



Board of Aldermen
Shelton, Connecticut

FINANCE COMMITTEE - JANUARY 24, 2006

NOTE: Items noted as [Attached] may be found in the Office of the Town and City Clerk as attachment to these minutes.

Call to Order / Pledge of Allegiance

Alderman Stanley Kudej, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m. All those present rose and pledged allegiance to the flag.

Roll Call - Finance Committee

Alderman Stanley Kudej, Chairman, present
Aldermanic President John F. Anglace, Jr. - present
Alderman Christopher Panek - present

Others Present: Alderman John Finn

Public Session

Alderman Kudej asked if any member of the public wished to address the Finance Committee.

Ann Walsh, 189 Coram Road

I was a member of the Senior Tax Relief Committee – I'm just here because I saw it on the agenda and I'll answer any questions you may have if I'm here when the subject comes up.

*Judson Crawford, 8 Jordan Avenue
Member, Board of Apportionment & Taxation*

The December report of our meeting – we never got a financial runoff, but through to the help of the Finance Director, he was able to pinpoint the line items that we needed to make transfers that night. He was

able to run off for me the budget line items. But, if we didn't have this, there would have been no way for us to hold a meeting and approve any transfers.

Number 3. The City of Shelton has instituted the Wide Area Network through the esteemed thoughts of the Board of Aldermen working with the Board of Education they have now instituted this. It is working for the Board of Education. But I would like to know, we have to wait and wait each month to get runoffs. How is the Wide Area Network going to help the city officials, especially dealing with the budget, and coming up with drawing up the new budget for the ensuing year. There should be a way that we could be going online and going straight through, just for this. I just wanted to bring that to your attention.

The last item is, have you, or has this board, received a notification which was stated by Mr. Marusic back on August 23rd of last year stating that he was going to contact the City of New Haven, the City of Waterbury, and "he will find out what kind of deals New Haven got for oil prices and Waterbury got for gas prices." He will find out and make a report back to this Board.

Alderman Kudej explained that Mr. Marusic hasn't sent any official reports, but has said that the City of Shelton buys under the State umbrella from Buckley as part of a consortium from Fairfield County. Whatever price the State pays, we pay.

Mr. Crawford continued, that is just something I wanted to bring to your attention and get a response. Hopefully that you will take my thoughts into consideration, especially in reference to the Wide Area Network.

Alderman Anglace stated, the Wide Area Network, the Committee, has turned its efforts now to a two-pronged focus. We are meeting and stopped working on Board of Education issues and now are beginning to focus on City issues. We're getting reports from City departments – the Library, the Police Department - about their needs and going into detail about that, and try to understand what their priorities and what their costs are, and also, Mr. Marusic is going to make a presentation about the – Regis Dognin is working on a system upstairs, and he is going to come in and make a presentation on that.

Mr. Crawford asked, is that for the MUNIS System?

Alderman Anglace replied, I don't know what it's called.

We are in the very exploratory stages of putting together what the City needs are and what the priorities might be. I doubt very much, I don't know what's involved in your suggestion, but I doubt very much that we can get something going like that if there are any expenditures of a significant amount of money in time for this budget cycle. But what we can do, going down the road, I would think that perhaps we have to understand a little better what you are looking at, what it is that you foresee.

Mr. Crawford stated, when it comes time for the Board of Apportionment & Taxation to draw up the ensuing budget and also for the Board of Aldermen after we have turned the budget over to you people, you are now going to have to answer a question, there is a line item in there, the cost factor for the Wide Area World Network, what the Board of Education is paying – their share – and then what the City's share is going to be over this, and how is this going to be to the benefit of the City.

Just a thought, but thank you.

Alderman Kudej asked if any other member of the public wished to address the Finance Committee. Being none, he declared the Public Session closed.

Add-Ons

Alderman Anglace MOVED to amend the agenda and bring Item 10 – Senior Tax Relief Proposal to the beginning of the agenda because a considerable number of people are here for that; and further

MOVED to add the following items to the agenda:

11 – Tax Exemption – Disabled Motor Vehicle

and to have Item 11 immediately following Item 10 – Senior Tax Relief Program; and further, add to the end of the agenda

12 – Legal Bills – Ethics Commission

and

13 – City Vehicle Replacement Account Analysis
SECONDED by Alderman Kudej. A voice vote was taken and the
MOTION PASSED 3-0.

10. Senior Tax Relief Proposal

Corporation Counsel Tom Welch distributed the first draft of Revised Ordinance, Section 15-7, Elderly Tax Relief. [Attached]

Corporation Counsel Welch explained, it is my understanding that this is being distributed as a preliminary draft based upon what was given to the Board for consideration so you have it tonight. Understand where Alderman Anglace and I got to in terms of this document, with the understanding that this Board or Committee will set up a meeting with the Elderly Tax Relief Committee, Tax Collector's Office, and the Assessor's Office in one joint meeting with the Board of Aldermen or the Finance Committee to iron out some issues. This is a first draft, a start, leading to the next discussion.

The Committee and Corporation Counsel Welch reviewed the draft document, and agreed that a workshop will be scheduled between all of the groups named above for further discussion and revision. Action on the final document could be done any time between February and May.

11. Tax Exemption – Disabled Persons Motor Vehicles

Alderman Anglace distributed a letter dated and one dated October 5, 2005 from Sharon Agvent of 117 Pine Street, and beneath it a letter dated September 8, 2004 from Assessor Gloria Kovac to Corporation Counsel Welch. [Attached]

Alderman Anglace noted that the memo from the Assessor illustrates, highlights and puts it in perspective, that if you look at a disability, we need the definitions to write the ordinance to cover the entire vehicle. The cost of adaptation is already included. That memo was eye opening and we are ready to proceed. We need to get some ordinances from some other municipalities with those definitions.

1. Approval of Minutes

Alderman Anglace MOVED to recommend to the full Board to waive the reading and approve the minutes of the regular Finance Committee meeting of November 29, 2005; SECONDED by Alderman Panek. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 3-0.

2. December Statutory Refunds

Alderman Panek MOVED to recommend to the full Board that the report of the Tax Collector relative to the refund of taxes for a total amount of \$4,212.16 be approved and that the Finance Director be directed to make payments in accordance with the Certified List received from the Tax Collector. Funds to come from the Statutory Refunds Account #001-0000-311.13.00; SECONDED by Alderman Anglace. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 3-0.

3. January Statutory Refunds

Alderman Panek MOVED to recommend to the full Board that the report of the Tax Collector relative to the refund of taxes for a total amount of \$18,529.15 be approved and that the Finance Director be directed to make payments in accordance with the Certified List received from the Tax Collector. Funds to come from the Statutory Refunds Account #001-0000-311.13.00; SECONDED by Alderman Anglace. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 3-0.

4. Reimbursement for Recording of Land Records

Alderman Anglace MOVED to recommend to the full Board of Aldermen to approve the total reimbursement of \$325 to Attorney Edward Androski for the recording of land records and recording fees that were misfiled in Shelton instead of Derby, funds to come from the 001-1400-415.30-08 Index Account; SECONDED by Alderman Panek. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 3-0.

4. Funding Increase – Parks & Recreation

Alderman Panek MOVED to recommend to the full Board to approve the following actions:

- Increase account #001-1000-622.80-08, Programs and Classes, by \$14,000; and
- Increase account #001-1000-381.14-00, Recreation Program Revenues, by \$14,000

SECONDED by Alderman Anglace. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 3-0.

6. Anthem Demutualization Legal Bill

Alderman Panek MOVED to recommend to the full Board that \$138.69 (Shelton's share of the Anthem Demutualization Lawsuit) be paid to Sullivan, Schoen, Campana and Connon, LLC, with funds to come from the Professional Services Account #001-1900-411.30-01; SECONDED by Alderman Anglace. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 3-0.

7. Additional Funding – Charter Revision Clerk

Alderman Panek MOVED to recommend to the full Board to transfer \$117 from the Contingency General Account 001-9900-900.99-00 to the Charter Revision Account 001-0300-412.80-93 for Clerical Services; SECONDED by Alderman Anglace. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 3-0.

8. Contingency Account Review

Alderman Anglace reported that the Contingency Account, as of 12/8/05 had \$90,000 in it.

9. Open Space Ordinance Review

Alderman Anglace distributed a copy of the Open Space Ordinance. [Attached]

The committee discussed suspending the funding that was established by Ordinance 727 for fiscal year 2005-06, establishing the funding for open space, and Ordinance 728, paragraph 4, appropriation of funds, to reflect an appropriation of \$50,000 into the Open Space Trust Account,

and additionally, all money received from the fee in lieu of process associated with Planning & Zoning subdivision be designated for the Open Space Trust Account.

After discussion, Alderman Kudej MOVED to refer this to the full Board; SECONDED by Alderman Panek. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 3-0.

12. Legal Bills – Board of Ethics

The Clerk of the Board of Aldermen is researching if there was any Board action regarding the payment of bills to Sheehy & Dillon for legal fees relative to the Board of Ethics. No action.

13. City Vehicle Replacement Account Analysis

Alderman Anglace distributed a report to the Board of Aldermen Finance Committee relative to the recent purchase of Fire Department and Fire Marshal Vehicles, Item #9.7 from the Regular Board of Aldermen Meeting of January 12, 2006. [Attached].

The committee reviewed and discussed the document. No action.

Adjournment

At approximately 6:40 p.m., Alderman Anglace MOVED to adjourn; SECONDED by Alderman Panek. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 3-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia M. Bruder
Clerk, Board of Aldermen