

**MINUTES
EIGHTH UTILITIES DISTRICT
PUBLIC HEARING
WEDNESDAY, MAY 10, 2017 – 7:30 P.M.
DON WILLIS HALL
18 MAIN STREET
MANCHESTER, CT 06042**

The Eighth Utilities District of Manchester, Connecticut held a Public Hearing on Wednesday, May 10, 2017 at 7:30 p.m. at the Don Willis Hall, 18 Main Street, Manchester, Connecticut.

Mrs. O'Marra called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

President O'Marra stated that the purpose of this Public Hearing was to present the proposed budget to the electorate and to entertain any comments that residents of the District may have on the budget as a whole or on specific areas of the budget.

Directors Napoli and Topping presented the Administration and Public Works budgets respectively. Chief Moore presented the Fire Department budget, and Marshal Roback presented the Fire Marshal budget.

Mrs. O'Marra asked any members of the public who wanted to comment to state their name and address when acknowledged so that there is a record in the minutes.

Stephen Hilinski, 156 Loomis Street, indicated that he had a few questions for the Board. He directed his first question to Director Topping. He asked why there was a \$55,000 increase in the Public Works "Equipment New/Replacement" account bringing it from \$15,000 in Fiscal Year 2017 to \$70,000 in Fiscal Year 2018. Mr. Topping stated that they had looked at the budgets from the past few years and had increased the budgeted amount to more adequately reflect the amount spent. Mr. Hilinski asked what the District was actually getting for the \$55,000 increase. Director Topping responded that the department intended to purchase a new lift system so that the heavier vehicles can be worked on more safely.

Mr. Hilinski questioned the Fleet Maintenance budget. He asked why only \$4,100 was budgeted for work on the Public Works vehicles and \$8,200 was budgeted for the Fire Marshal. He continued that he thought that the Public Works vehicles would require more work as they were older than the Fire Marshal's vehicles. Mr. Topping stated that the Public Works vehicles are all relatively new with one vehicle still under warranty.

Mr. Hilinski asked President O'Marra what the proposed mill rate was. She stated that the current mill rate is 4.22, and the District is proposing an increase of .08 bringing it to 4.30. Mrs. O'Marra explained that because of state legislation we will not be allowed to collect motor vehicle taxes next fiscal year. Because of this the budget was developed so that the operating budget will be fully funded, but we will not fund the reserve accounts unless we receive the money that the state had promised to municipalities when they enacted the legislation last July. By doing this our day-to-day operations and the quality of services that we provide will not be impacted. President O'Marra stated that this is not a permanent solution. She stated that saving in the reserve accounts has allowed us to accomplish our goals without bonding. If we are not able to continue to save in this way, we will have to change our approach to developing the yearly budget.

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Mr. Hilinski questioned two Fire Department accounts. Under “Supplies – Office/Janitorial contracts, there is a large increase. He wondered if two accounts were combined. Mrs. O’Marra responded that they were as they are trying to streamline categories and track spending more efficiently. Chief Moore added that several line items have been combined.

Mr. Hilinski asked about the “Part-time Administrative Assistant” budgeted in the Fire Department budget and the “Part-time Office Clerk” budgeted for in the Administration budget. He wondered if the same person worked in both locations. Mrs. O’Marra answered that 20 hours per week was being split between the two budgets. However, the employee works full-time in the Tax Office during July.

Fire Marshal Roback pointed out that “Marshal” was misspelled on line 1 of his budget and also on account #60229003. There is only one “l” in Marshal.

Mrs. O’Marra stated that this budget will be presented to the electorate at the Annual Meeting on May 24, 2017.

Voted: Mr. Napoli moved to adjourn.
Seconded by Mrs. Gionet.

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

DIRECTORS PRESENT:

Mary O’Marra, President
Deberah Bowen
Karen Gionet
Leonard Luzusky
Gerard Napoli
John Topping
Joseph Tyler

BY: FRANCES McCARTER
CLERK
EIGHTH UTILITIES DISTRICT