

Subject to Approval

BOARD OF SELECTMEN FY09/10 BUDGET WORKSHOP
February 11, 2009

PRESENT: First Selectman H. William Davis, Jr.
Selectman Carol Hubert
Selectman Ken Kerin
Selectman Barbara McLaughlin
Selectman Stuart Somers
Selectman John Turk

ALSO PRESENT: Director of Social Services Sandy Saren, Director of Elderly Services Sharon Gesek, Town Clerk Ginger Salisbury, Lake Zoar Authority Chairman Bob Barnes, Lake Zoar Authority member Bernie Lintzner, Youth & Family Services Executive Director Lisa Hanggi, YFS Board members Peter Belmont and Sue LaRusso, Assistant to the First Selectman Jennifer Naylor, and Office Manager Noreen Thompson

Members of the Board of Finance Richard Hill, Ken Korsu, Donna Pereira, and John Reilly

The workshop on February 11, 2009 was called to order at 7:03 p.m. in Room 205 of the Southbury Town Hall.

10054 – Social Services

Director Sandy Saren explained the Social Services budget. Sel. McLaughlin asked why the amount for income maintenance was cut in half. First Sel. Davis said the income maintenance money had never been used. It was just there for a real emergency. Sel. Hubert asked how things in general looked. Ms. Saren said they had been doubly lucky with donations of funds and food.

10110 – Elderly Services

Director Sharon Gesek explained the Elderly Services budget. Sel. McLaughlin asked what senior activities had been reduced to explain the reduction in the budget request for senior activities. Ms. Gesek

said that there were 19 paid instructors now and money was left at the end of the year. So the reduced figure was only a result of more appropriate and accurate accounting. She added that belly dancing had been dropped, but that something else would replace it. Ms. Gesek said the reduction in the part time salaries figure was because they now had only one per diem position, whereas before they had two. She added that several part time persons are used to fill the one per diem position.

In answer to a question, Sandy Saren said that the \$23,000 dial-a-ride grant was in effect through June 30th, but that its renewal was at risk. First Sel. Davis said that if the state did not provide funds, the town should look at funding the dial-a-ride program which provides transport to medical appointments (locally and to places like Yale and the West Haven VA) for those who have no other way of getting there. Sel. McLaughlin pointed out that Waterbury Hospital, Danbury Hospital, and Opticare provide free transport for their patients who need it. Sel. McLaughlin said that the Heritage Village Civic Association also provides transportation to medical appointments. Treasurer Sarosky said the money for dial-a-ride was in the budget and the town receives reimbursement from the state.

Board of Finance member John Reilly asked about the use of the expensive kitchen in the Senior Center. Ms. Gesek said the kitchen is used to heat up the congregate meals which come from elsewhere. 4,172 meals were served last year (12 – 18 meals a day) to 128 different clients. Also, 12,040 meals-on-wheels passed through the kitchen last year to 73 clients. Sel. Kerin said that kind of kitchen was necessary for an emergency shelter. First Sel. Davis stated that Officer George Slaiby is working with the Red Cross to get the Senior Center designated an emergency shelter.

10070 – Town Clerk

Town Clerk Ginger Salisbury explained her budget. She is anticipating less volume but also expects increased mortgage modifications and refinances. She is hoping for 5,000 documents next year. Sel. Kerin noted that budgeted amount for indexing & filming for this year had been spent although there were five months to go. Ms. Salisbury said it had not been spent, but was encumbered. Treasurer Sarosky explained that there is one purchase order for the entire year's indexing & filming and the Town Clerk pays the vendor against it each month. There was some discussion of the process of encumbering money by using one annual purchase order. Sel. Kerin asked about the \$4000 figure for codification. He wanted to know how many

ordinance books there were. Ms. Salisbury was unsure. She said that they keep ten in their office. They sell them to local attorneys for \$75 but charge nothing for the updates. Sel. Kerin noted that many towns have their ordinances online where they can be searched by keyword. Ms. Salisbury said that the codification vendor also updates the ordinance index and makes up pamphlets for sale of certain ordinances like the zoning ordinances. Sel. Kerin suggested exploring the possibility of an online version of the ordinances. Board of Finance member John Reilly noted that the ordinances were probably already on disc at the vendor's. Ms. Salisbury said that she thought the codification figure would be greater next year because of charter revision, but that she assumed the charter revision related updates would be paid for by the Charter Revision Commission.

10103 – Lake Zoar Authority

Lake Zoar Authority Chairman Bob Barnes and Authority member Bernie Lintzner explained the LZA budget. They handed around a copy of their revised budget (made after talking with the member towns) showing a 1/3 reduction from their original 09/10 budget (and a 1/2 reduction from their 08/09 budget). The revised budget still needs LZA approval. There was some discussion of the Authority's capital expenditure fund. The LZA capital expenditure fund is intermingled in their general account (except for \$5,000 which Southbury is holding for LZA boat replacement). They said a new boat costs \$45,000 - \$50,000. Mr. Barnes said the LZA has two responsibilities: clean water and safety. They will be spending \$23,000 in June for weed treatment and already spent \$10,000 this year for weevils. On each boat patrol they pay a driver who works for the LZA and they pay the towns about \$56/hour for a police officer. In answer to questions Mr. Barnes said the power company who owns the lake contributes very little to the LZA; and the lakeside landowners contribute only a few hundred dollars. The LZA is trying to get money from the settlement of a court case against the GE plant in Pittsfield, Mass., but it is difficult. First Sel. Davis said he was comfortable with the revised LZA budget.

10114 – Youth & Family Services

Executive Director Lisa Hanggi explained the Youth & Family Services budget to the Board. Ms. Hanggi said she had not heard of the First Selectman's request for a 5% decrease from the 08/09 budget, but that she could live with it. She said YFS are getting onto third party insurance panels as a provider. They would like to get on the State insurance panels such as HUSKY, but for the State insurances,

because they are a clinic, they need a doctor on staff. They have made a grant request to the Connecticut Community Foundation for money to hire a doctor. Ms. Hanggi said YFS gets funding from Region 15 to be the school social workers. But, school referrals are capped at 12 sessions; and after that, some clients have private insurance and some clients pay on a sliding fee schedule. Ms. Hanggi said that 59% of those on the sliding fee schedule pay less than \$10 per session. The State insurances would pay \$60 or \$50 per session. Board of Finance member Ken Korsu asked what Ms. Hanggi would cut to meet a 5% decrease. She replied that: the development position would become part time; there would again be no raises; and counseling hours would have to be cut. There then ensued considerable discussion about Middlebury not paying its fair share of the YFS budget. First Selectman Davis said he will bring this issue up next week with Middlebury's first selectman and new CFO.

At 8:46 p.m. the budget discussion was tabled until the following evening at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jocelyn Bagger