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PUBLIC WORKS BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING

April 14, 2009

The Public Works Committee meeting was called to order on April 14, 2009 at 7:04PM in the Caucus Room at City Hall by Councilman Jack Knapp, Chairman. Committee members Councilman Curran, Councilman Halas, Councilman Seabury and Councilman Chianese were also present.

Also in attendance were Ted Cutsumpas representing the Mayor's Office and Tarrywile Park Authority; David St. Hilaire, Director of Finance; Antonio Iadarola, P.E., Director of Public Works and Nick Kaplanis, Director of Recreation.

Ex-Officio members Councilman Levy, Councilwoman Teicholz, Councilman Rotello, Councilwoman McMahon and Councilwoman Stanley were also present.

Chairman Knapp turned discussion over to the Director of Public Works, Antonio Iadarola, P.E. Mr. Iadarola stated that the budget presented was very tight with a 4% cut across the board while absorbing the union staff salary increases. Substantial savings will be realized in the fuel account and by giving up the funding for several vacancies.

Public Buildings: There is a substantial cut to the budget across all line items. Additional funding was added for fire alarm work and to the Old Library Building to perform necessary outside repairs. Discussion followed regarding outside services, the "old" police station, and the Park Avenue School roof.

Director of Public Works: The Office Manager position would remain unfilled and the remainder of the budget is for administrative costs.

Highways: Substantial savings are anticipated resulting from the purchase of some used equipment during this current fiscal year, allowing forward movement on the initiative to perform more work on an in-house basis. Discussion followed regarding snow and ice removal costs, sand and salt storage sites, decorative lights and the snow plowing citation program.

Park Maintenance: Director Iadarola advised that 400 acres are mowed, sometimes twice per week, by the crews, while maintaining the parks and playing fields. Discussion followed regarding anticipated savings on construction and park maintenance products, the grass at the Town Park, the soccer field at Rogers Park and the handball courts.

Forestry: The Forestry Division was separated out of Park Maintenance. There are 2 positions which would remain unfilled.

Public Buildings Maintenance and Repair: Director Iadarola encouraged members to arrange for a visit to view the cogeneration system at the high school.

Equipment Maintenance: Director Iadarola explained that the motor fuel cost was locked in at a very good price and will generate significant savings. Automotive equipment maintenance and tires were discussed.

Recycling/Solid Waste: No discussion

Construction Services: Director Iadarola explained that this Division administrates substantial sized- in-house projects. Currently the Construction Services Division is administrating the remainder of the Roberts Avenue School Project. An overview was given of some of the savings generated by this division. Cost savings benefits and the permit process were discussed.

Engineering: No discussion

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Recreation Department: Nick Kaplanis, Director of Parks and Recreation gave an overview of budget reductions. The soccer fields and YMCA allocation were discussed.

Tarrywile Park Authority: Ted Cutsumpas of the Tarrywile Authority stated that there is a 10% reduction to the budget. It is expected that fundraising by the Friends of Tarrywile will help to make up the shortfall. There are four (4) full time and one (1) part-time staff members. Income from rentals was discussed.

Cultural Commission: Director of Finance, David St. Hilaire, advised that the budget was reduced by 10%.

Lake Kenosia Commission: Director of Finance, David St. Hilaire, advised that the budget was reduced by 10%.

Ives Authority: Director of Finance, David St. Hilaire, advised that the budget was reduced by 10%. A profit and loss report was requested for the next Common Council meeting and the status of the purchase of abutting properties.

Danbury Museum: Director of Finance, David St. Hilaire, advised that the budget was reduced by 10%. A profit and loss report was requested for the next Common Council meeting.

Sewer Fund: Director of Finance, David St. Hilaire advised that the Sewer Fund has been impacted by a drop in the number of outside haulers. The rates would remain flat, however a rate analysis needs to be undertaken. Operation, maintenance and debt service were discussed.

Water Fund: Director of Finance, David St. Hilaire advised that the Water Fund is flat-lined.

Councilman Seabury moved to accept the budget as presented and to make a recommendation to the Council as a whole, seconded by Councilman Curran. Motion approved by unanimous vote.

Councilman Seabury moved to adjourn at 8:46PM, seconded by Councilman Curran. Motion approved by unanimous vote.

Jack Knapp, Chairman

Philip Curran

Michael Halas

Gregg Seabury

Ben Chianese