Call to Order / Pledge of Allegiance

Charlotte Madar, Chairman of Board of Apportionment and Taxation, called the Budget Hearing meeting to order at approximately 6:00 p.m. All those present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call

Board of Apportionment and Taxation

Charlotte Madar, Chairman- Present  
Joe Palmucci, Vice Chairman- Present  
John Belden- Present  
Joe Knapik-Present  
Louis Dagostine-Present  
John Zikaras- Present

Board of Aldermen

John Anglace, President- Present  
John Papa, Vice President- Present  
Jack Finn- Present  
Stan Kudej- Present

6500 Outside Agencies

Total Department Requested $366,755; Total Mayor recommended $321,866

Christian Counseling

Department Requested $10,000; Mayor Recommends $10,000

Agency was satisfied with their fulfilled budget request
Housatonic Lake Authority
Department Requested $35,600; Mayor Recommends $24,500

Chairman Madar: Your request was $35,000, and the Mayor cut your budget by $11,100. Can you survive with his amount?

The representative from this agency claims that they do have reserves and would have to draw those down for the purchase of the boat.

Chairman Madar: He equaled the amount of what you have requested last year.

Joseph Palmucci: Do you receive funding from other municipalities?

The representative responded that they receive funding from four municipalities: Shelton, Ansonia, Derby and Seymour. Shelton makes up 50% of their budget and the other towns consist of 10% of their budget.

John Zikaras: Have you gone before the other towns, or heard back from your other counterparts?

The representative responded that he hasn’t as of yet. He said that this cut has been a first in a very long time; the other towns have been consistent with their funding.

Boys & Girls Club
Department Requested $90,000; Mayor Recommends $90,000

Agency was satisfied with their fulfilled budget request

Housatonic Valley Association
Department Requested $1,000; Mayor Recommends $1,500

Chairman Madar: According to this, you have not spent last year’s allocation from the City. Do you usually spend it before June 30th?

The representative explained to the boards that this has occurred before, in which they had to obtain a certain form or actually have to get the check to come to us so they can spend it.

Chairman Madar: The City does not mail you a check; you have to come and pick the check up.
The representative said that has not happened, so that is why they have not spent the money from last year.

Alderman Finn: We have an ordinance in reference to that. If the ordinance is not filled out completely with the form in the front, they are not allowed to receive any money until they are compliance with it.

The representative made sure that was taken care of.

Chairman Madar: The Mayor has also increased your request by $500 for this year.

Louis Dagostine: Do other towns along the Housatonic chip in?

The representative responded that there are some that are municipal members; the majority is not. It was noted that they do appreciate whatever support they receive.

John Zikaras: Do you receive any additional funds from the state or federal agencies to support these efforts?

The representative responded that they apply for funding for projects. The only funding that is coming right now is the US Fishing Wildlife Service. It is a pass through from the GE money. GE set that aside back in 2001, for natural resources damages. The grant was approved in 2007.

Rape Crisis Center  
Department Requested $6,000; Mayor Recommended $6,000  
Agency was satisfied with their fulfilled budget request.

The Umbrella  
Department Requested $20,000; Mayor Recommended $0

Chairman Madar: The amount of money that was awarded to you is still unclaimed.

The representative was unaware that last year's allocation of $15,000 was still unclaimed.

Louis Dagostine: It looks like the Mayor recommended $0, for your request of $20,000. What would that do for you if you did not receive that funding from
the City?

The representative said the program would be devastated because they serve well over 200 people in the City of Shelton.

Chairman Madar: Do towns such as Derby, Ansonia, and Seymour contribute to your agency, out of their municipal budgets?

The representative responded that those towns do contribute, but not as much as the City of Shelton. They get around $6,000 from Derby and around $4,000 from Seymour.

Alderman Papa: Are you receiving money from the State?

The representative responded that they receive money from the Department of Social Services for their shelter. They also receive money from The Thrift Shop and My Sister’s Place, and the proceeds go to support their program.

Alderman Papa: We should add something back into that line item.

Joe Knapik: Might there be a correlation between the fact that the Mayor recommended $0, because the $15,000 was not picked up?

Chairman Madar: No because other departments did not pick it up. That does not determine what the Mayor’s recommendation is.

Shelton Day
Department Requested $19,500; Mayor Recommended $19,500
Department was satisfied with their fulfilled budget request

Area Congregation Together
Department Requested $20,000; Mayor Recommended $20,000
Department was satisfied with their fulfilled budget request

Valley Substance Abuse
Department Requested $7,500; Mayor Recommended $0

Chairman Madar: Your $7,500 allocation from last year has not yet been picked up.
The representative responded that she just been notified by email that they money was requested to be distributed. We sent a thank you note on January 11th to Mayor Lauretti for thanking him for the $7,500 contribution. We did request it, but now have to check if that money was deposited. They sent a thank you note, so they are assuming that the money was received.

Chairman Madar: The Mayor did cut your contribution out of the budget this year.

The representative responded that this funding is crucial for them; we ask for $1 per town. The agency does not receive federally funding; they are applying for federal funds as they come out but they have been very sparse for prevention. We have been fortunate to receive a portion of the suicide grant that came through the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, but we do ask the towns for $1 per student that is meant for the work that we do. They think it is a fair request, and can look into the $7,500 from last year.

Junior Achievement
Department Requested $4,000; Mayor Recommended $4,000
Department was satisfied with their fulfilled budget request

Valley Shakespeare Festival
Department Requested $2,000; Mayor Recommended $0

Alderman Finn: Have any of the other communities contributed?

Representatives from this group said they went to the other communities, and all said no. They said the most that have charged was $10 to attend fundraisers. It is free theatre for the residents in the community.

Alderman Finn: What would the $2,000 be used for?

Representatives responded that the $2,000 would go towards the production for ‘Much Ado about Nothing’. They stated they wanted to stay as modest as they could with their budget. The money will also be used for the park rental, to paying the caretaker fees.

6100 Miscellaneous
Department Requested $1,485,116; Mayor Recommended $1,490,866
Chairman Madar: The Mayor added $500.00 to the Relocation Expenses line item. The Citizen’s Advisory Board is overdrawn; the Mayor added $250.00 to bring them up to $500. They have spent $750.00 this year.

The next line item: Client Analysis Charges is overdrawn; they spent the money that they were never given. They have asked for $0 and they are getting $0.

Alderman Anglace: The Client Analysis Charges are bank charges. We used to not spend too much money on that account. When the money was deposited, the interest rates were generated. There are certain charges that the banks are charging as part of the agreement to have those accounts there. It used to be an offset when money would be coming, but not anymore.

Chairman Madar: Where are they going to get the $3,706 to replace it?

Alderman Anglace: It can be transferred before the end of the year.

Alderman Finn: Maybe there should be a dollar figure in that line item, because you do not want that to keep occurring year after year. Maybe the Finance Director can supply a five year history to find out what it is.

Chairman Madar: Is the Animal Shelter all done now? Do we need to keep a line item for the Animal Shelter Building Committee?

Alderman Finn: The Animal Shelter is still under construction. The committee is still in effect, until sometime after June.

Alderman Anglace: They do need any money in that line item because all of that money is provided by bonding.

Chairman Madar: The other line item that I had a question on was the CT Coalition for Justice Education. They have asked for $1,500, and the Mayor has increased their budget to $5,000. It was increased by $3,500.

Alderman Anglace: The CT Coalition for Justice Education has pro bono representation from Yale. They ask municipalities for a total of $15,000. We have been giving them $5,000 because we are one of the many communities that belong to it. We feel that is adequate to handle our needs.

Chairman Madar: If they requested $1,500, then why are we increasing it to $5,000?

Alderman Anglace: That is because we have to put the minimum amount of $5,000. They are asking for $15,000.
John Zikaras: That might be a typo if they are asking for $15,000 originally.

Alderman Papa: They were given $5,000 last year, so they will be receiving $5,000 this year.

Chairman Madar: The next line item: Housatonic RR Sewage LC. What is that?

Alderman Anglace: This is an annual license fee.

Chairman Madar: They have asked for $1,000, and the Mayor had recommended $1,500.

Alderman Anglace: I am not sure who put in $1,000, however, the annual fee is $1,500.

Chairman Madar: The next line item: Housatonic RR Drain LC. Is that the same thing as the other item?

Alderman Anglace: Yes.

Alderman Finn: Let’s go back to the line for Youth Programs. In Freeman Burr’s presentation made remarks that the Mayor was in agreement that he would give up the $275,000, and put it towards education.

Chairman Madar: At this point, they do not have any amounts; that was just a discussion. There are no definite amounts on that.

More discussion held on tape

6200 Capital Spending

Alderman Papa: For the line item of Recreation Cap Equipment: Of that $15,000 we have already spent half of that amount. We bought some mowers, weed whackers and other equipment like that. We do not need $15,000; we probably could use $7,000 or $8,000 if you would to add that. It would not be heavy equipment, just smaller pieces of equipment.

Chairman Madar: On this sheet, it shows that you have a balance of $15,000 that is left over.

Alderman Papa: We did spend half of that, so we do not need $15,000. We could use $7,000 or $8,000 for this coming year.
Chairman Madar:  So instead of requesting $0, you would like for us to put in $7,000 or $8,000?

Alderman Papa: Yes if you can do that. I spoke to Ron Herrick, and he said that $7,500 would be adequate.

More discussion held on tape

9900 Contingency

Chairman Madar:  Contingency stays at $150,000.

Alderman Finn:  We have $140,000 left.

Chairman Madar:  That is correct. We put $150,000 in there for the Board of Aldermen to help departments during the year, if needed.

More discussion for mentioned departments is held on tape.

Adjournment

Chairman Madar MOVED to adjourn the April 15, 2014 Budget Hearing meeting; seconded by Louis Dagostine. A voice vote was taken; motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned approximately 7:40pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Brittany Gannon, Clerk