

Chairman Gregg Seabury called the meeting to order at 7:25 p.m. on Monday, April 22, 2013, in the Caucus Room, 3rd Floor, Danbury City Hall, 155 Deer Hill Avenue. Present were Committee members Joseph Cavo, Thomas Saadi and Shay Nagersheth. Duane Perkins was unable to attend due to work obligations.

Also present were Mayor Mark Boughton; Jean Natale, Legislative Assistant; Lori Kaback, Town Clerk; David St. Hilaire, Finance Director; Paul Estefan, Airport Administrator; Robert Yamin, Corporation Counsel; Dennis Elpern, Planning & Zoning Director; Larry Marsicano, Lake Authority; Michelle Capozella, Danbury Public Library.

Ex Officio Members: Colleen Stanley, Paul Rotello, Benjamin Chianese, Jack Knapp, Phil Curran, Warren Levy and Don Taylor. Also present were members of the public.

Chairman Seabury introduced everyone present at the meeting.

Pending the arrival of Mr. St. Hilaire, Chairman Seabury opened up the meeting to Joseph Cavo to begin as follows:

City Council:

Budget was reduced from \$22,150 to \$21,000 due to cost saving measures by the Legislative Assistant.

Mayor's Office:

The Mayor reviewed this item. Budget was increased from \$340,628 to \$343,905 due to increases in public notices and ancillary costs.

Mr. St. Hilaire arrived and continued reviewing the budget as follows:

Legislative Assistant:

Budget remained flat at \$56,773.

Ordinances:

Budget remained flat at \$25,000.

Probate Court:

Budget was increased from \$17,400 to \$18,900 due to a one-time cost for equipment.

Registrars & Elections:

Budget was reduced from \$221,306 to \$196,843. The decrease is due to the lack of part-time employees needed as it is not a state election year.



Corporation Counsel:

Budget was reduced from \$811,014 to \$803,364. Any decreases reflected in the line items are due to subscriptions and memberships. Attorney Yamin explained the changes to online subscription service and pointed out the efforts made in reducing the budget year after year for the past six years.

Town Clerk:

Budget was reduced from \$393,345 to \$390,592 due primarily to printing and binding.

Annual Report:

Budget remained flat at \$10,000.

Permit Coordination:

Budget was increased from \$311,450 to \$313,824. Sean Hearty had to leave the meeting due to a family emergency. Increase is due to contractual salary increases and minor line changes.

Planning Department:

Budget was increased from \$485,386 to \$490,185. Increase is due to contractual salary increases and minor line changes.

Office of Economic Development:

Budget increased from \$94,291 to \$97,541 due to professional services increasing. There is money earmarked for conferences.

Danbury Conservation Commission:

Budget remained flat at \$10,024.

Mayor's Discretionary Fund:

Budget was reduced from \$10,400 to \$10,000. Mayor Boughton pointed out that this fund was decreased from \$15,000 several years ago, it is now a voucher discretionary fund.

Fair Rent Commission:

Budget was reduced from \$775 to \$500.

City Memberships:

Budget increased from \$86,726 to \$86,809 due to the increase costs for memberships.

Lake Authority:

Budget decreased from \$63,540 to \$50,000. Mayor Boughton pointed out that an objective study on milfoil and also the future of water quality will need to be done.

Danbury Public Library:

Budget increased from \$1,847,146 to \$1,892,146. Increase is due to contractual salary increases, part-time salaries for additional security guards and outside services. Ms. Capozella pointed out the ever-changing technology which increases expenses as the Library must keep up-to-date with e-books, etc. in order to provide the services the public desires.

Long Ridge Library:

Budget remained flat at \$4,860.

Airport:

Budget increased from \$511,858 to \$518,723. Contractual salary increases were absorbed throughout other line items. Minor adjustments throughout.

HART:

Budget remained flat at \$733,080. Mr. St. Hilare pointed out the valuable service they provide to the Danbury community. There is a growing need and this is one way that the need is addressed. This funding maintains the current level of service to the community.

A motion was made by Councilman Cayo and seconded by Councilman Saadi that the Committee recommends to the City Council that they accept the Mayor's proposed budget for General Government 1 as presented with an amendment for eligible elected officials to receive a 2.75% wage increase for the fiscal years 2013/2014 and 2014/2015. (Specifically, the Mayor's office and the Town Clerk's office. The Office of the Registrars of Voters are not eligible in this cycle.)

While Mayor Boughton expressed his appreciation for the salary increase, he would not accept the increase unless the organization reaches the targeted savings goals that he set for all the department heads. If the department heads desired raises, they would need to find savings within their department and the Mayor is holding himself to the same standard.

Mr. Saadi asked for clarification of capital expenses and recurring costs. Mayor Boughton explained what capital expenses were and Mr. St. Hilaire explained what recurring costs were. Mr. Saadi pointed out the main four items that drive the majority of the increases in the budget: capital, recurring costs, education and public safety. Approximately \$400,000 is spread over the remaining departments in the budget.

The proposed increases would occur as follows: Treasurer & Town Clerk—1st day of the new term with another adjustment on July 1, 2014, no further adjustment would take place for the remainder of the term.

The motion carried unanimously.

A motion to adjourn was made by Councilman Cavo and seconded by Councilman Nagersheth. The motion carried unanimously at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gregg Seabury, Chairman

Thomas Saadi

Joseph Cavo

Shay Nagersheth