Roll Call

Mark Holden, Chair, present
Judson Crawford, present
Vinny Capece, present (arrived 7:00 p.m.)
Nancy Dickal, present
Greg Kodz, present
Charlotte Madar, present (arrived 7:30 p.m.)

Call To Order

Chairman Holden called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

He indicated that he would like to review and discuss some of the specific issues/recommendations for their presentation to the BOA:

1. Payroll Line Items:

All of the Payroll - Contracts are negotiated before coming to the Board of A&T.

The Board suggests this issue could be reviewed in lieu of the fact that some other communities are providing salary give-backs or taking a pause on increases.

Judson Crawford indicated that he would like to stress this issue because they do not have the authority or the power to make the changes, but they do have the right to recommend and show that if it was done, the City could save significant amounts of money. These funds could be applied elsewhere. Net of salary increases (including part time and full time) involve over a million dollars of payroll and over a million dollars is a 2/10 of a mill - which is significant.

Chairman Holden indicated that for purposes of simplification he would subtract out the Part Time Payroll and base it strictly on the Regular Payroll where the contracts are. The Part Time Employees are more discretionary and up to Department Heads. They have addressed many of the Part Time line items in various departments.
2. Beginning the Budget Process Later in the Year (in the best interests of the City) because as it stands they are not going to have any information about what the State is going to do with funding and other things of that nature.

It would be helpful to the Board of A&T, who takes a major responsibility in preparing the budget, if they had accurate information to work with. The budget is predicated on the State funding being stable; indications are that it will be, but until the vote is taken in Hartford, it is not.

Recognizing accurate data from medical insurance and DCS cost sharing programs and other data isn’t available until after our current budget period is over. They encourage BOA to seek Charter Revision that would allow the budget process to start about one month later. Advances in our technology since our current schedule was set should allow this to be done without hardship for the Tax Collector.

Vinny Capece arrives at 7:00 p.m.

3. Voluntary Give-Backs: Considering the economy, they encourage the BOA to consider asking employees for voluntary give-backs.

4. Consider Reissuing Bonds and take advantage of lowest interest rates.

5. Recommendation for generic, tighter budgeting of accounts; when the historical data shows that funds are not expended from year to year - this is an issue. Many of these accounts should be reduced or eliminated.

Chairman Holden asked anyone with any further suggestions to e-mail him within the next 48 hours. At that point he’ll begin drafting his final presentation for the BOA.

Chairman Holden indicated that he would like to suggest a non-controversial change to the budget spreadsheet which would revise the funding source for the Police Telephone System so that it is funded by LOCIP. This represents a $65,000 change in the expense line items because LOCIP is really State funds. It appears that it qualifies under LOCIP as Emergency Communication Equipment. He asked for a motion.

**Police Department**

COMMUNICATIONS REPLACEMENT

001-2500-511.40-59

+65,000 to be funded by LOCIP at $65K

Nancy Dickal motions to fund the Police Department Communications Replacement Account #001-2500-411.40-59 with Capital Spending LOCIP funds. Vinny Capece seconds. A voice vote is taken. Motion passed (5-0).
Chairman Holden indicated that at this point they stand at $20,128 to the good; he would like to reserve the right to suggest a series of motions for consideration. The net effect of all the motions he’s suggesting would spend $10,200.

**Purchasing**

001-5500-412-10-03 PERSONNEL TRAINING
+$1,700 to fulfill certification requirements for the newly hired Full Time Purchasing Agent.

Nancy Dickal motions to increase the Purchasing Personnel Training Account #001-1400-415.30-01 by $1,700. Vinny Capece seconds. A voice vote is taken. Judd Crawford votes in opposition. Motion passed (4-1).

Charlotte Madar arrives 7:30 p.m.

**Employee Resources**

-001-0200-411.20-18 LIFE INSURANCE
+$3000 to meet contractual obligations; negotiated increases in contract coverage.

Vinny Capece motions to increase the Employee Resources Life Insurance Account #001-0200-411-20.18 by $3K. No second. Motion fails.

-001-0200-411.30-05 PERSONNEL TESTING
+$2000 to allow for procedures necessary to hire and test for Police Sergeant position.

Charlotte Madar motions to increase the Employee Resource Personnel Testing Account #001-0200-411.30-05. Vinny Capece seconds. A voice vote is taken. Motion fails (3-3). Nancy Dickal, Greg Kodz, and Judd Crawford vote in opposition.

-001-0200-411.30.07 PRINTING & ADVERTISING
+$3500 because the merit system and personnel rules have requirements for advertising.


Chairman Holden indicated that at this point they have $18,428.00 to the good based on maintaining the 18.61 mill rate. He stated that it means they can allocate those funds – it is not enough to make a difference on the mill rate.

Nancy Dickal suggested returning some of those funds to the Library because they took a significant cut for their books and supplies.

Chairman Holden suggested that the Library Books item could be a good consideration or they could move the money into Contingency for the Board of Alderman in recognition that this will be a tough year and they may need to have more funds to move around.
Charlotte Madar indicated that she would like to see allocations made to the Library, Fire or Police. Vinny Capece suggested putting some minimal funds back into the Anti-Litter Program.

**TREE WARDEN**

-001-3800-714.80-95 ANTI-LITTER PROGRAM
Withdrawal of previous $-4,999.00 motion/new motion to increase +$999.00 to achieve a balance of $1K to provide for program supplies.

Charlotte Madar withdraws her previous motion to decrease the Recycling Program Anti-Litter Account #001-3800-714.80-95 by $4999K. She motions to increase it by $999.00 for a balance of $1K. Vinny Capece seconds. A voice vote is taken. Motion fails (3-3) Nancy Dickal, Greg Kodz, and Judd Crawford vote in opposition.

Judson Crawford made the following motions:

**ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE/EMPLOYEE RESOURCES**

**DECEMBER HOLIDAY/ANNUAL OUTING**

**LIBRARY**

LIBRARY BOOKS/LIBRARY VIDEO/AUDIO/CD-ROM

Motion by Judd Crawford to decrease the Employee Resources Annual Outing Account #001-0200-411.80-81 by $4000.00 and put those funds into the Library Books Account #4400-40-29. Decrease the Administrative Office December Holiday Account #001-0100-411.80-89 by $2,499 and place those funds in Library Video/Audio/CD Account #001-4400.40-30. Nancy Dickal seconds. A voice vote is taken. Motions failed (3-3). Charlotte Madar, Vinny Capece and Mark Holden voted in opposition.

Chairman Holden stated that they still have $18,428 that has not been applied.

**Other Funds – Board of Aldermen**

-001-9900-900.99-00 BOA CONTINGENCY – GENERAL
$+18,428 to balance the income and expenses and pass the budget.

Charlotte Madar motions to increase the Board of Alderman Contingency Account #001-9900-900.99-00, balance the income and expenses and pass the budget. Vinny Capece seconds. A voice vote is taken. Motion failed (3-3) Nancy Dickal, Greg Kodz, and Judson Crawford voted in opposition.

Chairman Holden indicated that they have a surplus of $18,428. At this time, he indicated that he would entertain a motion to approve the Mayor’s Budget with amendments and unallocated funds.
Charlotte Madar motions to approve the Mayor’s Budget which was presented to the Joint Session of the Board of A&T and the Board of Aldermen with the amendments and with the recognition that there are $18,428.00 of unallocated funds. Vinny Capece seconds. A voice vote is taken. Motion failed (3-3) Nancy Dickal, Greg Kodz, and Judson Crawford voted in opposition.

There was a lot of discussion and discord regarding the wording of the motion in regard to the acceptance of the Mayor’s amended budget. After much debate, it was determined that no consensus could be reached.

At the point in which it became clear that they were not going to pass a budget, an argumentative discussion ensued and Chairman Holden asked those voting against the budget what suggestions they had for what could be done for them to reach a budget that everyone could agree on this evening.

Only one suggestion came from Judd Crawford who proposed that, in this economic crisis, he would like to request to the BOA that the increases for the coming year of 2009 and 2010 - even though they are contractual – be held off for one year to provide substantial funds to the budgetary power of the BOA to lower the mill rate or increase certain line items.

Chairman Holden responded that they already did have a vote relative to that - they voted at the Monday, 3/23 workshop whether or not they wanted to reduce salary line items or just make recommendations for reductions. The decision was in favor of making recommendations but not altering any bottom line dollar amounts. He indicated to Judd that this implies that they did not have support on the Board for that proposal.

Charlotte Madar and Vinny Capece suggested putting the motion back on the table to reduce the BOE budget by $350K – half of what they returned in unspent encumbrances. That motion was brought out in an earlier session but it never received a second. Chairman Holden asked if anyone wanted to make a motion on that again – or on anything that would focus on getting to a point where they can pass a budget. There was no response.

Chairman Holden asked the Board if they thought the Mayor’s Budget as presented to them, or the Mayor’s Budget as amended by them, is a better budget and which would they prefer to turn over to the BOA – because the BOA are going to work from one or the other. There was no response.

After more unsuccessful debate about accepting the amended budget, Chairman Holden indicated that he sensed they had reached a stalemate. He stated that a motion had been put on the table by Charlotte, it has been seconded, and they have discussed it. He requested that a vote be taken for that motion.

Charlotte Madar motions to approve the Mayor’s Budget which was presented to the Joint Session of the Board of A&T and the Board of Aldermen with the amendments and
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Budget Workshop
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with the recognition that there are $18,428.00 of unallocated funds. Vinny Capece seconds. A voice vote is taken. Motion failed (3-3) Nancy Dickal, Greg Kodz, and Judson Crawford voted in opposition.

Chairman Holden asked one final question - if the Board would like to present their list of proposed amendments as an incomplete budget. Everyone agreed to present the incomplete budget to the BOA.

Adjournment

With no further discussion, Chairman Holden adjourned the meeting at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Karin Tuke
Clerk, Board of Apportionment and Taxation

Tape (2) both sides on File with the City Town Clerk’s Office.