



SPECIAL JOINT MEETING – FEBRUARY 19, 2009  
SHELTON, CONNECTICUT

**BOARD OF ALDERMEN  
AND BOARD OF APPORTIONMENT AND TAXATION**

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**Call to Order / Pledge of Allegiance**

Board of Apportionment and Taxation Chairman Mark Holden called the Special Joint Meeting of the Board of Aldermen and Board of Apportionment and Taxation to order at 5:30 p.m. All those present rose and pledged allegiance to the flag.

**Roll Call**

**BOARD OF ALDERMEN:**

Alderman John F. Anglace, Jr., President (arrived at 5:34 p.m.)  
Alderman Lynne Farrell - absent  
Alderman John "Jack" Finn – present  
Alderman Stanley Kudej – present  
Alderman Kenneth Olin - present  
Alderman John P. Papa – present  
Alderman Jason Perillo - absent  
Alderman Anthony Simonetti - present

**BOARD OF APPORTIONMENT AND TAXATION**

Mark Holden, Chairman – present  
Vincent Capece, present  
Judson Crawford, present  
Nancy Dickal, present  
Greg Kodz, present  
Charlotte Madar, present

**Administration:**

Mayor Mark A. Lauretti  
Assistant Corporation Counsel Ramon Sous (arrived at 5:35 p.m.)

Chairman Holden stated, at this time I'd like to welcome everyone to the first of many meetings for the Shelton Budget Process 2009-2010 year and with that we will get started right away with the presentation by Mayor Mark A. Lauretti.

***1. Per City Charter Section 7.2, Mayor Lauretti Presents his Budget for Fiscal Year 2009-2010 to the Board of Aldermen and the Board of Apportionment and Taxation***

Mayor Mark A. Lauretti

Good evening ladies and gentlemen of the Board of Apportionment and Taxation, the Board of Aldermen and Friends.

In the last several months of 2008 we have seen the entire country placed in financial stress. We have seen massive bailouts of our banking institutions, the recent passage of an eight hundred billion dollar stimulus package by Congress designed to bolster a sagging economy, and we have witnessed a decline in our personal financial holdings. The City of Shelton has not gone unscathed. Interest income is down by approximately \$600,000; there has been a significant decrease of \$650,000 in revenue derived from conveyance taxes as property sales have fallen off, and our tax collection is down by as much as a half million dollars. The state legislature is still reviewing their budget and could take actions that may ultimately adversely affect our revenues, something that we will not know for some time. The theme is caution.

Eighteen years ago this administration adopted fiscal policies designed to maintain economic stability and grow our tax base. These policies have yielded dividends. They have created a strong financial environment that has been critical to our success. Our city continues to attract new business. The Class A office vacancy rate is holding steady at 7.5 to 8 percent as opposed to 27.8 percent back in 1991. This strong financial environment has allowed us to maintain our favorable bond ratings, manage municipal borrowing with five and ten year notes that have flat-lined our debt service and run a vibrant functional city on one of the lowest mill rates around. It has also allowed us to maintain our expanding infrastructure, including upgrades at the waste water treatment plant, rehabilitating older schools, building new schools, continued Open Space purchases and road reconstructions, just to mention a few. The Grand List in 1991 was 900 million dollars; the Grand List today is 5.1 billion dollars. Our net Grand List just increased by 2.1%, unprecedented in the current economy. This will provide an additional two million dollars in tax revenue this year. Of course, as the national problems start to affect Shelton, we cannot expect this type of Grand List increase to continue until the national economy rebounds. Managing our city finances in these turbulent and difficult times will take

sacrifices. We need to manage each and every tax dollar to obtain maximum benefit, while providing necessary services of police and fire protection, providing for our educational system, and maintaining our quality of life.

In my budget address last year, I warned that we must be cautious in our spending. I issue the same warning this year. This year the challenge in our budget is on the revenue side as is the case nationwide. As I mentioned, interest income is down, revenues have decreased, and receipts from conveyance taxes have been reduced, along with the uncertainty regarding actions of the state legislature. This is the reason that we must hold the line on the growth in spending. Our taxpayers need to be reassured that Shelton is doing the best we can to make sure our community remains affordable, which in turn will continue to spur growth in the future. Our business community needs to know that Shelton is the most affordable place with the highest quality of life in which to do business in the State of Connecticut. I charge the Board of Apportionment and Taxation and the Board of Aldermen to do everything possible to maintain the relief all of our taxpayers need during their part of this five month long exercise in establishing a budget for the next fiscal year.

I make no apologies for telling you this evening that this is a bare bones budget. This is what is mandated by the times. It is a budget based on revenue projections and expenditures of \$109,899,757. This will result in a mill rate of 18.61, no change from our current mill rate. Our conservative fiscal policies over the last almost two decades have placed us in the best possible position to weather the current economic storm. Despite the problems I have mentioned, I stand here tonight to tell you that the state of Shelton's economy remains strong and the future shows great promise. There will be no municipal layoff of jobs. We will be able to meet our contractual obligations as well as to maintain all of our necessary public services. And provide some needed financial stability in shaky economic times for our residents.

Thank you for your consideration and have a wonderful night.

### ***Adjournment***

Chairman Holden stated, thank you Mr. Mayor. There being nothing further on the agenda, the meeting will stand as adjourned. The first of the budget interviews will be on Wednesday. I have a limited number of copies available here on the table. Thank you.

FEBRUARY 19, 2009

BOARD OF ALDERMEN  
FULL BOARD MEETING

Respectfully submitted,

Theresa Adcox, Clerk  
Board of Aldermen

DATE APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_ BY: \_\_\_\_\_

Mark A. Laretti  
Mayor, City of Shelton