Roll Call

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

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

Others Present:

Chief Joel Hurliman, Police Department
Lt. Robert Kozlowsky, Police Department
Elspeth Lydon, Library Director
Sean Fields, Branch Library Director
Megan Allen, President, Friends of the Library
Joseph Ballaro, Building Department
Charlene DeFillipo, Community Development
Robert Kulacz, City Engineer

Call To Order/Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Holden began the meeting at 7:00 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance and a review of the procedures for the Joint Meeting of the Board of A&T and the BOA. He provided instructions to those being interviewed to provide a brief
overview of their budget highlighting any changes that the Mayor has made to
the budget that they are not comfortable with.

As an administrative note, John Zikaras of the Board of A&T has been excused
due to his work schedule and they will begin with the line series -2300 Animal
Control and -2500 for the Police Department

-2300 ANIMAL CONTROL
-2500 POLICE DEPARTMENT

Chief Joel Hurliman and Lt. Robert Kozlowsky represented the Shelton Police
Department. Chief Hurliman stated that he would make an opening statement
that pertained to -2300 Animal Control and -2500 Police Department at the same
time.

Chief Hurliman indicated that in these tough economic times, they didn’t ask for
any increase in personnel over what they requested last year. In reviewing the
paperwork and the budget report prior to coming here, they noticed that some of
the budget runs don’t seem to be quite caught up. Some of this might be due to
the new payroll system that everyone is getting used to. So, some of the
numbers that they are looking at — or, what is reflected on the paper is somewhat
behind what is really occurring. There are some lines that may show nothing or
small amounts taken out when in reality quite a bit more than that actually has
been taken out. It isn’t posted and isn’t up-to-date.

Chief Hurliman noted that they realize that this is not a good time to be asking for
large increases so therefore, they did not.

Chairman Holden asked if there were any questions from either Board regarding
the Animal Control -2300 series.

Charlotte Madar, Board of A&T asked if they can get along with the decrease in
#10-02 Part Time Employees. It went down to $45,000.

Lt. Kozlowsky responded yes, they can get along. They originally, in prior
budgets, had two kennel workers budgeted and that was cut. So they put back
the second kennel worker so that would just cut that worker and it would stay at
the levels that it is now.

Alderman Simonetti referenced Page 23-18, Appliance Repair, Washer/Dryer,$400. He isn’t trying to criticize, but he thinks that for that amount of money, they
could buy a new piece of equipment that would be more energy/water efficient
and probably last longer. He didn’t know if maybe you were already looking into
that.
Faith Hack, Board of A&T indicated that there were no questions but for Capital Items –it’s $2 ½ million for the new kennel.

Chairman Holden asked Charlotte Madar if the goals were in order; she responded yes for Animal Control and the Police Department. Sensing no further questions for Animal Control, Chairman Holden moved on to the -2500 line series for the Police Department.

**-2500 POLICE DEPARTMENT**

Judson Crawford asked about Account -0200, Page 13 – last year under the Police Contract, it had the 8% salary for the Mayor and also a MERF contract of .0750% for the Chief which was not carried under this year.

Alderman Simonetti asked for clarification about which account this was about.

Judson responded that it was the -0200 line series Contract Pensions.

Chairman Holden as Chief Hurliman if his pension program had been changed.

Chief Hurliman responded no, not that he knows of.

Chairman Holden asked if it was supposed to be under the MERF Program,

Chief Hurliman responded yes, Connecticut Municipal Employees Retirement Fund Program.

Judson Crawford indicated that a notation should be made to the Administrative Assistant that this has to be carried forward.

Alderman Simonetti asked about #80-16 Signs. He commented that it seems to be an awful lot of money for signs. Are they just replacing them because of the snow or do they think that there should just be enough (inaudible)

Chief Hurliman responded that with the Signs, they are replacing a lot of the STOP signs. There is a newer, larger, more reflective STOP sign that is under the Traffic Specs and that is what they are migrating into and replacing so many at a time.

Alderman Simonetti commented that he did want to compliment the Chief on the number of officers that he has that have experience on the force. That means that they are sticking and obviously doing their jobs, so thank you.

Alderman Simonetti stated that he had a question about something that didn’t print all the way out on Page 25-37 regarding Truck Inserts OSHA that are
recommended for Explosions in Gasoline Tanks? $3500. He just wanted clarification on what that is.

Chief Hurliman responded that has to do with the equipment that they have in the trunks and has to do with fire extinguishers and also pry bars. This keeps things from rattling around and possibly puncturing the gas tank or having the fire extinguisher go off in the trunk.

Alderman Simonetti asked if it was some type of a liner then.

Chief Hurliman responded yes.

Alderman McPherson asked about the Fuel Account #40-01, he says that the request was for $175,000 and $160,000 is being recommended. His concern is if this is going to be enough with the skyrocketing gas prices.

Alderman Anglace asked what cost per gallon price it was predicated upon.

Lt. Kozlowsky responded that they used $2.62/gallon for the budget.

Alderman Papa commented that they don’t have to pay the sales tax though.

Alderman McPherson added that it is still going up though – it is $3.58 now.

Alderman Anglace indicated that it is always going to go up and go down. They can always put more money into the account. It is understandable. It is probably better to let the account go down and then in the course of the year, put more money in from the Contingency Account to handle it. They can’t predict what it could be – even tomorrow.

Alderman Finn asked the Chief about the City Audit and indicated that in the last two years, his department has returned $1,430,777. Last year, it was indicated to them that if they still had the vacancies this year in the Police Department, they wouldn’t come back and request to have them funded again this year. With that amount of money being returned in two years, do they really need to have those positions filled and if so, why haven’t they been filled.

Chief Hurliman responded that during the course of the year, they ran two promotional exams and promoted one lieutenant and two detectives. There hasn’t been any entry level hiring because they haven’t run a test. With that being said, there are no vacancies at the Academy. They are planning on running a test. He wanted to point out that 90% of the Police Department’s budget is salary items, so when money gets returned, that is where it gets returned from. They will find that they do a pretty good job of spending the Equipment lines. When they ask for something, typically, they need it, and, therefore, they purchase it. Chief Hurliman stated that he could tell them that, if
they cut any of those salary positions from the budget, then they certainly are not going to be able to have any new people.

Alderman Finn commented that they have Lieutenants, Sergeants and Detectives, they would, hopefully, be promoted from with the department before anyone else from the outside would come in and take a test. They wouldn’t be required to go to the Academy.

Chief Hurliman responded that it is not their intention to bring Sergeants and Lieutenants in from the outside.

Alderman Finn stated yes, he’d prefer to see them promoted from the inside so why aren’t those vacancies for the lieutenants, sergeants and detectives being filled in the Police Department then.

Chief Hurliman responded that he thinks that he did state that they have already filled one lieutenant vacancy and two detective vacancies. They’ve already been tested.

Chairman Holden asked if it would also be a thing that they don’t want to have too many chiefs and no Indians.

Lieutenant Kozlowsky responded that they run a minimum of patrol officers that they have to meet so they have to look at the data because they are trying to save on overtime of how many officers. So before they can fill some of these upper level positions, they have to fill from the bottom, so they are waiting for that.

Alderman Finn commented that they currently have 7 ½ vacancies at the bottom.

Lt. Kozlowsky responded yes.

Alderman Simonetti stated that he feels that they should have the money available to them, but if there is no room at the Academy, could they hire someone who moved from one part of the State to another.

Chief Hurliman responded that they have hired officers from other departments in the past.

Alderman Simonetti responded OK, than it is something that they would be willing to do.

Chief Hurliman responded yes.

Alderman Papa asked if they are looking for openings in the Academy though.
Chief Hurliman responded yes, they are.

Alderman Finn commented that New Haven just had a large layoff of police officers. If they advertised and those officers applied, they wouldn’t have to go to the Academy because they’ve already been through that process, would that be correct?

Chief Hurliman responded yes, if someone has completed the Academy already and then gotten laid off, yes, that is correct.

Judson Crawford, Board of A&T asked a question regarding the Gasoline Account, #40-01. He asked who else, what other departments besides the police department, their officers and manpower are utilizing fuel from his department.

Chief Hurliman responded that the Fire Department fuels up at the Police Department pump and they track the number of gallons that they use.

Lt. Kozlowsky added that it is approx. 5,000 gallons/year.

Judson Crawford asked about the Fire Marshall account.

Lt. Kozlowsky responded that would come out of the Fire Department.

Judson Crawford asked if they have been credited for fuel taken from them.

Chief Hurliman responded yes, what happens is that the Fire Department, roughly around April buys them one load of fuel which is about 5,000 gallons, or the amount that they use during the course of the year.

Judson Crawford commented that he wasn’t present last night when the Fire Marshall came in, but he is requesting $6,300 for next year. This year it has $6,444 but not a penny has been expended. He’s saying that this would happen around April.

Chief Hurliman responded yes.

Judson Crawford commented that those funds really don’t need to be spread in other departments. Those could be put into one large line item for Gasoline. He is concerned that they are not getting full credit.

Alderman Finn indicated that he has a copy of the End of the Year Report that everyone receives and it does show that $3700 was transferred out of it.

Chairman Holden commented that one thought that he has is that they could arrange to have the Fire Department buy their load of fuel before the Budget
Runs that are used during the Budget Season so that the usage is reflected there.

Alderman Finn stated that the only ones in the Fire Department that would use that from the Fire Marshall’s Office would be the Asst. Chiefs because everyone else is diesel.

Chairman Holden asked if there were any further questions for the Police Department. There were none and he moved on to Capital items. On Capital, he noticed that once again they have the Phone System and the phone work order. He asked if that still needed to be done.

Chief Hurliman responded that on the Phone Recorder they have one to bid and they think that they are going to be able to make that purchase prior to the end of this fiscal year.

Chairman Holden asked, with the Phone System – if the City does move forward with the Voice Over Internet Protocol, will that take care of that for them.

Chief Hurliman responded yes, that would take care of that.

Chairman Holden asked about Vehicle Replacements and recalled that they have some pretty high mileage cars that are in service.

Chief Hurliman responded that they do have 7 cars that have 125,000+ miles on them.

Alderman Simonetti commented that it is not so much the mileage but the hours that those vehicles are running during the day is amazing.

Chairman Holden referenced Page 25-55, Book 2, Tab 10 for Capital Line Items and asked if there were any other questions.

Alderman Finn stated that he had a question regarding Revenue and the Police Department Receipts. He asked why they were anticipating receiving $1,000 less – copies, reports, photographs, cards and raffle permits. Would they rather go back with the $10,000.

Chief Hurliman responded no, they are expecting a decrease in that.

Alderman Anglace asked about the Police Private Duty and if they could, why they were looking to $757,000 this year to $936,000 next year in Police Private Duty. The economy doesn’t seem…

Chief Hurliman responded that they didn’t do that one – it isn’t in theirs.
Chairman Holden added that Alderman Anglace had been excused from last night’s meeting, but Building Permits, particularly for commercial development are up and they were advised that they could increase that line item by $10,000. He was comfortable with $10,000.

Alderman Anglace commented that Police Private Duty wasn’t going to be tied in with construction. It is going to be tied in with Road Improvements and things like that.

Chairman Holden responded yes, he was thinking that some of that would be required for the construction.

Charlotte Madar commented that is just a wash account anyway, John.

Alderman Anglace indicated that the cost per hour is going to go up because the pension costs went up and that is a driver right there. He thinks that it is a little bit high – did that come from Lou.

Chief Hurliman responded yes, that comes from Accounting.

Alderman Anglace stated that he was going to ask Accounting about that. He stated that perhaps Sharon anticipated it based upon the Employee Relations Act and maybe the potential for increase. He commented that everyone should remember that most other communities did not grow this year, but they did. It is mind-boggling, but they did.

Judson Crawford asked about the Police Private Duty. On here they are showing a proposed expenditure of $780,000 but under the Revenue section, it is showing $916,000. Is there any explanation for that.

Chairman Holden responded that could be the pension aspect of it.

Alderman Anglace added that it could be or also it could be the City tacks on 10% or 15% for administrative costs.

Chief Hurliman responded yes, right, that is probably what it is because the amount that is paid out to the officers is the amount (inaudible).

Chairman Holden indicated that is something that they should ask Sharon about because it comes up every year.

Sensing no other questions, everyone thanked Chief Hurliman and Lt. Kozlowsky for their time. They moved on to the -4400 line series for the Library.
Elspeth Lydon, Library Director; Sean Fields, Branch Director; Megan Allen, new President of the Friends of the Library represented the Library.

Ms. Lydon wanted to recognize and thank all the members of the Board of Aldermen and the Board of A&T for all the time and effort that they put into the budget process. It is a thankless job and no one is ever happy with what they have gotten. She appreciates everyone’s efforts.

Ms. Lydon stated that they Library is extremely grateful that they have not had to reduce hours and they have been able to man everything that they have been doing for years and they haven’t had to lose any Staff. She knows that she cannot say that is true for many other towns in the area. It is something that they are very proud of and grateful to the Mayor and the Administration for being able to stay in the position that they are in.

Ms. Lydon indicated that with that being said, there are a couple of lines that they are concerned about. One of them is the Part Time line #10-02. It is at the same number that it has been for over three years. With that stagnant number, they can’t give raises. The problem with not being able to give raises is that people aren’t recognized for what they have done. They have a lot of very talented Staff and a lot of them are part time. She has already heard from one person that she deserves a raise. She has told her that she agrees 100% but she can’t do it. She realizes that this person is going to look for something else and she is happy to write her a letter of recommendation because she is an excellent part of their mechanism and will be missed. She realized that people need to be recognized for what they do.

Ms. Lydon referenced other part time positions in the City where people earn more per hour and stated that she thinks that the inequity that exists within the part time positions in the City needs to be addressed. She thinks that the part time people at the Library work very hard and deserve more than $10.43/hour.

Ms. Lydon indicated that she is going to complain that the Library Book line #40-29 has been cut. It has been cut significantly within the last three years. What they are looking at now is that the State budget, with the new governor who is trying to reconcile a lot of negative financial problems and looking at things he can cut.

She stated that one of the things that he would like to cut is the transportation system that goes from town to town on a daily basis. If she can’t buy the books, than she can borrow them from another town, but if the system of transportation is gone, then she can’t do anything for the public. She can’t buy the books and she can’t get them delivered. She is sure that with billions of dollars that the State is in the hole, the Connecti-Car system is only a small drop but it is very important to all libraries right now. So, it is another thing to keep in mind that a
lot of the stop gaps that existed are going to disappear as everyone tries to pinch the last penny that they have.

Ms. Lydon suggested that the concept of savings are necessary and she agrees with them but it is easier to stomach if they can participate in where the savings occur. If they can let her select what lines she would like to hold back on so she doesn’t have to sacrifice books, because once it is gone, she can’t get it back. If she gets to choose, she’ll be able to keep books but give something back somewhere else.

Ms. Lydon indicated that most of them know their departments because that is what they are paid to do and to know what they are doing and what they are working with. She realizes that this is something that they can’t fix but it is something to keep in mind. The buy it is so much better, the management is so much better if the department head can determine where the savings need to be made. Whether it is a dollar value or a percentage of the budget.

Ms. Lydon commented that here have been editorials in the recent past. One mentioned the “s” word – “surplus” that is turned back by all the departments every year. Her suggestion is, if they haven’t done it yet, to ask every department head if there has been an issue with surplus that has been returned. She thinks that someone needs to look up the definition of “surplus.” It is not a surplus if you didn’t get to spend it or if the money is not released by the Administration. A surplus is something that you don’t need. It is not money that you couldn’t get. She is here to tell them that she has money that she can’t get. She hasn’t had a purchase order in 6 weeks. They are sitting and waiting to be released. There are vendors sitting and waiting for her to pay them. She doesn’t know how they are going to deal with that one, but they need to know how widespread that problem is. Maybe it is just the Library that has a problem, she doesn’t know.

Ms. Lydon indicated that another editorial in the Herald challenged the Department Head’s to show what they will be doing with the additional funds requested. She stated that the Library is going to keep doing what it has done for decades.

Ms. Lydon showed them a short picture of the stats from the Annual Report last year that combined Plumb Library and the Branch. They had 314 Adult Programs, they had 560 Children’s Programs. At the Adult Programs they had 3,300+ people and at the Children’s Programs they had 8,020 children. They circulated 173,000 books, just books; 92,500 DVDs went out; 28,500 sessions on their Internet computers, visits to the Library Home Page were 104,000. That is what they are getting for the dollars that they are given – and they don’t even get all the dollars they give them. She stated that she would answer any questions that they have.
Chairman Holden indicated to Elspeth that she is always very well prepared and he enjoys her presentations. He commented that she mentioned that she would like to have some ability to influence where the cuts are made. He suggested starting off there with those line items – he asked her to bear in mind, is that something that she can do, although he doesn’t know if it will get her around her purchase order issue. There is the possibility of transferring funds between accounts during the course of the year.

Ms. Lydon responded that it still doesn’t release the P.O.

Chairman Holden indicated that he can’t do anything about that but the general rule is that the Board of A&T is willing to make transfers that make sense for a department head so that she can allocate funds that she thinks are in the best interest of the taxpayers. He asked which line items she would raid to put more money into either Part Time Employees or the Library Books.

Ms. Lydon responded that she could sacrifice a little bit in #40-05 Postage because most of the books that they buy are from vendors who don’t charge them shipping so it is a bonus. Also, they aren’t allowed to buy any equipment, so they can’t spend any shipping money.

Ms. Lydon stated that she would probably pare from #40-53 Library Supplies a little bit. Equipment Purchases, $5000 is what they were given and she would consider cutting that down to $1,000. Maintenance, possibly a little bit. Special Events got a lot in and they appreciate that but it might be someplace that they could compromise. She added that if it is taken away, she wants to see it somewhere else and not just lose it.

Chairman Holden commented that he didn’t notice anything in her budget regarding E-Books. He doesn’t have a Kindle or a Nook but he knows that they are catching on.

Mr. Sean Fields, Branch Director, responded that they purchase those through a consortium, so through the Biblomation consortium they purchase them. They have also purchased some titles or the rights to buy titles that are exclusive just for Shelton.

Mr. Fields commented that he had a word of caution about E-Books. One is based upon surveys that they do of their members every year, 50% of them don’t even use the online catalogue so you can imagine that they aren’t using E-books. There are a lot of issues with the E-Books vendors. Publishers like Harper Collins, this week announced that they weren’t going to honor the license after a certain number of circulations. When he used to work at academic libraries, they had this issue a long time ago with journals – if they change the price on you or change the deal, you’ve permanently lost the money that they’ve sunk into it. But if they buy a book, it is on their shelf forever. So, for an item like a Kindle,
amazon.com really doesn’t want libraries using them so they have to do all sorts of funky things to load books onto them. They don’t accept the common format for e-books, it is just the amazon.com format. There are all sorts of issues with them and they have avoided purchasing the units themselves but anybody with computer access can go on and download those to their computers or other devices and even print them out. It is a mess and very difficult right now, fighting with the publishers over that stuff.

Chairman Holden responded that it is not a surprise to him. He has a number of relatives who have bought them recently so he is mindful that seems to be a direction that is picking up some speed. The good thing about them is that you can store 1500 books and use no space at all.

Mr. Fields commented that another issue though, and amazon.com has actually done this; ironically, they did it with George Orwell’s “1984.” People who had purchased that book, at one point, they went into your Kindle’s without asking and without your knowledge and took it back because they lost the license. So, libraries are about intellectual freedom and privacy protection and these readers aren’t affording either of those so they are trying to navigate the perilous waters of this application. They are working with the consortia to do that.

Chairman Holden asked if there were any other questions for the Library.

Alderman Finn asked about the comments that were made about Purchase Orders being held up and not being allowed to spend the money that they would like to. Their books show that the Library department returned $117,000 last year that was not used.

Ms. Lydon responded that $10,000 was for books that she couldn’t liberate.

Alderman Finn asked what else she wasn’t allowed to purchase.

Mr. Fields responded that it was any of it that they were trying to spend.

Ms. Lydon agreed and some of it was an allocation that was larger than they needed – that is always hard to call. She suspects that the Media line had money in that they weren’t able to spend. She thinks it was also Subscriptions.

Mr. Fields commented that he could provide an example from this year. They asked for Equipment money for this fiscal year because now they have three meeting rooms at the Branch and they ran out of chairs. They had money in the budget, had not used any Equipment money yet, put in a request and heard nothing for weeks. Finally, they get the answer that Health-Net is closing and they are going to donate some materials. He spoke to the woman at Health-Net and they didn’t have the kind of chairs that they needed. They said that they might have something in about a year. Mr. Fields indicated that didn’t help them
right now though. They asked again for those chairs and there were some tables too, and they heard nothing.

Alderman Finn asked if those were the stackable chairs that they are looking for.

Mr. Fields responded yes. That is what they go through on a weekly basis.

Alderman Finn asked about the laptops that they were looking for in the past for both libraries and the computers that they have been looking for both libraries to replace them. Have they all been replaced?

Ms. Lydon responded that the IT line is another account. They don’t even get to submit that with their budget. IT is the entire City’s account. She answered that he is correct, they still haven’t gotten what they were supposed to get when the Technology Committee made its recommendations. Mr. Anglace was on that 5 years ago but she doesn’t really remember because it was so long ago.

Alderman Anglace commented that he thinks that, for the benefit for everyone around this table, she should follow up on Mark’s suggestion to determine how she would allocate her own funds to give them an idea. In regard to the Part Time employee’s account, this isn’t the first year that she has been here trying to get a raise for them. He asked if she suggested a dollar amount for that account as to what she needs.

Ms. Lydon responded that she asked for 2% this year, because it is less than they were given so she thought it might be a palatable amount.

Alderman Anglace indicated that was good logic and it behooves the rest of them to prevail on the Mayor to make some adjustment in that area. This is not a single year that they are looking at and it is probably long overdue. As long as they understand that the 2% would be to give increases to those part time employees and not hire new part time employees.

Ms. Lydon responded OK, absolutely not.

Alderman Finn commented (inaudible, multiple discussions…)

Chairman Holden asked if there were any other questions for the Library.

Alderman Finn asked about the PO’s that she hasn’t gotten back – what is the total amount of the PO’s that she sent to the Mayor’s Office and haven’t gotten back yet.

Ms. Lydon responded about $7,000. The problem is three of them are new database renewals. She gets calls weekly with them asking where the money is. She submitted the paperwork 6 weeks ago, that’s plenty of time to get it through.
All the required paperwork, including 3 competitive prices to show that they have looked at alternatives, were included with the request.

Alderman Anglace asked Ms. Lydon if anyone has told her why this purchase order was not allowed to go forward.

Ms. Lydon responded no, she doesn’t get any answers. They just disappear.

Alderman Anglace stated that to some degree, when the anticipated revenues from last year fell off considerably, the Mayor took the initiative to just stop a number of Purchase Orders, not just her department, a number of expenditures to make up that difference and cover that loss of revenue. And it was considerable. Just so she knows that there is a reason for it. He isn’t speaking for the Mayor, he is just telling her what he knows.

Ms. Lydon responded that the problem that she has is that she has some bills that need to be paid, and then there are things that she can choose not to purchase.

Alderman Anglace stated that isn’t a purchase order if the bill has to be paid.

Ms. Lydon responded that it is a renewal of a subscription.

Alderman Anglace indicated that somebody has to cut the check then.

Ms. Lydon responded that no, that isn’t the way that it is working.

Alderman Anglace commented that if it is a subscription, then it is a commitment; it’s not a purchase order if she already bought it.

Ms. Lydon indicated that it has to go through Finance as a Purchase Order.

Alderman Finn confirmed that anything over $100 has to go up as a Purchase Order to the Mayor.

Alderman Anglace asked if that was the case even if it’s a…

Alderman Finn stated yes, anything over $99.99 – anything above that requires a Purchase Order.

Ms. Lydon commented that she likes Alderman Anglace’s idea better.

Alderman Anglace stated that if something is not being paid, he’d like Ms. Lydon to send it to him.

Ms. Lydon responded sure, she’ll even send it with some licorice.
Alderman Simonetti asked about the new iPads, Kindles, and Nooks – have they looked into that to help getting books out to people or anything like that.

Ms. Lydon responded, no they cost about $150.00 each. Alderman Simonetti asked if they can be rented or anything.

Mr. Fields responded that is what they were talking about before. If you buy a Kindle, you can only buy an e-book through amazon.com. They don’t want to sell to libraries because they don’t want them circulated. They buy those e-books via a consortium and let people buy their own devices.

Ms. Lydon added that they put a numbers of bits in the column of the Huntington Herald that carries their weekly activities, and at the end, especially around Christmas, she stated that if anyone is looking to buy an e-book reader, and if they would like to use the free resources that the library offers, buy a generic e-book reader such as the Barnes & Noble Nook. Because everything but an amazon.com Kindle can use all the books that the library has subscribed to. They have thousands of titles. If they look in their catalogue, it will say “electronic resource” and it can be downloaded to a reader.

Faith Hack asked if that included the iPad.

Mr. Fields responded yes, you just have to look – they have some older titles that don’t work with those. Each title lists which devices it works with. The licensing works very similar to a regular book. It is checked out and it is gone for basically a two-week period. They have agreed that only one person is going to have it at any one time. There are a couple of titles where multiples can go on there, but they are more expensive.

Ms. Lydon added that they can still download audio books to an mp3 player or a computer. They have thousands of dollars worth of those that are also for free too.

With no other questions from either Board, Chairman Holden thanked the Library representatives for the wonderful job that they do.

-4800 MUNICIPAL PROPERTY MAINTENANCE

Chris Patusek, Maintenance Department stated that they have a concern regarding the cut in their Part Time employees. They are acquiring 7 more employees, one Full Time and 6 Part Time from the Community Center so they are trying to plan for that.

Alderman Simonetti commented that they are going from Parks & Rec to the Maintenance Department. He asked John if they are giving them the money too.
Alderman Papa responded that they just transfer the budget over.

Alderman Simonetti stated that they have to make sure that they give him the money too. He asked Chris if he has picked up any new properties or is he having more maintenance problems because the properties are getting older. He asked what his biggest problem was.

Mr. Patusek responded that it is a little bit more of both. They have a couple more houses but they are really just shutting them down and winterizing them.

Alderman Simonetti asked if they were going to open them up and rent them or just keep them shuttered.

Mr. Patusek responded that he really does not know.

Alderman Anglace commented that this department got the biggest increase.

Chairman Holden stated yes that is also including (inaudible).

Faith Hack commented that it went up $351,000 — but it is less than he wanted.

Mr. Patusek responded that it is all the Part Time people from Parks & Rec.

Alderman Simonetti added yes, 7 people. He asked him if he works on the schools or just the public buildings.

Mr. Patusek responded just the public buildings — they have 22 municipal buildings.

Alderman Simonetti asked if he’ll be doing the Community Center now as part of this.

Mr. Patusek responded yes.

Chairman Holden asked if anyone else had questions regarding the -4800 line series.

Alderman Papa commented that he just wanted to tell Chris what a good job he did at the Nike Site putting a whole new roof on the latchkey. It was a long job, it looks good and they did a nice job.

Mr. Patusek responded thanks, and they are still working on it for a little while longer — thank you.
Alderman Anglace stated that he hears too many good things about this guy – it isn’t normal.

Mr. Patusek responded that he wants to make the City look good and run well.

Chairman Holden asked if there were any questions for the -4800 line series.

Faith Hack asked about the Capital items.

Mr. Patusek responded yes, the lights downtown and a new vehicle.

Alderman Simonetti asked what building gives him the biggest problem.

Mr. Patusek responded that it would be all of them.

Chairman Holden stated that the -4800 series capital items were on page 48-19. Replacement Light Poles at Riverwalk, $20,000; New Maintenance Vehicles, $45,475. He asked about the type of lights he would be installing on the Riverwalk.

Mr. Patusek responded that they have been looking at LED’s from an energy-saving standpoint plus they were trying to deal with UI right now to see if there were any incentives for them to change over their outside lights.

Chairman Holden commented that he thinks that now there is also a requirement that they be full cut off light fixtures so all the light is directed downward as opposed to up.

Mr. Patusek responded yes, right.

Judson Crawford, Board of A&T, asked about line item #65-09 Fire Department Building Maintenance. He is still requesting the same amount as last year. He asked him if he thinks it would be better if this should be transferred to the Fire Department and they would be able to make their own building and maintenance repairs instead of contacting someone from his department.

Mr. Patusek responded that so far he hasn’t heard of any issues. He thinks that they would have to talk to the employees of the Fire House to see if they have issues with them. But so far, they contact them and they get there as soon as they can – and so far, he hasn’t heard anything.

Alderman Papa commented that his job is to maintain all the City buildings exclusive of the BOE. So if they have a problem with a window or a door, they call Chris and Chris would go maintain those areas. That is why ....
Chairman Holden added that this isn’t Fire Department equipment, it is Building Equipment – City equipment.

Alderman Finn commented that as a member of Company #5, they are very happy with the service that Chris gives them. He has replaced all the lights in their bay, addressed problems with the furnace and the toilets.

Alderman Anglace stated that he is hearing too many good things.

Chairman Holden commented that it is one less thing for the Firemen to worry about and as it is they are volunteers. Any other questions on the -4800 line series – regular line items or capital. He thanked Mr. Patusek.

-5800 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Charlene DeFilippo, Community Development indicated that she thinks that the statement she submitted with her budget request is pretty detailed. There is something that she would like to explain. She has a similar comment as Joel did earlier with Payroll not deducting her Part Timers hours. Last year she did hire someone part time for 5 or 6 hours a week. He is so productive that it is working out well for her. She estimated that the $6,000 allocated for part time hours, she believes that there has been about $4,000 put toward his salary. She doesn’t know why it hasn’t been deducted by Finance. She actually brought it to their attention a couple of months ago and they said they would make the adjustment. She believes that it is because this gentleman, Fred Wills is shared by 3 different departments – he works some hours for P&Z, some hours for Inland Wetlands and then 5 or 6 hours a week for the Community Development Anti-Blight Program.

Ms. DeFelippo commented that she thinks that what they do is exhaust P&Z’s allocation for him, then go to Inland Wetlands and then they will dip into her budget. She just doesn’t want it to look like she has $6,000 sitting there that she hasn’t used. She is estimating that $4,000 from someplace went towards Fred’s salary.

As far as the balance left in Meetings and Travel, she was fortunate enough this year to find a couple of free workshops – free grant workshops. She is sure that she won’t be that lucky every year but it helped a little bit this year. She thinks that everything else is pretty self-explanatory unless anyone has any questions.

Alderman McPherson asked if they can get by with the Sheriff’s Fees because he knows that with the Anti-Blight issues alone, they have had to use the Sheriff fees quite a bit. He asked if she thinks that is going to be enough.

Ms. DeFelippo responded that she didn’t want to ask for too much because she is trying to get by with what she has. She added that it worked out pretty good
and she talked about it with Fred. They are hoping that with their efforts, they won’t have to include the Sheriff all the time. They have a couple problem situations but she is trying to be optimistic.

Alderman McPherson responded that he can attest to that and he appreciates the job that her department does, and Fred and Mr. Ballaro. He has worked with all of them and he thinks they do a tremendous job.

Ms. DeFelippo stated that they are a good team and with Alderman McPherson’s help, the new ordinance is out and that has been a benefit.

Chairman Holden commented that they are budgeted for $300,000 under LOCIP. His understanding is that there is a carry-forward if the funds are not used one year.

Ms. DeFelippo responded yes, it rolls over to the next, right.

Chairman Holden asked where they stand in terms of that.

Ms. DeFelippo responded that she just found out yesterday. She can’t tell him exactly the dollar figure that was rolled over but the new allocation is $273,609. She believes that amount with the roll over is about $599,000 but, again that is off the top of her head.

Chairman Holden commented that there have been some capital items requested by various departments. He thinks that they probably want to leave a little bit of excess available in LOCIP in case something else comes along. He thinks that possibly this might not be a bad time to look into tapping more than the current allocation, if they can identify items that would fit into that category. When they make their recommendations in terms of capital line items, they have to figure that there is some way of paying for it – and LOCIP is a nice one.

Ms. DeFelippo responded that they used to set aside about $500,000 at one time, but $300,000 works fine because she tries to get reimbursement immediately.

Alderman Anglace asked Chairman Holden to identify any projects that are eligible for LOCIP, earmark them and make a special list.

Chairman Holden responded yes, they always do.

Alderman Anglace responded that would be very good because, as Charlene said, they do have the money, they do get an allocation. He added that he honestly did not anticipate any LOCIP allocation this year.

Ms. DeFelippo responded that she didn’t either.
Alderman Anglase stated that if anything, he thought the Governor was going to bury LOCIP and he didn’t. So, if they keep their word and go through with the $273,000, then that money is available to use. They can identify it and proceed.

Chairman Holden added that he also thinks that in this climate, it might make sense to use some of the extra funds because they might discontinue the program, and if it isn’t used, they lose it.

Ms. DeFelippo commented, that as John said, it was a pleasant surprise when she went on the site on March 1st to see that allocation because she was not expecting it. She thinks it was about 8 years ago where they held up the program for about 6 months and it was because they didn’t have the funding for it.

Alderman Anglase stated that fortunately, they don’t have the stomach to cut anything out. It is fortunate for them but unfortunate for the State overall. But this is a program that could have been cut, should have been cut, but wasn’t cut – so take it.

With no further questions from either Board, Chairman Holden thanked Ms. DeFelippo and moved along to line series -3100 for the Building Department.

**-3100 BUILDING DEPARTMENT**

Joe Ballaro represented the Building Department.

Alderman Anglase asked Mr. Ballaro if he received his allocation.

Mr. Ballaro responded that they don’t accept those in the Building Department.

Alderman Anglase stated that it was not a gift, it was an allocation.

Chairman Holden asked Mr. Ballaro if he had an opening statement. Mr. Ballaro responded no, he was just here to answer any questions. He asked if anyone had any questions on the 3100 line series.

Alderman Simonetti asked if Mr. Ballaro asked he had any vehicles.

Mr. Ballaro responded that they have 3 vehicles and the one with the least amount of miles is 114,000.

Alderman Simonetti asked if he used his own personal vehicle to attend monthly building official meetings, seminars and training sessions. Is that why he put it in for $300.
Mr. Ballaro responded that they don’t. He doesn’t think they have ever used it but its $300 in case they ever do need to use it.

Mr. Ballaro indicated that the Minor Tools, Dues & Subscriptions, Vehicle Cleaning is for car washes – they have been trying to be thrifty with this recession going on.

Alderman Anglace asked what the Emergency Services #80-03 was used for.

Mr. Ballaro responded that is used in case they have to tear a house down in a hurry.

Alderman Anglace commented that they don’t need the money in that account if they take a house down, they come to the BOA and they provide him with the money to do it.

Chairman Holden indicated that it gives him enough money for a minor board up or something like that.

Alderman Papa added that it was for minor operations.

Mr. Ballaro responded yes, it is barely enough to take it down let alone take it away.

Alderman Anglace agreed that it was only $2,000 but when these things happen, they can’t predict when they happen. But when they do happen, come to them and they’ll give him the money.

Chairman Holden indicated that this will let him do something minor. He doesn’t want to call the Mayor in the middle of the night to tell him that they have to board something up.

Judson Crawford, Board of A&T asked if he could verify the accuracy of this report. It has been going on under his account under #40-18 Minor Tools. For this fiscal year, it shows an expenditure of $6.00. Is that correct?

Mr. Ballaro responded yes, they bought something minor – a minor tool. They are trying not to spend any money because it is a recession.

Chairman Holden asked if there were any other questions on -3100. Sensing none, he thanked Mr. Ballaro. The next line item is for Public Works -3500. There was no representative for Public Works.

**-3500 PUBLIC WORKS**

Alderman McPherson added that he said on Tuesday, he would not be coming.
Chairman Holden indicated that the next line item was -3600 for the City Engineer.

Robert Kulacz, City Engineer indicated that he had no opening comments but would answer any questions.

Alderman McPherson asked about #80-43 Sidewalk Reimbursements – he asked if he could get by with that amount because he sees a lot of sidewalks that need work.

Mr. Kulacz responded that the account was for reimbursements so it depends upon which homeowners put into the program. As of this fiscal year, he hasn’t had one reimbursement. He thinks that the one just came in. They just completed the work before all the snow fell. It will be on the next Street Committee Meeting for reimbursement.

Alderman Papa asked what happens if there is a sidewalk that has to be done because it is a safety issue. He asked if the City goes after that person and tells them that it must be repaired.

Mr. Kulacz responded yes, by ordinance, they have the right to send them a certified letter and give them XX number of days, and if they don’t repair it, the City can repair it, and put a lien on the property.

Sensing no other questions on the -3600 line series, Chairman Holden thanked Mr. Kulacz.

Dean Cawthra, Tree Warden had no opening comments. Alderman Anglace asked him if he needed any equipment or any money for capital items.

Mr. Cawthra responded no.

Charlene Madar informed Mr. Cawthra that at the end of Birdseye Road just before going onto Soundview, there is a large tree lying on the wires for some time. The only thing holding the tree up is the wires.

Mr. Cawthra responded that is UI’s problem. They aren’t allowed to go within 10 feet of those wires. He’ll call them again tomorrow.
Faith Hack, Board of A&T indicated that for Tree Maintenance #30-28 he asked for $100,000 and he was reduced by $35,000. In view of all that is going on, is this going to be enough for him.

Mr. Cawthra responded that it is probably enough. If not, he'll come back. He's done that before.

Alderman Anglace commented that if he has a major issue, it is obvious and they don't have any choice, so he can just come back.

Sensing no other questions, Chairman Holden thanked the Tree Warden. The next line item -3200 is for Highways & Bridges, Paul DiMauro.

**-3200 HIGHWAYS & BRIDGES**

Alderman McPherson stated that Paul DiMauro was unable to attend.

Alderman Finn pointed out an addition error on Page 32-02 of the book. It is correct on the budget run-off but there is an addition error on the page itself. He indicated that total at the bottom of the page is $1,744,965. There is $13,455 addition mistake in Regular Payroll #10-01.

Faith Hack indicated that there were some capital items.

Chairman Holden stated that they are again looking for a Dump Truck with a Plow and Sander. They pretty much do one of those a year. Again, they are looking for a Mason Dump; it usually doesn't get funded. They are looking this year for a 10-wheel Dump Truck with a Plow and Sander, and that is a $190,000 item. He stated that will be a tough one to find money for.

Alderman Finn stated that his understanding is that he'd like to get three trucks and have them all do the major roadways and have the smaller ones do the subdivisions.

Chairman Holden continued that they have $8,500 for Snow Plow replacements; $90,000 for a Multi-use Mower with attachments; $45,000 for Truck Body replacements and a Road Grader for $150,000. One thing that they have done is buy more road equipment to save some money by doing more of the work themselves.

Alderman McPherson commented that with some of these trucks, they might even be able to ride off a State bid, piggy-back on them, like the Police Departments do to get a discount.

Chairman Holden stated that they could do that or go out to bid individually. One of the things that he has done this year on some of the road equipment, he has
gone for used equipment. Like some of the paving equipment, used or new, it
doesn’t really matter if it is in good condition and it works; that allows them to
save a significant amount on the purchase.

Alderman Papa commented that he is very good about his equipment and right
now a lot of companies are getting rid of their equipment because of the
economy so he has been looking for a lot of equipment.

Alderman Finn stated that he has also indicated that he returned the paver that
they have now because it basically does driveways. He is looking for a looking
for a larger paver so that there will only be one seam down the roadway instead
of three seams that they see at the present time.

Alderman Anglace indicated that this year, they discovered a Milling Machine.
They demonstrated it for the Street Committee. The Street Committee liked it
and they bought it. Immediately they began patching all over the place and got a
lot of work done. It was a good purchase – and they did everything in house. So,
if he discovers something that is a good value, he speaks up.

Chairman Holden commented that in talking with him, he thinks that he is trying
to look out for the taxpayers and look for bang with the buck.

Judson Crawford asked if someone here can answer when Longevity will be
paid.

Chairman Holden responded that he thinks that comes at the end of the year.

Judson Crawford asked about #30-25 Emission Testing, nothing has been
expended. Account #40-51 OEM and Account #40-52 OEM – the same amount
has been put in each year and never expended.

Alderman Finn asked if they still have a vehicle.

Chairman Holden responded that he thinks that they do have a vehicle now.
They didn’t for a while.

Alderman Finn indicated that the point that he was making is that the racked the
car up and he didn’t have a car. That is probably why the reason why the line
items weren’t being expended for tires and other parts for the OEM vehicle

Judson Crawford responded that has been put in each year and has never been
expended.

Chairman Holden commented that they aren’t here to answer on that.

Judson Crawford responded that he just wants to bring that out.
Chairman Holden stated that he can endeavor to get in touch with them.

**-3300 ROAD REPAIRS**

Chairman Holden indicated that they were going to move on to Road Maintenance. He added that the Mayor has reduced that line item; $125,000 was requested and he has reduced it to $25,000. He asked if they still had some money available for bonding on that.

Alderman Anglace stated that he wanted to take a minute. He stated that the voters approved $4M to fix roads and he is sure that the voters didn’t intend that money to be spent for potholes. This is a bona fide fix-the-road situation. Everybody in every ward has got roads. He wants to suggest a way to handle this. He is working directly with Paul DiMauro and he recommends that each one of them do the same thing. He told Paul the roads in his ward that he thinks are in great need and deserve high priority. He invited him to come out and look at them. He suggested to everyone that they get him out there, work with him directly and assess the situation because he and the Mayor are going to sit down and they are going to come up with a priority list of roads that are going to be done. He suggested that everyone have a one-on-one with Paul and take him out and show him.

Alderman Finn commented that he has already done that and submitted a list of 19 streets to him.

Alderman Anglace responded yes, that is the way that is the way they should do it. Each of the Aldermen are working with Highway & Bridges to bring it to their attention which roads require attention and should be done, so that they can prioritize. He thinks that this is the best way for all – the Board of A&T suggested bringing it the attention of the Alderman of that Ward.

Alderman Farrell commented that they had Paul at their meeting. He said that they are going to do something on Buddington Road where those three houses are.

Alderman Anglace stated that the first ½ mile or so of Buddington Road is going to be fixed in conjunction with the development there so they aren’t going to put money into it. But this goes beyond that. There is only $25,000 here because the money is going to come out of bonding.

Alderman Finn added that the Mayor said that during his budget presentation that they were going to use the money from bonding for road repairs.

Alderman McPherson commented that they certainly have a lot of roads that need to be redone and they will be done – the right way.
Alderman Anglace indicated that last year, where they did come in with the milling machine they did an excellent job with the patching and a lot of it was on the main roads too.

Alderman Finn commented that they redid Megan Court from the beginning to the cul-de-sac.

Alderman Anglace stated that they are on the right track. They do have the money, out of capital, to address these things. He is just suggesting a way that they can do this by prioritizing.

-3800 RECYCLING PROGRAM

Chairman Holden indicated that they would move along to the Recycling Program, line series #3800. Their budget was as requested.

Alderman Anglace stated that the BOA extended the contract for a year – the Trash-Master contract and it is at the same price.

Chairman Holden stated that they are actually budgeting for a little bit of a reduction.

-3900 SANITATION

Chairman Holden stated that the Mayor has allocated a little bit more than has been requested. Apparently, he finds out more in the timeframe from when the initial request is done and when he has to make the initial presentation to them.

Alderman Anglace stated that Garbage Collection is the same. Disposal Fees have gone up a little but they are different, it is usually the amount for the transfer station.

-6300 VEHICLE FUNDS

Chairman Holden indicated that there are Police vehicles. They requested $239,247 and the Mayor recommended nothing.

Alderman Anglace stated that they aren’t going to give them anything out of the budget; they are going to give it to them through Capital.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Holden indicated that with no further business on the agenda, he adjourned the meeting at 7:50 p.m. On Tuesday, March 8th, it’s a light night with only one department, BOE.
Respectfully submitted,

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