

REPRESENTATIVE TOWN MEETING

April 7, 2015

Ellen Jacob, District 9 questioned the 16% increase in Longevity to which Chief Felner said it is a contractual obligation and a large group of personnel are eligible at the same time.

Ed Bateson, District 3 congratulated the Chief on his years of service as this is his last budget presentation. The Body gave Chief Felner a standing ovation.

4150 ECC

Mr. Bateson noted the current practice of regionalizing ECCs and asked if this is something we are contemplating. Chief Gary MacNamara said there was a push by the State Legislature to regionalize municipalities with a population under 40,000 a few years ago. The State Police regionalized 911 centers but they are reconsidering now.

4030 POLICE

Tom McCarthy, District 8 asked why the vehicle request is only for 8 vehicles. Deputy Chief Chris Lyddy said they are replacing two less cars because two were involved in accidents. Chief MacNamara said because of the computers in the vehicles they are reducing the footprint to 10 cars and 8 of their existing cars will be utilized by other Town departments.

Mr. Bateson asked how many uniformed personnel there were and how many are loaned to other agencies. Chief MacNamara said 108 are budgeted, 105 are on now and 1 is with another agency. He noted that school safety personnel are in the Police budget while infrastructure is not.

6010 HEALTH

Ms. Jacob asked the need for the 2 part-time health aides. Health Director Sands Cleary said they would be assigned to the two high schools to assist the nurses with clerical and episodic care as well as supplemental help at PPT's.

Mary McCullough, District 3 asked if visits to the school nurse have increased because parents are using the school nurse as the doctor and if there is a way we can encourage parents to keep a sick child home.

Joann Ryan, Nursing Supervisor said they encourage the student to be fever free for 24 hours, but you may see a jump at a site as it does happen.

Laurene O'Brien, District 5 asked if habitual or at risk students are tracked to which Mr. Cleary said everything is documented but everyone is treated the same. Ms. Ryan explained if a nurse sees frequent visits she will talk with a teacher or some interdisciplinary communication.

Pamela Iacono, District 9 asked for confirmation that these were part-time with no benefits to which Mr. Cleary replied they are 19.5 hours a week with no benefits.

6050 HUMAN & SOCIAL SERVICES

Director Terry Giegengack gave a detailed presentation of the past year's accomplishments.

John Donovan, District 1 asked about any grants that have been received. Ms. Giegengack reported that she had done a couple to Rotary and the Fairfield County Foundation. She plans to do more now that a senior center director had been hired.

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Gaylord Meyer, District 1 said she has heard the frustration from seniors that they cannot get to the meetings at night and noted that they need a voice.

Ms. McCullough questioned the increases in advertising and postage. Ms. Giegengack explained that many seniors don't have access to a computer so they have mailings to advertise their programs.

Joe Palmer, District 4 asked about the referrals from the Police and Fire Depts. Ms. Giegengack said they do outreach for requests for welfare of seniors who might be overwhelmed whether it's housekeeping, financial, etc. If there is an exploitation of finances is it referred to DSS.

Mr. Palmer asked what fundraising monies would be applied to, to which Ms. Giegengack indicated that instructors would like to be paid as opposed to free programs.

Peter Ambrose, District 2 asked about capital funding since the building is so old. Ms. Giegengack said they paid for carpeting, painting, and drapes in the media room and flooring in the dining hall. She would like to add a patio by the gazebo. She expects the window replacement to take 2 years.

Ms. Way complimented all the services that are offered for seniors and feels we should do more to support them as they are an important part of the community.

Heather Dean, District 4 noted what a beneficial intergenerational program the train show is and said the date would be moved to a Sunday for increased attendance.

7010 LIBRARY

Jason Li, District 8 asked if the \$250k in library fines which go to the general fund could go to the library to which First Selectman Tetreau responded that the \$3.8 million for the library comes from the general fund.

Mr. Li asked if there is movement toward an online library because of the increased use of Kindles. Town Librarian Karen Ronald said they deal with publishers as part of the state consortium, but people still want print; they have reduced magazines because they get them online through Zinio. Mr. Li asked about grants. Ms. Ronald said they get two grants per year and get free authors for programs. Mr. Li suggested applying to major publishers such as Penguin & Simon & Schuster.

Ms. Jacob questioned the job duties of aides and reference services librarians. Ms. Ronald explained the aides shelve the books while reference librarians staff the reference desk, give information and curate materials. Ms. Jacob asked what the volunteers do. Ms. Ronald said they work alongside staff providing help with the teen and children's programs among other things.

Peter Ambrose, District 2 asked why the part time payroll increased so much. Ms. Ronald explained that part-timers must receive sick pay per state law and they also received a 2% pay increase.

Ms. Way asked what Friends of the Library provides to which Ms. Ronald said they provide the One Book One Town program, reading incentives and purchased the book drop. Ms. Way requested a listing of what is brought in from the various fundraisers including the fashion shows.

Mr. Bateson requested a copy of the Library's strategic plan. He said his own household receives media in different formats and urged that the Library get out in front of these changes. Ms. Ronald said they try to balance but thinks the community still prefers print.

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Mr. McCarthy asked if the teen librarian's duties could be done by part-timers. Ms. Ronald said 75% of the teen librarian's time is dedicated to teens; it's mostly after school hours and she works 3 nights a week.

Pamela Iacono, District 9 asked how many members are on the strategic plan committee and if any are elected officials. Ms. Ronald said it is made up of staff, Friends of the Library and elected officials recommended by the Friends of the Library. Ms. Iacono asked why the Library Materials line item increased so much. Ms. Ronald said they want to restore it to FY08 funding level. Material costs have gone up and they are trying to play catch up to add to the collections. Ms. Iacono requested a breakout of specific materials.

Ms. Iacono asked how library patronage is tracked to which Ms. Ronald explained door counters are used and the number is divided by two. She also explained that there was a drive in the schools to get kids to sign up for library cards in response to Ms. Iacono.

Ms. Iacono asked about liability issues with the bicycle grant. Nancy Coriarty, Deputy Librarian explained they had meetings with risk management and the insurance consultant. They have also asked if people could get the bikes from the bicycle store downtown.

Michael Herley, District 1 asked who represents the RTM on the strategic plan committee, but Ms. Ronald couldn't recall and will get the membership list to the Body.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business this evening the meeting will reconvene tomorrow at 7 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth P. Browne, CMC, MCTC
Town Clerk