

PRESENT Chairman John W. Sheehan , Kenneth Brown, Ronald Fedor, Alan Wilensky, Cheryl Larder, George Peteros, Rosalyn Dupuis

OFFICIALS First Selectman Daniel Steward

RTM Andrea Kanfer, Thomas Dembek

ALSO Bernard Pisacich, Town Treasurer

STAFF Ruth Beers, Finance Director; Yvette M. Pier, Secretary

Chairman Sheehan called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

He generally described the budget process and asked if members of the public had comments regarding the budget process. There were none.

Remove from table Review of Conservation of Health Budget

MOTION To remove from the table Review of Conservation of Health Budget  
Fedor, Brown Unanimous

Review of **Conservation of Health Budget**

MOTION To tentatively approve the Conservation of Health budget in the amount of \$144,422 as designated by the series sub-totals.  
Fedor, Dupuis

Jennifer Muggeo was present and noted that the budget reflects staff reductions and no salary increases for remaining employees. Attributes increases to the cost of supplies and cost of doing business.

**Vote: Final Total: \$144,422** Unanimous

MOTION **Public Works**  
To tentatively approve the Public Works budget in the amount of \$4,928,971 as designated by the series sub-totals.  
Fedor, Dupuis

Director Ronald Cusano was present. The budget increase is primarily due to increases in wages. Additionally he noted a 4.50% decrease - \$79,481 in the 52000 series due to a decrease in Solid Waste Disposal in the amount of \$97,023 which was offset by a \$26,260 increase in Service Contracts and Repairs due to the department accepting responsibility for the maintenance of municipal town buildings.

During discussion of LI 52040 Service Contracts and Repairs, Mr. Peteros felt there is a conflict in allocating costs to the Public Works budget and suggested that costs should be disbursed to departments incurring the costs.

Discussion regarding LI 51130 Engineering Staff Wages, LI 51210 Clerical Staff Wages, LI 51910 Fringe Benefits – clothing allowance. Mr. Cusano answered questions regarding labor hours spent at the bulky waste facility/transfer station operation as well as highway maintenance wages and summer labor wages.

Mr. Sheehan inquired if thought was given to an agreement with other municipalities to share equipment and personnel, and that Public Works and the Utility Commission merge engineering staffs.

LI 52030 Professional fees – discussion regarding random drug testing.

Mr. Cusano answered questions regarding \$1,700 to attend the American Public Works Association International Congress and Equipment Show in Columbus, Ohio and he said it's important to attend each year because it addresses a broad expanse of Public Works issues and new technologies/trends. Discussion continued regarding Solid Waste Disposal, Municipal Solid Waste, propane tanks, recycling environmental compliance awareness for \$3,000 for brochures.

Discussion regarding LI 52500 Options and Rights-of-way, traffic control materials, highway materials.

Discussion was held regarding LI 53070 Automotive Repairs, road surface treatment. Mr. Cusano answered questions regarding \$34,000 in LI 54050 Automotive Equipment for a tractor mower attachment. Discussion was held regarding LI 55010 Town Aid-Improved Roads. An allocation from the State of Connecticut allocation system to all municipalities for maintenance of town roads is estimated to be \$160,522 for 2009-2010.

**Vote: Final Total: \$4,928,971 Unanimous**

**Current Year Capital Improvements**

MOTION To tentatively approve the Current Year Capital Improvements budget in the amount of \$1,291,748 as designated by the sub-totals.  
Wilensky, Dupuis

Police Chief Pendleton via e-mail correspondence to the Finance Director informed the Board that he is withdrawing the Police Department's request in the amount of \$15,000 for cameras and lighting for the impound area.

MOTION To tentatively reduce cameras and lighting at impound area to \$0.  
Wilensky, Dupuis Unanimous

Lengthy discussion was held regarding LI 55738 Fleet Management Plan including replacement of the Cohanzie vehicle originally purchased as a pickup truck with a utility body vehicle, replacement of some equipment with low maintenance costs, as well as an old ambulance donated by the Waterford Ambulance Association as a Police command vehicle and the long term operational costs for this vehicle.

MOTION To tentatively reduce LI 55738 Fleet Management Plan by \$500,000.  
Wilensky, Larder

Mr. Peteros felt a reduction of \$200,000 should be considered. He offered a friendly amendment to approve a reduction of \$200,000. Discussion of funding of the Fleet Management account. The amendment was not accepted.  
Vote: Yes: Brown, Wilensky  
No: Peteros, Sheehan, Larder, Fedor, Dupuis  
Motion failed.

MOTION To tentatively reduce LI 55738 Fleet Management Plan by \$200,000 to \$1,000,000.  
Peteros, Fedor Yes: Peteros, Sheehan, Larder, Fedor, Dupuis  
Motion passed. No: Wilensky, Brown

Sub-total: \$1,026,749 Yes: Peteros, Sheehan, Larder, Fedor, Dupuis, Brown  
No: Wilensky

Discussion was held regarding LI 55765 Eugene O'Neill Cottage/Farmhouse Rehabilitation and Executive Director Preston Whiteway answered questions regarding the project and said the funds would be expended in FY 2010.

**Vote: Final Total: \$1,076,748** **Unanimous**

**Transfer to Capital and Non-recurring Expenditure Fund**

MOTION To tentatively approve the Transfer to Capital and Non-Recurring Expenditure Fund budget in the amount of \$2,725,363 as designated by the sub-totals.  
Dupuis, Fedor

Discussion was regarding LI 57600 New School Construction/Renovation. Mr. Peteros noted he would like to reduce this line by \$1,000,000 and increase the planned transfer of funds from the Unreserved Balance to School Construction at the appropriate time, to reduce the bond requirement, effectively using funds taxpayers have already contributed rather than imposing additional expense upon taxpayer at this time.

MOTION To tentatively reduce LI 57600 New School Construction/Renovation to \$1,000,000.  
Peteros, Dupuis **Unanimous**

Sub-total: \$1,075,000 **Unanimous**

Discussion was held regarding LI 57706 Soccer Lights – Spera Field including the original cost of the project, the amounts being sought from the Town, the fundraising anticipated by the soccer league and apparent changes to all aspects of the project from its initial proposal in 2008. Ryan McNamara acknowledged increased project costs, reported minimal fundraising. He indicated a soccer league representative was not available for this meeting. It was noted that the new high school plan appeared to include a lighted soccer field that could be utilized.

MOTION To tentatively reduce LI 57706 Soccer Lights – Spera Field to \$0.  
Brown, Fedor **Unanimous**

Discussion was held regarding LI 57707 Playground Addition Townwide. Jerry Lokken and Jane Dunlop of the Ad-Hoc Playground Committee were present. Discussion included the fact that the original proposal of \$180,000 increased to over \$400,000. It was reported the committee has raised only \$4,500. Brian Flaherty spoke in support of the project as well as Jerry Lokken and Jane Dunlop. They felt it is an important need for the community.  
Mr. Wilensky noted there is insufficient fund raising at this time.

MOTION To tentatively reduce LI 57707 Playground Addition Townwide to \$0.  
Peteros, Larder **Unanimous**

Sub-total: \$0 **Unanimous**

The Board next reviewed Mago Point Sub-station Partial Upgrade. Discussion was held regarding financing the project and it was felt the Utility Commission should use the Sewer Maintenance Development Fund to finance the rest of the project.

MOTION To tentatively reduce Mago Point Sub-station Partial Upgrade to \$150,000.  
Peteros, Wilensky **Unanimous**

Sub-total: \$150,000 **Unanimous**

Mr. Brown asks questions regarding the Niantic Road Stabilization Project which were responded to by Mr. Cusano and Mr. Wagner.

**Vote: Final Total: \$1,491,330** **Unanimous**

MOTION        To adjourn at 10:00 pm.  
                      Peteros, Wilensky

Unanimous

Submitted by,

Prepared by,

Cheryl Larder, Clerk

Yvette M. Pier, Secretary