



CITY OF DERBY
BOARD OF APPORTIONMENT & TAXATION
May 16 2011
7:00 p.m.
Aldermanic Chambers

Jeremy Bell
James Butler
Timothy Conlon
William Nelson Cummings
Anita Dugatto

Carolyn Duhaime
David Anroman
Carlo Malerba
Mark Nichols
Judith Szewczyk - Chairwoman

A special meeting of the Board of Apportionment & Taxation of the City of Derby was held on Monday evening, May 16, 2011 in the Aldermanic Chambers, City Hall to adopt a preliminary budget for FY 2011-2012 which is a continuation of the meeting Tuesday May 10 2011.

Chair Judy Szewczyk called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. with the pledge of allegiance.

By roll call, members present were Tim Conlon, James Butler, David Anroman, Anita Dugatto, Chair Judy Szewczyk, Carolyn Duhaime, Nelson Cummings, Mark Nichols, Carlo Malerba and Jeremy Bell.

PUBLIC PORTION

Don DeManuel - 66 Orangewood West. Mr. DeManuel is here tonight to show support for the Board of Education. Mr. DeManuel presented a letter to the Board. For the last several years the Board of Education has been underfunded. The money may have increased, what we are getting for that money has gone down due to the increased costs of doing business.

A 7 1/4% increase proposed by Dr. Tracy would still result in the layoff of four additional teachers. The NEASC report compared to prior years offers a compelling case of the quality of education.

The downtown development contract cost the City \$1.8 million dollars.

Dr. Stephen Tracy - Superintendent of Schools The conversation regarding the school board budget has revolved around what the bottom line should be. Little has been said about the merits of the case the board has brought forward. The school board does not hide money in their budget.

For the first time in a couple of years the board got a proposal from an alternative health care provider which could result in savings, however, it would have to be brought forward to the unions.

The teachers are taking wage freezes this year and the administrators will take wage freezes next year. There have been programs and positions eliminations. The payroll has been cut by twenty positions over the last three budgets.

If the school budget were funded in the range of 18.6 million or a 5% increase, the board could substantially limit the damage they will have to deal with next year as opposed to the numbers discussed last week. The all day kindergarten and sports programs would be left alone and would be able to make a head start on some of the recommendations from NEASC. The cost for the 5% increase for a typical homeowner would be \$190.00 a year or \$16.00 a month.

Shannon Meseck - 30 Cedric Avenue. Ms. Meseck stated education is very important. Her son is in Pre-K and has talked with other parents who are concerned that the high school is 134 out of 180 schools in Connecticut. These parents are thinking of moving out of Derby and sending their children to private schools.

She applauds the administration for the increases to the board of education over the years, however, other towns has 60% of the budget going to education. Ms. Meseck is in favor of a tax increase and the board should look at other ways to decrease the budget instead of the board of education.

Chantal Gerckens - 65 Hillcrest Avenue. Ms. Gerckens was disappointed that she was not able to read other parents letters who were not able to attend the May 10th meeting. She is hoping for a 5% increase.

The public portion closed.

Adoption of the 2011-2012 Preliminary Budget.

Board of Education

A MOTION by Mr. Conlon with a second by Ms. Dugatto to adopt a Board of Education by \$18,600.00, all in favor, opposed.....Mr. Bell, Mr. Nichols, Mr. Cummings, Ms. Duhaime and Ms. Szewczyk, **motion fails.**

A MOTION by Mr. Butler with a second by Mr. Conlon to adopt a Board of Education budget of \$18,444,171, (increase of \$709,391 or 3.99 %), all in favor, opposed..... Mr. Bell, Mr. Nichols, Mr. Cummings, Ms. Duhaime and Ms. Szewczyk, **motion fails.**

A MOTION by Mr. Cummings with a second by Mr. Nichols to fund the Board of Education at \$18,337,917 which is the half way point between the initial budget and Mr. Butler's motion, all in favor, opposed.....Mr. Conlon, Mr. Butler, Mr. Anroman, Ms. Dugatto and Mr. Malerba, **motion fails.**

A MOTION to take a recess at 8:23 p.m. by Ms. Dugatto, second by Mr. Butler, all in favor, **motion carries.**

Back at 8:41 p.m.

A MOTION by Mr. Cummings with a second by Mr. Nichols to fund the Board of Education at \$18,355,496 which is a 3.5% increase, all in favor, opposed.....Mr. Conlon, Mr. Butler, Mr. Anroman, Ms. Dugatto and Mr. Malerba, **motion fails.**

Mr. Butler stated the Police budget was approved with a 5.34% increase over last year's budget along with other department increases, the feeling is that the Board of Education deserves at least a 3.9% increase.....

A MOTION by Mr. Butler with a second by Mr. Anroman to adopt a Board of Education budget of \$18,444,000, (increase of 3.9 %),

discussion.....Mr. Nichols stated the approved police budget was a decrease, Mr. Butler stated it is a 5.3% increase over last year's, the original budget for the police department last year was \$3,061,767; this year the education reimbursement was taken out of it, so that has to be subtracted from that amount, the amended budget had \$67,000.00 put in for an employee buyout, which increased the figures for the amended budget, so basically the baseline budget would have been \$3,020,607 dollars, when you put that against this year's budget of \$3,181,987, for a 5.34% increase,

Ms. Szewczyk stated Mr. Butler is not looking at the numbers literally, rather with accommodations to what you think should not have been done that way.....Ms. Szewczyk stated she would hope Mr. Butler would look at the Board of Education budget in the same light for accommodations for special circumstances..... Mr. Butler stated they did , they took one of the numbers out when they looked at their base line, they came down from 1.2 million to 700,000 for the \$18,444,000 at a 3.9% increase.....

Mr. Conlon stated going below 4% for the Board of Education would be putting the school system in a critical state, we have to give them some credibility, to risk not achieving a budget tonight for \$95,000, we need to think about.....

Ms. Szewczyk stated it worries her the school system might fail because of a lack of \$95,000

all in favor, opposed..... Mr. Bell, Mr. Nichols, Mr. Cummings, Ms. Duhaime and Ms. Szewczyk, **motion fails.**

Ms. Szewczyk stated as per Connecticut State Statutes; the City's statutory obligation is to generate a tax bill for July 2011. If the City cannot send out this tax bill; and therefore fund the City, the City must shut down.

The board has to set a preliminary budget and we are running out of time.

The City Charter - Section 32 "the job of the Board of Taxation & Apportionment is to make appropriations and lay taxes for all City purposes" - the Tax Board has the obligation to make sure the City is funded to operate the State Statutes

continuing on "said Board at a meeting thereof to be held in May in each year, shall prepare an estimate of the amounts required by each department of the City government for the ensuing year, giving particulars as far as possible and recommending appropriations for all the City expenses for said year and shall cause such estimates forthwith to be published in a newspaper published in New Haven County and having a circulation in said City."

Based on the fact the board appears deadlocked, Ms. Szewczyk would entertain a motion to accept the current budget for the 2010-2011 year for the 2011-2012 year, it is allowable, however, it gives the Board of Education 0% increase. Corporation Counsel has stated if the board fails to pass a preliminary budget the City can sue the board. There is no motion to accept the current budget numbers of 2010-2011 as the 2011-2012.

Mr. Coppola stated something has to be published in the newspaper as to an estimate of your budget.

A MOTION by Mr. Anroman to approve \$18,440,000 for the Board of Education, second by Mr. Malerba, all in favor, opposed..... Mr. Bell, Mr. Nichols, Mr. Cummings, Ms. Duhaime and Ms. Szewczyk, **motion fails.**

A caucus was held by the Democratic party at 8:15. Meeting back at 9:17 p.m.

A MOTION by Mr. Conlon knowing that the this is only the preliminary budget with a second by Mr. Anroman to approve \$18,400,000 or 3.75% increase for the Board of Education, to meet the other members of the board halfway with the intention that the board try to find another \$45,000 in other line items, all in favor, opposed..... Mr. Bell, Mr. Nichols, Mr. Cummings, Ms. Duhaime and Ms. Szewczyk, **motion fails.**

A MOTION by Mr. Malerba to adjourn, second by Mr. Butler, all in favor, opposed..... Mr. Bell, Mr. Nichols, Mr. Cummings, Ms. Duhaime and Ms. Szewczyk, **motion fails.**

A MOTION by Mr. Bell to meet halfway between Mr. Anroman's motion \$18,450,000 and Mr. Nichols motion \$18,337,917 for a total of \$18,394,000, second by Mr. Malerba, all in favor, opposed..... Mr. Nichols, Mr. Cummings, Ms. Duhaime and Ms. Szewczyk, **motion fails.**

A MOTION by Mr. Malerba with a second by Ms. Dugatto to table the adoption of the 2011-2012 budget, discussion.....is there a quorum for Wednesday, Mr. Butler is not available....., people are not available for Thursday, the latest would be Wednesday, the highest amount for some of the board for the Board of Education budget is \$18,355,496 the lowest amount for the other board members for the Board of Education is \$18,394,000, separated by \$38,504, Mr. Malerba withdraws his motion.

A MOTION to fund the Board of Education \$18,374,000 by Mr. Cummings, second by Mr. Conlon, all in favor, **motion carried.**

Youth Service Bureau

A MOTION to approve the budget \$35,000 by Mr. Butler, second by Ms. Duhaime, all in favor, **motion carried.**

Adjournment

A MOTION to adjourn at 9:30 p.m. by Mr. Butler, second by Ms. Duhaime, all in favor, **motion carried.**

Respectfully Submitted,

*Denise Cesaroni
Recording Secretary*

*****These minutes are subject to the approval by the Board of Apportionment & Taxation at their next regular meeting.**