Call to Order / Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Mark A. Laureetti called the special meeting of the Board of Aldermen to order at 6 p.m. All those present stood and pledged allegiance to the flag.

Roll Call

Alderman John F. Anglace, Jr., President – present
Alderman Lynne Farrell – present
Alderman John “Jack” Finn – present
Alderman Stanley Kudej – present
Alderman Noreen McGorty – present
Alderman John P. Papa – present
Alderman Eric McPherson – present
Alderman Anthony Simonetti – present
Mayor Mark A. Lauretti

1. ADOPTION OF THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2014-2015

Alderman Anglace stated, the Board of Aldermen wishes to thank the City departments, department heads, Mayor, Board of Apportionment and Taxation, Finance Director, his staff, the public and many others for their input into the 2014-2015 budget process. Once again this budget demonstrates our ability to work together in the best interest of Shelton’s citizens and taxpayers. This spending and taxation plan will manage our City well and give our citizens one of the most affordable tax rates in Connecticut without raising taxes. This budget also helps stabilize our business community [inaudible] grow and provide our City with jobs.

The economic climate hasn’t changed much with our Grand List growth around ½ of one percent. The cost of living rising with one percent and an anemic job market which is not producing family income necessary to keep pace with the educational expectations. Unfortunately we heard that many of our seniors are working part-time jobs to make ends meet, which tells us that a major part of our community is up against it financially. Given these unfavorable economic conditions, we were initially asked to provide education with over five percent in new spending money and to specifically focus our attention to create a full-day Kindergarten, eliminate pay to play, and address special education. We took our lead from the Mayor, who has done more for education in this budget than ever before. He has committed over $2 million in new money to the education budget, a three percent increase in education spending. He is on board, as are we, to make full-day Kindergarten a reality. This budget provides a spending plan to make full-day Kindergarten happen and provides that some 350 new students will have the opportunity they need and deserve. It also eliminates pay to play and addresses other education and public needs. We have challenged the Board of Education to rein in the cost of education, and to their credit, progress is being made. We were guided by the Mayor’s commitment, the Superintendent’s cooperation, and the very informative public input that showed beyond doubt that the new education standards makes this move a necessity at this time. For those of you who remember, that wasn’t the case back in 2005-2006 when the Board of Education internal study decided to stay with half-day Kindergarten.

We also had to consider the impact of this budget on all 40,000 residents and taxpayers. Consequently we decided against the use of any additional surplus money to
build an ongoing operating budget since that would adversely impact our credit rating, and we remain committed to not raising taxes during the worst economic period in our history of our state and country.

We look forward to working with everyone to make this new and necessary program a success for our entire community. I thank you.

Alderman Anglace MOVED to adopt the following Resolution:

Be it resolved by the Board of Aldermen of the City of Shelton, in accordance with Section 7.6 of the Charter, that the budget documents submitted by the Mayor on March 21st, 2014 and subsequently modified by the Board of Apportionment and Taxation, be adopted subject to the following amendments/adjustments and that they be accepted as the official budget and mill rate for the City of Shelton for Fiscal Year 2014-2015.

2014-2015 Board of Aldermen changes to Board of Apportionment & Taxation Budget

EXPENDITURES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACCOUNT NO.</th>
<th>ACCOUNT NAME</th>
<th>INCREASE</th>
<th>DECREASE</th>
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<td>0100-411.10-01</td>
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<td>0100-411.11-05</td>
<td>Meeting, Travel, Conference</td>
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<td>0100-411.60-39</td>
<td>Public Communications</td>
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<td>Mailbox Replacement</td>
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<td>Recreation Capital Equipment</td>
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The Umbrella $15,000 -
Girl Scouts $2,000 -
Valley Shakespeare Fstvl - $2,000

TOTAL EXPENDITURE INCREASES ...................... $172,559

TOTAL EXPENDITURE DECREASES

NET DECREASE TO A&T BUDGET............................... $551,958

Revenues

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<th>ACCOUNT NO.</th>
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<th>INCREASE</th>
<th>DECREASE</th>
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<td>0000-381.35-00</td>
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TOTAL REVENUE INCREASES ...................... $131,029

TOTAL REVENUE DECREASES ................................... $682,987

NET DECREASE TO A&T BUDGET .................................. $551,958

Resulting in a total budget of $118,103,813 for fiscal year beginning July 1, 2014. The mill rate shall be established at 22.31 mills, with a collection date for fiscal year 2014-2015 to be July 1, 2014 and January 1, 2015 for real estate, July 1, 2014 for personal property taxes less than $5,000 and July 1, 2014 and January 1, 2015 for personal property taxes equal to or greater than $5,000 and July 1, 2014 for the motor vehicle tax with the exception of those that carry their own collection date as determined by Statute under the Motor Vehicle Supplement. Any tax under $5 will be waived. Also be it resolved that the Board of Aldermen officially accepts in principle the Capital Improvements Program as submitted by the Mayor and further amended.

SECONDED by Alderman Simonetti.

Alderman McGorty stated, I have a couple of questions. In our last meeting which was Tuesday, we discussed a lot of items and some changes to the budget. Unfortunately we didn’t get these numbers until now. I have a couple questions because I’ve reviewed it since we last met on Tuesday and some of the items we talked about were the furniture, fixtures and equipment for $200,000. Without having the opportunity or time to look at these numbers, where are we taking that from?
Mayor Lauretti replied, that wouldn’t be a budget item; that would be a Capital expense – out of Aldermanic bonding.

Alderman McGorty continued, the pay to participate, I understand when we spoke on Tuesday that is about $245,000 and we are moving that over to participate in funding for the full-day Kindergarten, or at least that was in the numbers that we were going to use or what we were working with that day, would assist in funding for the full-day Kindergarten. Is that correct, from Tuesday?

Alderman Anglace stated, we’ve changed nothing since the last time we spoke. What we did the last time we spoke was, we took the $245,000 that was in the City side of the budget and said, it can’t be. If you are going to give that money to the Board of Education, you have to put it in the Board of Education budget. So that is what we did tonight, put it in the Board of Education budget.

Alderman McGorty stated, correct. And part of that was the calculation to fund full-day Kindergarten because when we added that up with the other items that I have on my list here, the discussion was, if we move that over that could be part of the funding for full-day Kindergarten. The question I have is, if we move it over...

Alderman Anglace interjected, no, we never said that. We never identified any particular expense to be an expense for full-day Kindergarten. We talked about removing it from our side of the budget because it’s against the law to put it on your side of the budget, City side, you could get around it but it’s much better to give it to them and they can do what they want with it. They’re going to eliminate pay to play with it.

Alderman McGorty stated, okay, so perhaps we didn’t formally indicate that it would pay for full-day Kindergarten but when we were calculating the numbers it was part of the discussion. My question is, when it comes to pay to participate, the $245,000 if it’s brought over to the Board of Education, it’s really a wash because it would go toward, the people that will be affected by that are the parents because they won’t have to pay for pay to participate. It doesn’t impact the budget for education. Correct?

Mayor Lauretti stated, well, it goes to their bottom line. Anything you send them goes to their bottom line and they can spend it however they choose. That’s often the case as you look at their Finance Committee meetings – their constant transfers back and forth from accounts to accounts.

Alderman McGorty stated, okay.

Mayor Lauretti stated, it’s an increase to their bottom line.

Alderman McGorty stated, it is. However I’m going to pause on that comment and go to the next one. Propane. We talked about $226,000 was going to be spent this year to offset their propane expense that they have that is an overage. Again, that number was in discussions that it would assist with their funding for full-day Kindergarten. We discussed a lot about no, that’s this fiscal year, and A&T wanted it for next year, and I’m just trying to understand in all these calculations we had Tuesday, and what we have in front of us, and you say there are no changes, what in particular are we saying that we’re assisting in funding full-day Kindergarten?

Alderman Anglace stated, to begin with, the $226,000 number came from the Board of Apportionment and Taxation; the dollar amount wasn’t discussed by us, we just took their number. When we said it’s our understanding that the Board of Education, this first year, 2013-2014, could be running an overage in the Propane account. That’s what that money was identified by A&T as. If that is the case, then they’ll send us the bills and we’ll pick up the difference for them. The Mayor had offered that and I believe...

Mayor Lauretti interjected, no, my discussions with the Superintendent were specifically about what happens at the end of the year. Look, I would never say that we’ll pay it because then there’s no check and balance. You wait until you get to the end of the year, there’s always money in different accounts that go unexpended, as evidenced by the transfers that they make. This is not me saying it; this is the history of what has gone
on there. So we said because it was the first year of the propane and there was a learning curve that was involved, that we would evaluate it as we got closer to the end of the year.

If you say, pay for it up front and give them a blank check, then there’s no incentive from this point forward to try to work to effect savings.

Alderman McGorty stated, understood. I think the point I’m trying to make is, the discussions that I walked away with on Tuesday was, all these numbers are adding up that show our support for full-day Kindergarten, and I’m trying to decipher that that is really what’s happening. I don’t have a clear answer.

Mayor Lauretti stated, I can’t respond to that because I haven’t been part of the discussion.

Alderman Anglace asked, when do you want to set the budget?

Alderman McGorty stated, we have a deadline to set; it’s not today.

Alderman Anglace stated, but we are setting it tonight for a reason.

Alderman McGorty stated, I understand; but if we can’t answer the questions, wouldn’t it be prudent to either sit here until we answer them all or postpone it until we have time to read it?

Alderman Anglace stated, or we can have some people voting for it and we have some people voting against it.

Alderman McGorty stated, well, that doesn’t settle our goal that you just spelled out in your opening remarks.

Alderman Anglace stated, we think we’ve met that goal, we think we’ve satisfied it. We’ve had discussions about this. Everybody had an opportunity to talk about it.

Alderman McGorty stated, that’s correct. We did discuss it on Tuesday and this is the exact numbers I’m working off of, from our discussions on Tuesday.

Alderman Papa stated, when we met with the Superintendent, Alderman Anglace and myself, the Aldermen have questions that we want the Board of Education to answer, and Superintendent Freeman did send us all those questions and answers that we were looking for. Part of the savings was going to come from the retirement of teachers. That was spelled out for us in that particular letter. I thought all those numbers that we added up and passed them out to everybody, that would be a sufficient amount of money that we would pass on to the Board of Education and they would consider full-day Kindergarten. We also have that situation with the dental insurance which was $212,000 which would go back to the Board of Education. We were going to alleviate some of the pressure like the Mayor just said about the Board of Education and propane gas. We were going to pick that bill up. We were going to pay for the furniture and all the curriculum, that was money that they had in their budget that they had to spend, that the City was going to pick up in bonding to pay for that. So we thought that would be adequate enough for them to have full-day Kindergarten.

Alderman Finn stated, Mr. Mayor, I believe the Board of Education is planning on doing with the early retirement funds was to take care of the utility bills that they have. So that $300,000 you anticipated they were using toward the full-day Kindergarten, they’re not going to be able to use toward full-day Kindergarten – they have to address the other expenses that popped up since they submitted their budget.
Alderman Papa stated, I think if you take the utility costs out of the savings from the retirement of the teachers, there is still a couple hundred thousand dollars left over.

Mayor Lauretti stated, you make that assumption about the utility bills, but here again we haven’t gone to that year. They’re projecting a year in advance. If you want to put money on the table to solve something that we think might happen, look, we have never done that. After all these years of these budget requests, and numbers changing dramatically during the course of the year, what makes you think you’re going to go down that road by putting all the money on the table right up front? We’ve never done that. We haven’t driven the system into the ground. Look, there has to be some management of this. There has to be constant scrutiny of how this money gets spent.

Alderman Finn stated, it looks like we only changed the $245,000 to the Board of Education and everybody’s correct, they can do what they wish to, they can use it for pay to play or they can use it toward full-day Kindergarten. But $245,000 will probably just buy a pilot program and if it’s a pilot program you’re just going to have one full-day Kindergarten at each school and the rest of the children will be half-day. That is a disadvantage to the children that will be there for a half day of school.

Alderman Anglace stated, I have never seen such short-sighted analysis in my life. Jack, how can you possibly say that? You sat here the other night when we talked about it and we laid out everything. We passed on to you guys all of the Superintendent’s numbers. I told you guys, I walked you through the analysis of the bus purchase. We had a bus contract that was costing the City $5.5 million for the buses. That is no longer in the contract. $5.5 million. Is the contract lower now? Is it lower or higher? If so, how much is there and where can they use that money? We aren’t going to sit here and tell the Board of Education how to spend their money. All we can do is to look out, look at all the issues, and I’ve got them all written down, and there’s at least $100,000 to $500,000 that’s available in that bus money. All we can do is to look out, look at all the issues, and I’ve got them all written down, and there’s at least $100,000 to $500,000 that’s available in that bus money. Now, you and I and they are going to say different things. Listen, I don’t care – look – we’ve got to do what we think is proper to do so they can move ahead. We’re picking up all the extra costs, the propane, the furniture costs, the pay to play, the dental reserve – the $212,000 that could be used. Look. There is enough money there. The job can be done, the program can be put in. That is the way we see it. It’s not $245,000, it’s a lot more.

Alderman McGorty asked, where are you seeing a difference in the buses where you said $100,000 to $400,000?

Mayor Lauretti stated, these things are built into their budget.

Alderman Anglace asked, you want me to take you through the mechanics of it? I’ll take you through the mechanics. If the buses cost $5.5 million to buy, and you amortize them over 11 years, that’s an annual amortization straight line of $500,000. Now where is that money? Did you look in the Board of Education budget and find it? Did you see it in there? I didn’t see it in there. I saw other things. Now, don’t let me tell you what the answers are – I’ll let you look yourself. What I went through, I saw two different things. First, in the current year’s book there was no history with respect to bus costs. I had to pull last year’s book to get the history. When I got the history I saw $2.8 million and this year I see $2.4 million. So we saved $400,000. Now, if they have that in the budget, I think they have. But if they haven’t, then there’s at least another $100,000 that can be used there. That’s my thinking. You may have different thinking and you may disagree; but that is my thinking. That’s what I presented to the Board when we talked last week. That’s how I amortized the bus costs.

Teacher retirement savings, you’ve got $390,000 there.

Mayor Lauretti interjected, right now, and that’s still subject to change. A lot of things happen between when the budget is set and after the budget is set and the fiscal year. A lot of things happen with the way they change how they spend money during the course of the year. This is a moving target. You can’t have a discussion saying hey, these costs are x and we have to fund them or else we can’t do this or that. That’s not true. That’s not the way these budgets work.
Alderman McGorty stated, okay, I understand. But my point I’m trying to make or understand is pretty simple. We talked on Tuesday. We knocked out all these line items. It was indicated, maybe not formally set, but it was indicated that this was money that was going to go to full-day Kindergarten.

Alderman Anglace stated, it was going to go to the Board of Education.

Alderman McGorty stated, in support of full-day Kindergarten. So you’ve got your $300,000 from retirements, you’ve got $212,000 for dental, $245,000 we’re indicating in support of full-day Kindergarten or to get rid of pay to participate. They can choose how they spend that – whether it’s on full-day Kindergarten or pay to participate. I get it. The $226,000 for propane does not apply to the full-day Kindergarten or pay to participate or anything.

Alderman Anglace stated, the $226,000 they’re not going to have to pay it out of their pocket this year.

Mayor Lauretti stated, the discussion is not even about this year. It’s about next year. You don’t know what’s going to happen next year.

Alderman McGorty stated, right.

Mayor Lauretti continued, I can sit here and theorize all day long about what I think costs are going to be, but I never do that. If you look at our numbers, our numbers are pretty consistent from year to year. They don’t move much.

Alderman Anglace stated, the budget is not an absolute. The budget is a spending plan. As the Mayor said before, what the Board of Education does and others do, we have to make adjustments throughout the year. The City side, people have to, when they want to make adjustments in their department they have to go through the Board of A&T in order to have it approved, then they can move money within their department. The Board of Education does the same thing – they have to move money around.

Alderman McGorty stated, understood. I guess it’s not clear to me that we are truly assisting them in funding full-day Kindergarten and I don't know, can you show me that is what we’re doing? I don’t see that in the numbers we talked about Tuesday, which you’re telling me haven’t changed.

Mayor Lauretti stated, look, it’s hard to see anything anywhere, especially when the request comes in for $1 million on day one for full-day Kindergarten and here we are three months later and the number drops by $600,000 or $700,000. I don't get your rationale how you think we should be basing decisions based on what someone wants, or what they think they should have, as opposed to what they need or what they need to get something done. We have this discussion every year. This is an old discussion. The fact is that last year we put $2.5 million of new money on the table because the City is paying for their buses, and their transportation numbers didn’t get altered; they didn’t get reduced. This year we gave them an additional $2 million plus you want to throw the $245,000 at them. Our student enrollment has gone down three years in a row. It’s either going to flat line or continue to go down like most municipalities in the State of Connecticut. I don’t get it. Just because somebody says they’ve got to have it? I’ve been here for 23 years and I’ve never based my decisions on that.

Alderman McGorty stated, the $1 million number may have been in early discussions, but there were several meetings and presentations where there were adjustments made and discussions and numbers were changed. That is a positive outcome and it shows that working together and getting to the bottom of what’s really needed. I think there was a lot of work done on both sides but I can’t sit here today and say that from a numbers standpoint I don't know that we’re really doing what we’re saying we’re doing.

Mayor Lauretti stated, when it comes to the Board of Education budget I don’t think you ever will be able to, because it’s a moving target. That will be evident as the end of the year comes when more money gets transferred or things get prepaid or retirement incentives get enhanced. You’re having a discussion at this point in time on this day.
Then things change and they do things differently. You can’t have a fair discussion. From your standpoint you don’t see it in a specific line item. Okay, I get that.

Alderman McGorty stated, I’m not asking for a specific line item that says “this is for full-day Kindergarten,” I’m asking for details that say how we are truly supporting this. We’re saying we are, but are we really? That’s really all I’m saying, I just want to understand.

Mayor Lauretti stated, the only way you can get to your conclusion is if you’ve given them everything that they’ve asked for.

Alderman McGorty stated, that’s not even on the table. We’re not giving them everything that they’ve asked for.

Mayor Lauretti stated, that’s my point. You can’t justify your point of view unless this Board votes to give them everything they’ve asked for. We have had this discussion once a year for the last 20-some-odd years.

Alderman McGorty stated, we’re not even talking about funding everything that they’ve originally asked for. That’s not even on the table right now.

Alderman Finn stated, they’ve asked for $600,000 or $700,000 more. That was the bottom line coming from them; that’s all they needed to do for full-day Kindergarten. It looks like we’re giving them $225,000.

Alderman Anglace stated, you guys sat here when the Board of A&T took an action to take $632,000 out of General Fund Surplus. They took that $632,000 and put $406,000 into the Education budget. And they put the balance of $226,000 into the City side. We took it out of the City side and put $245,000 on the education side and took away the $406,000 so we didn’t get saddled with an extra $1 million General Fund Surplus use that would adversely impact our credit rating. So the difference between $406,000 and $225,000 that they put on the other side, it isn’t that much. We put the $245,000 in to take care of it. We’re apart maybe $60,000 or so between us and what A&T did. And you were satisfied, they had justified full-day Kindergarten move, you can’t justify the full-day Kindergarten need on dollars and cents. You can’t build budget line after line because you don’t have a say where that’s going to be spent. You don’t have a say. Once you pass it over, forget it. We’ve got to make sure we gave them enough money to get the job done and I think we’ve done that.

Alderman McGorty stated, that’s where I’m not sure I agree. If you’re saying that I agreed with the A&T budget, I did not.

Alderman Finn stated, we didn’t have a chance to sit down with A&T to review what they presented to us.

Alderman Papa stated, Jack, we sat down last Tuesday and we talked about the whole budget.

Alderman Finn stated, Alderman Papa, every year the Board of Aldermen and the Board of A&T have a joint meeting to discuss the budget that is being presented to us so they can give the rationale behind it. We never had that meeting.

Alderman Simonetti stated, we sat down with the Board of A&T many, many nights. Unfortunately I wasn’t here for all of them but I do know we sat down and went through the budget line item by line item. They then came up with their budget, handed it over to us, which is the way we always do it, and we looked at it. From what I can see, if we take the numbers, $390,000 was the number I think they came up with for retirement. Let’s make that $300,000 to make it a round number. $212,000 on the dental money that’s been sitting there for how many years. The $245,000. You add those up and you come to about $757,000. I remember going to the Shelton Intermediate School for a meeting. It was $960,000 and then they said if they got about $650,000 that would be enough to do it because we were going to take away the $220,000 for the furniture and some other things. We can’t tell them how to spend their money; we feel the money is there and they have to take their money and use it to their best interest.
Alderman McGorty stated, so you’re saying you feel there’s enough there for full-day Kindergarten?

Alderman Simonetti stated, that’s what I took away from the meeting on Tuesday. If I didn’t feel that way I would have spoken up about it, and we did discuss it.

Alderman Anglace stated, when we left Tuesday, you instructed me to go back and get everything run off – no change. Now we come in Thursday...

Alderman McGorty stated, I didn’t instruct you to run it off with no change, I just said I want to see the new numbers so that I can actually see it in print. You were throwing numbers all over the place.

Alderman Anglace stated, what did you think I was going to do between Tuesday and Thursday?

Alderman McGorty stated, exactly what you did. You told me I’d have it on Wednesday.

Alderman Anglace stated, so you left here thinking that we hadn’t agreed on an approach.

Alderman McGorty stated, yes, I actually said I’d like to see it in the form of print.

Alderman Anglace stated, I think you were alone.

Alderman McGorty stated, no, I wasn’t. No, I was not alone, and you answered me and said “I will have the numbers for you tomorrow,” which is yesterday. And I have asked for them.

Alderman Anglace stated, we’ll have the numbers for you tomorrow. We’ll have all the numbers. They didn’t get them done until 3:30 today.

Alderman McGorty stated, understood. I asked for them yesterday. I was told they’re not done. I asked for them this morning. I was told they’re not done. And they’re done now. Which is great but this is the 11th hour.

Alderman Simonetti stated, I believe during our discussion on Tuesday you and Alderman Papa had gone to be with the Superintendent, had a long discussion, put a lot of numbers on the table.

Alderman Anglace stated, we asked a lot of questions. He was good enough to put all his responses in writing.

Alderman Simonetti stated, he was good enough to take everything you discussed, put it in writing, and get it back to you almost immediately.

Alderman Anglace stated, which I shared with everyone.

Alderman Simonetti stated, in all of that I didn’t see any situations where the Education budget was going to be sliced or diced, that they couldn’t handle their plan they had brought to the table the night they came to appear before the Board of A&T.

Alderman Farrell asked, John, do we all feel comfortable that there is enough money in that budget for funding full-day Kindergarten if the Board of Education chooses to do so?

Alderman Anglace replied, that’s what we think.

Alderman Farrell asked Alderman Papa, do you feel that way?

Alderman Papa stated, that’s what we discussed Tuesday.
Alderman Farrell stated, well that’s my biggest... that’s been my life. Education. Full-day Kindergarten is extremely important to me as I’m sure it is to others here in this room. I just want to be sure that these numbers will enable them to do that and they won’t come back to us and say we didn’t do enough for them.

Alderman Anglace asked, do you want to do an audit to be sure that the numbers are correct? What did we do for the last several times we met? That’s what we were doing. That’s exactly what we were talking about. When I read my statement tonight I said we were all committed to this. We can’t say we’re committed if we don’t put enough money on the table. We think we’re putting enough money on the table.

Alderman Farrell stated, okay. That’s all I wanted to know.

Alderman Finn stated, I just want to read something. It’s not a secret, I’m sure everyone knows how I stand on ensuring our children receive the best possible education we can afford, My cousin Ed Finn served in various positions at Shelton High School from football coach, classroom teacher, to Superintendent of Schools. My wife, prior to her passing last year, was a retired teacher who taught first grade at Mohegan School for 22 years and prior to that taught at Elizabeth Shelton School for 18 years as a Kindergarten teacher. I totally agree with all the parents’ concerns and all the children present in our school system and who will be [inaudible] students in years to come. It is my understanding that if it wasn’t for the parents like we have here tonight, this important issue would never likely be on the table for discussion or part of the budget vote tonight. I did attend the presentation and listened to the benefits of the full-day Kindergarten and also did accept the invitation to travel to Bungay Elementary School where I saw the benefits first-hand. Their full-day Kindergarten covers language, arts, focus groups, instructions, math, arts, science and social studies as well as lunch as recess along with structured play. I observed the children and noticed that penmanship, arts and language skills were far more advanced than they are here in Shelton. I do support full-day Kindergarten as it seems the two ladies on the Board do as well. I saw the advantages for the children. I do support sports at all levels. What would have been the answer tonight if the vote was to add money for sports and we all know there is a greater need for something in the classroom. How can I vote for a budget that didn’t meet the education needs of the children? Basically what I’m saying, I cannot vote or support this budget because there is inadequate funding for full-day Kindergarten.

Alderman Simonetti stated, I believe everybody on the Board who went on the trip, there were six of us, all saw what was going on at the Seymour Kindergarten and we all agreed that it was a good program. We do not have, and never will have, according to our Charter, the power or the ability to tell the Board of Education what to do with its money. We can’t do that. Even the $213,000 put in the dental program is something that we said shouldn’t be done; but it was done anyway. That was many years ago before the present administration was here. So once again, it is up the Board of Education to take the funds that they’re allotted and use it. I don’t think anyone on this Board is against full-day Kindergarten at all.

Mayor Lauretti stated, reference has been made to the $212,000 that’s sitting in a special account. Keep in mind that if you move that over to the operating budget it becomes a one-time revenue so you automatically create a deficit going into the following year’s budget; something that we have been diligent in not doing, and paying close attention to how you spend one-time revenues and what the use is for. It’s pretty much why the State of Connecticut is up to its eyeballs in financial alligators. I would caution the Board on that move.

A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 6 Yes, 2 No (McGorty, Finn).

ADJOURNMENT

Alderman Anglace MOVED to adjourn; SECONDED by Alderman Papa. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 8-0.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:40 p.m.
Respectfully submitted,

Patricia M. Bruder, Clerk
Board of Aldermen

DATE APPROVED: _______________ BY: _______________________________________

Mark A. Lauretti
Mayor, City of Shelton