

## SPECIAL JOINT MEETING

## CITY COUNCIL &amp; WPC AUTHORITY AND BOARD OF FINANCE

MAY 4, 2015

A **SPECIAL JOINT MEETING** was held by the City Council & WPC Authority and the Board of Finance in the City Hall Auditorium on Monday, May 4, 2015.

Those in attendance included Mayor Elinor Carbone, Corporation Counsel Raymond Rigat, City Councilors Paul Cavagnero, Christopher Anderson, Anne Ruwet, Paul Samele, Drake Waldron and Gregg Cogswell; and members of the Board of Finance Bill Lamoin, Laurene Pesce, Mark Bushka, Thomas Scoville, Frank Rubino (arrived at 6:47 p.m.) and Joshua Ferreira. Also present were WPCA Administrator Raymond Drew, Police Chief Michael Maniago, Deputy Chief Christopher Smedick, Fire Chief Gary Brunoli, Deputy Chief Christopher Pepler, Director of Elderly Services Joel Sekorski, Comptroller Alice Proulx, and City Clerk Joseph Quartiero.

Mayor Carbone called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. She explained the remaining budget approval process and noted that the State of Connecticut has not finalized their budget. She pointed out that our Charter dictates a process that concludes on May 15<sup>th</sup> but the City has gone beyond that date in past years.

Mayor Carbone reviewed the Expense Annual Budget by Account Classification Report and the attached analyses (**Addendum 1**) and described the upcoming sidewalk replacement project. She said the sidewalk plan will identify what needs to be repaired, how to lessen the impact on taxpayers, and coordinate with road and utility replacement.

Mrs. Pesce said she hoped there will be a revenue offset for the police body cameras purchase and suggested a policy be established for their use.

Mr. Lamoin questioned the IT reduction. Mayor Carbone explained this was from VOIP software.

Councilor Ruwet noted that payroll continues to increase and suggested savings be found in that area. Mayor Carbone explained how staffing has been reduced over the past five years, with nine fewer employees now. She said that Department Heads feel they are at a minimum staffing level. Ms. Proulx explained that the wage increases seen in the budget are also reflective of the acceptance of the 53-week pay periods by salaried employees. Mayor Carbone added that there are three contracts currently being negotiated. Mr. Scoville said it would be useful to know how many vacant positions there are.

Mrs. Pesce said she did not think there is a tolerance or the resources for a 5% increase on both the City side and the Board of Education side. Messrs. Scoville and Bushka agreed.

Mr. Ferreira calculated the proposed mill rate increase and urged the Boards to take a hard look at what figure they want to get to and where they need to make the cuts. Mayor Carbone said that keeping in mind the Grand List reduction of 25%, and the mill rate as part of the equation, she will bring those numbers to the Boards at next week's meeting. She asked the Boards to give the City Department Heads some guidelines and parameters as to the amount of cuts to make.

Mr. Cavagnero questioned the Boards confidence that the City's funds will be spent wisely and well. He said he was shocked at the discrepancies brought forward at the joint Board of Finance and Board of Education meeting. He suggested an escrow account be established to control the spending of the large budget-drivers and that at \$16,000 per pupil, a well-managed school system should be able to provide a quality education. He said something needs to change radically in the way we fund and approach Public Education in this City.

Mrs. Pesce noted that wages and benefits drive the budget, and that long-term savings have been seen in insurance and benefits. She asked when the budget must be finalized. Atty. Rigat said he'd have to look into it, as there are State Statutes involved.

Councilor Cogswell said he's willing to entertain budget cuts but he is worried they will still not be satisfied with where they end up. Mayor Carbone recommended a 'triage list' of what possible cuts may cause the City to lose. Mrs. Pesce noted that revenues haven't been discussed yet, because the State budget hasn't been determined yet.

Mr. Rubino pointed out that the driver in the Board of Education budget is \$1,800,000 in purchased services. Mrs. Pesce expressed appreciation for the Board of Education's efforts and recommended they be invited back to next week's meeting so that all can know what is not going to be funded in this community. Mayor Carbone agreed, and said requests were made for staffing spreadsheets, lists of programs identified under purchased services, and a breakdown of 'others'. She said it's imperative that the entire Board of Education or a quorum attend, in the event there is any change in what has been presented.

**ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion by Councilor Ruwet, seconded by Councilor Cogswell, the Council voted unanimously to adjourn at 7:56 p.m.

**Addendum 1**

City of Torrington

**Expense Annual Budget by Account Classification Report**  
Summary

	2015 Adopted Budget	2016 Level 4	\$ Change	% Change
<b>Fund: 0010 General Fund</b>				
<b>Expenditures</b>				
EX01-Payroll - Payroll	\$18,578,571.00	\$19,651,586.00	\$1,073,015.00	6%
EX02-Fringe Ben - Fringe Benefits	\$13,008,927.00	\$12,324,282.00	(\$684,645.00)	-5%
EX07-Capital Ou - Capital Outlay	\$3,267,109.00	\$4,887,668.00	\$1,620,559.00	50%
EX08-Other Expe - Other Expenses	\$17,225,516.00	\$17,627,690.00	\$402,174.00	2%
<b>Fund Total: General Fund</b>	<b>(\$52,080,123.00)</b>	<b>(\$54,491,226.00)</b>	<b>(\$2,411,103.00)</b>	<b>5%</b>
<b>Revenue Grand Totals:</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>+++</b>
<b>Expenditure Grand Totals:</b>	<b>\$52,080,123.00</b>	<b>\$54,491,226.00</b>	<b>\$2,411,103.00</b>	<b>5%</b>
<b>Net Grand Totals:</b>	<b>(\$52,080,123.00)</b>	<b>(\$54,491,226.00)</b>	<b>(\$2,411,103.00)</b>	<b>5%</b>

Analysis of City of Torrington (excluding BOE) budget request by classification  
 All figures are rounded estimates

**PAYROLL:**

2014/2015 Amended Payroll Budgets	*	\$18,406,799
Cost - Additional 53rd Payweek (Including FICA)		\$350,000
Negotiated savings - Local 424 UPSEU Supervisors		(\$28,000)
Negotiated savings - Non union Managers		(\$22,000)
Wage Increases (Including FICA) All Staff		\$447,018
Finance - Additional Staff Hours		\$33,629
Police Outside Duty (Has 100% Revenue Offset)		\$150,000
Fire Department - Regular and Overtime		\$139,456
Police Department - Regular and Overtime		\$130,583
Police - Add Civilian Clerk		\$18,814
Engineering - Engineer in Training		\$30,000
Variance - All Payroll Classifications/All Departments		-\$4,712
2015/2016 Payroll Estimate		\$19,651,586

**FRINGE BENEFITS:**

2014/2015 Amended Fringe Benefit Budgets	\$12,745,365
Health Insurance Funding Increase	\$188,592
Reallocation of Pension Funding Costs to BOE, WPCA, Equip Maint.	-\$484,554
Reduction in Pension Funding Requirements Based on 7/1/14 Valuation	-\$354,878
Increase in Defined Contribution Plan Matching Funds	\$104,000
Increase in Lump Sum Sick Time Payments for Retiring Employees	\$115,148
Change in Heart & Hypertension estimates	\$25,822
Variance - Fringe Classifications/All Benefits	-\$15,213
2015/2016 Fringe Benefit Estimate	\$12,324,282

**CAPITAL OUTLAY**

2014/2015 Amended Capital Outlay Budgets	\$3,267,109
Increase to Vehicle Replacement Contribution	\$200,000
Computer Hardware	\$9,532
Park Improvements	\$10,000
Roadway & Drainage Improvements	\$150,000
Phase II Stormwater	\$50,000
Sidewalk Projects	\$980,000
Roof Replacement Fund	\$25,000
Fire Capital Reserve (Various Projects)	\$66,595
Police Capital Reserve (Various Projects - Includes Cap Lease Pmt and repayment to Equip Maint Fund)	\$106,432
Traffic Division Capital Reserve - Parking Lots	\$11,000
Animal Control Capital Reserve - Facility	\$23,000
Main Street Sidewalk Funded 2014/2015	-\$76,000
Franklin Street Repayment	\$65,000
2015/2016 Capital Outly Estimate	\$4,887,668

**Addendum 1**

Analysis of City of Torrington (excluding BOE) budget request by classification  
 All figures are rounded estimates  
**OTHER EXPENSES**

2014/2015 Amended Other Expenses Budgets	\$17,429,288
IT - Contract Services - VOIP Installation and configuration budgeted in 2014/2015	-\$19,000
IT -Equipment - VOIP Hardware budgeted in 2014/2015	-\$47,706
IT - Service Agreements	\$59,538
Software (PD and IT)	-\$47,521
Refuse, Recycle & Disposal Contracts	\$36,962
Dispatch Contract	\$23,604
Engineering Contract Fees - Inspections	\$13,600
Annual Cost of Roof inspection and preventative maintenance	\$15,000
State Fees - Land Preservation - (Revenue Offset)	-\$20,000
MERS Recording Fees (Revenue Offset)	-\$56,000
Education, School & Training	\$10,162
Electric - LED Streetlight Savings and review of usage by department	-\$46,076
Streetlight Purchase & Maintenance	\$15,000
FD - New Equipment	\$4,000
FD - Equipment Replacement	\$10,185
PD - New Equipment	\$10,005
PD - Specialized Units	\$25,289
PD - Animal Control - Supplies - Care and Feeding of animals - Office Supplies	\$5,000
PD - Animal Control - Building Maintenance	\$5,000
PD - Building Maintenance - A/C Server Room, Video Surveillance, othe misc	\$45,000
PD - Evidence Management - Impound Lot Supplies, Gun & Ammunition Storage	\$5,550
PD - Communications Other - Reduction in MDT Fees	-\$9,900
PD - Service Agreements - Body Cameras	\$55,835
PD - Fees and Exams - Personnel	\$5,000
PD - Traffic -Street Signs and Posts	\$4,750
PD - Traffic - School Bus Monitoring Fees	\$2,808
PD - Traffic - Credit Card Admin Fees - Kiosks	\$3,678
PD - Traffic - Equipment Repairs	\$2,400
Street - Salt	\$21,000
Street - GPS, Brush Control and Tree Removal Contracts	\$9,818
Street - Naugatuck River Levee Maintenance	\$50,000
Elimination of City Water line item expenses	-\$154,500
Public Safety - Misc. Hydrant Rental Fees	\$98,178
PD - Animal Control - Veterinary Fees	\$16,000
Revaluation Reserve	\$10,000
Labor Negotiation Fees	-\$14,574
Support Re: Nutrition Program	\$45,574
Final Payment of Financial Management Software made in 2014/2015	-\$45,499
Reserve for Organizational Reviews	\$100,000
Workers' Compensation and Liability and Property Insurance Renewals	\$52,286
CT Unemployment Compensation Estimates	-\$17,606
Bond Payments and Interest	-\$99,496
Advertising - Personnel, Purchasing, Engineering	\$4,189
Uniform, Clothing, Cleaning Allowances - All Departments	\$3,026
Copier Contract (Deputy Comptroller Review)	-\$9,424
Cell Phone Costs - All Departments	\$5,594
City Water - All Departments	\$6,114
Variance - All Departments/All other expense line items	\$5,559
 2015/2016 Other Expense Estimate	 \$17,627,690

**MINUTES  
PUBLIC HEARING  
CITY COUNCIL & WPC AUTHORITY AND BOARD OF FINANCE  
MAY 4, 2015**

**Vol. 26 Page 425**

A **PUBLIC HEARING** was held by the City Council & WPC Authority and the Board of Finance in the City Hall Auditorium on Monday, May 4, 2015.

Mayor Carbone called the Public Hearing to order at 7:56 p.m.

City Clerk Joseph Quartiero read the legal notice.

Mr. Thomas Zagryn of Silver Fox Lane noted that his assessment has gone down and his taxes are going up. He asked if, with \$75,000,000 for education, we're at the point where we should outsource it to online computer training. He said seniors are big fans of the Police and Fire Departments but would like to see Education and Taxes reined in, as they are out of control. Mr. Zagryn pointed out that people are moving out of Connecticut and houses in his neighborhood regularly sell for 25 to 30% less than what the homeowner paid for them. He said it is just too much and he's had enough. He said it's sad that Connecticut is ranked so low in fiscal categories. Mr. Zagryn said a mill rate above 43 is not good and 47.86 is unacceptable. He said he is concerned about revenue and wondered where Police revenue goes. He noted that many cities collect revenues for participation in things that are expenses to run but are not fundamentally educational.

Mayor Carbone closed the Public Hearing at 8:02 p.m.

ATTEST: JOSEPH L. QUARTIERO, CMC  
CITY CLERK

Carol L. Anderson, MCTC, CMC  
Asst. City Clerk