

17-E

*~City Council Committee~
Health, Housing, Public Safety, Social Services - Budget
Tuesday, April 14, 2015*

Chairman Phil Curran called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, April 14, 2015, in the Caucus Room, 3rd Floor, Danbury City Hall, 155 Deer Hill Avenue. Present were Committee members Jack Knapp, John Priola, Christina Chiefallo, and Paul Rotello. Also present were representatives as follows: Mark D. Boughton, Mayor; Les Pinter, Deputy Corporation Counsel; David St. Hilaire, Director of Finance; Dan Garrick, Assistant Director of Finance; Jean Natale, Legislative Assistant; Alan Baker, Police Chief and Animal Control; Mark Omasta, Assistant Fire Chief; Paul Estefan, Civil Preparedness and the Airport; Dean Esposito, Consumer Protection; Scott Leroy, Health, Housing and Welfare; Wayne Shepperd, Welfare Advisor, Veterans Advisor; Susan Tomanio, Elderly Services; and Ex-Officio Members Warren Levy, and Joseph Cavo.

Mr. Curran stated he would go through each section of the budget and ask for comments.

Police Department: \$16,749,952. Mr. Baker noted the budget is flat and they expect to increase efficiencies.

Animal Control: \$314,600. Mr. Baker had no changes noting this will fund two Animal Control Officers and Secretary for the year.

Fire Department: \$12,602,689. Mr. Omasta stated the budget is fairly flat. The dispatch funding has been moved to a separate account. Mr. St. Hilaire responded to questions regarding a partially funded position and the Drillmaster position.

Elderly Services: \$255,528. Ms. Tomanio stated everything is covered and noted revenues from Class B's and grants. She, along with Mr. St. Hilaire, responded to questions regarding specifics.

Consumer Protection: \$39,487. No changes, billing automation was discussed. Mr. St. Hilaire responded to questions regarding a position that is full time until July.

Civil Preparedness: \$152,045. Mr. Boughton and Mr. Estefan responded to questions regarding a particular position, emergency notifications, and the war memorial increase noting it is used as a refuge storm shelter.

Airport: \$544,855. Mr. Estefan responded to questions regarding rentals, fuel sales, etc.

Veterans Advisor: \$54,263. Mr. Shepperd noted will most likely finish \$25,000 under budget due to an unfortunate loss in the Department. The position will be filled in July at a lesser rate. Mr. Boughton noted a review of the workload was performed; a percentage of users of services were found not to be Danbury residents. He discussed VA counseling services. Mr. Shepperd noted Fairfield does make a small contribution.

Health & Human Services: \$1,285,108. The Department was commended on their pursuit of grants.

Health and Employee Benefits: \$23,536. Mr. St. Hilaire noted the figure is larger than in the past and that relates to salary items.

U.N.I.T.: \$184,686. Mr. Boughton responded to questions regarding the increase for 311; it was noted the Public Service Representative will be migrated over to another program in July and 311 will be answered at the Public Safety Advocate's Desk in the Police Department.

Emergency Services Dispatch: \$2,473,208. Mr. St. Hilaire noted much of this are contract items and communications items. Mr. Boughton responded to questions regarding where the funds came from for the new equipment, and other equipment replacement needs, as well as the move of 311 in July will add approximately \$3,800 to \$3,900 per month. Police coverage was discussed as well.

Building Inspector: \$587,650. Mr. St. Hilaire noted the increase is mainly due to salaries and noted vacant positions. He, along with Mr. Boughton, responded to questions regarding efforts to get more technology in the Building Department.

HART: \$733,080. It was noted the budget is the same as last year. Mr. St. Hilaire noted success in keeping within the parameters of the budget, although it may be different next year.

Community Services: \$512,898. It was noted this is the same as last year. Mr. Boughton noted the salary for the PAL Collector is now in the Community Services budget.

A motion was made by Councilman Knapp and seconded by Councilman Rotello, to accept the budget on Health, Housing, Public Safety, and Social Services as presented and refer to a Public Hearing. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Councilman Rotello and seconded by Councilman Knapp to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously at 6:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Phil Curran, Chairman

Jack Knapp

John Priola

Christina Chiefallo

Paul Rotello