Roll Call

**Board of A&T:**
Chairman, Mark Holden
Chris Besescheck
Judson Crawford (excused)
Faith Hack
Charlotte Madar
John Zikaras (excused)

**Board of Aldermen:**
Alderman John Anglace (excused)
Alderman Lynn Farrell (excused)
Alderman John “Jack” Finn (7:30 p.m.)
Alderman Stanley Kudej (excused)
Alderman Noreen McGorty (7:30 p.m.)
Alderman Eric McPherson
Alderman Anthony Simonetti (8:20 p.m.)
Alderman John Papa (7:30 p.m.)

**Others Present:**
John Cook, Inland Wetlands
Richard Schultz, P&Z
Thomas Harbinson, Conservation Commission
James Tortora, Fire Marshall
Chief John Milo, Director of Emergency Mgmt.

**Call To Order/Pledge of Allegiance**

Chairman Holden called the Joint Meeting of the Board of A&T and the BOA to order at 7 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance. As an administrative note, Board of A&T members, John Zikaras and Judson Crawford are excused, they were unable to make it here this evening.

He added that Alderman Kudej is attending a meeting in Oxford regarding the EPA and he is excused. Alderman Anglace is unable to attend and is excused. Alderman Papa, Alderman Finn and Alderman McGorty are in another meeting in
this building and will arrive at the conclusion of that meeting. Alderman Simonetti is still at work and is on his way. He asked anyone coming up please provide their name and a brief statement. They would begin tonight with Inland Wetlands.

-0600    INLAND WETLANDS

John Cook, Coordinator, Inland Wetlands Commission indicated that he would answer any questions regarding his budget. He indicated that the following budget is submitted to reflect the current condition of the region, the state of the economy and wherever possible, adjustments have been made for that consideration. With these efforts, this budget reflects a zero change except for payroll approvals.

Chairman Holden asked if anyone from either Board had any questions or comments.

Alderman McPherson commented that he sees that they got what they requested and there is no change.

Sensing no further questions, Chairman Holden thanked Mr. Cook for his time.

-0700    ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Fred Ruggio, Chairman of the Economic Development Commission indicated that they have submitted a budget with a total for the 2011-2012 year of $50,601. As far as line items go, they have #10-02 Part Time Employees which remains at $48,000 and Mileage at $200. He stated that they have #11-05 Meetings, Travel and Conferences which includes the Flag Day City-Wide Event for $14,600. #30-07 Printing & Advertising which is mainly the Shelton Life Community Business News and they are asking for a Special City Edition from 2005 to 2010 plus a projection to 2015. It includes other miscellaneous printing costs which include the support of SEDC. They want to include $1 in the #30-36 Annual Report to keep the line item open.

Mr. Ruggio stated that as far as this year, they should be on budget. They had asked a few months back to switch around some of the line items. Their main costs in the next 4 months will be most of the left over amount that they have which includes 2 issues of Shelton Life (March & June), the Flag Day Event and the bi-annual report.

Mr. Ruggio indicated that he sat down yesterday with the City Purchasing Agent, Gene Sullivan and they submitted all the requisitions that they need for the bid process. He stated that was what they were asking for.

Charlotte Madar, Board of A&T asked where Flag Day was listed.
Mr. Ruggio responded that it is included in #11-05 Meetings, Travel and Conferences. He added that they never had an individual line item for Flag Day. He was in Finance yesterday too and they had Flag Day listed for $1,100 but he asked them to put it back in Meetings, Travel and Conference. The previous year they had a City-Wide Economic Event in which they invite local businesses, but the Mayor asked them in the previous year’s budget to postpone it for the current year. So they spent all their money in that particular case.

Sensing that there were no other questions, he thanked Mr. Ruggio for his time.

-0800 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Jim Ryan, SEDC indicated that the Corporation embraces the zero base budgeting principles that both parties espouse in Shelton and for the 2nd or 3rd year they have come in with the same line item requests. They didn’t have to be asked because they believe in it. The policy has been that if they run into something or file something within the year, the City of Shelton has always considered their needs and respond, if necessary. He hasn’t had to do that in the past two years.

Mr. Ryan stated that for a general background, one of the reasons that they are able to conduct their work for that amount is because they have other business. They run a Regional Economic Development Program for 18 towns and cities that provide some revenue to the Corporation. They have raised some money from the private sector, contributions. Nearly over $1.5 million in their 27 years of work that helps defray their costs to the City of Shelton. They derive fees from managing grants from both the Federal government and the State government.

Mr. Ryan stated that there are three things that they do including Downtown Redevelopment; City-wide Economic Development teaming with the Mayor’s Office in the Economic Development Commission; and Regional Economic Development. All combined allow them to offer everybody a reasonable cost basis.

Chairman Holden asked if there were any questions for Jim.

Charlotte Madar asked if the other income was included in the Revenue section.

Mr. Ryan responded that it actually comes to the Corporation.

Chairman Holden added that they are an outside contractor. With no other questions, he moved onto the -0900 Series for P&Z.

-0900 PLANNING & ZONING
Rick Schultz, Administrator, Planning & Zoning stated that the budget, as requested, was approved. As with most of the departments, it was pretty bare and minimal. He indicated that he wanted to give them some good news though because, obviously, his department is indicative of what is happening in terms of development. He is pleased to report that development activities have picked up considerably. Obviously, that is going to affect revenue for his department and ultimately, the Grand List. Mr. Schultz stated that he wouldn’t be saying this unless it was real.

Mr. Schultz stated that normally, he gives them his Annual Report but his secretary is out with a bad back and a couple things have gotten delayed. Hopefully, he will be finishing that within about a week and distributing it. It gives a picture of the whole calendar year of what has happened. They’ll be able to see how the activities continued to be minimal and then they’ll be able to see the change for this quarter coming up. He does quarterly and annual reports. He added that his department fees were adjusted and went into effect the beginning of this year so that has been helpful. Things are picking up.

Alderman McPherson asked if it was more commercial as opposed to residential that they are picking up.

Mr. Schultz responded that yes, and it is a combination of commercial and office. People have their opinions about retail. Some people don’t like it while others embrace it. It is a matter of opinion. Obviously, they have their Plan of Development which they use as a guideline, and there have been some deviations from it but they know how the market works and the Commission has to ultimately make that decision. But there has been some significant office and light industrial and that is important because that is really what has made Shelton. It is good jobs, its good paying jobs, and it is good to make the community healthy.

Chairman Holden asked, in light of the increase, can they be looking at increasing his revenue side.

Mr. Schultz responded yes, absolutely.

Chairman Holden asked what he thought could be a comfortable revision there.

Mr. Schultz responded that he would say approximately $10,000 in addition. Most of the projects that they do are large scale and they use the Planned Development District technique. This will be good because they will also hear from the Building Department because they get the fees.

Chairman Holden asked if that would be the -1800 account.

Mr. Schultz responded yes.
Chairman Holden commented that is really good news.

Mr. Schultz indicated that they have to examine all avenues to increase the revenue side, as small as it may be. This recession is the worst that he has seen and he has gone through three. This really has affected all the homeowners – everybody.

Chairman Holden stated that the other thing is that this will also point to increases coming down the road for the Grand List which is an even bigger help. He indicated that this news is fantastic as far as he is concerned.

Mr. Schultz stated that they have two pending projects that are quite considerable and it is the River Road area because there is a major land base there. He added that Shelton is geographically in a great location and the tax rate has been favorable. It’s up to the investors and the banks.

Sensing no other questions, he thanked Mr. Schultz for his good news.

-1300 CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Thomas Harbinson, Conservation Commission stated that he supports the zero based budget. He knows that their budget increased from the last fiscal year but in the electronic submittal he gave to the Finance Department, they are only $36 more in this fiscal year than they were in the 2006-2007. So they are pretty much level. They accomplish a lot more with less by using electronic communication. As they will see their Postage line item is $1.00 and their Clerk costs keep going down. Since 2000, they have obtained 13 grants worth over $1.6 million dollars.

Mr. Harbinson commented that the money that the City contributes leverages the volunteers to help out. He doesn’t have it in this budget report but it is over a 1000 volunteer hours. All of their trails are maintained and created by volunteers. The Recreation Path is a little bit different. It has a contract on it right now and it’s a separate item. He’ll answer any questions that they have.

Chairman Holden asked if anyone had questions for Tom. He asked to move onto the Capital items.

Mr. Harbinson stated that he never gets feedback for what he puts in on their capital budget. For the recreation path, it is an ongoing project and he put in $50,000/year. They were just awarded a grant for about $78,000 that is going toward the current contractor activity.

He stated that in the previous year they had contractor activity that went across the school campus and across Constitution Blvd. So as things start and move,
they have been able to accomplish it for about $50,000/year has been what the expenditure has been. But it is not all City dollars, when they can get a grant, they get a grant.

Chairman Holden commented that he has been on some of the trails a couple of times in the last year which is something new for him. He stated that they were quite nice and he was quite impressed.

Mr. Harbinson stated that they have a website, sheltonconservation.org with activities and open space maps. He discussed some of the passive recreation activities such as letter boxing and geo cashing. He mentioned the community garden off of Longview with 60 plots which he hopes to have delineated as revenue under their budget at some time. The start-up expenses for the Community Garden have come out the Conservation Commission budget.

Sensing no other questions, he thanked Tom Harbinson for his time.

**-1800 ZONING APPEALS BOARD**

There was no one present for -1800 Zoning Appeals Board. He recessed the meeting for five minutes until the next person to interview arrived.

7:30 p.m. – 7:50 p.m.

Alderman McGorty, Alderman Papa, Alderman Finn arrived at 7:30 p.m. from another meeting.

**-2000 PUBLIC SAFETY AND EMERGENCY SERVICES**

Faith Hack, Board of A&T commented that this budget last year was for $62,000+ and this year Chief Milo asked for $64,000 but got $58,000. She stated that at the end of the year, the City recouped $23,000 – half was returned.

Chief John Milo, Director of Emergency Management responded that a lot of these items are not used unless there is an actual emergency. So, thankfully, other than a few flooding incidents that they dealt with last year and of course, the F1 tornado that came to the south end of town, they really don’t get affected by it.

Chief Milo stated that they do a lot of purchasing of equipment such as the Emergency Operations Center that they’ve developed for the City. They have a state-of-the-art EOC and all of that was funded with grants. He indicated that they do a lot of grant work and that one was 100%. Some of the others are 75% and the City matches with 25%. They get all of their training pretty much taken care of by grants such as the Emergency Command Staff throughout the City was trained by the Department of Emergency Management Homeland Security and their trainers that came to Shelton. That saved them about $5,000 or $6,000. So there is a lot that they can do on grants. This money is here in case
they have an emergency that they need to respond to. Aside from that, all they have are some maintenance items to keep their equipment running.

Chief Milo stated that one of the things that he thinks that they need to adjust is the #10-02 Part Time Employees. When he does the math, his salary is 50% matched by a grant that they apply for every year. So his salary is $15,000 which is $7500 and he has an assistant and a deputy at $7500 each. He thinks that if they do that math, it would be about $22,000. So they probably need to consider another $2,500 there.

Faith Hack stated that it was cut by $6000.

Chief Milo responded that they had some work done in their beginning years to create a Hazard Mitigation Plan which was a lot of work. If they had a vendor come in and do it, it would have cost $140,000 but they took it on and all the departments heads contributed and cooperated. It took the better part of 14 or 15 months to accomplish it, but they did it. They had a little additional expense for clerical that they don't have right now. But if they can get $2500, that is the #10-02.

Alderman Finn asked which line item they would transfer the funds from to put it into #10-02 Part Time. For example, for Personnel Training they had $1,000 and they haven't used anything and they haven't traveled anywhere and that's $335, uniform services, they haven't had anything cleaned for $800.

Chief Milo responded that he doesn't know that they would transfer it. They would just increase it. They were covered for it for this year and this is 2011 budget that he is talking about.

Alderman Finn stated that the point he is getting at is that they used only $2,372 out of $62,936 and in two years his department has returned $64,789 only equal to what they are asking for this year.

Chief Milo responded that, as he stated, they don't use this unless they have a disaster, or a terrorist attack or for any other reason that they have to expend these monies. They aren't going to spend money just for the sake of spending money.

Alderman Finn asked if they shouldn't have medical exams, at least.

Chief Milo responded no.

Alderman Finn asked what happens if they have a heart attack at the scene.

Chief Milo responded that it is covered under workman's comp. That is what they have workman's comp. for.
Chairman Holden asked if the state-of-the-art Operations Center that he mentioned was operational at this point. He asked if they had been in touch with ARIES.

Chief Milo responded that the Operations Center is operational and they have some contact with ARIES. They have to get their division in there but they have to have a little separate area for them which they are working on because you can’t operate a HAM situation inside of a regular Command situation because it is just too much chatter and they are louder. Isn’t doesn’t work together so they are going to put them in a different area but they do have some equipment so that they can do it, but they aren’t at that point yet.

Chairman Holden asked if they anticipate it.

Chief Milo responded yes, it won’t be long.

Charlotte Madar asked what the difference was between clothing and uniforms.

Chief Milo responded probably nothing. Uniform would be more of a formal. They are very minimal; their uniforms are a dress shirt for formal affairs and they do double duty on the pants for duty or formal so they don’t have that distinction like the Police Department with a Class A and a regular shift uniform. They don’t do anything like that. A lot of times if they get a call at 2 a.m., the chances are that it will be without a uniform.

Charlotte Madar asked that they have $800 for Uniforms and $750 for clothing.

Chief Milo responded yes, there really isn’t any difference. One of them could be a Class A but they haven’t purchased them.

Chairman Holden asked if there were any other questions.

Chief Milo asked if he answered Alderman Finn’s question.

Alderman Finn commented that they are coming down on them in Bridgeport because of these medical exams and (inaudible)

Chief Milo responded that he shouldn’t believe everything that he reads in the paper because he thinks that they did and there is just a little confusion there.

Alderman Finn commented that if you have a medical exam and you have a medical condition and then something happens at an emergency scene - that medical condition could have been pre-existing, so why should you be able to collect workman’s comp?
Chief Milo responded that the testing that he is referring to doesn’t apply to these situations. They have firefighters that are in a much more stressful environment who are wearing self-contained breathing apparatus. If he reads the OSHA statute, he’ll see that it doesn’t apply.

Chairman Holden stated that they would move on the EMS.

**-2100 EMS COMMISSION**

Alderman McGorty introduced Bob Pettinella who is the Deputy Director of VEMS and two deputy commissioners of VEMS are also present.

Alderman McGorty stated that generally speaking, they reduced a few items to zero because they didn’t think the need was there anymore. They asked again for **#30-32 Bundle Billing** at $80,000 and the Mayor cut it to $20,000. She added that $20,000 is not even negotiable because it is not going to work at all. They need at least $80,000. This is not new because everyone heard this exact same story last year. She is here saying the same thing and has brought the Deputy Director of VEMS in case they want to ask him any direct questions. The story and the argument are the same and they are here to respectfully request that the $20,000 be moved back up to $80,000.

Chris Besescheck, Board of A&T asked a question about last year because he recalls that they had an issue with getting the full $80,000. He asked what they ended up doing last year.

Alderman McGorty responded that at that time last year they were at another fiscal year and she had some items that they hadn’t spent and she moved them to continue on the billing at that prior fiscal year. So it is almost like two years ago.

Alderman McGorty continued to say that for the fiscal year that they are in right now, the amount went to zero, so they had nothing. They don’t have anything in there to move around this time to get to $80,000. They need $80,000. The VEMS and Echo Hose continue to do the Bundle Billing with the argument that they were lead to believe that it would be covered and that there would be further discussions and that the City would find a way to fund Bundle Billing. So with the gentleman’s agreement, it was continued but when it became evident that it was not going to be continued, VEMS, which she supported, discontinued the Bundle Billing.

Alderman McGorty stated that since then they have received 6 or 7 complaints from patients that received two bills – one from each entity for respective services. These complaints are hardship and comments like “I’ve called the ambulance before and had a paramedic come and it was covered, so why isn’t it covered now...” There was a lot of inquiry about them having an agreement and
why don’t they have an agreement. So they are addressing each and every one of those. Bob and I have been talking to folks and Echo Hose has been talking to folks. It is starting to get some momentum because bills take time to be sent and now they are starting to get these complaints.

Chairman Holden stated that his understanding that there had been an agreement with Echo Hose and the City to share the expense of Bundled Billing.

Alderman McGorty responded that was the last fiscal year and not the current fiscal year that they are in and they did not honor that. Hence, that is why she came in front of this Board and asked if she can shift around anything that they haven’t spent to at least continue the Bundle Billing in the prior year – not the one that they are currently in today.

Alderman Finn stated that during the Budget Workshop last year this was brought up and at that time, the President of the BOA stated that the Finance Committee would sit down with the EMS and try to work something out but that meeting never happened.

Alderman McGorty responded that she did have a meeting directly with the Mayor several months ago which was what she was alluding to when it became quite apparent that the City was not going to fund this. She went back to the VEMS Board and said that what they were led to believe is not going to happen, whereby the Board of the VEMS decided that they had to stop Bundle Billing. It was not viable to the entity; it’s unfair.

Alderman McPherson asked about the last Budget Workshop with just the Alderman. Echo came and had a letter from an attorney regarding a possible anti-trust violation or something. He asked what became of that.

Alderman McGorty responded that was a great question. It was called, what they refer to as the anti-kick-back clause, and they challenged that to say, well that may be your attorney, but what does the State say. They want the State to rule on this. Unfortunately, despite various inquiries into that, there hasn’t been a resolution. There has been a formal one.

Alderman McPherson asked if there was any federal issue in here. If it is anti-kick-back, isn’t that more of a federal law.

Mr. Pettinella, Deputy Director of VEMS responded that it was sent to the Inspector General which he believes is on a Federal level. After speaking with Mike Chafe this week, he requested some documents from him relative to that ruling. He requested two documents – one that he has received and another that is coming down from the State to be given to him. Supposedly, with these two documents, some type of a decision can be made. But that held up about $24,000 from Echo to VEMS and then this current fiscal year, an additional
$80,000 has been withheld from the City, so in the last 12 months VEMS has been short about $100,000 to its operating funds.

Alderman McPherson asked what the other Valley towns, their ambulance companies, what they think.

Mr. Pettinella responded that it depends if they have a Bundle Billing agreement or not. Oxford and Seymour both have Bundle Billing and their subsidies are directly related to their call volume; obviously, based on their Bundle Billing. Everyone pays a $30,000 subsidy for operating costs.

Alderman McPherson asked if that included Derby.

Mr. Pettinella responded that Derby is billed it and they have not paid in the last two years.

Alderman McPherson asked why that was.

Mr. Pettinella responded that they claim it is political issues, not liking, unfortunately, one of the personalities on the VEMS Board.

Alderman McPherson asked if they (inaudible)

Mr. Pettinella responded yes, absolutely. Being new to VEMS, he has opened up some talks with Derby and he is in the process of moving that along because he doesn’t believe that Derby has the right to hold a community hostage because of a personality conflict.

Alderman McPherson stated that he believes that if they are paying, than everyone else should have to pay.

Mr. Pettinella agreed that he is totally with him on that.

Alderman McPherson indicated that it is not fair to Shelton taxpayers if they are paying and someone else is getting off scot free. They are paying for a service.

Alderman McGorty stated that she wanted to be clear though – they are paying for a paramedic service, so is every town but Derby. But the topic at hand is Bundle Billing, but it is a point well taken. She wanted to highlight that in his role, he has made a lot of headway with Derby Mayor.

Mr. Pettinella indicated that he just met with the Valley so all the CEO’s are aware of the current situation.

Alderman McPherson commented that was his point, he wanted to know if Derby was paying into any Bundle Billing as well.
Alderman McGorty responded not currently, no.

Alderman Finn stated that he has looked through the budget book and he can’t find anything that relates to Paramedic Intercept for $30,000.

Chairman Holden responded that it was the #30-45 account.

Alderman Finn asked if that was separate from the Bundle Billing.

Alderman McGorty stated that was correct, not every town has Bundle Billing.

Alderman Finn asked if they go back to Bundle Billing, are they going to do away with Paramedic Intercept.

Alderman McGorty responded no, they need to have the paramedic service and to have that in the town, the fee is $30,000 regardless of Bundle Billing. So even if the City decides and it goes through that they don’t have Bundle Billing, they are absolutely going forward with the $30,000 which is already presented here (inaudible)

Alderman Finn commented that the Bundle Billing covers the cost of the EMS and the paramedic.

Alderman McGorty responded yes.

Mr. Pettinella responded that what Bundle Billing does is – because paramedic level services are not covered by Medicare and there is a large Medicare population in this city, a bill would go to them for a substantial amount of money like $500 or $600. Some cities, such as Shelton in the past, and Seymour and Oxford, have said that they don’t want that burden put on their residents. Therefore, they will pay VEMS the difference between what they get when they bundle bill with Echo and what the patient would have to pay. It takes the burden off of the person with a fixed income and puts it on the City, and every year the City budgets a certain amount of money.

Mr. Pettinella added that $80,000 is extremely conservative. If they were to bill patients directly in Shelton, they could expect to collect about $150,000. The reason that they went with $80,000 is because it is the absolute bare minimum that VEMS needed to operate. Since VEMS is a non-profit, they aren’t looking to take any money that they don’t need. That is kind of where they are with it.

Alderman Finn stated that VEMS wouldn’t receive the $80,000 outright. They would have to submit an invoice, and once the invoice is submitted that would be subtracted from the $80,000.
Mr. Pettinella responded yes, correct.

Charlotte Madar asked if they didn’t use the whole $80,000, would it come back.

Alderman McGorty responded that is correct but she can tell her that based upon years of data, it is used.

Chairman Holden stated that in going back, they did have Echo Hose sharing the cost in the past, is this court thing involved in why they are not. Is that the kick-back thing?

Alderman McGorty responded that the court thing is involved in why they did not honor the agreement in the past fiscal year. They made it very clear in the fiscal year that they are in right now that they did not and would not participate. Therefore, they didn’t count on that and they asked the City for the full amount.

Chairman Holden asked what their reasoning for that was.

Alderman McGorty responded that they didn’t think that the ambulance service should fund the paramedic service.

Alderman Finn asked if, since they said that they don’t think that the Ambulance Corp. should fund the paramedic service, does the Echo Hose EMS have any intention of bringing their level up to a paramedic.

Alderman McGorty responded that they may. The thing is, with the Bundle Billing, the bill for Echo is fully paid in the Bundle Billing. VEMS is a significantly less portion. So they are trying the paint the picture – but Echo Hose charges $600 and VEMS charges $600 – and when they Bundle Bill, Echo gets the full $600 and VEMS gets $71. Echo isn’t harmed in any way, shape or form or loss of revenue with Bundle Billing but VEMS is. They agree in the entire process and the program for the seniors and those who are on Medicare. To continue that Echo may, and she can’t say whether or not they are or won’t, it certainly not a (inaudible). There is licensing, there are state requirements. They already hold the PSA for the 5 towns and just in general, overall …

Alderman Finn commented that it would be impossible for them to go up to that level then.

Alderman McPherson agreed that it would be extremely tough.

Chris Besescheck asked if there would have to be switches at the City end too, right? It wouldn’t just be Echo’s…(inaudible)
Alderman McGorty responded that it would have start at the State because they hold the license for the five towns and to get rid of that, there is pretty steep ...(inaudible)

Since there were no other questions, Chairman Holden thanked them for coming and moved on to the next line series -2200 Fire Marshall

-2200  FIRE MARSHALL

Chairman Holden asked if anyone had any questions for the Fire Marshal.

Alderman Finn indicated that he is continuing to fund for the Deputy Fire Marshal position. It was his understanding that this position was going to be filled in July due to the fact that the Union (inaudible)

James Tortora, Fire Marshall responded yes, that is his understanding.

Chairman Holden asked if there were any other questions for the Fire Marshall. Since there were none, he thanked Mr. Tortora and moved onto the -2400 line series for the Fire Department.

-2400  FIRE DEPARTMENT

Commissioner Tim Manion, White Hills Company #5 and Commissioner Ben McGorty, Huntington Company #3 represented the Fire Department.

Chairman Holden asked if they have any opening statement.

Comm. Manion stated that they wanted to make them aware that there are two positions that are not filled in their department – the Fire Chief and the Chairman of the BOFC. It has been difficult. He and Ben have just been appointed recently as of January so this is new for them. They have a learning curve coming in here as far as budgets go so he wanted them to know that.

Comm. Manion stated that with those positions being gone, expenditures are being scrutinized an awful lot.

Chairman Holden asked if there were any questions.

Alderman McGorty stated that she isn't necessarily looking for an answer but there are some significant cuts in here such #40-11Clothing – requested $40,000 and it is down to zero. #40-47 Motor Vehicle Maintenance was requested at $95,000 and it is down to $65,000. She asked, without having any background, is that something that they can live with or do they need a little more time to go back to the A&T (inaudible).
Comm. Manion responded that he can give her answers on a couple of these. He stated that for #30-14 Alarm Maintenance, they were given zero. He explained that they are actually in the process right now of trying to save the Town money because they are trying to get all these old box alarms on the poles taken out. If they are taken out, then there will be savings on the phone lines. They are working on getting all those removed. They don’t have an Alarms Division anymore, another position not filled, so Derby comes over with their Alarms Division and they are paying them hourly. Now they gave them zero on that and they would like to finish this project because it could be about $7000 or $8000 savings to the City at the end of this, by removing all of these phone lines that they are presently paying for.

Charlotte Madar, Board of A&T asked if he means that he would need the $15,000 back.

Comm. Manion responded yes, that would be key and it would finish it up. They wouldn’t need anything after that because that whole project would be completed. Then they would, hopefully, be phasing in the new radio system and that would take over for the box alarms.

Alderman McPherson commented that they are asking for $33,000 for #? Communications.

Comm. Manion responded that is another one that he would like to talk about because the $33,000, he would imagine would be money that is phased into the new system. He is sure that the expenditure for that is so much that it will go to bond but there is going to be some radios that they are going to need to purchase to phase into that system such as UHF radios and stuff like that. So that is what the $33,000 is for.

Chris Besescheck asked if that was happening this year.

Comm. Manion responded that it is going to begin this year. It is a project that is going to phase in over time because the money is up in the millions of dollars and he doesn’t think it would all be brought in at the same time. He was just going over the Communications side of it with the Police Chief and he said it was smarter to just start it now and move along a little at a time, otherwise, they’ll end up with a lot of problems. The old system has to be removed as well.

Comm. McGorty added that they have an FCC license that states that they have to be on air within one year after receiving that license so they will be going.

Alderman McGorty commented that it isn’t just a matter of plug and play though.

Comm. Manion responded yes, exactly.
Chairman Holden asked if the frequency had been allocated at this point.

Comm. Manion responded yes, through the Police Department.

Alderman Finn stated that he had a question on #30-01Professional Services account #30-01 – which money was going to be allocated to Echo Hose with the structure problems that they have down at their station and Company #3’s problems that they are having. He remembers last year at the budget sessions it was suggested that the City Engineer do it. He isn’t sure if Bob, if he had the time, if he was asked he would have done it. That money is still needed because if they go down to the Echo Hose Fire Department, it has gotten so bad that you can actually see the rebar in it. This money has to be allocated for those two fire stations.

Comm. Manion responded that they addressed that last night in their Commissioner’s Meeting because it wouldn’t be long from now that they would come for funding because that building is in very bad shape.

Chairman Holden stated that the question he has is that he understands that the long range plan is to replace the Echo Hose location. He asked where they stand on making that happen.

Alderman Finn responded that he didn’t think that they would see that in his lifetime.

Alderman McPherson added that this was discussed about 8 years ago.

Comm. Manion stated it was the Mas property.

Comm. McGorty added that business has gone down and nobody is developing so Constitution is pretty much stagnant land sitting there.

Alderman McPherson commented that this actually goes back to the late 90’s.

Chairman Holden stated that he would rather see them speed up the new fire house than spend money on fixing up an old fire house. He added that it is pretty well established that there are fundamental flaws that they cannot fix at the current Echo Hose. They are going to tie up traffic every time they back in and so forth…it would be so much better to move forward with the new firehouse rather than worry about fixing up this one.

Alderman Finn indicated that then they would have to move forward on Constitution Boulevard and they would have to buy some property from a private property owner and the City owns the rest of the property, especially if they are going to put the fire station there. But again, back then, the attitude was to get
the fire station out of Downtown or do they want to keep it Downtown where it belongs.

Comm. Manion stated that the fire load is Downtown.

Alderman McPherson added that you need a site Downtown to put a new station.

Multiple discussions (inaudible)

Comm. McGorty as if the municipal lot across from Johnny’s Pizza was City-owned or do they lease that.

Alderman Finn responded that they lease that, it is Connecticut Light & Power property.

Comm. Manion commented that is going to be a major issue in the near future. They were considering moving them out of that building.

Faith Hack asked if there were any grants available for any of this building or its relocation.

Comm. Manion responded not really. He just spent some time with Charlene the other day to go over what grants they could get for the Fire Department and he didn’t even think to touch upon the buildings. They have a large fire department and a lot of equipment so the grants go right by them. Population-wise, New Haven and Bridgeport get them. It is nothing that they are doing wrong, it is just the way the application goes.

Comm. McGorty added that there are less and less grants out there, the farther you got from 9/11 because everybody has gotten the money. There are very few grants being given out now.

Alderman McPherson stated that NYC just had the issue because some place in Osh Kosh that nobody ever heard of got money and NYC got cut and they were the place that got attacked. He also thought that maybe through OEM that maybe they could get something to go toward a new Company #1 down there. They’ve seen the rebar coming through the floor. They’ve had that floor reinforced so many times. He knows that just from getting Tower 7 in 1996 that was the first time.

Comm. Manion stated that now the apron in front of the building has cracked and collapsed and now the tower is having a problem getting in. It can only go in that bay because when it backs in, that is the highest point of the inside of the bay or else it would hit.
Alderman Finn suggested that if they drive by, and when the doors are open, stop the car, go and see the potholes inside and the rebar.

Comm. McGorty indicated that the apron has sunk in and it is such a bad angle getting in.

Faith Hack asked if that repair can at least be made.

Comm. McGorty responded that it would probably be about $20,000 just for the apron itself.

Comm. Manion stated that he spoke to the Highway Department and they said that they can do a temporary fix but to go and put $20,000 into something that they may be replacing in the near future doesn’t make sense. He and Ben have to go downstairs in that building, there’s a basement, to deal with the mechanics and the central storage for the fire equipment and he is thinking twice about going downstairs. The tower truck alone weighs about 7300 lbs. and there are 5 pieces of apparatus in there.

Comm. Manion indicated that he drafted a letter to the Mayor today because he would like to see all the studies done on that building. He thinks that there were 4 or 5 within a 10 year period, and he wants to read them all.

Chairman Holden stated that they may need to do something short term but the better solution would be to speed up the replacement of that facility with one better designed for their needs.

Alderman McPherson indicated that they have to get an architect, get the location and then bond it or whatever.

Chairman Holden stated that he thinks that would definitely be a bonded project. Alderman Simonetti arrived 8:25 p.m.

Comm. McGorty commented that the Chromium Process building would be ideal, right up Center Street to Bridgeport Avenue, left or right, but they want to save that for a road going through. It is land that they could probably get at a good price, cap it, two-story pull through bays – kind a quick, simple, easy building. Just something functional not fancy.

Comm. Manion added that it is in the center of the fire load too.

Comm. McGorty stated that it is right in where the fire load is because if they go on Bridgeport Avenue, they are getting sprinklered buildings and all the offices. This is residential, this is where it needs to be; it’s where they have the multi-family homes.
Alderman McPherson added with diesel fuel and propane tanks there.

Alderman Finn added that Alderman McPherson mentioned a good location downtown – the Chromium Process is going bankrupt. The building is going to be taken down. They could put a floating foundation in there and put Echo Hose right there.

Faith Hack asked if that might be a proposal they might make.

Comm. McGorty responded that it could be. They have been driving around looking for properties like the one across from Johnny’s Pizza would be another nice spot.

Alderman McPherson commented that they don’t own it though. Like Alderman Finn mentioned the situation with the Chromium Process building could be an ideal location.

Comm. McGorty stated that he knows that they want to develop the Riverfront there but if the Fire House might be in the middle, the new development might not be appealing to some people.

Alderman Finn commented that he wanted to ask about Clothing account #40-11. Comm. Manion stated that they phased in 75 new sets of gear and gloves.

Chris Besescheck commented that he knows that at several stations, a lot of gear thrown out due to not being any good even for (inaudible)

Faith Hack asked if that was 70 of the 75 that the BOA approved last year – Do they still not have enough and are the new people still buying their own stuff.

Comm. Manion commented that they are retaining some of the old stuff so that they have something to give them. The $40,000 would cover it.

Faith Hack responded yes, but you don’t have it. It is something that you need.

Chris Besescheck added that Pine Rock got a guy who is 7 feet tall and obviously, no gear that they had would work and he had to be fitted.

Comm. Manion responded yes, he saw the paperwork on that.

Comm. McGorty commented that there is also an expiration date on all gear. It is only good for about 10 years. There is gear out there now that will be coming in on the turnover cycle now. They just bought 75 sets so in ten years, they’ll need 75 sets again – it is a big lump at one time.
Alderman Finn asked if this was not funded would they request bonding from the BOA.

Comm. Manion responded yes, they may have to.

Chris Besescheck asked if they knew how many old sets they just had to get rid of.

Comm. Manion responded that he doesn't know, maybe the Chief would know.

Comm. ??(name not provided) commented that there were only about 15 sets that met the safety standards so they lost about 60+ sets of gear. There were either condemned to wear and tear or passed that 6-10 year mark, which the FDA and OSHA says that it is not safe to use in structural situations. They lost most of the sets, they don't have most of that “old stuff” per se to use.

Faith Hack asked about the account for #40-47 Motor Vehicle Maintenance. They are down $35,000 from what they requested.

Comm. McGorty responded that things are getting older and they haven't had any servicing. They are down a mechanic – that is another open position – because he is out on disability. They haven't spent that much on maintenance but they don't have much money left. He thinks it was about $20,000 and they have to get to July. Vehicles are getting older even the newer trucks that they just bought are 10 years old already.

Faith Hack asked what they do if they don't have the money – they have to repair the trucks, right.

Chairman Holden responded yes, they basically do transfers that go to the BOA as a supplemental.

Alderman Simonetti indicated that as far as the vehicles, as an Alderman – they were chatting probably back in August or Sept. about some new vehicles. Something worked out but they didn't come to us and ask about bonding. He asked if they were going to come this year and ask for bonding on the fire trucks.

Comm. McGorty responded that the two trucks by the BOA – and he was going to bring that up next. He asked how they were going to get those trucks back – how do they get the purchasing that was approved by the BOA?

Alderman Finn commented that Fire Comm. Bruce Koslowsky sent a letter to the Finance Committee several months ago that it be placed on the agenda for funding. It was never placed on the Finance Committee agenda.
Alderman Simonetti responded that as Commissioners, try to push to get those things to them.

Comm. Manion indicated that there are also the boats – two boats. Right now, they have no boats. They have one Zodiac at Pinerock that can hold two people and do a rescue. They are waiting on a report right now on Marine 1, but that boat, right now, is out of service. They are waiting on a report from Beacon Point Marina to tell them what is wrong with it and if it is feasible to repair. As of right now, they are hearing, it is just hearsay that the boat is not feasible to repair and has cracks in the hull. It is 20 years old.

Comm. McGorty added that the flotation material is all waterlogged and it is impossible to dry out.

Comm. Manion commented...so, they'll be back.

Chairman Holden asked if there were any other questions.

Faith Hack asked what the #80-15 SARA Project was – she sees that they asked for $20,000 and they are down $12,000 on that.

Comm. Manion responded that he was not sure on that – he asked Alderman Finn.

Comm. McGorty responded that it was the Right-to-Know Act.

Alderman McGorty stated that it is the right to know that in a particular building that there is the possibility of harmful chemicals.

Comm. McGorty added ...all chemicals within – anything that can cause any harm to you.

Faith Hack asked what the reduction of $12,000 in that line item is doing to the plan.

Comm. Manion responded that last year they asked for $20,000 and he gave them $8,000.

Comm. McGorty added that part of that falls on the Fire Marshal’s Office because they have to record it. Every year they have to go out and take inventory lists and stuff. The other half will probably come from there.

Comm. Manion mentioned that the last one - Fire Company Allowance – is their supplemental insurance and the reason that they asked for $40,000 is because every year the premium goes up and if they stay at $32,000 then they may have an issue.
Faith Hack responded that then they would have to come back to the Board again to get it, correct?

Comm. Manion responded yes.

Faith Hack mentioned that there were some Capital Items. She stated that there is vehicle replacement, renovation to the fire station, install diesel exhaust removal system, removal of in ground diesel tanks, new FD radio communications and structural fire gear replacement.

Comm. Manion responded that removal of in ground diesel tanks is in the process right now.

Comm. McGorty commented that the radios were a bonding issue.

Comm. Manion asked if the boats were on there.

Faith Hack responded that the Vehicle Replacement is on for this year but it is on for after this year.

Comm. Manion stated that he knows that they are on there because he was in that budget meeting.

Chairman Holden commented that they do have Rebuild Fire Company #1 for $18 million.

Faith responded that she doesn’t see anything that says boats.

Comm. Manion indicated that they’ll be back then.

Comm. ? (unnamed) commented that to provide a little history, the original plan from Chief Jones was that they thought the boats were going to last so they could push it out a little bit but, unfortunately, Marine #1 did a nosedive on them that they didn’t expect. They found out a little late that the boat had some hull cracks that no one realized until they pulled it out of the water this year. That is why all of a sudden, Marine #1 became a high priority on the Fire Department side because that one stays in the water all the time. This past summer alone they had 7 rescues in which that boat was dispatched under 3 minutes and they were out to where they were needed. They have had some really strange things happen this past summer on the water. The boat, unfortunately, they didn’t expect the damage that they have with it and it wasn’t on their original plan, they thought that they would get a couple more years out of it.
Chairman Holden asked if there were any other questions from either Board for the Fire Department. With no other questions he thanked the Commissioners for their service and for appearing before them.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Chairman Holden indicated that with no further business on the agenda, he adjourned the meeting at 8:50 p.m. He indicated that he looked forward to seeing everyone tomorrow evening at 7:00 p.m. again for more fun-filled interviews.

Respectfully submitted,

**Karin C. Tuke**
Clerk, Board of Apportionment and Taxation
Tapes (2) on File with the City Town Clerk’s Office.