

## 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          |
| <br>2015/2016 Other Expense Estimate   | <br>\$17,627,690 |

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

**Vol. 7 Page 229**

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