Call to Order / Pledge of Allegiance

Board of Apportionment and Taxation Chairman Mark Holden called the hearing to order at 7 p.m. All those present rose and pledged allegiance to the flag.

Roll Call

BOARD OF APPORTIONMENT AND TAXATION

Mark Holden, Chairman – present
Christopher Besecheck, absent
Judson Crawford, present
Faith Hack, present
John Zikaras, present
Charlotte Madar, present

BOARD OF ALDERMEN

Lynne Farrell
Jack Finn

Mr. Holden stated, we have several people that are excused from appearing this evening because of conflicting items. John Anglance’s wife is quite ill and he is spending time by her side. Chris Besecheck had to work this evening and couldn’t get out. Noreen McGorty mentioned she had a work conflict as well. Anthony Simonetti had a prior commitment for another meeting. Odds are the others have valid reasons for not being here as well.

LINE 6100 – MISCELLANEOUS

This evening we have a few line series. The first is the 6100 series. I doubt there is anyone here to present for that. I intend to breeze through it very quickly and members of Apportionment and Taxation can discuss it in our workshop phase. The line items there, actually all of them were put in at the budget request by the department, or in some cases there wasn’t a department request but the Mayor put it in. Things
like Citizens Advisory Board - $1,000; Miscellaneous Refunds - $500; Americans with Disabilities Commission - $375; Nutmeg State Games - $2,500; Fireworks Display - $12,000; Instruction books for the parochial schools $25,000; CT Coalition for Justice Education $5,000. Other ones that are larger are Police Private Duty, which is a wash account of $676,000 – there is income that offsets it and they do match. Youth Programs is listed as $120,000 – we believe at the moment that is a typographical error, but that does need to be checked out. If it is found to be a typo, this would free up funds for some of the important needs that were already identified. $300,000 for LOCIP projects – that’s money that is used for capital items and is put in the budget so that it balances things out, but then when we do our area we will figure out ways that we think it makes sense to allocate those funds.

LINE 6200 – CAPITAL SPENDING

Mr. Holden stated, again, this is something we have nobody here to present. We will address this in our workshops. We have covered capital spending in line with the various departments as we’ve proceeded through the process.

LINE 6500 – OUTSIDE AGENCIES

Valley Transit District

Christian Counseling Center

The request is for $10,000. You have $2,500 for the current fiscal year and the Mayor has reduced the request from $10,000 to $4,000.

Kathy Bronson, President of the Christian Counseling Center. Jill and Marcie, Co-Directors.

The organization is a wonderful resource for Shelton. We have a psychiatrist, two psychiatric nurse-practitioners and nine therapists working at the Christian Counseling Center. The Center is located in the center of Huntington. It was originally under the umbrella of St. Paul’s Episcopal Church and two years ago became independent and is open to all who want to come; all faiths. It is a mental health agency, licensed marriage and family therapists, and licensed clinical social worker. We are on many different insurance panels.
One of our continued commitments is to welcome all regardless of the ability to pay. We would like to be able to have more interns on staff. For those going through life transitions, facing divorces, teenagers, we go to the High School, meet with staff there, working with teens. It’s an incredible resource for the community. As we are able to take on and supervise interns, it provides a resource for those who are unable to pay. People of all faiths are welcome and feel comfortable. Shelton helps to make that possible.

The facility is approachable, like a little house with comfortable little rooms. It’s very accessible and welcoming to those in need. We need the funds; our goal is to turn no one away.

We services 339 cases in 209 - 1/3 of those were from Shelton. If it’s a family, one case could be five people. We do not receive any funding from any of the other area towns. We are looking to become more active in workshops and open events and therapy groups to be responsive to the needs of the town.

South Central Connecticut EMS Council

TEAM, Inc.

Liberty Center – The Morris Foundation

Mr. Holden stated, the Liberty Center has e-mailed me their annual report for last year, and also a sheet that has statistics on the number of Shelton residents they service through their local office.

(Unidentified speaker) The Morris Foundation’s corporate offices are in Waterbury, but the satellite office is Liberty Center, 30 Controls Drive in Shelton. We used to be located in Ansonia, and two years ago moved to the Shelton location. We’ve been in the Valley for 10 years.

We are a full-service behavioral health organization, primarily a substance abuse organization for many years. We are both substance abuse and mental health providers. We also provide counseling for adolescents. We have a very large adolescent program in the Shelton school system and we do referring back and forth to the High School. We serve quite a few kids from Shelton.
We have prevention, adolescent services, adult services, traditional counseling, and group services in a traditional setting – all day and evening, no residential.

I am the Chief Operating Officer, VP for the whole company. I oversee the Shelton area because I live in this area. We’ve had a large growth spurt. We serve a lot of your folks – in the last year alone we’ve had 2,597 clinical visits for just Shelton residents only. Shelton is predominantly the town that we serve. We had 463 group contacts in Shelton High School. We did about 302 individual sessions for residents over this year.

Our primary funding source is the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services. In terms of the town and making up for payment for those who can’t pay, we don’t receive too much. United Way decreased our funding by about 17 percent this past year. We rely on some state funding, some out-of-pocket, some insurance. With this economy, services have spiked, people need us more, and they often don’t have coverage. We take out of pocket what people can give. If they don’t have it, we don’t charge them.

Sometimes people don’t want to seek treatment in their town, so they’ll come to our Waterbury office. It’s nice to be able to give them the option to be discreet.

Our request this year is for $15,000. We may get a few dollars from Derby, and Ansonia has waned. It is predominantly from Shelton. It is a much needed support for us.

Mr. Holden noted the agency did not receive anything from Shelton last year, and at present is down for zero.

The representative from Morris Foundation stated, I’m not sure why; I think there was some communication problem last year. I have always come to this meeting in the past.

Mr. Holden stated, I don't know what we'll be able to do for you. I received the information from Joan and had a nice conversation with her. We will certainly be discussing it in our workshops.

**Housatonic Lake Authority**
Boys & Girls Club

Shaye Roscoe – Unit Director, Lower Naugatuck Valley Boys and Girls Club. She presented a copy of the newsletter and annual report and handbook.

Memorial Day Parade

Housatonic Valley Association

Rape Crisis Center

Peggy Pisano, Executive Director, Rape Crisis Center

Our Center is primarily broken down into two types of services – our victim services where we respond to the victims of sexual assault, and our community educator who is in your school system here in Shelton and the other service areas that we cover, which include Milford, Orange, West Haven, Derby, Ansonia and Seymour.

Last year we dealt with 31 victims of sexual assault here in Shelton. We met with close to 3,400 students in the school system. We do not charge for any of the services that we provide because we wouldn’t want anyone not be able to avail themselves to the services that we provide.

We work very closely with your Police Department, we work hand-in-hand with your Detective Bureau. They contact us whenever they’re aware they’re dealing with a sexual assault victim. We respond to the Police Department or the hospital if the victim has gone directly there, remaining with them through the collection of evidence and through any meetings with the Police Detective. As the case goes forward, also to any meetings with the prosecutor, if we’re able to get that far. And of course through the court system if there actually is a trial, we remain with them as well.

We provide short-term counseling for the victims of sexual assault and their family members at no charge. Usually from the date of the incident until there is a disposition in court, it’s at least one year if not two, sometimes three years. We remain in contact with the victim throughout this entire time trying to help them and their family members.

The community education program deals from pre-k through grade 12 here in Shelton with age-appropriate lessons. We have puppet shows for very young children, pre-k children. Certainly nothing that is alarming;
we never say the words sexual assault or rape to young children. We talk to them about body safety and keeping themselves safe and who they might turn to. We make the children think about who they might turn to if they did need to talk to someone. Mom and Dad, family members, also the school nurse and your teacher at school and the principal. Just helping children think that process through of how they may be able to get help if something were happening.

Again, our services are provided completely free of charge. We are funded primarily through our umbrella agency which is called CONSACS – Connecticut Sexual Assault Crisis Services – and there are eight other rape crisis centers in the State of Connecticut. They help us with funding, with federal and state grants. We also are provided with some funding through the United Way, the Department of Children and Families.

Your Shelton Police Department is a member of something we call the Multi-Disciplinary Team that deals exclusively with cases of child sexual and physical abuse. We bring all the members of our service area together as a team and we work through different cases and make sure that the families are getting services that they need. The children are getting the forensic interviews and medical exams. That is actually funded through the Department of Children and Families. Shelton is a very major part of that team.

The Umbrella

Susan DeLeon, Director, distributed some brochures. We provide safety for the victims of domestic violence and their children, and we work with men as well as women.

Shelton Day

Area Congregations Together

John Trovarelli, Case Manager, Spooner House was in attendance.

Regional Mental Health Board

Derby Historical Society

Valley Council of Governments

Shelton Historical Society
Tracey Tate, Executive Director

Our facility is at 70 Ripton Road. We have a small museum complex of six buildings, five of which are historic structures that have been saved and moved for the most part. We have been collecting pieces of Shelton’s history for about 40 years. We have an extensive archive, thousands of photographs that we are gradually trying to catalog. We have furniture and all kinds of artifacts that were made or used here in Shelton.

We do educational programs for all ages – most notably an 8th Grade program and 2nd Grade. We have most of the 8th and 2nd graders from Shelton schools to take advantage of those programs, and they are open to everybody. We have special events and speakers and oral history projects and so forth.

Valley Substance Abuse Action Council

Pam Loddy, Director. We are celebrating our 20th anniversary. We do substance abuse prevention in the five Valley towns. We are part of Birmingham Group Health Services and are the prevention education and wellness unit of the Birmingham Group. Every two years we do a biannual survey of student needs – you are able to see your statistics in the packet I submitted to the City, of some of the substances that the students experiment and abuse here in town. We provide a variety of different services throughout the whole lifespan of prevention. We have a strong concentration on youth, however we do deal with parents as well as senior citizens. For example, coming up at the Shelton Senior Center we’ll be doing another prescription pill take back educational session in collaboration with a home care agency and the Shelton Police Department.

What I handed out to you tonight is our second report focused solely on underage drinking. It was funded through a federal grant that we have. Underage drinking has been a major issue here in the Valley for the past 20 years. Recently in November, December and January, this was mailed out to all 7th and 8th Grade parents in Shelton. During prom/graduation season, it will go to all 11th and 12th grade parents. Besides doing workshops and presentations in the schools, we target the parents.

The second piece I handed out to you is a training on being a teen influencer that is geared toward parents. We are scheduling one at the Plumb Library about how to influence them from not using prescription pills. Attached is a letter containing some of the statistics here in the
Valley. About one in five teens have abused a prescription pill, meaning they’ve taken it although it’s not prescribed to them, which eventually leads to heroin.

Basically, our request is $1.25 per student in the school system, because we do programs for grades K through 12 in the school system.

**Junior Achievement**

Bernadine Venditto, President, Junior Achievement. We thank you for your support and we serve the students here, teaching financial management and life skills that enable them to be ready for the workforce. We work with 35 to 40 students at Shelton High School. They also take part in job shadow, which is part of the program.

**Valley Chapter, American Red Cross**

Mr. Holden stated, this is a $6,000 request and the Mayor has recommended $3,500. It is an increase from last year from $1,250.

Carol Kirby. We’ve been very active in Shelton, and you’ve put us through our paces for all the disasters you’ve had. Even though you have not actually seen us, we’ve been responding in Shelton. When the tornado came through in July we did a damage assessment of the neighborhood. When you had the 50-car pileup we were on call for a shelter in case you needed to shelter people overnight. When you had the mudslide, we provided shelter for a family. We’ve fed 16 Shelton families with emergency food for a total of $2,000 this year. We responded to 11 fires this year – four of them were in Shelton. We have 17 total cases of service to military – seven of them were from Shelton. Very nicely, one of them we had to announce a birth to a father who was in Afghanistan. That was a very nice message we had to send. For blood services, our Chapter does 78 blood drives in a five-town jurisdiction and 44 of those are in Shelton. We provide volunteer service and canteen support for those. I’m not talking about the health and safety courses and training we do in Shelton also. We are very active, although you don’t see us parading around with our red crosses, but we are here.

We have about 25 registered volunteers that have gone through the process. Many of our blood drive sponsors are Shelton residents. We do two blood drives at Shelton High each year and the food services program prepares tuna fish sandwiches, meatball grinders and sometimes another sandwich – we provide them the food – for all of the staff and volunteers that work that day. It’s almost a mass care project. They’ll provide food
for 150 people. If we counted those kinds of volunteers we probably have 500 or 600 volunteers from Shelton that work on a yearly basis. That’s not counting the blood donors – we’re talking 2,500 to 3,000.

Housatonic River Estuary Commission


Mr. Holden stated, your request is for $1,000 and you’ve been approved for $1,000.

The Housatonic River Estuary Commission is in its third year. The Commission has members from Ansonia, Derby, Shelton, Milford, Orange and Stratford – all the towns that border the Housatonic River. We have accomplished a lot more than I thought possible. We just want to do the work, as effectively as possible, at the lowest cost. Each town contributes $1,000 to keep us going. All that does is pays for recording fees. We all donate our own time. Last year we participated for the second year in the Housatonic River Clean-up. The Commission expanded its group outreach attending and participating in Harbor and Dredging meetings with the Maritime Commission and the Department of Environmental Protection. We have drafted letters in support of soil and erosion control measures at Baldwin Station in Milford after many trees were cut down. The Commission drafted letters to support the hearings of the DEP’s determination not to renew the discharge permits from the Chromium Process plant in Shelton. The Commission also supported and drafted letters to local Senators recommending the stimulus funds be directed toward the sewer and storm periods projects requested in the six towns. The Commission supported public access to Caswell Cove, Milford for local fishermen and also McCallum Industries Canal in Shelton. The Commission also established small stipend funding to help out operating budgets and working with universities in the area that are establishing maritime efforts. We’re asking them to support us with programs at no charge for research and funding. It’s a way for us to do research we want at no cost while helping the universities and the students.

We’ve done a lot of effective things. We are a platform where you come and talk, we outreach into our communities, we help protect the assets of our communities. We have our website up and running and we’ve linked up with every community that we know of that has something similar on the rivers. We’ve aligned ourselves with similar associations.
St. Vincent de Paul Society

Mr. Crawford noted that St. Vincent de Paul requested $8,000. He stated that he has been informed that they can live with the $6,000.

Long Hill Cemetery Association

Mr. Holden noted that Marty Coughlin was unable to attend this evening. He read a letter from Marty into the record:

Dear Mark,

I’m sorry I can’t attend the budget hearing on Wednesday, but I am making a presentation for money on behalf of another organization. The Association is well satisfied with Mayor Lauretti’s recommendation that we receive a $3,600 allocation we requested, and hope your Board will agree with the Mayor’s budget for our organization. We appreciate the ongoing support that the Mayor, the Board of Apportionment and Taxation and the Board of Aldermen have shown the Long Hill Cemetery Association. This year we have continued to improve the sites that honors those individuals and families who have meant so much to our community. We discovered that there is another Revolutionary War Veteran, Louis Hart, buried in the Long Hill Cemetery. Our group, in conjunction with other historical organizations, is committed to keeping the history of our community alive and to make it available to our fellow Sheltonians. If you or any of the committee members have questions regarding the request, please contact me at my home or by phone.

Sincerely, Marty Coughlin, President

Mr. Holden explained, a lot of the City fathers are buried in that cemetery and over the years it has fallen into serious disrepair. They’re working on revitalizing it.

LINE 9900 – CONTINGENCY

Mr. Holden stated, as a reminder, the Workshops start at 6:30 on Monday.
Adjournment

The hearing adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia M. Bruder,
Temporary Clerk