BOARD OF APPORTIONMENT & TAXATION
SHELTON, CONNECTICUT

BUDGET HEARING MEETING MINUTES

APRIL 18, 2016

Call to Order / Pledge of Allegiance
Cris Balamaci, Chairperson of Board of Apportionment and Taxation, called the Budget Hearing meeting to order at approximately 7:00 p.m. All those present recited the Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

Board of Apportionment and Taxation
Cris Balamaci, Chairperson- Present
Karen Battistelli, Vice Chairperson- Present
John Belden- Present
Joe Knapik-Present
Adam Heller- Present
Louis Dagostine- Present

Board of Aldermen
John Anglace, President - Present
Jack Finn- Present
Jim Capra - Present
Lynne Farrell - Present

0600 Inland Wetlands
Department Requested $88,257; Mayor recommends $88,257

Nobody Present

0700 Economic Development
Department Requested $76,800; Mayor recommends $76,800

Fred Ruggio – Chairperson. Economic Development
Fred Ruggio stated that they have a cut been on their request. Mr. Ruggio mentioned that he had received an update from the Finance Department, from March 3, 2016, and wanted to know how he made a budget of $52,221, and the Finance Department made an adjusted budget of $82,881. He wrote a letter to the Finance Director, documenting the change, and would like to know why the changed occurred? The Board of Apportionment and Taxation state that they will speak with the Finance Department and figure out what the reasoning was behind it. Lou Dagostine mentioned that this change appears on last year’s budget, and this year’s budget request matches the Mayor’s recommendation. Mr. Ruggio explained that the line item for Annual Report was budgeted at $1, because this was an off year. Jack Finn mentioned that there has been substantial money spent from this line item, and asked Mr. Ruggio what the money was spent on. Mr. Ruggio stated that he was asking the Board why the money was spent, because he has no idea.

0800 Economic Development Commission

Department Requested $110,000; Mayor recommends $100,000

Jim Ryan – Economic Development

Mr. Ryan stated that this would be his final meeting, after many years, and he would like to thank everybody. The process, combined with the Board of Alderman, that has been come up with, has been very beneficial for everybody, and achieved many dividends. Lou Dagostine asked about salary, and that the replacement will make less than his current salary. Mr. Ryan mentioned that his compensation will be $100,000/year. He also stated that he has 90 days to help transition his replacement.

0900 Planning and Zoning

Department Requested $325,309; Mayor recommends $299,753

Nobody Present

1300 Conservation

Department Requested $63,913; Mayor recommends $63,913

Thomas Harbinson – Chairman – Conservation Committee

Mr. Harbinson gave an explanation of his budget. Lou Dagostine asked if Mr. Harbinson was going to come before the board to request a transfer to cover the deficit in part-time payroll. Mr. Harbinson stated yes.
1800 Zoning Appeals
Department Requested $19,064; Mayor recommends $19,064

Ed Conklin – Chairman – Zoning Appeals

Mr. Conklin explained that the budget basically covers fees for their clerk, advertising, labor costs, paper, printing supplies, etc. Lou Dagostine asked if the board ever needs legal representation, and would the fees fall under a line item from their budget. Mr. Conklin stated yes, and the fees do not come out of their budget. Mr. Anglace stated that all legal fees come out of the Corporation Counsel budget. Lou Dagostine also asked if they use the services of the City Counsel. Mr. Conklin stated that it depends on the circumstances, sometimes there can be a conflict of interest.

4800 Municipal Property Maintenance
Department Requested $1,470,110; Mayor recommends $1,392,105

Chris Potucek – Maintenance Supervisor

Mr. Potucek mentioned the line item for part-time payroll, which was shorted again this year. Chairperson Balamaci asked if this was going to be a problem. Mr. Potucek said that they are dealing with it, and they will see how it goes. He also mentioned the heating fuel line item, and he mentioned that they are going to be converting a few more buildings over to gas, which hopefully will be done by the heating season. Chairperson Balamaci asked if there were any full-time employees out on leave. Mr. Potucek said no. Lou Dagostine mentioned that around $200,000 was given back last year, and asked what those funds consisted of. Mr. Potucek stated that it was mostly full-time payroll and heating fuel. Lou Dagostine asked how many full-time positions are currently open. Mr. Potucek stated that there were 2 or 3. Lou Dagostine also asked if there were plans to fill those positions. Mr. Potucek stated that he would love to, but they keep getting denied. Lou Dagostine also mentioned the private party pay line item, and asked who is paid. Mr. Potucek stated that it is to pay custodians during private parties. Lou Dagostine also asked if there was a corresponding revenue line item for this. Mr. Potucek stated that he did not know. Adam Heller asked how long the full-time positions have been open. Mr. Potucek stated that it has been years. He stated that he wants them filled, so he will continue to include them in his budget. Joe Knapik asked if reasoning is ever given for the denial. Mr. Potucek stated no.

5800 Community Development
Department Requested $79,004; Mayor recommends $79,004

Nobody Present

3100 Building Department

Department Requested $302,130; Mayor recommends $302,130

Joe Ballaro – Building Inspector

Lou Dagostine asked if there is an Assistant Building Inspector. Mr. Ballaro stated yes, and that he is part-time, not full time.

-Further discussion on tape in City Clerk’s office

Respectfully Submitted,

Nicholas Twigg

Nicholas Twigg

Clerk

1 tape on file in City Clerk’s office