

TOWN COUNCIL
Town of Trumbull
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TOWN HALL
Trumbull

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**FINANCE COMMITTEE
BUDGET HEARING MINUTES
MARCH 29, 2016**

CALL TO ORDER: The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm. All present joined in a moment of silence and the Pledge of Allegiance.

PRESENT: Mark LeClair, Chairman, , Vice Chairmain, Tony Scinto, Matt Caron, Mary Beth Thornton

Lisa Valenti, Dawn Cantafio, Alternate and Ann Marie Evangelista, Alternate

ABSENT: Lori Rosasco Schwartz

ALSO

PRESENT: Finance Director Maria Pires, Chief of Staff Lynn Arnow, Town Council members Mark Block, and Edna Colucci.

PUBLIC WORKS – 01030000

Mr. John Marsilio, Public Works Director was present and indicated this was his 7th budget he has presented. This budget is a reflection of services that they supply in all of the various categories funded within the Public Works budget, essentially the same budget every year. BOF had restored the First Selectman's reductions.

PW-Highway 01030100-501888/Uniform Allowance: This was the same budget as requested last year. They contractually required to provide safety shoes and high visibility clothing for the employees. The BOF returned \$10,000.

PW-Highway 01030100-581888/ Capital Outlay: There was a request for vehicles that do not conform to the parameters of the Capital Plan so they are financed through the 5- Year operating budget. The First Selectman took a vehicle out and the BOF restored it.

PW-Building Maintenance 01030200 -590017 Sewer Fees: All of the Town buildings connected to the sewer line are treated as a customer of the WPCA. This line item represents the

sewer usage fee paid to the enterprise fund which ultimately is paid to the City of Bridgeport. This represents ten buildings on the Town side.

Fleet Maintenance 01030300-567701 – Transportation-Gas: Ms. Pires indicated that amount, current year actual is as of February 7, 2016

Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Commission:

Mr. Marsilio stated the legal notices represent the notices for the applications, this increases with the number of applications submitted.

SEWER-ENTERPRISE - 20100000

Mr. Frank Smeriglio, P.E., Town Engineer/Sewer Administrator was present and stated the biggest line item contained in this budget is the \$6.9 million paid to Bridgeport. The Chair indicated Trumbull has no control over this line item. Mr. Smeriglio explained Bridgeport sets their rates in May, therefore the WPCA will not know what the rates will be starting July 1, 2016.

PUBLIC SAFETY

FIRE MARSHAL - 01022800

Ms. Megan Murphy was present and indicated the department has exceeded the revenue goal to date. Projects in Town are moving along, the Park Avenue project has received its PCO. Ms. Murphy confirmed for Mr. Scinto the volunteer fire departments will not be replaced with a permanent fire department.

Fire Hydrants - 01022824

Mr. LeClair stated no one has ever seen the fire hydrant serviced on his street and questioned if the town knows that they are being serviced. Ms. Murphy explained her department does not see the bill it goes directly to the Finance Department. She has no control of their maintenance schedule, when there are complaints regarding one of the hydrants they are very good at resolving the issue. Mr. LeClair stated this line item represents a lot of money and no sees the hydrants serviced.

BUILDING OFFICIAL - 01023200

Mr. Graham Bissett was present and indicated the revenue for this year will be lower than the last two years due to the Bridgeport Hospital project and the Bridges on Reservoir Avenue having been completed. They had taken in \$1 million for each year of the past two years. This year's revenue will be approximately \$750,000. This year's budget has saved some money in office supplies because they got a new copier and were able to eliminate the fax machine and a couple of other machines. Mr. Bissett will be retiring June 30, 2016 and that will result in some additionally savings to the full time salaries account. His replacement will start at step 1. Ms. Pires confirmed the reduction in the 501101/full time salaries account was due to the retirement.

POLICE - 01022000

Chief Michael Lombardo was present and indicated this budget was prepared with the goal of providing the highest level of police service to the Trumbull community. The total proposed

budget is \$9,306,000 of which over \$7 million is personnel based. The budget includes adequate over time funding to cover shift coverage which has not increased over 35 years. Replacement of 6 vehicles is critical this year. One of the vehicles has been reduced from this budget. There are 8 vehicles in this year's fleet that have over 100,000 miles. Equipment failure can result in a serious accident. These vehicles are required to idle for long periods of time which adds to the vehicle's wear and tear. The police department is the only department in Town that operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days of the year. Failing to supervise the officers in the proper way could result in a loss for the Town and increased liability for not having the appropriate number of supervisors in the field 24 hours a day. There is a tremendous amount of unfunded State mandates. Failure to supervise or train is a major liability. Presently there are two officers that are in training and are not in the field yet and there is one entry level position that must be filled. The new officers will go to basic training which is no less than 22 weeks and 12 weeks of field training, generally no less than 10 months after an officer is hired will that officer be able to work in the field for the department and fill in the minimum shift coverage. The collective bargaining unit agreement requires the shifts be staffed 24 hours a day. The Town's dispatch unit is located at the police department and is staffed 24 hours a day. It is the hub of public safety for the Town. The ERT, Accident Investigation, Scuba teams are regionalized. This allows for the town to have more resources at hand at no additional cost at a moment's notice. The police department is authorized to employ 78 police officers. They have budgeted for 3 additional officers this year for SRO's (School Resource Officer) at the schools. Trumbull is the only school in the Fairfield County that does not have a SRO program. The 2015 Study conducted by Sienna College Research Institute stated the majority of Trumbull residents feel the job done by their police department is excellent. The department wishes to continue this quality of life for the residents and provide professional policing services for the community.

Chief Lombardo stated Narcan is funded through the program supplies account and is included in the 2016-2017 budget.

Ms. Thornton expressed her concern for the reduction of 2 lieutenants and spoke in favor of the SRO's and urged the Town Council to restore the lieutenant positions. Chief Lombardo indicated for Ms. Valenti currently there are approximately 30 officers eligible for retirement. Ms. Valenti spoke in favor of building the department's bench and spoke in favor of restoring the BOF reductions. Ms. Evangelista spoke on behalf of the Town Council and extended her gratitude and appreciation for all the police department does for our residents. Chief Lombardo explained for Mr. Scinto and Mr. LeClair promotions at the department are done from within the department. The 2 Lieutenant positions are in the current budget until July 1st. They have spent \$87,000 for the shift coverages, not all of it was due to the shortages. When a sergeant covers a lieutenant's shift they are paid a lieutenant's wage. There is only one patrol lieutenant at this time. There is an entry level police exam being given in a few weeks, he would like to have a running list so they do not lose time in the hiring process. They hired a certified officer from another police department last week that saves the 8-10 months training of a new police officer.

581888-Capital Outlay

Deputy Chief Byrnes explained the reduction in this line item represents one of the six vehicles requested in this budget. Chief Lombardo explained the funding is coming from the Special Detail account now. This is a new practice but had been done in August for two previous cars.

\$43,000 is brought in yearly in the special detail account. Ms. Pires explained there is a build up in the Special Detail account because it had not been used.

Chief Lombardo stated they do have the body cameras but they have not been used in the field. The policy to retain the data is a very long time and the Chiefs are trying to get that legislation changed. The length of time for retention as it is now would require them to have a full time person just to handle F.O.I requests.

Ms. Cantafio spoke in favor of supporting the department's chain of command and restoring the positions. Chief Lombardo stated the goal this year is to have a SRO in each middle school and one at the high school. This will serve as another layer of intervention. There would be a marked car at the high school. The SRO would build trusting relationships with the teachers and the students. There is a huge drug problem in this area that was not here 8-10 years ago. The function of two lieutenants removed from the budget if in the patrol division is tremendous. There are 8-9 million visitors at the Trumbull Mall every year. If a supervisor has to be at the mall while another serious incident occurs another supervisor is needed at that incident. The industry standard is to have one supervisor supervise 1-4 officers. Right now at times each of our supervisors oversees 10-15 people. There was not a request in this budget for anything other than what they already had with the exception of the SRO's and a fifth lieutenant. The 5th Lt. was reduced by the first selectman.

Emergency Management - 01023400

Deputy Chief Ron Kirby was present and explained this unit allows all of the department heads to come to one location and manage the Town during an emergency. This happens at the TPD's Emergency Operations Center, (EOC). This budget represents priorities for the center to function and the necessary tools.

Chief Lombardo explained the police department responds to 2200 medical calls per year as first responders. Some of the communities Trumbull has been compared to do not respond to medical calls. Last year there were 200 domestic calls, 500 larcenies, 27 stolen cars, 78 burglaries, 7 assaults, 8 robberies, 2100 alarms, 1500 car accidents last year and they received 10,000 911 calls and totaled 700 criminal arrests. If there are any questions from any board of him or anyone who works for him or would like him to explain how or why they do things he is always open to that.

Animal Control-01022400

Ms. Lynn Delabianca was present and stated most everything in the budget has stayed the same. The request for a second kennel assistant has been kept in the budget. Her department operates 7-days per week. Coverage last year was challenging for them because one person was out for a couple of months due to an injury and as a result she worked a lot of over time to cover Saturdays. The need for the second kennel person is particularly necessary in spring and summer when the animals are busy and the shelter's population increases. If she is the only one there without the additional help she is cleaning feeding and taking all the calls, she can be there until 6-7:00 p.m. at night just making sure everything gets done. Many people compliment them on how clean and well run the shelter is. This is currently done by one fulltime person and two part timers. It can be challenging at times. The only other thing she asked for was shelving for the

out building and the food storage room. They do receive a lot of donations and the shelving would help organize the donations and the food storage area needs to be in compliance with state statute.

LIBRARIES-01070000

Mr. Louis Sheehy was present and indicated the budget reflects the strategic plan that they have been working on for the last nine months. The strategic plan was funded over two fiscal years. Some of the requests in the collection line item as well as the capital outlay line items are as a result of the strategic plan. The results of that plan will be put forth in the next month or two.

Mr. Sheehy confirmed for the committee the HVAC system at the main branch has been fixed. In the past 2-3 years they have replaced the furnace, have installed new controls, solar panels and this has been done in conjunction with the energy grants with the U.I. and expects in the next year some upgrades to the A/C will be done.

NURSES

Nursing/Senior Wellness (Health)-01040400

Ms. Coleen Figliuzzi was present and indicated no changes had been made to the budget with the exception of the traveling expenses. Reimbursement went down and they also made changes to the position so there would not be as much travel.

School Nurses-01060200

Ms. Figliuzzi stated some adjustments were made because association dues had gone up. Otherwise there are no other changes. The other change was a fulltime position changed to part time and another part time position changed to full time.

Non Public School Nurses-01060200

Ms. Figliuzzi is the supervisor and works for the Town therefore all of the school nurses work for her which is why they are in the Town's side of the budget. The Town is reimbursed a little bit from the State for the service of school nurses in the private schools.

Mary J. Sherlach Counseling Center-01050200

This budget includes a request for an additional part time counselor. One was added in the current year and is doing a phenomenal job. The request for this budget is in response to what is going on nationally. She would like to add someone with expertise in addiction. They will never be a center that provides addiction treatment but they can provide support to families and to those who are already in recovery. After her research, Ms. Figliuzzi has concluded at this time they do not need Narcan at the schools with the nurses. This does not mean it won't be in the future. Currently we have access to Narcan because all of our first responders in Town have it. There is always a police officer at the high school campus that has Narcan as well. This seems to be an issue with the 20-30 year olds. Drug use usually does not start with heroin or opiates it starts with alcohol and marijuana. We have programs where the nurses work with the staff to recognize the symptoms of being under the influence and are referred immediately to the health room where they are assessed by the nurses. They try to get to the students before there is an overdose. If they start to see this as a school age problem they will look into this further. On another point after the use of Narcan the patient can be combative, the nurses can be back up for

the first responder and vice versa, but if the nurses were to have Narcan they would not necessarily have any one readily available as back up if the person became combative. Ms. Figliuzzi stated this decision had been made with a lot of research and thought. The committee extended their gratitude to Ms. Figliuzzi for her service to the community and her involvement at the schools.

There being no further business to discuss the Finance Committee adjourned by unanimous consent at 8:16 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Margaret D. Mastroni, Town Council Clerk