



Board of Aldermen
Shelton, Connecticut
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, MAY 29, 2019

CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Mark A. Lauretti called the Special Meeting of the Board of Aldermen to order at 7:00 p.m. in Room 104 of Shelton City Hall. All those present rose and pledged allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

ROLL CALL

Alderman John F. Anglace, Jr., President – present
Alderman Eric McPherson, Vice President- present
Alderman Stanley Kudej- present
Alderman Noreen McGorty- present
Alderman Jim Capra -present
Alderman Adam Heller - present
Alderman Anthony Simonetti- present
Alderman Cris Balamaci – present

ADMINISTRATION

Mark A. Lauretti, Mayor - present

AGENDA ITEMS

1. FUNDING FOR SCHOOL SECURITY UPGRADES AT HOLY TRINITY SCHOOL

Alderman Anglace moved to appropriate an amount of \$3,995 for school security upgrades at Holy Trinity School with funding to come from Contingency General Account #001-9900-900.99-00. Further authorize Mayor Mark A. Lauretti to execute any and all documents necessary to effectuate the same.

Seconded by Alderman Balamaci.

Mayor Lauretti: This has been an ongoing project that we have undertaken for the past year. We have done this in conjunction with the Shelton Police Department and the technology staff at the Board of Education, i.e. cooperation, for those people who don't understand

cooperation. This is a good example of it. Brian, would you like to come forward and give the Board a brief overview of where we are at?

Lieutenant Brian Yerzak: As the Mayor said this has been an ongoing thing for about a year now. Holy Trinity currently has about six exterior cameras but there have been issues with vandalism. All the public schools in town, we obviously could remotely view them from our PD, and look into after the fact incidents so we know what's going on, so we took into account what's currently in place in the public schools which is why I reached out to Matt Testani who is head of technology and security. I asked them specifically what is in place in the public schools, and we took a walk through Holy Trinity to see what existed and what we could improve on. We put everything in a bid...cameras, key fob systems, the public schools have ballistic film, we put that in the initial spec. Also, intercom system, door alarms, everything to make it top notch and similar to the current public schools. The problem was, because it was so overly broad, when the bids came in it ranged from \$30,000 to \$90,000. We talked with the Mayor and we talked with Gene Sullivan and we decided to revise the bid specs and more narrowly define them.

Mayor Lauretti: We will not disclose the locations.

Lieutenant Brian Yerzak: With the cameras you have to have some type of recording playback so you can view it and we wanted to integrate it with our police department so we can also view it in live time or if we had to go back and view a recording. As I said before, they already have six cameras in place, although they are sort of antiquated, instead of just getting rid of them because they are already hardwired into the buildings...we ended up getting a quote to make it all work together, the new cameras with the existing cameras. The bids came in and only three companies bid. Without disclosing the names, one company didn't meet the bid specs at all, based on what they proposed. They couldn't integrate what was currently in place with the public school systems. That was kind of a key point. So, they were knocked off. The second one came in at an extremely high price. The third one was kind of a reasonable price and did meet the bid specs. The reason we are here tonight is the current company that does a lot of the camera systems at the police department, and the Board of Education, it's a company called AST. We already know, prior to these bids going out what comparable services they provide and what their prices are. These companies are independent, nobody knew anyone else's prices. They came in, sealed in envelopes but we were able to compare them and AST, even though they weren't able to bid initially, that's why they weren't on the initial bid specs, because as I mentioned it was so overly broad, and AST knew they weren't going to be able to do ballistic film or key fobs and things like that. So, they didn't initially bid. When we revised the bid, it didn't go out as a new bid. It just went out as an addendum. Only the people who initially bid eight months ago weren't part of the initial bid, they couldn't bid on the addendum. Although AST's price is significantly lower than the three that did apply. So that's where we are now. We were hoping we could do a bid waiver and go with the company that didn't bid initially.

Mayor Lauretti: This doesn't need a bid waiver after all. It doesn't meet the threshold for a bid waiver, or for bidding for that matter. The price came in at \$3,995 which is far below the threshold.

A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED unanimously 8-0.

2.ADOPTION OF THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2018-2019

Alderman Anglace MOVED to approve the following resolution:

Be it resolved by the Board of Aldermen of the City of Shelton, in accordance with Section 7.6 of the Charter, that the budget documents submitted by the Board of A&T on May 1, 2019 be adopted subject to the following amendments/adjustments and that they be accepted as the official budget and mill rate for the City of Shelton for Fiscal Year 2019-2020.

		Board of A& T Recommendation	Board of Alderman Final Budget	Increase (Decrease)
EXPENDITURES				
Employee Resources				
001-0200-411-20-03	Social Security Employer	850,000	830,000	-20,000
001-0200-411-20-08	Group Insurance	3,500,000	3,400,000	-100,000
001-0200-411-80-52	Increments	70,000	50,000	-20,000
Parks and Rec				
001-1000-622-10-01	Regular Payroll	878,630	933,630	55,000
City Clerk				
001-1400-41-10-01	Regular Payroll	181,341	241,341	60,000
001-1400-415-30-08	Indexing	50,000	75,000	25,000
Senior Center				
001-1600-623-10-01	Regular Payroll	140,036	133,211	-6,825
Public Safety and Emerg Services				
001-2000-519-10-02	Part Time Employees	1	22,500	22,499
Fire Marshall				
001-2200-512-10-01	Regular Payroll	164,578	167,461	2,883
001-2200-512-10-02	Part Time Employees	84,649	109,649	25,000

Police Department				
001-2500-511-10-01	Regular Payroll	4,646,772	4,746,772	100,000
001-2500-511-30-11	Communication Maint	70,923	90,923	20,000
001-2500-511-40-46	Training & Duty Supplies	20,200	30,200	10,000
001-2500-511-40-47	Motor Vehicle Maint	21,370	28,870	7,500
001-2500-511-40-59	Communication Replacement	33,500	48,500	15,000
001-2500-511-60-18	Emergency Lights	17,380	32,380	15,000
001-2500-511-65-01	Traffic Division	39,390	49,390	10,000
001-2500-511-80-16	Sign Replacement	15,100	30,100	15,000
Youth Service Bureau				
001-2700-624-10-01	Regular Payroll	96,245	83,245	-13,000
001-2700-624-10-02	Part Time Payroll	60,915	80,915	20,000
Building Department				
001-3100-713-10-01	Regular Payroll	146,409	226,409	80,000
Highways and Bridges				
001-3200-712-10-01	Regular Payroll	1,900,000	1,850,000	-50,000
Sanitation				
001-3900-714-10-02	Part Time Employees	139,483	120,483	-19,000
BOE				
001-4100-811-80-34	Board of Education	74,038,550	72,765,000	1,273,550
Library				
001-4400-621-10-02	Part Time Employees	283,813	278,458	-5,355

Tax Collector 001-5400-412- 10-01	Regular Payroll	201,926	261,926	60,000
Purchasing 001-5500-412- 10-02	Part Time Employees	1	10,000	9,999
Public Risk Management 001-5600-412- 10-01	Regular Payroll	44,848	53,662	8,814
001-5600-412- 30-20	Municipal Insurance	1,150,000	1,125,000	-25,000
Accounting & Control 001-5700-412- 10-01	Regular Payroll	380,563	453,563	73,000
Contingency General 001-9900-900- 99-00	Contingency	150,000	120,000	-30,000
		89,376,623	88,448,588	-928,035
REVENUES				
001-0000-301- 20-00	Additional Surplus	0	300,000	300,000
001-0000-311- 10-00	Current Levy	107,935,884	106,151,649	1,784,235
001-0000-341- 16-00	Conveyance Tax	900,000	975,000	75,000
001-0000-361- 13-00	Blight Fines	0	65,000	65,000
001-0000-381- 16-00	Unanticipated Income	230,000	100,000	-130,000
001-0000-381- 17-00	Center Stage Lease	30,000	45,000	15,000
001-0000-381- 21-00	Perry Hill Rd Lease	0	19,200	19,200

001-0000-381-44-00	Sale of City Assets	0	425,000	425,000
001-0000-381-47-00	Valley Reg Adult Ed	0	87,000	87,000
		109,095,884	108,167,849	-928,035

Resulting in a total budget of \$127,571,474 for fiscal year beginning July 1, 2019. The mill rate shall be established at 22.42 mills, with a collection date for fiscal year 2019-2020 to be July 1, 2019 and January 1, 2020 for real estate; July 1, 2019 for personal property taxes less than \$5,000 and July 1, 2019 and January 1, 2020 for personal property taxes equal to or greater than \$5,000 and July 1, 2019 for the motor vehicle tax with the exception of those that carry their own collection date as determined by statute under motor vehicle supplement. Any tax under \$5 will be waived. Also, be it resolved that the Board of Aldermen accepts in principle the Capital Improvements Program as submitted.

Seconded by Alderman McPherson.

Mayor Lauretti: Does anyone have anything to add?

Alderman Gidwani: Mr. Mayor we don't see anything for the psychologist, the \$65,000 that we agreed upon.

Mayor Lauretti: As you were explained to last night.

Alderman Gidwani: I was not there.

Mayor Lauretti: But you were explained to after the fact, whether you were or not, the answer is that the \$65,000 is included in the overall budget appropriation and that will be a decision that the Board of Education will have to make. This Board has no control over what they do.

Alderman Gidwani: What about the funding for the books and technology?

Mayor Lauretti: That is not incorporated in this budget.

Alderman Gidwani: We talked about it with John Anglace and I thought it would be somewhere in this budget?

Alderman Anglace: What did you talk about? You didn't talk to me about anything.

Alderman Gidwani: I sent a message.

Alderman Anglace: Give me some specifics.

Alderman Gidwani: I sent you and Anthony a message because I was not going to be at yesterday's meeting.

Alderman Anglace: Five minutes after five last night, yes, you did send an email and you said something to the effect that you would like to see more done for education. So, we give you credit for that.

Alderman Gidwani: I am not looking for credit.

Alderman Anglace: You didn't say anything to me about books.

Alderman Gidwani: I did.

Alderman Balamaci: He said it at the meeting last night.

Alderman Gidwani: I did say it at the meeting, about books and...

Alderman Anglace: What's your point?

Alderman Gidwani: My point is are we going to give the BOE money for books?

Alderman Anglace: There is no money for books in this budget here.

Alderman Gidwani: So, we are not giving them money for books?

Alderman Anglace: I am not saying we aren't giving them money. I am not saying that.

Alderman Gidwani: So, what are you saying?

Alderman Anglace: I said there is no money for books in this budget.

Mayor Lauretti: Unless they decide to take money out of their budget to buy books and supplies.

Alderman Gidwani: I thought we were on board to give them money for books and computers?

Alderman Anglace: I don't know what board you were on.

Alderman Gidwani: I think we are on the same board.

Alderman McGorty: I think what he is referring to is what we talked about last night and that we would address it after we adopted this budget, funding for books and technology.

Alderman Anglace: There is a whole page in the Board of Education's budget that deals with "other enhancements". What we talked about was that we would be sure to take a look at this as part of the Capital Improvements Program. That comes later. That isn't done during the Adoption of the Budget.

Mayor Lauretti: Which we have done in the past. Not a new concept.

Alderman Anglace: We don't isolate, such as Highways & Bridges Department, their need for vehicles, and talk about it in the budget. We talk about that as part of the Capital Improvements, same with any Capital Improvements. Since books have a useful life of five years or more. Historically we have bonded for those in the past. We could do that if that's what the Board wants to do when we talk about bonding.

Mayor Lauretti: You can recall that we spent \$1.7 million for the Shelton High School Athletic Complex. That wasn't in the budget. We just appropriated money to repair the parking lot. That wasn't in the budget. We appropriated money to do the tennis courts. That wasn't in the budget and on and on and on.

Alderman Gidwani: Right, but we approved \$400,000 for lighting for the field...

Alderman Anglace: \$388,000.

Alderman Gidwani: Okay, I just rounded up. I am just talking about education. I am just talking about what is good for the kids in Shelton.

Alderman Anglace: Listen, we just went through the entire budget process. You were part of this whole thing. That's the time to talk about these things. Tonight is decision time.

Alderman Gidwani: The mayor asked if there were any other questions. I am just asking a question.

Mayor Lauretti: You know you are not obligated to answer him.

Alderman Gidwani: You don't have to answer me then.

Alderman McGorty: But the \$65,000 is there correct?

Alderman Anglace: It's in there.

Mayor Lauretti: Are there any other questions?

Alderman Capra: I would like to add some comments too. Shelton is known as an employment hub, we all know that. We generate a lot of tax revenue through that and that helps take the burden off our city residents. This helps our seniors who are on a fixed income and cannot afford more out of pocket taxes, especially in a state where taxes and the cost of living continues to rise. I think this Board of Aldermen and the Mayor do a good job of keeping taxes right where they need to be for our senior base and for people who can't afford much more. However, I do need to keep in mind the needs of all city residents, young and older in age. I believe in giving additional Board of Education funding, which we are, in the hopes that it will go towards a full-time school psychologist and will help with immediately working with Dr. Clouet, Rick Belden and the Board of Education to hopefully, very soon, do aldermanic bonding for textbooks and technology. Let's hope to make this happen for these students for the start of the school year. Throughout this budget process, my hope was to ease this toxic tension between all of us in this room and the Board of

Education. The Board of Aldermen and the Board of Education met over a week ago for 4.5 hours and I hope we cleared the air on many of the issues that we have had in the past. I hope we can build a bridge to work together for the betterment of the children because they matter the most. Dr. Clouet has repeatedly asked, "What is my vision for the City of Shelton?" My vision is having pride in our city. In Shelton politics, I feel like all we do is fight and bring up past issues. Let's move forward, highlight and recognize the many great things Shelton has to offer. I would like to see our police department eventually become fully staffed and eventually have more school resource officers. I want our volunteer fire men and women to know we appreciate their heroic work that they choose to do every day. I look forward to seeing the continued great works of our senior center as Doreen, Shauna and the entire staff are top notch and really do care about the needs of our seniors. Now is the time to have more discussion on the best way to revitalize downtown. There is so much potential for good and smart development. I am hopeful this summer the Chromium Parking Lot will be paved, the sidewalks and lighting will be installed and a walkway from Canal Street to Center Street will be put in so that over 700 residents who reside on Canal Street will feel safe walking around downtown and checking out all the great small businesses. Lastly, education, let's continue to build a bridge and work together. I am here as a volunteer. I don't get paid to serve the city, because I love Shelton and want great things for our future. Thank you.

Mayor Lauretti: Alderman Anglace has a few remarks regarding the budget. Go ahead John.

Alderman Anglace: The Board of Aldermen wishes to thank all City departments, department heads, the Mayor, the Board of Apportionment & Taxation, the Finance Director and his staff, the Public and many others for their input into and participation with the 2019-20 budgets.

This spending and taxation plan will manage our City well and give Shelton citizens one of the most affordable tax rates in Connecticut.

This budget helps our families deal with their household budgets. It provides stability for our business community, helping them to compete, grow and create much needed jobs.

This budget was not without its challenges. We are setting our budget without knowing what laws the state of CT will enact to further burden Shelton taxpayers. The state won't enact their budget until sometime in June.

Under consideration by the state are new unfunded municipal mandates, tolls, increased sales taxes, higher income tax rates, elimination and/or reduction of local motor vehicle taxes, the possibility that the state will ask municipalities to fund 25% or more of teacher pension costs (state legislated, state run and not fully funded by the state) and other more subtle municipal unfunded mandates. What a mess!!!

How do Shelton taxpayers continue to make ends meet when faced with unbearable demands from their state government? How do municipalities function without the ability to plan their budget needs?

We have repeatedly asked the state to adopt their budget in a timely manner. Without the full state tax picture, municipalities must exercise frugal budgeting practices. We have no

crystal ball and cannot adopt a spending plan only to find later that the state is shifting another expense onto the backs of our taxpayers.

Unless and until the new CT Governor and the ruling Democrat party realize that economic vitality is the only way to ensure citizen, municipal and state prosperity, taxpayers will continue their exodus from CT thereby further reducing state revenues.

Closer to home, the BOA is committed to working more closely with the Board of Education. As the City Fiscal Authority we are revising their budget format, providing for joint oversight budget meetings throughout the year and hoping to continue a frank and open dialogue on many budget subjects. We hope to promote better understanding among those concerned with this vital community service. We are optimistic!

Throughout this budget process we have heard school need justifications based on comparisons to other local area school districts. Such pleas need further examination as the comparison data is local and not student results oriented.

When compared on the national level, CT schools are the third highest per pupil spending in the country. With that kind of funding, CT students should be head and shoulders above the rest of the country. Are we?

As our Mayor has said many times, the City of Hartford spends much more than Shelton and has asked ... where would you prefer to send your children ... there or here?

Consequently, the need for more open and direct discussion of our school needs and the programs offered becomes obvious. As the fiscal authority, we are committed to make that dialogue happen starting this year.

Once again, the Board of Aldermen is proud, privileged and pleased to adopt a budget that allows everyone the opportunity to meet the increased financial demands made upon their limited resources while maximizing community services. Thank you.

A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED unanimously - 8-0.

ADJOURNMENT

Alderman Anglace MOVED to adjourn at approximately 7:30 p.m.

SECONDED by Alderman Kudej. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Theresa Adcox

Theresa Adcox, Clerk
Board of Aldermen

DATE APPROVED: _____ BY: _____

Mayor Mark A. Lauretti