



MINUTES OF BOARD OF A&T BUDGET WORKSHOP
7:00 PM Wednesday, March 3, 2010
SHELTON CITY HALL
54 HILL STREET
Auditorium
SHELTON CT 06484

Roll Call

Board of A&T:

Chairman, Mark Holden
Chris Besescheck
Judson Crawford
Faith Hack
Charlotte Madar
John Zikaras

Board of Aldermen:

Alderman Lynn Farrell
Alderman John "Jack" Finn
Alderman Stanley Kudej
Alderman Noreen McGorty
Alderman Eric McPherson
Alderman John Papa
Alderman Anthony Simonetti

Others Persons Present:

John Cook, Wetlands Coordinator
Fred Ruggio, Chairman Economic Development
Jim Ryan, Economic Development
Rick Schultz, Planning & Zoning
Thomas Harbinson, Conservation Commission
Bruce Kosowsky, Fire Commissioner Company #5; Vice Chairman BOFC
Fran Jones, Fire Chief, Shelton Fire Dept.

Call To Order/Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Mark Holden called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:05 p.m. As an administrative note, he stated that he received a phone call today from the Mayor's Office that the Fire Marshal, Jim Tortora's mother has passed away this morning; therefore, the interview for the Fire Marshal is going to be postponed to Tuesday or Wednesday of next week. Obviously, they'll do whatever is best for him.

-0600 Inland/Wetlands

John Cook, Wetlands Coordinator for the Inland/Wetlands Commission, addressed the Board.

Chairman Holden indicated that he could give a five minute opening statement if he would like to.

Mr. Cook stated that basically, on the cover sheet of Page 0601, he would just summarize that the budget is submitted to reflect the current condition of the region and the state economy, and wherever possible, adjustments have been made for that consideration. With these efforts, this budget reflects a slight reduction from 2009.

Chairman Holden commented that the Mayor has recommended the budget as requested. He asked if there were questions from either Board for Inland/Wetlands.

Faith Hack asked about a capital outlay request for \$30,000 for six years.

Chairman Holden explained that he amortizes the vehicle over six years.

Judd Crawford asked about Revenue item -341.23-00 Wetland Application Fees, currently they are operating under a budget of \$8,865 of which they've received \$1,650 yet he's increasing that to \$10,715 which has been justified by the Mayor also. He asked how he felt he'd receive that much more income.

Mr. Cook responded that when he does the revenues he bases it on the preceding receipts computation. So when he multiplies out, he uses a 6-month or 12-month factor and projects that out based upon the current conditions. He doesn't know what the future will hold, if that is going to increase; but based upon the receipts at the time he calculated, that's what it came out too. He doesn't have the summary sheet with him showing the receipts he tallied.

Chairman Holden commented that perhaps there is some income that has come in that is not reflected on the year to date number.

Mr. Cook responded that was true and it's also true with individual projects. They may not necessarily pay their permit fees until they initiate construction. Right now there is not a lot of initiation going on.

With no further questions from either Board, Chairman Holden thanked Mr. Cook and moved on to Economic Development Commission.

-0700 Economic Development Commission

Fred Ruggio, Chairman of the Economic Development Commission addressed the Board. Mr. Ruggio indicated that they sponsor the following activities - they develop marketing materials about the City, they publish quarterly The Shelton Life, Community & Business News and he provided a draft of their next issue to be published in mid March. They sponsor the Flag Day event; they sponsor the schools city-wide art contest

in conjunction with Flag Day. They sponsor and host a city-wide main event, which they haven't had in a couple years but they expect to this year. They develop and produce the bi-annual report of the City and they advise on the content of the City's website development.

Mr. Ruggio indicated that today he received the fiscal year budget of 2011 which has the Mayor's recommended funds compared to the funds requested. He stated that Account 11-05 Meeting, Travel, Conference was cut from \$13K to \$6K and that includes Flag Day; and at \$6K it jeopardizes the Flag Day event. He would at least like to have it increased to \$8K and he'll forego everything else that is in that line item. So, \$2K more is what he needs. He indicated that their Flag Day costs ran about \$8200 last year and the year before around the same thing. He thinks that it is an event that is very worthwhile for the City. It brings out a great crowd and there's always a lot of talk about it, and everyone he sees there enjoys it. He thinks that it is worth funding.

Charlotte Madar, Board of A&T, asked if there was a cost for their Art Contest or does that go with Flag Day.

Mr. Ruggio responded that it's about \$1200 that they include but they can get the money elsewhere from different areas; but then he corrected himself to say that the \$8K does include the art contest. The Commission tried to run the Art Contest several years ago and it was a disaster and they turned it over to the City educators and they do an absolutely wonderful job. They see the result of the artwork selected, but if they were to look at all the artwork that the kids do, it is absolutely wonderful. He added that they usually start now and they are done by the end of June. It is absolutely worth doing.

Faith Hack asked about #30-07 Printing & Advertising and noted that the bulk of that budget is yet to be spent. She asked if they planned to spend the \$22K.

Mr. Ruggio responded that most of their expenditures are in the last 4 -5 months of the year. They usually don't see anything in the first six months and then all of sudden; it hits all at once.

Judd Crawford asked about 11-05 Meeting, Travel, Conference that Mr. Ruggio was just discussing, to date \$1,138 has been expended and he's requesting \$2K yet there is a balance of \$8K. He asked Mr. Ruggio if he felt that would be expended by the end of the year or will there be...

Mr. Ruggio responded that according to their records, and he just checked with City Hall this morning, for the fiscal year of 2009-2010, they have a budget of \$27K. They have expended \$6500 so far and they have more bills coming in. They have another \$6K in the next couple weeks in order to pay for the draft issue of Shelton Life he just showed them.

Chairman Holden commented that he's talking about Printing & Advertising, but Judd is talking about Meetings, Travel & Conference.

Mr. Ruggio apologized for the error and responded that it's about \$2K so far and with Flag Day coming up, it will be about \$8K, so that will hit the \$10K.

Chairman Holden asked a question about where he needs the \$2K for Flag Day. If the only way it can be done is to remove funds from another line item, where would he have it come from?

Mr. Ruggio responded that they pretty much did a bare bones budget and they looked at all their expenses. He would almost have to take it from every line item in order to get that \$2K – a few hundred dollars here, and a few hundred dollars there. As he said, they looked at everything very closely and tried to make it as realistic as possible based upon historical expenses that they've had.

Judd Crawford asked Mr. Ruggio if he is stating that he's going to be expending the total amount of his budget by the end of this year; the Economic Development Commission turned back \$19,276 last year.

Mr. Ruggio responded that he didn't have the exact figures, but yes, they did. They did not spend the amount of printing and advertising that they originally thought.

Faith Hack commented that he had a larger budget last year though.

Mr. Ruggio responded that's true and he doesn't think that they'll be returning anything this year. But he's certainly not asking for more than they think they can handle the projects with.

Chairman Holden asked if there were any other questions, income items or capital items. With no further questions, he thanked Mr. Ruggio.

Chairman's Note: Alderman Anglace has excused himself again this evening; he has a family member ill in the hospital.

-0800 Economic Development

Jim Ryan, Shelton Economic Development Corporation addressed the Boards. For the benefit of new members, Mr. Ryan stated that they are a non-profit local development corporation comprised of three basic elements to their business. One is Downtown Redevelopment which is their primary piece and they act as the Shelton implementation agency. They are designated by resolution of the BOA to act in that capacity. They handle site improvement programs, field programs, etc. They also work with the City on city-wide economic development and they also work on regional economic development.

So, in their revenue mix, it comes from a number of different sources and they do that for a couple of reasons. First, they want to defray the cost of their services to the City, so they bring in other business that Staff works on that is related to Shelton. And their director has raised anywhere from \$35K to \$45K a year which has a direct impact upon the bottom line. Charitable contributions come from either their directors or the business community. They were organized in 1983, staffed since 1984, and it took a while but they have a model that other communities are trying to replicate. They are partners and collaborators with the Economic Development Commission. They work on all their programs with them and provide Staff support as they may require and they work in

support the function of the Mayor's role as head of economic development for the City. This is all spelled out in their work plan for the year.

Chairman Holden commented that he notices that the Mayor has recommended the budget as requested; so there are no changes to what he's asked for. He asked if there were any questions from either board.

Judd Crawford asked if the line item for \$90K was the only line item for Professional Services.

Mr. Ryan responded that is the City's payment for the services that are spelled out in their work plan. The way it has been handled over the years is with 12 equal payments.

Faith Hack asked if there had been a reduction from last year.

Mr. Ryan responded that they were reduced last year from \$93 or \$95 to \$90K. The Board asked at that point in time if they could handle it, and they responded that they would try. They have their 11 months financial reports but as of the 12th month, they were within \$2500 of their \$300K+ budget. This same applies to this year; the Mayor asked them to try to stay even if they can. If there's a problem, the City, A&T and the BOA have also listened to their justifications for additional funds, so they think they can make it work.

Faith Hack asked about the request for a six year capital outlay for Shelton Economic Development Corporation.

Mr. Ryan responded that they put those in to provide the outline for the City in areas they are going to be making investments in – largely, in Downtown. He referenced one toward the bottom of the page that says EPA – Environment Protection Agency for when the City gets grants, normally for about \$200K and the City makes a match of about 20%. Twenty percent is about half of one year's match and the other 40 is another year's match. So, it doesn't mean they are going to get the money, of course, as it is with all capital projects, but they try to estimate what their cash requirements are going to be for that year. Then the Administration looks at their estimates and evaluates them – they make the final approvals.

Chairman Holden responded that is generally is done through bonding as opposed to...

Mr. Ryan commented that they actually make no recommendations on the source of the funds, whether its bond or general revenue. And they have no role in the timing of it – that happens at the Alderman's level.

With no further questions from either board, Chairman Holden thanked Mr. Ryan for his time.

-0900 Planning & Zoning

Rick Schultz, Planning & Zoning Department addressed the Board. Mr. Schultz began by stating that as they are all aware, they've entered the second year of a most

significant recession. Obviously, the P&Z Department is seeing it firsthand. It's most reflective in his revenues which he will discuss later. Pertaining to the budget, his Commission likes to take advantage of these quieter times to do planning. They established a Special Area Study line some years ago to assist the Commission. They've kept it in there without funding it; but during these economic times when they have a window of opportunity, his Commission likes to do Special Area Studies.

Mr. Schultz indicated that his commission also recently established a Planned Implementation Committee to examine all the recommendations of the 2006 Plan of Conservation and Development. That committee has not yet met but they anticipate on doing their own studies, so that was the purpose of the \$5K department request, which was eliminated by the Mayor. However, he feels comfortable that the Professional Services line, which has also been reduced, also reflects the down time; money can come from that account. Mr. Schultz stated that he felt compelled to show this Board that during these times, it's important to do the planning. This is the time that they do it because, they were very busy two years ago when they were just reacting to applications. He wanted to emphasize that they can make due, they all have to make due even in their personal lives. He has no issues with the Mayor's recommendation but that was the whole premise behind his request because it just made sense.

Mr. Schultz added as a side note, his Commission is overhauling the sign regulations. They have been trying to do it for years. It is a very controversial matter and they will probably have the hearing in April. It takes a lot of time. That would normally be a Special Area Study but they are doing that in house, so he wants them to know that because they have Mr. Panico, the Planning Consultant and himself, and a very committed P&Z Commission, they do a lot of things in house. For instance, they did the Route 8 Plan Update Study many years ago. The POCD, which took two years to put together, required the assistance of a planning consultant as well.

Mr. Schultz concluded that he just wanted to advise them why the request was made, why the department can live with it, but during better times, there is a time for everything and obviously this is not the right time for it.

Charlotte Madar asked Rick Schultz if he would be coming in for a line item transfer from the Professional Services account to Special Area Study when he needs.

Mr. Schultz responded yes, even the Part Time employee account, John Cook of Wetlands and his department share a part time enforcement. John's budget takes care of it in the first part of the year and then he takes care of it. Normally, it's been \$3K to \$5K, so that's another opportunity right there. So obviously, he would have to come before the Board for a transfer. So obviously, they will make due.

Chairman Holden commented that it is understandable when they are running lean, that they are more likely to have to adjust the plan as time goes by.

Mr. Schultz indicated that planning is important, it serves the community well, as they know, but these are lean times.

Chairman Holden indicated that he appreciated his opinion on that and asked if there were any further questions for P&Z from either board.

John Zikaras asked if they contract Mr. Panico on an annual basis.

Mr. Schultz responded that he is exempt under the consultant provision and he works at the pleasure of the P&Z Commission.

John Zikaras asked if that was contracted amount or hourly rate.

Mr. Schultz responded that it is an hourly amount and he's embarrassed to tell them but he has maintained the \$65 per hour. His profession, and his tenure is at \$100 per hour, but the Commission has always said, they continue use him. He's worked for the City for many years and if they can hold that line item, they would appreciate it. The \$65/hour has been maintained.

Judd Crawford asked why his department turned back in \$27,797 last year.

Mr. Schultz responded that some of it was Professional Services because; as he indicated it was the first year of the recession. The other was Part Time Employees; Meeting, Travel and Conference. The Administration has asked them to pull way back on the traveling – so basically it was those three line items. This year there will times that they request transfers, so they'll see it, especially with the need for more planning. Mr. Schultz added that they try to hold the line and not be frivolous and that's why they had that surplus. He indicated that, as they can see, the revenues are way down, but he wanted to reflect an accurate projection because this Board wants to see it. They constantly re-examine the fees by consulting with area towns. The newspapers are hurting and their fees, the Legals have gone up and that is why they have to hold the line. The amount of applications has decreased but the rates have gone way up so that has kind of balanced it out. During better times, the item for Dues, Subscriptions, Printing & Advertising – those will go up but their fee schedule can up too. The Board expects that from all the departments that do have revenue.

Chairman Holden asked Judd if he had any income items.

Judd Crawford commented that the Department Head mentioned it already, Account #18-00 P&Z Commission Receipts.

Chairman Holden noted that they are projecting a decrease in line with the reduced economy – hopefully, that will change reasonably soon. With no further questions from either Board, he thanked Mr. Schultz who provided them with a copy of his annual report of last year. He asked them to take a look at the last page with a summary showing the previous year which is interesting.

-1300 Conservation Commission

Thomas Harbinson, Conservation Commission, addresses the Board. In his opening comments, he indicated that he is very appreciative by the amount of volunteers that work on their Trails and Open Space. One of their volunteers added it up and it came to

about 1300 hours last year, which if paid City rates, would be about \$25K. So, if anyone is walking or hiking the trails, please be appreciative of the public volunteers who help maintain them.

Chairman Holden asked if there were any questions from either Board on the Conservation Commission.

Alderman Simonetti asked about the increase in Part Time Employees #10-02.

Mr. Harbinson responded that Teresa Gallagher is their Conservation Agent. She is their only part-time employee. They have added activities to her core duties which were recently mentioned in a line item transfer. The Project Clean Sweep, which is a community wide program to maintain the streets better with volunteer groups. Through the Mayor's Office, Teresa Gallagher has managed that activity annually. Also, the Community Garden activity that is starting up involves Teresa as well as the Anti-Litter Committee. Again, leveraging a little bit of input from a City Staff person to crowd source some volunteers to benefit the City.

Chairman Holden commented that they are great at it.

Mr. Harbinson responded that they have a very good team.

Judd Crawford asked where the \$22,362 turned back last year came from.

Mr. Harbinson responded that he didn't really understand Judd's question.

Judd explained that it was coming from the audit.

Mr. Harbinson responded by asking if he was basically talking about money that was not utilized. He stated that he did not have last year's numbers in front of him, but they have reduced their budget – he thinks that he included the Fiscal Year '06-'07 through today, in his electronic submission – and back in '06 his budget was \$47K and it is now \$39K. So, they are making do with less but the conservation activities, as they know, involve such things as acquisition of land for open space, projects such as the recreation path and those don't normally follow a defined calendar or fiscal year process. With grants, and they are likely going to get a grant from the DEP for a trail to be announced in March, but they don't know if those are coming down the pike. So, they have a budget to utilize for surveys, grant application work; and if the grant comes in they can utilize the grant money instead of City funds and they certainly try to do that. He can say, since his time on the Conservation Commission, the amount of grants that they've gotten has been in the millions of dollars – for open space and trail improvements, etc.

Charlotte Madar commented that she hopes they keep getting those grants.

Mr. Harbinson responded that it wasn't official yet, but it is very likely that they will get one in March.

Faith Hack ask about their six year capital outlay for '10 – '11 they are looking at a recreation path \$50K; design transfer (inaudible)

Mr. Harbinson responded that the Recreation Path is a formalized walking trail that would go from the Shelton Lakes Reservoir near Meadow Street and RT 108 and connect all the way to Huntington Center. There are three timber bridges along that route. One can be seen from the reservoir in the Police Station area, another can be seen from Huntington Center. A third one, kind of hidden in the woods over by Constitution Boulevard that is on top the damn still way of silent waters. But that pretty much gives them a picture of where the routing is. Some of that area has been improved to a more formalized trail with pavement for the school campus when the school was constructed. Last year they were able to construct a segment from the school campus paralleling pretty much Constitution Boulevard down to the intersection of Constitution, Rt. 108 and Nells Rock. They did that with a contractor in the off season and got a very good price, and that is done to a firm surface, not pavement, but something that a bike could be walked on or baby stroller.

Chairman Holden commented that he was on a section of that in the fall; it was nice and he was impressed with it.

Mr. Harbinson indicated that they have gotten a lot of usage out of it and people are starting to break out – and people are recognizing what the vision is. Unbeknownst to anyone in this room, they have a hidden camera on there trail to document how many people are on it, wildlife, and so on. It's amazing how many people are utilizing the trail. In any regard, it is a long term project to get all the way to get to Huntington Center. They have obtained grants from the DEP for the timber bridges, for example, from the U.S. Forest Service. They are trying to do a linear amount, keep progress, keep momentum and that is why they put an annual amount into the capital request. He has never really had any feedback as to how that component of this budget process works.

Chairman Holden responded that it an evolving process. The Mayor's budget never includes the capital items which always make it interesting for the Board of A&T when they try not to go above the Mayor and still fund some capital items. On the other hand, there is that marvelous think called LOCIP.

Mr. Harbinson responded that to that regard, he did confirm when they started the project through Charlene DeFillippo's Office that this project does qualify as a LOCIP activity.

Judd Crawford asked about the Miscellaneous line items and what the status of the Open Space Ordinance was.

Mr. Harbinson responded that what he's referring to, is that the City has an Open Space Trust Account, through which it receives monies for the potential use and acquisition of open space. The funds come into it through set asides in P&Z applications, through the Zoning Regs if there is a fee in lieu of land set aside; there is fee of 10% of the raw land value of the property before development. Also, Judd may be referring to an Open Space Ordinance that requires that City include an annual budgeted amount into the Fund. That ordinance has gone through a number of visions over the years but currently it stands at, he thinks 250 but he can't recall the exact number.

Judd Crawford commented that it's 250 as stated here under the budget.

Mr. Harbinson responded that was not a component of his budget. Their budget has never included the line item that is mandated by the ordinance to be transferred into the Open Space Trust Account.

Chairman Holden added that is the BOA's problem because they are the ones that... (inaudible) that he's sure they will be mindful of.

Judd Crawford commented that it something there that is going to have to be done by the BOA but it is just bringing it out as information for other members of the Board.

Mr. Harbinson responded that to that regard, and he's made a number of comments publically on his blog and to media reports, is that the City has met the intent of the law by expending at least that amount on open space acquisition or paying off an open space acquisition. He doesn't necessarily agree with it but Corporation Counsel has interpreted the ordinance that the BOA is meeting the intent of the law.

Alderman Finn indicated that he wanted to make a clarification on who funds the Open Space Ordinance – yes, it does read that the BOA will fund it, but it's also the responsibility of the Board of A&T to make a recommendation to the BOA.

Chairman Holden responded that their recommendation would be that they fund it.

Mr. Harbinson summarized that there is no municipality in the State of Connecticut that can be as proud of its Open Space Program as Shelton - they have won national awards.

Chairman Holden commented that he thinks it is a good investment.

Judd asked Tom Harbinson if he happened to know what Ordinance number is.

Mr. Harbinson responded that he didn't but if he goes to his blog and looks up ordinance, he'll find it pretty quick.

With no further questions from either Board, Chairman Holden thanked Tom Harbinson and concluded the Conservation Commission discussion.

-1800 Zoning Appeals Board

-2200 Fire Marshal (postponed until a later date)

There was no one present to represent the Zoning Appeals Board. Charlotte Madar noted that they got what they had requested in the budget.

Chairman Holden added that he neglected to mention that they are probably going to be postponing the EMS Commission because the person presenting for them had a scheduling conflict.

Chairman Holden indicated that with no one present to interview until 8:00 p.m., he declared a brief recess.

7:40 p.m. 12 minute recess

Chairman Holden resumed the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

-2000 Public Safety & Emergency Services

There was no one present to represent -2000 line series. Chairman Holden reiterated that they would be postponing the -2100 line series EMS Commission. He called for any representatives from the Fire Department.

-2100 EMS Commission (postponed until later date)

-2400 Fire Department

Bruce Kosowsky, Fire Commissioner Company #5 White Hills & Vice Chairman, Board of Fire Commissioners and Francis Jones, Fire Chief for the Shelton Fire Department addressed the Board regarding line item -2400 Fire Department.

Chairman Holden asked if they wanted to make a 5 minute opening statement.

Comm. Kosowsky indicated that the Board of Fire Commissioners had a meeting last night in which they discussed the budget with the Mayor's recommendations. There are only a few areas within the budget that they need to address tonight. The majority of the budget line items they can work with, as they always have in the past. He'd be happy to answer any questions from the Board of A&T and BOA on the budget line items. They have prioritized on the capital improvement list. They can begin wherever they would like to start.

Chairman Holden suggested that they start where there are differences, if they could tell them the ones that they are interested in discussing.

Comm. Kosowsky responded that the line items they would like to discuss include 30-01 Professional Services; 30-14 Alarm Maintenance; 40-11 Clothing Supplies; 60-05 Communications Equipment.

Chairman Holden stated that he'd start with 40-11 Turn-Out Gear. His understanding is that a significant purchase is going to be made this year for turn-out gear. He asked if that would be happening and would that allow them to take a breather for a year.

Comm. Kosowsky responded no, the answer is no to that - there's no breather when it comes to clothing because they are behind with the clothing.

Chairman Holden asked if that was behind even with the major purchases being done this year.

Comm. Kosowsky responded that for the purchase this year, they are going to re-bid it because only one bidder came in. They need 100 sets and they only have funding for 70 - so they are 30 shy right there. It did not cover hoods, it did not cover helmets, it did not cover boots, gloves or any items that need to go out for bid. They are going to put

everything out for bid, get all the figures, so that they can go back to the BOA with one figure saying that is what they need for this year.

Comm. Kosowsky stated that the issue that they have with clothing is an ongoing yearly thing, not something that they just do once a year, and \$5K doesn't cut it because they have other issues during the year. For example, if they get a new member, and they want to order a set of gear. A coat and a pair of pants are close to \$2K not including the helmet, gloves, boots, etc. So, if they are given \$5K and they take on 10 new members, there is a problem. That is what they've done, they've taken in a lot of members, and the more volunteers they have, the better it is for the City.

The other issue is that they have other things that they need to buy throughout the year. If they have a fire and lose any gloves, then they need to stockpile gloves. There are other things too – there are the hoods. They are trying to outfit the firemen with job shirts when they go out for outside service, and sweatshirts in the winter time – there's a lot of stuff bought throughout the year and \$5K just doesn't make it. Comm. Kosowsky explained that their turnout gear has to meet OSHA and be NFPA compliant and it's not cheap. It can't be bought in a regular department store; it is very expensive. They try to go to many different areas to buy gear; it's excellent and gives them a good life of 8 -10 years. And there are even new standards, more and more, about the gear – if it gets damaged or worn, it has to be fixed – and that's where the money comes out of.

Comm. Kosowsky stated that the bottom line is that the City has to make a decision. If they want to support a Fire Department, then there is a certain amount of money that has to be put into it – and these areas such as clothing, communications, etc. - are their tools. They aren't supplying any labor. If they would look at what it would cost, per department, on the labor side, compared to what they're getting away with – tools are very important. They can't go into a burning building without the proper tools.

Chief Fran Jones indicated that he would like to add that they are looking for 70 sets of gear to be bonded to get them over the hump, per se, that they're in. When they prepared the budget together – the Board of Fire Commissioners, himself and his Chief and company officers. The way they prepared line item 40-11 Clothing Supplies was not to purchase a great quantity of Fire Department clothing – boots, pants, and coats – in speaking to the Mayor and the Board – they are going to do it through the bonding process as they move forward. This line item would be for the emergency turn out gear purchases so they estimated 5 sets at \$10K for the proper type of gear.

Chief Jones explained that if they were to have a fire with hazardous materials, he could lose 3 sets of gear just like that, which he'd have to replace. They can't do that through a bonding issue. They need to replace that gear immediately and have access to an account to do that. When they prepared the budget they said 5 sets of gear. Recently, they had a new member come to Company #4 who is 6'5" so he's a little bit taller than the normal fire fighters that they have. He's going through the training but he doesn't have any gear for this man to wear. He works within Shelton during the day and would be able to respond to fires, but they don't even have the proper gear to put him through training. That is why they need money for line item 40-11 to purchase gear for someone like him who can't fit into someone else's fire gear or if they lose a certain amount. In addition, this clothing account pays for uniforms for the Chiefs Office. One of their

initiatives is to provide station wear uniforms and duty wear for when the fire fighters are doing Shelton Day or are up at Shelton High School doing a fire prevention job, they will look presentable, identifiable and professional.

Between that, they have 30 Fire Police throughout the town. There are State and OSHA requirements for vests that must be worn. The Fire Police clothing comes from this account. So \$5K is not acceptable. They understand that this is a tight budget season but they put together a fair line item of \$40K to address these needs.

Chairman Holden asked if anyone on the Board of Alderman could enlighten him about the 70 sets of turn-out gear. Would it be possible to increase the number of sets that go under the bonding. His thinking is that given that borrowing money at the moment is relatively inexpensive because of interest rates being down, these things have a life span that exceeds the typical bond length; maybe, it would make sense to put extra sets in there and that way they could get by with less than \$40K in this account. Chairman Holden asked Alderman Simonetti if he could get a handle on that.

Alderman Simonetti responded that he would try to get a handle on this. He knows that Alderman Anglace would probably be able to answer that, and obviously he and the Mayor do a lot of that work. The bonding was discussed, and it was discussed that they want to do it, and the money seems to be there.

Chairman Holden responded that what he thinks it boils down to is that obviously these guys do need the equipment. He's trying to figure out how to structure this accounting wise while still being nice to the taxpayers in rough times. He realizes that they don't really care how it is paid for as long as it is paid for.

Chief Jones responded that they can move those 5 sets that they put in for on that line item over to the bonding and make it 75 sets. He added that 75 sets of gear are probably going to cost about \$160K in bonding.

Alderman Simonetti asked, and he's being the Devil's Advocate, because he thinks that he knows that the firemen usually don't buy their equipment. What they've been doing lately is passing down gear. They get gear that is in good condition, and they keep it in good condition. But if they get into a situation where something gets ruined and they can't refurbish it, it has to be discarded.

Chief Jones responded that per standard, there's a lifespan, per their quartermaster, they have gear washers at every firehouse. After fires, their gear is washed and that helps maintain their use. But with everyday use, they do 1100 runs city wide a year as a fire department. There are standards that they have to meet. They are fortunate enough to have a volunteer fire department. One of the things that the City should provide is good quality gear to keep their firemen safe.

Alderman Simonetti asked, in regard to the boots, he knows that if his boots don't fit properly, he'll get blisters, do the fireman buy their own boots or do they buy them to fit them.

Chief Jones responded that the boots are sized and there are two options. For newer members, they option to buy them rubber boots because of the cost factor. Members that have seniority and have vested a lot to the City, they buy them an upgraded leather boot. There are different boot manufacturers and grades but it is always NFPA compliant. The coats and pants are \$2K, the boots are \$3K, the protective hoods are \$80, the gloves are about \$40 a set. And that's the bare minimum. There is still other equipment required for a structural fire fighter.

Alderman Simonetti commented that he doesn't think that public realizes that you don't just buy these things once - they wear out.

Chief Jones responded that they are fortunate that many of their members are within the same sizes. He commented that Chris Besescheck is in hand-me-down gear right now because he is a similar size to someone who has served in the past. But, as he mentioned, they have a new guy who is 6'5" and there aren't many members that are 6'5" fireman in Shelton.

Faith Hack asked how they did last year with the money in this line item.

Comm. Kosowsky responded that it was bumped the year before. He added that he forgot to mention that it isn't just bought and delivered in a week -even after they order this stuff, it actually takes about 60 – 90 days to be delivered. The process that they have to go through is – they have to go out for bid, it has to get approved, the BOA has to bond it, then all the volunteers have to get together when the vendor comes down to size everybody. So, it could take like 6 months to get that gear. So in a budget year, if it's skipped, it could very easily get out of the cycle.

Faith Hack asked if that meant they were in the second year of (inaudible...)

Comm. Kosowsky responded that about 10 years ago, they came before the Board of A&T and the BOA and said that they had to maintain 30 -35 sets a year. Because the problem now with bonding large quantities – in 6 or 7 years they have to buy another 100 sets, but the other way, they could phase them in.

Comm. Kosowsky added that the other thing that they should understand is that they don't supply two sets of gear. Most fire departments supply two sets of gear. In a structural fire, if they get soaking wet, then that gear is out of service and can't be immediately worn to another fire. It's out of service because it could boil, and wearing it could cause steam burns, etc. Fortunately, they are lucky that they don't have multiple alarms because they don't have two sets of gear.

Comm. Kosowsky added that a lot of members buy their own gear, they get tired of waiting so they'll buy their own boots, gloves, etc.

Chief Jones responded that the gear has to meet specs, it's expensive, but most of the time they buy it out of frustration or a loved one will purchase it for them out of frustration because they aren't being funded.

Alderman Finn indicated that as a point of reference, this City puts more into Recreation than they do into the Fire Department. The Recreation budget is \$1,493,852; and the Fire Department budget is \$758,000. So, the Parks & Rec is getting \$735,526 more than the Fire Department.

Chairman Holden responded that he didn't think that they could make very much of a direct comparison there because Parks & Rec does also have some income. But beyond that, a better comparison would be to take a look at what they pay for Fire Hydrants as compared to what they pay for the Fire Department. Our costs for fire hydrants are considerably more than the cost for the Fire Department. Certainly...

Alderman Finn commented that he wanted to point out the fact the Fire Department budget has been reduced by \$200,000 over what they requested. Yet, you're looking for \$40K, and he's just taking that figure out of the air, to buy equipment for the Parks and Recreation department. He added that he thinks that \$40K could be better spent for fire services.

Chairman Holden responded that they haven't decided that the money is going to go to Parks & Rec.

Comm. Kosowsky commented that if they didn't have those fire hydrants, then they wouldn't be able to have the buildings that they have in the city of Shelton. They wouldn't be able to advertise the City of Shelton ... (inaudible, multiple discussions)

Chairman Holden commented that he just looks at it from the standpoint of comparing all the people involved in the Fire Department and all that is involved there - it seems like they are getting a better deal from the Fire Department than they are on the fire hydrants.

Alderman Simonetti stated that they really need both because without the hydrants to have the businesses, and the income from those businesses and the taxes from those businesses - so they need both.

Chief Jones commented that Shelton enjoys a 4 or 5 ISO rating which is comparable to most of the career departments in this general area. Without the hydrants, and without the personnel and equipment they have, they'd have an 8 or a 9 and some of their large taxpayers in town wouldn't like that.

Comm. Kosowsky stated that it would be difficult for them to supply the water. They would need more trucks and big tankers.

Chief Jones commented that another fact with the hydrants is that they aren't paying for each hydrant, they are pay a maintenance fee per hydrant with a minimum, but they are paying for linear footage of water pipe because Shelton is 33 square miles. It might seem that they are paying what Bridgeport is paying, and they have more hydrants - but they only have 19 square miles. The linear footage is much less.

Chairman Holden just looks at it as the hydrants just sit there and you guys do the work.

Judd Crawford asked if they could go back and just restate what they said about the payment of the hydrant charges.

Chief Jones responded that it's not based on the number and cost of hydrants, it is based on the amount of water pipe.

Alderman Simonetti stated that they actually surveyed the City a couple of years ago to make sure that they being overcharged.

Chief Jones added that yes, about two years ago they surveyed to find out if the City was paying the appropriate amount for the water service.

Judd Crawford indicated that he knows that the purchasing agent has made that comment about that one line (fire hydrants) item coming in quite high – and it's been like that for years.

Chief Jones agreed yes, it's like \$1.2M and when a new subdivision comes in and a water line is put in and hydrants go in, than the price goes up a bit.

Comm. Kosowsky added that they are pretty good about all the hydrant spaces because now with all these long driveways in these new subdivisions, the trucks have just enough hose to make it.

Chief Jones said that 700 feet between hydrants is their policy.

Comm. Kosowsky indicated that they have 1000 foot runs, 1100 foot runs.

Chairman Holden indicated that he wanted to move on the Alarm Maintenance line item, 30-14.

Comm. Kosowsky responded that it was very simple. Last year they put a request in and they requested the same thing. They need to upgrade their fire alarms to a radio control system. It is time to move out of 1945 technology. That is what they are in today - the copper wire and the rotary phone that is used, and the push button phone. Last year on Easter weekend he spent about 4 hours on the phone with A&T to get the thing fixed. It is an old system. It is how the alarms get activated and presently they have issues with it. It is very difficult to maintain and get fixed. They need to get into a radio system that activates the alarm at each one of the companies. They've eliminated the box system because that was a high maintenance item. It was difficult to get the funds to maintain that system. So the box system is gone and it's disabled. They need to put an alarm on Company 1 and go forward.

Chief Jones commented that this program would actually be a cost savings for the City going forward. As the Commissioner said, there are costs associated with telephone lines that are old technology. The copper based wires, when the water gets into them, they don't work. It is actually the red phone, push button phone technology from the 1950's. Some young people today have never even seen a rotary phone and what happened is that the BOA has bonded for a new console up in the Police Department. Part of the new console has the capability of adding radio controlled sirens into the fire

houses. It's a tertiary warning device, so when a fire call goes in they have the pagers they wear, their plexi ? in their homes and then they still have the sirens or horns within the fire house. Huntington Fire and Echo Hose have horn systems which require maintenance – there are air compressors in there and big containers for the air. The leather in the horn system dries out and it requires maintenance. Their proposal is to eliminate those horn systems. They have already removed the municipal box system – like the bread box in front of City Hall and boxes on the telephone poles. They've eliminated that system and then Company #4 and Company #5 have sirens there already. The only thing they'd have to do there is buy the radio control. So now the police dispatch center can hit the sirens when a fire call goes in during daylight hours to help warn people in the immediate area and let them know that fire trucks are on the main roads and to alert fire fighters if they are outside mowing the lawn or at the playground, they would know there is a fire in town. Also it would alert the Office of Emergency Management as a warning system, if they needed it for a civil defense type system.

Alderman Simonetti asked if the \$15K that they requested would buy the equipment and get it installed.

Comm. Kosowsky responded that it would buy the equipment but not the installation.

Alderman Simonetti stated that he knows that phone lines are anywhere from \$50 to \$100 a month, so the savings would be made up very shortly if they had two or three lines.

Comm. Kosowsky responded that some of the communication lines cost more than that.

Chris Besescheck asked if they knew on the average or had any idea what the maintenance is costing per year.

Comm. Kosowsky responded that there are about seven lines and he's going through the phone line bills right now and the prices just went up on all that stuff. He'd have to look up the bills to get an accurate number.

Alderman Simonetti commented that's its 7 lines for 12 months.

Some of these lines have been re-identified more than once because they really go back to the 1940's – that is how old this system is. They are a dedicated line with a hotline. There was an issue in one of the station where the hotline didn't work and that's when they started having to fix it. There isn't anyone left at the phone company who knows how to fix that system.

Chairman Holden asked if these phone lines were going to show up in their budget or the Purchasing Agent's.

Comm. Kosowsky responded the Purchasing Agent.

Chief Jones commented that the story with these lines, to answer Chris Besescheck's question, is the Huntington Fire Alarm System is offline because it is currently broken

down and antiquated. The Echo Hose system only sounds two times a day at 9 a.m. and at 7 p.m. – that's the only time that system activates. The Police Dept. does not have the capabilities because it is not able to activate the sirens at Company 4 and Company 5, so it can only be activated when a firefighter enters the fire station. The problem is that the system is already broken and has been in disrepair for many years. They put it in the budget last year to move forward with this system up and running – a radio-controlled siren system. And they are asking for it again, especially now, because the new console is going up to the Police Department so it just makes sense. They've asked for room up there on the console, through the vendor who is installing the console so they can install it and then they could move forward incrementally.

Chairman Holden indicated that what he is looking for is if they can eliminate some of the phone lines from another part of the budget to help fund this.

Alderman Simonetti comments that they could save \$4200 a year if they get rid of those lines.

Chief Jones responded that there are some maintenance fees that they are paying the alarm mechanic – about \$4K or \$5K this year to try and fix it.

Chairman Holden indicated that the next item that they identified as a priority is the 30-11 Communication Equipment at \$33K – that's for the old system. He asked if they have heard anything further about when they would be changing over to the more modern system.

Chief Jones responded that through their vendor, they are looking into acquiring frequencies. Again, because the project was stalled for many years, a lot of communities have taken up these frequencies and they are working toward it. It is a very slow process. They have to go through these frequency coordinators, statewide and national frequency coordinators to get these frequencies. They are closer than ever but not close enough to have any definite time frame.

Chairman Holden responded that for three years now his feeling has been that he really hates putting money in there because he'd really rather get the new systems set up.

Chief Jones responded that what the BOA and the Mayor did for them last year, they bonded for some communication equipment. The upgrades that they are making on the current system through portable radios are compatible to the new system. They are currently on a low band with repeaters that bump it up to a higher frequency. They are very close to getting that high band repeater frequency. If they can do that – it will be their new frequency and the portable radios that the BOA approved last year are already in service and inter-operable with EMS, Derby Fire Department, BOE – every time they go to the high school or any elementary school, some of their apparatus have direct communication with the security guards so they know exactly what location the calls are in and if it is a false alarm or not. These are not throw aways. These are definitely improvements to their current system and will be compatible for the future. There are 10 portable radios right now that are not able to be fixed; the MT-600's – so once that radio fails...

Comm. Kosowsky added that all of their low-band radios will be unusable in a couple years; eventually what will happen is that they'll have nothing to communicate with – it's as simple as that.

Chief Jones indicated that this is a stop gap measure – and eventually they'll get there.

Chairman Holden responded that his point is that is, if the radios that they are looking at are useable under the current system and under the system that they expect to move to, that's a very different situation than buying radios that they know are going to be in the trash – hopefully, real soon.

Chief Jones responded that these are definitely inter-operable just like they did with the last 10 portables that they purchased. This \$32K that they are asking for is – if a radio breaks, is lost or destroyed in a fire, there is no money in the account right now to buy one. It does not make sense to go out to bond for one radio. It would nice to be able to have some money in an account. These radios cost \$1100/piece – these portables.

Chairman Holden asked if they were just looking at radios for the new band as opposed to the dual, and what would the cost range be on them.

Chief Jones responded that they aren't buying a low band. They are buying a UHF frequency; so it's on a new band. The reason that they are able to use it is through the repeater system that they currently have. If they were to try to buy a low band radio, those radios would cost \$2K, and those would be basically be a throw away radio.

Chairman Holden commented that it is curious that the prices on these are as high as they are; he's a ham radio operator and he can buy a heck of handy talkie for \$400 with all the trimmings.

Chief Jones responded that they intrinsically safe, they have man-down buttons on them as a fire fighter safety device. That's another thing, their new console at the Police Station will have the capability with the new CAD system. Hopefully, with the new radio system or even with these radio upgrades, the new radios have an orange button on them that if someone is trapped or missing in a fire, they could activate it and it would say "Tower 7 Portable D Emergency Beep is on..." he knows the EMS in town have an emergency beep that has very similar technology.

End of Tape 1A 8:05 p.m.

Comm. Kosowsky indicated that they also had a problem with the pagers (inaudible) are is that air beam, the lower number ones, that they have are being phased out so they can't get them serviced. He's trying to send some of them down to Florida; they are down to two pagers. They have no pagers to give to new firemen coming in. They had no money and did not buy any pagers this year.

Chairman Holden asked if it would be feasible to develop a system with cell phones because so many people have cell phones.

Chief Jones responded that cell phones are unreliable. They are actually doing a secondary text messaging system through the Police Department's new CAD system but it is not reliable. Sometimes they'll get the call instantaneously, but if the cell system is full, the call could come in ten minutes later which is not good for an emergency. It's a good secondary system but they need the instant system. And redundancy, that is why they are looking for pagers, fire alarms, because they really need to alert the members, especially in a volunteer corp.

Alderman Simonetti indicated that he thinks they also mentioned Account 30-01 Professional Services— have they covered that?

Comm. Kosowsky responded no, and the reason that they asked for money on Professional Services is simply that they have two buildings. Company #1 which they've gone out for bid on many times for getting the floor fixed. And they also have an issue with Company #3, and in order to get something done on the Building Committee side, there needs to be a professional study done to tell them where to go with this because it is getting harder and harder to buy apparatus for it. The building was built a long, long time ago, and now the fire trucks are bigger. They bought a used piece of apparatus, an aerial device which cost them a ton of money and proved not to be a good idea. They can't put a new one in it.

Comm. Kosowsky continued to say that Ladder #33 has cost them thousands and thousands of dollars. It has been on the back of a tow truck numerous times; if it goes to a fire, it gets towed back. It is an old piece of apparatus that is costing them a lot of money for maintenance and they can't put anything in the building because the new trucks are made taller. All four fire companies bought engine #2's the rescue pumpers. They bought rescue pumpers that had to fit in Company #3 that affected all the rest of the companies because they couldn't put the rescue bodies with the ladders on top. So they had to buy specialty trucks to fit in one building which cost them more money, they had less cabinets and they couldn't put the ladders where they wanted to put them. And the Chief will tell you that they fight all different types of fires these days and they need the cabinet space. So they are designing trucks to fit in one building which is affecting the whole fire department – and it needs to be addressed with an engineering study of the building.

Chief Jones commented that it will be brought to the BOA's attention again.

Alderman McPherson commented that they mentioned Company #1 – he remembers when Tower 7 came in, before it even got there they had to go in and reinforce the floor. They still have the original ladder that's there.

Chief Jones responded he thought process was that they would have a new fire headquarters off of North Constitution but with the economy the way it's been...that whole project has not happened. So now they have to deal with the immediate needs of repairing the floor at Company #1. The BOA already paid for a study on that and the reports came back indicating that they have to replace that entire floor at Station #1 to make it safe. That is only one study. The studies that they are looking for are to replace Company #1 and actually start doing the architectural design so that they have plans in place so when they are ready to build the new fire station, they'll be shovel ready. They

applied for Fire House Reconstruction grants this year and one of the reasons that they weren't approved is because they didn't have any shovel-ready projects. They apply for grants for the gear last year and one of the reasons that they didn't get the gear is because there was a surplus in town so they weren't eligible for the grant. For the fire house reconstruction, they weren't shovel ready – they didn't have engineering or architectural designs. So again, the Board of Fire Commissioners and the Chief's Office are trying to be proactive and save the City money in the long run. As they will see in their capital improvement plan there is a lot of needs for apparatus. So instead of buying very specialized fire apparatus to fit in smaller fire houses; maybe, if they put more money in the fire houses, they could buy more standard fire trucks at a lesser cost.

Another part of their Professional Service proposal was an EAP Program. Shelton is one of only two communities out of 169 towns and cities that don't have an Employee Assistance Program. Fire fighters and EMT's should have a resource to go to for family members or to use after a traumatic event. For fire fighters and EMT's there are some peer support groups, but having an Employee Assistance Program within the City would be great. The City doesn't have one through the Fire Department budget; they were thinking of going through the Volunteer Firemen's Insurance Services. They do have a programs that they think they could fund for an EAP Program, specifically for the Fire Department. That was another cost that they'd like to see added. This is the second year they've put in for that. Again, because of a limitation within their City, that is why they are asking for that – specifically for the Fire Department.

Chairman Holden asked if the \$16K would accomplish that.

Chief Jones responded yes, the \$16K would allow them to accomplish most of that.

Comm. Kosowsky commented that the Professional Services would allow them to go forward with some of these radio issues. He remembers going before the Public Safety ten years ago about addressing these issues. They actually have to pay to apply for the frequency licenses and that's why they have nowhere to go to get these things done.

Chief Jones commented that currently the BOA gave them the seed money of \$1500 last year to apply for the licenses. Comm. Kosowsky added that it's about \$25K or \$30K to get these things – the have to apply with the FCC...

Alderman Simonetti responded that he understood it was more like \$50K or \$60K.

Chief Jones indicated there is another one for Federal Communications – if they aren't successful on this current path soon, which they hope they are, the Board of Fire Commissioners last night made the motion to move forward to ask the BOA for additional seed money of \$30K to take an alternate path to get these frequencies.

Alderman Simonetti commented that they hold them like gold – they need them and they won't give it to them.

Chairman Holden asked if there were other questions relative to the line items.

Faith Hack asked about 10-02 Part Time Employees because it was an account that has been changed but they didn't raise an issue with.

Chief Jones responded that they've restructured their command structure within the Fire Department and last year they asked for an administrative associate to be added to the full time account which was granted by the BOA. They actually wrote up a job description unfortunately the job has not gone out... (inaudible multiple conversations...)

Faith Hack asked how that was going to affect their Staff.

Comm. Kosowsky responded that they asked for \$117K and they are down to \$19.2

They wanted to put a recruit person in for recruitment; they'll cut down on the part time situation. They were going to go down to four Company Assistant Chiefs. They are still trying to get a Deputy Chief and a Chief. Two Assistant Chiefs will be leaving in June and they aren't going to be rehired.

Chief Jones commented that the assumption there was that the full time increase – the \$36K difference - just got shifted to the Full Time, so the part time secretary and records keeper would be combined into one position as discussed last year. So if it doesn't happen, it will become a transfer of funds from the Part Time back from the Full Time.

Faith Hack commented that their Recruitment Account went up but they don't have a person doing that so what good is that.

Chief Jones responded that they have a job description and they are waiting to put a person in. The \$93K will fund a Chief, an Deputy Chief, 4 Assistant Chiefs, a Quartermaster recruitment officer. And a Trainer Officer will fund those positions where the shortfall will be on the records keeper and part time secretary. But it was their assumption that was going to be their full time administrative associate to fill both of those jobs and the clerk's jobs. So it's basically a flip flop of funds there.

Alderman McPherson asked about the Motor Vehicle Maintenance and what the average age on the vehicles.

Comm. Kosowsky responded that they have trucks that are 1985, 1976 (inaudible).

Alderman McPherson commented that some of those older vehicles have parts that are difficult to come by.

Chief Jones responded that basically it was three weeks within this year that they had all their aerial trucks in service due to various types of breakdowns. One of the aerial trucks is 1976; one is 1981 (every three runs it comes back on a tow truck because it is so deteriorated). Within their capital plan, it is in there to start replacing the trucks, reducing the fleet as they replace them. They mentioned their ISO ratings, they want to maintain a certain amount of aerials and fire pumpers in town to maintain their insurance ratings also. In their capital plan they are asking for two rescue trucks to replace their 1985 rescue and 1986. They have five old trucks right now – an '85 Rescue, an '86 Rescue, an '85 Lite Duty Rescue, a '77 Ladder Truck and an '81 Ladder Truck. Those

are the five oldest trucks. The next round would be the 1990 and 1991 pumper. If they look through the capital improvement they put together a nice six year plan to replace the fleet incrementally and then there is an entire ten year gap before they purchase another set of vehicles.

Comm. Kosowsky commented that the new trucks are going to cost a lot more because of the newer standards on the diesels, there are new trucks that will cost more; they'll use a new diesel fuel and another additive for emissions control.

Alderman McPherson commented that there are many vendors left that make fire trucks –only like five or six, correct?

Comm. Kosowsky responded that they have the top 4 or 5 and then a lot of smaller places – he listed some (inaudible).

Chief Jones added that a lot of the second grade manufacturers have gone belly up in this economy. Comm. Kosowsky explained that the parts come from different places – it's all subbed out.

Chief Jones indicated that they just put together a specification package for two new rescue and two new – a ninja based ladder truck and it will be going out to bid so they will be able to give the Town a good idea of the price of these apparatus. In talking to the Administration, it would be some type of a multi-year purchase to replace those 5 or 6 vehicles that he mentioned – with 4 vehicles.

Faith Hack asked about the Sara Project Account #80-15 and what it was. They asked for \$20K and got \$8K.

Comm. Kosowsky explained that it was a hazardous material program so if they have any hazmat issues...

Faith Hack asked if they don't get the amount requested, what is going to happen.

Chief Jones responded that the SARA account was to purchase additional meters. They are fortunate as a City a few years ago to receive monies from Homeland Security for meters and for hazmat suits. Unfortunately, those suits all have a shelf life and those sensors need replacement and repair, and the Homeland Security money for those types of items has dried up. The assumption for the future, they'll have to purchase some Level B suits, foam if they have a large oil fire requiring the use of foam. A gallon of foam costs \$55/gallon – so a 5 gallon bucket is about \$200-\$300 dollar. Each truck carries \$40 gallons of foam with it. The BOA again last year bonded \$10K in foam supplies for them, so a lot of these items were bonded. Being proactive, they would like to have some money in their account.

Faith Hack commented that they aren't going without it though.

Chief Jones responded that right now they have enough and that is why he and the Commissioner decided that they could live with the \$7K. It would be nice to have extra so that they could plan for the future – but status quo they can live with it.

Alderman Simonetti asked if the foam deteriorates after a while.

Chief Jones says it's OK as long as it's in a bucket and doesn't get mixed or whatever - then they are good. It is one of those things that they are lucky if they don't have many incidents and need to use too much.

Judd Crawford indicated that he had a comment for the Board of A&T and the BOA – the Fire Department this evening has made a very, very strong case of stating that the Communications System needs to be revamped. They are in a very, very tight budget this year trying to find money fund all the line items. Looking under the Fire Department, if they go to Account 11-07, they have a Building Maintenance Account yet if they go under Municipal Property and Maintenance 4800-716.65-09 Fire Department Maintenance with a figure of \$40K which is almost the amount that they are requesting under Communication Maintenance. If it was the thought of this Board and the BOA to transfer that line item from Municipal Property and Maintenance into the Fire Department, they have one account taken care of.

Chairman Holden responded that is something that they'll need to follow up on.

Chris Besescheck asked if one Building Maintenance would be for interior and the other Building Maintenance be for exterior.

Chairman Holden commented that he also thinks that they are different items.

Chief Jones stated that the current Building Maintenance within the Fire budget is for cleaning supplies, floor repair and coating, and miscellaneous items such as light bulbs, TP, Paper Towels, etc. The \$19K that they receive currently for the 4 Fire Companies basically takes care of those everyday consumables. The Building Maintenance in the other account takes care of the outside paint on the fire houses, repairs for garage or overhead doors, plumbing issues, furnaces, etc. (inaudible multiple conversations)

Chairman Holden asked if they could move on to the Capital Improvement Plan because they are running a bit on the late side. He asked about Radio Communications and stated that they had down \$1.2M. He asked if that was the new system.

Chief Jones responded that it was the new system. After talking to their vendor, if they were able to acquire the frequencies, they could do a staged upgrade of the new radio system which can actually be phased in. It's a simulcast system they could simulcast into much like the Shelton EMS.

Chairman Holden asked if there were any other questions on the Capital Improvement programs.

Comm. Kosowsky commented that on their capital improvement program, one of the items that will be facing the City down the line is the SBCA system which will have to be replaced.

Chairman Holden responded that right now, he is just worrying about the upcoming year. Hopefully, the economy will improve by them.

Chief Jones added that with the Vehicle replacement, that is a list price guess for the floor apparatus. As he stated, within a week for these apparatus, they will be going out to bid for these apparatus, so they'll bring back a price range on that.

Chairman Holden stated that they will probably be looking at about \$3.2M they will be looking upon on that for sure.

Chief Jones agreed.

Comm. Kosowsky commented that there isn't anything in their capital improvements that wouldn't be a bonding issue because they don't get a capital improvement account.

Chairman Holden responded that basically capital improvements are never included in the budget that is handed to them; generally A&T does pick some items to put into the regular budget as opposed to bonding.

Chief Jones indicated that one item that they might want to look into would be the removal of the in-ground diesel tank at the Police Department. Every day their mechanic has to go up there per DEP orders to take measurements to make sure ground water hasn't affected it because not only would it affect their fire apparatus; if ground water gets in there, it becomes an EPA problem. It has been discussed a couple of times over the last few years about removing it.

Chairman Holden asked if they would be replacing it with an above ground tank.

They would have to replace it so initial costs would be about \$20K for removal and purchase of a new tank.

Chairman Holden asked if there were any questions from either Board about the capital improvement plan. There were no further questions for the Fire Department.

Adjournment

Due to no further interviews on the agenda for this evening, Chairman Holden adjourned the meeting at 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Karin C. Tuke

Clerk, Board of Apportionment and Taxation

Tape (1) both sides on File with the City Town Clerk's Office.