



**CITY OF SHELTON  
BOARD OF APPORTIONMENT & TAXATION  
BUDGET WORKSHOP**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING  
6:30 PM Thursday, February 24, 2009  
SHELTON CITY HALL  
54 HILL STREET  
Room 104  
SHELTON, CT 06484**

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**Roll Call**

Mark Holden, Chair, present  
Vinny Capece, present  
Judson Crawford, present  
Greg Kodz, present  
Charlotte Madar, present

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**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 6:17 p.m. on February 24, 2009 by Chairperson Mark Holden. All those present rose and recited the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

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Chairman Holden indicated that he had wanted to have this preliminary meeting to discuss strategy and what needs to be focused on in the upcoming budgetary review meetings.

He recalled that he felt that the Board did a good job last year working as a team to give taxpayers a little bit of break; they ended up cutting approx. \$350K - \$380K of expenses, added some capital expenses and ended up with a modest but still meaningful reduction in overall spending.

Chairman Holden indicated that for this year the Mayor has proposed zero tax increase which means that some departments have taken some cuts. He informed them about some of the accounts and the departments in which funds have been reduced in which he expects there will be issues (i.e. Fire Department). However, he feels that they need to hold the line on spending and find some places for reductions for the sake of the taxpayers.

Chairman Holden commented that he did not want to take any money away from the kids; however, he has some issues regarding BOE line items. Board members discussed this issue, and other issues regarding BOE operating accounts, BOE maintenance accounts and BOE organizational structure, pay increases and areas for

possible reductions, however, the conversation is mostly inaudible due to background noise (air vents/fans going on & off...).

Charlotte Madar suggested that they set some sort of limit as to the amount they will question department heads about because questioning every \$25 or \$50 expense is inconsequential and unproductive to their process; Chairman Holden agreed that they should endeavor to keep the discussions to items costing \$500 or more unless they feel very strongly about something. He added that he wanted to aim for things that were going to make a meaningful difference in the budget.

Discussions continued for 45 minutes; however, member comments are generally inaudible due to poor acoustics and background noise. One tape, both sides, is on file in the Town Clerk's Office.

### **Adjournment**

Chairperson Mark Holden stated to adjourn the meeting due to no further business on the agenda at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Karin C. Tuke*

Clerk, Board of Apportionment and Taxation

Tape (1) on File with the City Town Clerk's Office.