

RTM Budget Hearing
Wednesday, April 4, 2012
McKinley School Library

Present: Peter Ambrose, David Becker, Chris Brogan, Thomas Conley, Heather Dean, Joseph DiMartino, Bill Domeika, Hank Ference, Josh Garskof, Julie Gottlieb, Kevin Hoffkins, Dana Kery, Ken Lee, Allen Marks, Sheila Marmion, Tom McCarthy, Mary McCullough, Gaylord Meyer, Eric Newman, Joe Palmer, Marc Patten, Carol Pontrelli, Bruce Ryan, Carolyn Richmond, Jeff Steele, Hal Schwartz, Ann Stamler, Jay Wolk

Temporary Chair: David Becker
Temporary Secretary: Ann Stamler

The meeting was called to order at 7:15 pm, and adjourned at 10:30 pm. This meeting was recorded by FairTV and will be available at <http://fairtv.pegcentral.com/index.php>. The following notes reflect department or agency heard, presenter if any, and general areas of discussion. Departments are reported in the order in which they were discussed, which does not necessarily reflect the order of the printed budget.

The following were rescheduled to Monday, April 9: Debt Service, Contingency, Fund Balance, Pension, Retiree Medical, Risk Management, Human Resources. Finance, which was begun this evening, will be continued on April 9.

Regional Youth Adult Social Action Partnership (2073)

Robert Francis, Executive Director

Discussion: handout describing mission and services; percentage of overall budget funded by Fairfield; towns and cities included in service area; impact on Fairfield's access to services if funding reduced or eliminated; impact on services.

Pequot Library (2130)

Daniel Snyderdacker, Executive Director

William P. Russell, Jr., President

Discussion: impact on Fairfield's access to services if funding reduced or eliminated; impact on general services; difference between Pequot Library and Fairfield's other libraries.

Fairfield Counseling Services (2150)

Dorothy Timmermann, Executive Director

Discussion: impact on Fairfield's access to services if funding reduced or eliminated; impact on general services; history of funding, other funding sources.

The Discovery Museum (2170)

No representative

No discussion

Greater Bridgeport Regional Council (2190)

Bob Delurie (?), former member

Discussion: impact on Fairfield's access to services if funding reduced or eliminated; impact on services.

Audubon Society (2210)

Nelson North, Director, Fairfield Operations

Discussion: impact on Fairfield's access to services if funding reduced or eliminated; impact on services.

Greater Bridgeport Transit Authority (2230)

Douglas Holcomb, Chief Executive Officer

Discussion: - impact on Fairfield's access to services if funding reduced or eliminated; impact on services; other sources of funding; open house scheduled at Town Hall April 18.

Fairfield Museum and History Center (2250)

Michael Jehle, Executive Director; Peter Penczer and Patricia Spaght, Board Members

Discussion: use of increased funding since FY12; impact on Fairfield's access to services if funding reduced or eliminated; impact on services; cooperative arrangements with area institutions.

Fairfield Veterans Advisory and Information Service (2270)

Vanessa Marshall (?), staff

Discussion: impact on Fairfield's access to services if funding reduced or eliminated; impact on services.

Southwestern Connecticut EMS Council (2290) (State mandated)

No representative

No discussion

Southwestern Regional Mental Health Board (2310) (State mandated)

Kim O'Rielly, Executive Director

Discussion: portion of budget funded by Fairfield; impact on Fairfield's access to services if funding reduced or eliminated; impact on services.

Southwest Regional Communications Center (2320) (State mandated)

No representative

No discussion

Council of Churches Janus Center (2330)

Dale Holder, Director

Discussion: impact on Fairfield's access to services if funding reduced or eliminated; impact on services.

Grasmere by the Sea (2350)

(?), fundraising volunteer

Discussion: impact on Fairfield's access to services if funding reduced or eliminated; impact on services.

Sullivan-McKinney Elder Housing (2370)

Carolyn Durgy, President, Treasurer and Director

Discussion: impact on Fairfield's access to services if funding reduced or eliminated; impact on services.

The Kennedy Center (2430)

Tina Varick, Grants and Projects Manager

Discussion: portion of budget funded by Fairfield; clarification of service provided; impact of State budget cuts; impact on Fairfield's access to services if funding reduced or eliminated; impact on services; service locations; contributions by other service areas.

Mill River Wetland Committee (2450)

Paul Hiller, Chief Fiscal Officer; Linda Snelham-Moore, former member

Discussion: portion of budget funded by Fairfield; role in BOE programs; impact on Fairfield's access to services if funding reduced or eliminated; impact on services.

Fairfield Theater Company (2460)

Paul Hiller, Chief Fiscal Officer

Discussion: BOF cut budget intending to add to DPW, addition did not occur; cut may therefore be appealed.

The Pilot House (2470)

Doreen Caruso, President and Co-Founder

Discussion: explanation of services provided, comparison to cost if BOE provided same (mandated) services; impact of pending DSM IV elimination of some autism related disorders on funding; impact on Fairfield's access to services if funding reduced or eliminated; impact on services; lease arrangements.

The Center for Women and Families (2480)

No representative

No discussion

FairTV (Internet Technology lines 53205, 54315 and 56145)

James Kennelly, Chair, FairTV Operational Committee

Donald Leslie, Director of IT

Discussion: history of FairTV; potential impact on public access if proposed budget is reduced; proposed use of budgeted funds; annual operating costs.

Assessor (3050)

Donald Ross, Assessor

Discussion: yearly fluctuations 53200 Fees and Professional Svc; impact of any reductions in proposed budget for same.

Administrative Services (1050)

Twig Holland, Director of Purchasing

Discussion: increase in 56140 Special Department Supplies; decrease in 54310 Maint/Repair of Equipment.

Purchasing (3030)

Twig Holland, Director of Purchasing

No discussion

Information Technology(3110)

Donald Leslie, Director of IT

Discussion: decrease in 53210 Fees and Prof-Disaster Recov.

Finance (3010)

Paul Hiller, Chief Financial Officer

This department will be discussed further at the Monday, April 9 hearing.

Discussion: reasons for changing surplus projection and recommended amount in new line 58970 Supplemental Contrib-Surplus; quantifying difference between AAA and AA rating; target percent for surplus.

Tax Collector (3090)

Paul Hiller, Chief Financial Officer

Discussion: zero FY11 actuals in 53310 Rental and Storage; plans for changes that will reduce 56150 Postage; potential for savings in 56100 Printing, Binding, Photo and 56150 Postage by combining with other departments.

Board of Finance (3130)

Paul Hiller, Chief Financial Officer

Discussion: BOF reduction in 53200 Fees and Professional Svc.

Unemployment Compensation (3150)

Paul Hiller, Chief Financial Officer

Discussion: handouts comparing 18 area towns; reduction in 52510 Unemployment Compensation; explanation of reimbursement method; explanation of high Police and DPW costs shown in "Town Unemployment Comp. by Dept" handout.