \$62,000. Mr. Saadi – if the marshal’s decide to sell off AWD - \$62,000 include senior program? do you know what we spend in subsidizing the senior program? Should we ask Corporation Counsel about applicability of Mom & Pop contract if AWD is sold? Mrs. Basso said the Mayor is asking for more clean city days – is money in there? Yes.

Engineering Department – staffing changes – new position of construction manger and deployed 1 engineer to water fund / increased postage slightly / increased training slightly/ dollars given to traffic engineer at same levels. Mr. Chianese asked for overview of changes and reasons. Mr. Iadarola said the focus and responsibility for engineering is trying to develop a GIS and mapping system for the City street opening permits brought into this dept/ administrating all public utilities / engineering projects with dedicated people and changing the process to give a better handle on the approx. 47 projects out there/ dedicate people on the construction side – to administrate the construction projects. Mr. Chianese – is GIS mapping budgeted? trying to allocate people on how to implement this system – this is the beginning. In following years we’ll request funding for this. Construction Manger- has oversight to 3<sup>rd</sup> party contractors? Yes that is the intent. What about land use commissions? There is a dedicated engineering person now doing this. Ms. Taborsak – different form state aid –highways, curbs & walks - it’s for the traffic engineer to do his work. Ms. Taborsak asked where are traffic signals? Mr. Rotello – highways, curbs & walks – what are you cutting? We kept them at flat funding and we have money in bond for Danbury traffic planning.

Recreation Department – no staffing changes / P/T salaries for all summer programs / professional – safe summer programs, DAYO, youth soccer etc. / cleaning services for banquet hall & office / contributions is franchise fee to Danbury Westerners. Mr. Chianese asked Mr. Kaplanis what new programs will you implement. Mr. Kaplanis said the summer program has been a big success – looking to get the fields ready – looking into new programs – perhaps for disabled children – looking to reach ethnic communities. Mr. Chianese - do you recognize any problems to tackle first? Mr. Kaplanis said a lot of outdoor facilities need work – hard to shut down outdoor things to repair. Ms. Stanley – with shortage of fields any chance that football players will use the baseball fields? No – additional lights installed to help. New field at Broadview. Mr. Perkins asked if there is any thought to putting in artificial turf at high use field? Mr. Kaplanis said there is a great benefit to turf – but the cost is extensive. The actual cost to maintain a grass field v. turf field – 7 to 10 years time frame to get

back the cost. Mrs. Basso asked if the water will be recycled at the sprayscape? Mr. Iadarola said recycling the water is not a good idea – based on other towns' uses. Ms. Taborsak – a lot of expenditures going out to provide these programs- revenues from gate fees and event changes – do they come back to this line item? No - the revenue goes into general fund.

Tarrywile Park Authority – Mr. Saadi – what approx revenue comes into Tarrywile? Completing the complex? Where is money coming from? Danbury neighborhood bond. Is there a time limit to use the funds? if so, can funds be used elsewhere? Ms. Diorio said there's no time limit but the ordinance would need to be changed if funds were used for something else - and would require a referendum.

Cultural Commission – Mr. Chianese – has any money been used for Charles Ives in past years? Ms. Diorio said we give them a lump sum and we don't track how it's spent.

Lake Kenosia Commission – no change

Ives Authority for the Performing Arts - \$50,000 funding considered transition funding as new board is putting together the new season and fundraising. Ms. Taborsak asked does this budget include the \$75,000 to buy their assets? No – we're coming to Council in April to do that. Mr. Saadi asked where the narrative is? No Board in place to do this narrative. Whether or not it is transition money is up the Council. Ms. Saadi said he's trying to understand the basis for the funding without having a narrative. Mr. Chianese - would \$50,000 be spent all at once? The money is there if they need it –

Sewer Fund – no employees / run by Veolia Water. Funding for 1 study only / outside is to pay Veolia / payment in lieu of – nitrogen payments – keeps rising which is why the funding was approved in the bond for the nitrogen removal study / prof. services fees are costs associated with tax office and billing / insurance is 3% / bond interest on current bonds and future bond sale in July. Mr. Chianese – nitrogen study status? Project in design got State Approval – money in the budget. Mrs. Basso – the city borrowed \$10,000,000 – where did it go? put into the general fund to keep taxes low. We're giving \$9,000,000 to this company where is the money going? We'd be close to the staffing levels – it would cost the City that much to operate a sewerage plant and collection system.

Water Fund – redemption of debt – all existing bonds / no addition bonds next year / most line items kept flat or at no change / need to buy vehicles for 2<sup>nd</sup> crew / property taxes to other municipalities / small bond sale over the summer / chemicals – significant increase - 40% increase in costs next year. Staffing changes – critical that the department becomes proactive and start to maintain the vast infrastructure instead of reactive to problems. One crew for sanitary sewer and one crew for water main. Help to maintain vast number of easements the City has – over grown, etc. Administration – deployed the engineer and foreman from park maintenance here – insurance increased / W/C premiums / fuel going up / tires / misc. expense up slightly. Mr. Chianese – major objectives – install Westside water storage tank – is that for the Reserve? The tank we're putting up is for city's needs for Westside. Status of hydrants – we're down to about 80 out rights now – the additional crew should reduce this number substantially.

Mr. Chianese moved to accept the Public Works budget as presented tonight. Seconded by Mr. Johnson. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Nagarsheth moved to adjourn. Seconded by Mr. Johnson. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.