

The General Government I Committee met March 13, 2007 at 8:00 p.m. in the third floor Caucus Room in City Hall. In attendance were Chairman Seabury and Committee members Cavo, Cutsumpas, Perkins and Saadi.

Also in attendance were Director of Finance & Personnel Dena Diorio, Corporation Counsel Robert Yamin, Deputy Corporation Counsel Laszlo Pinter, Library Director Mark Hasskarl, Assistant Director of Finance Dan Garrick, and Council members Nagarsheth, Stanley, Basso and Taborsak.

Ms. Diorio read from the narratives and explained the functions of the line items.

Common Council – O/T for attendance at night meetings / salary set for 19 hours at \$19/hour / slight changes in other line items. Mr. Saadi asked if all the over time costs are paid thru OT here. Full time salary last year was \$50,000. What other costs associated with this. Ms. Diorio said health insurance - medical / life about \$25,000 also increase in withholding taxes. Ms. Saadi asked if there been difficulty in hiring a part time person? The only difficulty right now is the situation with Jean Natale being hurt.

Mr. Saadi moved to make the part time assistant clerk a full time position and increase the line item from \$18,397 to \$30,000 even and increase the associated attended costs to be drawn out of contingency fund. Seconded by Mr. Perkins. Discussion: Mr. Saadi said the Council needs a full time clerk. Mr. Cutsumpas said it's working with a part time person. Mr. Cavo said he agrees part time is working. Mr. Perkins has heard several complaints - the February agenda had mistakes – when he comes during the day there is no one here to get answers from. Mr. Seabury said the problems will be alleviated when Jean comes back. Mr. Cutsumpas said there have been improvements – no need for full time. Mr. Cavo said the errors are minor. Mr. Seabury moved the motion. Motion defeated with Perkins and Saadi voting Yes – Seabury, Cavo and Cutsumpas voting No.

Ms. Taborsak said it's difficult with part time hours – we don't know the hours – what about the public needing answers. Mr. Cavo said the young lady was brand new. Mrs. Basso said if a member of the public has a problem they'll call their Council person. Mayor said Jean will be back in two weeks. Mr. Chianese said he's had difficulties – what are the hours? Mr. Seabury called him out of order. Mr. Saadi asked for a ruling from Corporation Counsel if the members of a committee can discuss an issue related to a failed motion. Attorney Pinter said yes.

Ordinances – increase legal notices – based on prior history.

Mayor's office - no change on salary – Mayor did not get a raise this year. Mr. Saadi asked about the 3% raise – is it reflected in the budget?

City Clerk – reflects 3% raise / increase in office supplies

Probate Court – we do provide supplement support to Judge and office staff / postage up / office supplies increase due to elimination of printing & binding. Mr. Seabury – no salaries? Ms. Diorio aid they are paid by the State.

Registrars & Elections – increase in salary is effective January 1 every year / not many changes on line items. Mr. Saadi – any monies allocated for education and training classes for public with the new machines. If they need dollars for this they'll come before the Council. Any guesstimate on the machines? We already have them. There is a question on the ballots – not sure if the State will pay. Ms. Taborsak – rental real estate - is that storage for storing old machines? Yes.

Corporation Counsel – new part time legal attorney / litigation driven by exposure to litigation Metcalf & Eddy claim may heat up / leased equipment increase due to copy charges / monies left over in litigation special to be used for file storage. Ms. Taborsak asked if the part time labor attorney does primarily labor negotiation. Ms. Diorio said she does W/C and some labor matters. Ms. Taborsak asked where will Mr. Gottschalk's fees be charged? Litigation special and special easements for sewer / water projects. Mr. Yamin said once Attorney Rosemark is up to speed we hope to lower Shipman & Goodwin fees.

Town Clerk – part time staff increase for \$19/week for the year / printing and binding – paper ballots / slight increase in outside services / copy costs. Mayor Boughton said Ms. Kaback is set for a 3% increase next year – if you wish to give her a raise the following year the Committee will have to set it before she runs for the office.

Mr. Cavo moved to approve the salary increase for the Town Clerk of 3% for fiscal year 2007/2008 and 2008/2009 year. Mr. Cutsumpas seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Taborsak asked Ms. Diorio if Town Clerk has any front line Spanish speaking employees – issue with marriage licenses. Ms. Diorio said not at this time.

Permit Coordination – no staffing changes / added cell phone for Director.

Planning & Zoning – no staffing changes / professional services & training up slightly. Mr. Seabury said UNIT is no longer affiliated with this department. Mayor said still reporting through permit center. Mr. Seabury asked about need for zoning officer in P & Z and UNIT. Mayor said both have a zoning officer. Mr. Perkins asked how are different streetscapes prioritized? Mayor said 2 ways – availability for funding and order in which they were bonded. List is determined by Mayor, Planning Director and City Engineer. Mr. Saadi asked about zoning enforcement officer - do they go out at night? Mayor said they have authorization to go out – but this line item is for plan review in city hall. UNIT handles enforcement – this position does site plan review.

Office of Economic Development – added part time money for Nutmeg Games in summer 2008 / professional service is host fee for the Games / travel & mileage – Ms. Sheppard will travel across the state for publicity for the Games. Ms. Taborsak said Mr. Sheppard asked for \$25,000 last year but it was cut. Ms. Diorio said the City is doing this in conjunction with other associations – raising private funds from corporate sponsorships. It is the City's responsibility to pay host fees – sports organization is matching dollar to dollar for running the event. What is the expected benefit? We're going to have 6000 athletes in our City – for 2 weeks – using the hotels and restaurants. Any other expenses, i.e. police – most are staffed by volunteers. Mr. Perkins - \$1,760 part time help – what year end paperwork will they get? W-2 forms.

Danbury Conservation Commission – This is support we provide to Old Quarry Nature Center. Heating fuel is new. Ms. Taborsak asked why isn't this in the new park building budget? We don't own the building – we just give money.

Fair Rent Commission – everything is at current levels.

Lake Authority - slight increases. Mr. Saadi asked what does the City get from CLA as a benefit as to what actually happens with the Lake. CLA provides officers – education programs – project clean / science program / boat licenses / they've been involved with the new owners – discussing environmental center – the City has opposed rate increases. Mr. Saadi – we just get 1 vote? There are 5 towns and Yes we get 1 vote.

Danbury Public Library – no change in full time staff / PT increased for PT hours/ postage up slightly / travel & mileage up slightly / printing & binding for additional publications / added \$25,000 expenses that were deemed ineligible for LOCIP. Mr. Saadi asked what makes up increase of outside services line item? \$60,000 is for special police officers / \$6,000 internet line / \$20,000 catalog & book ordering / 7,340 teens program / adult \$6,700 / ELS 1000 / collection agency, computer support. Ms. Taborsak asked if cleaning services is for this library. Mr. Perkins asked if it is the same contractor that does this service? They are a private contractor who hires people and are bonded. Ms. Taborsak – if an outside group uses the Farioly room – do they need to have a custodian there. Mr. Hasskarl said all programs end when the library closes.

Long Ridge Library – no changes. Mr. Perkins has heard from constituents who are concerned that they're getting no increase. Mr. Cavo said the library was going to be eliminated and the funding has been restored. Mayor said if they want to come in with a plan to offer more services we'd be happy to talk to them. We want a strategy to justify more money.

Airport – no staffing changes / OT slightly for new staff person / part time for additional security / cell phone for new staff person / outside services- repairs for rotating beacons and new poles / maintenance other- repairs to runway/ equipment other- new lawnmower. Mr. Saadi – increase to motor fuels? Because the fire dept. tank is out – they gas up there as do other departments- this number will lower once the pump is repaired. Any request for new vehicles? Ms. Estefan and Mr. Iadarola are working together. Ms. Taborsak asked about funds for crack repair? Dena said needs to be done every year.

HART – we get funds reimbursed. Mr. Cavo said there are complaints about reduced number of bus runs. Could we discuss with HART to make changes? Mayor said they're working on additional runs. There is a need for increased pick ups. We want to compliment their services. Mr. Perkins said logistics is involved.

Mr. Cavo moved to adopt the General Government 1 Budget as presented. Mr. Cutsumpas seconded. Motion passed 3 (Seabury, Cavo and Cutsumpas) in favor and 2 against (Saadi and Perkins).

Mr. Cavo moved to adjourn. Seconded by Mr. Saadi. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Gregg Seabury, Chair

Joe Cavo

Ted Custumpas

Duane Perkins

Tom Saadi