

**MINUTES
EIGHTH UTILITIES DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
REVENUES
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19, 2017
DONALD WILLIS HALL
18 MAIN STREET
MANCHESTER, CT 06042**

The Board of Directors of the Eighth Utilities District of Manchester, Connecticut held a Budget Workshop on Wednesday, April 19, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. at The Donald Willis Hall, 18 Main Street, Manchester, Connecticut.

Mrs. O'Marra called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

REVENUES

Mrs. O'Marra noted that the proposed mill rate for Fiscal Year 2017/2018 is 4.30 for full rate and 2.15 for half rate. This is an increase of .08 mills.

Mrs. O'Marra reviewed the anticipated revenues for the 2017/2018 fiscal year. She explained that the proposed revenue from *Back Taxes* has been lowered by \$15,000 to \$70,000. Because the anticipated back tax collection has gone down the Interest Fees on Back Taxes is lower as well. Mrs. O'Marra explained that the *Fire Watch Reimbursement* has been lowered by \$7,500. The *Statutory Formula Grant* is a new revenue line. This is to replace the *MV Property Tax and Grant* line. The remainder of the revenue sources has all been increased minimally.

Mrs. O'Marra stated that there are many unknowns again for next fiscal year. The legislature is discussing the possibility of keeping the tax cap the same as this year. If this passes, we will be able to collect motor vehicle taxes at a mill rate of 2.15. If it does not pass, we will be unable to collect any motor vehicle taxes. This will impact our budget by approximately \$500,000. If we are unable to collect motor vehicle taxes, the State of Connecticut has again promised to make up the loss of motor vehicle taxes. This is the \$505,143 that is in the *Statutory Formula Grant* line. It is still unknown if we will receive this payment. She ended by stating that this is a reasonable budget in light of today's economy.

Mrs. O'Marra noted that the Public Hearing on the budget is scheduled on Wednesday, May 10th at 7:30 p.m.

Voted: Mr. Napoli moved to accept the preliminary budget to present to the electorate at the Public Hearing to be held on May 10, 2017.
Seconded by Mr. Luzusky.

Mrs. Bowen asked if she could have the floor and was recognized by President O'Marra.

Mrs. Bowen informed members of the Board that the Fire Department budget had been reduced. She explained that Chief Moore had given her a letter on Tuesday afternoon refusing the proposed increase to his salary because he was uncomfortable accepting it due to what transpired at the April 17th Fire Marshal budget workshop.

Mrs. Bowen stated that every member of the Board has a vote. She felt that the time to question the proposed increase was at either of the two Fire Department budget workshops. Mrs. Bowen said that she had done her research and felt that she had presented adequate back-up to support an increase in the Fire Chief's salary.

Mrs. Bowen stated that comparing the increase of the Fire Chief's salary to the increase of the Fire Marshal's stipend was not justified as they are two different scenarios. The Fire Chief's salary increase, which was unsolicited by the Chief, should never have entered into the discussion of the Fire Marshal's requested increase.

Mrs. Bowen stated that on only one other occasion while she has served on this Board has she seen anything that compared to what occurred at the workshop on the 17th. That was when Director Marois stated that he would only support hiring a Fleet Mechanic if another director sitting on the Board of Directors would support hiring a new Firefighter/EMT.

Mrs. Bowen ended by stating that she was disappointed that this Board of Directors made Chief Moore feel unappreciated and that some members of the Board were questioning his integrity. When, in fact, the only thing that he can be accused of is caring too much about the Fire Department and the Eighth Utilities District.

A lengthy discussion ensued.

VOTED: Mr. Napoli made a motion to adjourn.
 Seconded by Mr. Luzusky.

There being no other business the meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Note: All votes were unanimous unless otherwise noted.

DIRECTORS PRESENT:

Mary O'Marra, President
Deberah Bowen
Karen Gionet
Leonard Luzusky
Gerard Napoli
John Topping (7:15 p.m.)
Joseph Tyler

BY FRANCES McCARTER
CLERK
EIGHTH UTILITIES DISTRICT