MINUTES OF THE FULL BOARD MEETING  
7:00 PM Thursday, January 22, 2009  
SHELTON CITY HALL  
54 HILL STREET  
Room 104  
SHELTON CT 06484

Roll Call

Mark Holden, Chair, present  
Judson Crawford, present  
Vinny Capece, present  
Nancy Dickal, present  
Greg Kodz, present  
Charlotte Madar, present

Other Persons Present:  
Fire Commissioner Bruce Kosowsky

Call To Order

Chairman Mark Holden called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:00 p.m. He indicated that they would take a brief recess when Ron Herrick of Parks and Rec. phones in during the meeting with information regarding his intra-departmental transfer request.

Add-On

JUDSON CRAWFORD MOTIONS TO ADD-ON TO THE NEW BUSINESS AGENDA/INTRA-DEPARTMENTAL TRANSFERS FOR FIRE DEPARTMENT PAGERS FM ACCT #2400-512-60-06 TO ACCT #2400-512-60-29. MARK HOLDEN SECONDS. A VOICE VOTE IS TAKEN. MOTION PASSES 6-0.

Reports

A. Chairman’s Report

Chairman Holden indicated that for the duration of the fiscal year, they will probably be meeting every month because people need to do transfers and they’re about a month away from starting budget season.
Chairman Holden commented about a video given to him by Charlotte Madar entitled, “Stupid in America: How We Cheat Our Kids.” It is a program by John Stossel for 20/20 that he recommended that everyone on the Board should review to get a handle on a point of view they might not otherwise have seen. He summarized that the basic premise of the report is that the answer to better education is not just by throwing more money into it. The report suggests that the answers are in things like merit pay; attaching funds for education to the kids to allow competitive schooling. Test scores go up, even kids in the public schools, because it gives the public schools an incentive to do a better job at teaching.

Charlotte Madar commented that it was a worthwhile to spend 45 minutes watching it because it provides facts, figures and dates; it is very well done.

Chairman Holden recessed the meeting to have a phonecon with Ron Herrick of Parks & Rec regarding intra-departmental account issues at 7:09 p.m. The meeting resumed at 7:13 p.m.

B. Contingency Account Report

Chairman Holden stated that he didn’t see any big surprises.

C. Transfer Report

Chairman Holden stated that they’ve only done a couple of intra-departmental transfers so far.

Old Business – None

New Business

A. Intra-Departmental Transfers

1. Request from Parks & Rec for transfer to Overtime Pay

Chairman Holden indicated that per the phonecon with Ron Herrick earlier in the meeting, Ron informed the Board that he spoke to Sharon Scanlon about a week ago, and she informed him that on the 12/26/08 payroll, she made an error by taking the entire Part Time Payroll out of the Overtime Account; she indicated to him that she would correct that $9,082 error.

During the phone con, Judson Crawford asked Ron Herrick if the $2,000 would carry him through to the end of the year. Mr. Herrick responded that yes it would, unless something outlandish happens. Chairman Holden informed Ron he would not need to come to the meeting.
Judson Crawford recommends, after the conversation with Ron, that they transfer $2000 from Account #001100062210-01 Regular Payroll to Account #001100062210-07 Overtime Pay with the stipulation that the budget runoff shows a deficit of $9,082.

**JUDSON CRAWFORD MOTIONS TO TRANSFER $2,000 FROM ACCOUNT #001100062210-01 REGULAR PAYROLL TO ACCOUNT #001100062210-07 OVERTIME PAY WITH THE STIPULATION THAT THE BUDGET RUN-OFF SHOWS A DEFICIT OF $9,082. NANCY DICKAL SECONDS. A VOICE VOTE IS TAKEN. MOTION PASSED 6-0.**

2. Add-on Request from the Fire Department to Transfer for Pagers

Judson Crawford asked about the first line item, which is a line item that has been discussed heavily in budget sessions under Hose & Other account. He asked Fire Commissioner Bruce Kosowsky if $10,000 was going to carry them through.

Fire Comm. Bruce Kosowsky responded that the Communications Account has been under funded and they still have many issues with their old radio systems not being replaced.

Chairman Holden asked Mr. Kosowsky if he had heard anything further about when they will receive approval from the FCC.

Mr. Kosowsky responded that the last information he heard, was that they won’t allocate anything until the City provides funding.

Chairman Holden commented that the last information he knew was that they had hired someone to conduct the study, and he was not certain if that study was completed yet.

Mr. Kosowsky responded that they submitted information for one study a couple of years ago. Another organization was hired to do another study and now it is with a group in Virginia where they apply for the licensing. The issue now has to do with the funding before any thing can be allocated. That is where it presently stands, as far as he knows.

He added that the problem with the pagers being used now is that they are no longer repairable or supported by the companies who manufactured them, so now they have to buy more pagers.

Chairman Holden commented that his concern is about buying equipment that they hope to throw away soon.

He added that the new pagers are programmable and have better features. Also, they haven’t requested extended warranties that cost additional money in the event they need something else in two years or so. In regard to transferring funds from the Hose & Other Account, he added that they just conducted hose tests in October, lost some hose, but retained an additional 1000 feet of hose from an out-of-service truck that is in storage. They hope that will be enough surplus hose.
CHARLOTTE MADAR MOTIONS TO APPROVE THE TRANSFER OF $10,000 FROM ACCT. #2400-512-60-06 TO ACCT. #2400-512-60-05 AND THE TRANSFER OF $5,000 FROM ACCT. #2400-512-60-29 TO ACCT. #2400-512-60-05. NANCY DICKAL SECONDS. A VOICE VOTE IS TAKEN. MOTION PASSED 6-0.

Finance Committee Report

Chairman Holden indicated that they awarded a number of bids at this meeting. He noted that in some instances it was a little disheartening that the low bidder did not meet all the bid specifications.

Judson Crawford distributed hand-outs to the Board to review before the budget sessions begin. There was discussion regarding the hand-out. Judson referenced to various accounts, line items, expenditures, etc. for the rest of the Board to review. (Full discussion on tape filed in City Town Clerk’s Office).

Chairman Holden indicated that they will review these items in the budget process. Also, in the budget process he plans for the Board to have a workshop meeting after the Mayor’s presentation of the budget and before they start the interview process. It will also provide additional time to insure that they have all their back-up material.

There was further discussion and comments regarding the BOE budget. Chairman Holden suggested that anyone on the Board who is interested in watching the 20/20 DVD regarding that subject could come watch it at the conclusion of the Finance Committee Meeting on Feb. 12th at 7 p.m.

Adjournment

Due to no further business on the agenda, Chairman Holden adjourned the meeting at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Karin C. Tuke
Clerk, Board of Apportionment and Taxation

Tape (1) on File with the City Town Clerk’s Office.