

and I appreciate you and I respect you and I'm grateful for you all being here.

We also, and most importantly, need to keep in our minds and our hearts, the people that this budget affects. Our residents who are paying the bills and are most affected by our services, those who really need our services, and those who really hurt when we ask for that tax bill. We must keep that in mind throughout this entire process. Everything we do throughout these next two months affects what happens to each and every one of our residents. So I just want us to all keep that in our minds and hearts and try our very hardest, while keeping respectful and keeping in our minds and memories what we're building upon some things we can't help, some things we're grateful for, and some things we wish they didn't do. But we have to move forward.

Ms. Baez then announced there will not be public input during the deliberations but encourages everyone to write their comments in to lcpublicinput@hamden.com and they will see and read them all as they come in.

Finance Director Curtis Eatman then gave a power point overview of the Mayor's budget. (This can be found at Time Code 00:28:05 on the recording)

Mr. Eatman then provided the following summary:

Mil rate of 56.12 which is a 3.68 increase

Total contractual obligation for the Town is \$276,705,706

Non-contractual obligations for the Town is \$1,507,295

One mil equals \$3,819,315 under the Mayor's budget with a 97.8% tax collection rate.

Reducing the mil rate would go as follows:

1 mil equals approximately \$3,819,315

2 mils equal approximately \$7,638,630

3 mils equal approximately \$11,457,079

3.68 mil (to maintain a flat budget) equals approximately \$14,055,079

There was some discussion on the tax collection rate with Mr. Eatman saying it varies and has been historically higher than he would like and said that he likes the Mayor's rate of 97.8%.

Ms. Wetmore asked for the last 5 years of the collection rate.

There was some discussion about a progressive mil rate with Mr. Grace saying we are not permitted to have a progressive mil rate and that it has to be a flat rate. Ms. Gallagher asked for the Statute on that.

There was also some discussion about the capital budget which Mr. Eatman said was put forth with the Mayor's budget. There was then some discussion about a rainy day fund and the debt service.

Ms. Baez then displayed a sheet of departments with minimal room for changes or \$0 to cut. She said Thursday she wanted to go over the departments with \$0 to cut but said the list was too big. The Council discussed which of these to do Thursday and came up with the following list of departments to be reviewed on Thursday, April 7th. Probate Court, Board of Ethics, Mental Health, Board of Assessment, Debt Service, Pension.

Ms. Baez said those departments just listed will be heard on Thursday at 6:00 PM.

There being no further business Ms. Baez recessed the meeting at 7:25 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Kim Renta
Clerk of the Council