BOS Present: Sandra Allyn-Gauthier, Jerry Grabarek, Ken Zachem
1st Selectwoman Allyn-Gauthier called the workshop to order at 6:01 pm.

1st Selectwoman Allyn-Gauthier explained that the BoS asked everyone to look at last year’s figures, look at fixed costs and variable costs and project what it will look like for this year. To think about needs versus wants. To start working towards a zero based budget.

- **Senior Affairs**
  Fran Minor, Municipal Agent for the Elderly explained the Senior Affairs Budget worksheet and Budget Narrative
  - ✓ Budget request total - $79,339
  - ✓ Increase from last year - $1409
    - ❖ 2% COLA for Bus driver, Assistant and Municipal Agent.
    - ❖ Transportation service is not a luxury, but a necessity in Preston.
      - Bozrah food pick up for the congregate meals – 46 weeks
      - Meals on wheels – 52 weeks
      - Medical – 56 trips per year
      - Socials
    - ❖ Vehicle maintenance was reduced

- **Registrar of Voters**
  Andrew Stockton, Registrar-Democratic discussed the Registrar of Voters Budget worksheet and Narrative.
  - ✓ Budget request total - $42,971.09
  - ✓ Increase from last year - $232.91
    - ❖ Salary 2% COLA
    - ❖ Zero based
    - ❖ Deputy Registrar positions are needed to process voter registration the day before an election, election day registration.
    - ❖ Election worker’s salary was based on the assumption that there will be three budget referendums, state Primary and Presidential Election.
    - ❖ Office Supplies request ids $800 because office chairs are needed for staff working the elections.
• **Fire Department**
  Tom Casey, Preston Fire Chief reviewed the Budget worksheets and expounded on the Operational Budget and the Salary and Benefits Budget
  ✓ Operational budget request - $187,700
  ✓ Increase from last year - $1620
  ❖ Operational budget request reflects an increase of $1,620
  ❖ Administrative Costs and Office Supplies includes software costs
  ❖ New equipment has been calculated on a need basis; it is $1,000 less than last year.
  ❖ Equipment Testing was reduced by $200 because the new pumper will not need pump testing.
  ❖ Vehicle Maintenance has been reduced by $3,000 over the past five years.
  ❖ Heating and electricity costs will be going up because the department has more per diem firefighters which results in the station being used/occupied more.

 ✓ Salary and Benefits budget request - $482,487.49
 ✓ increase from last year $41,964
 ❖ Salary and Benefits budget request reflects an 3% increase in salaries
 ❖ Requesting an additional full time fire fighter
   ➢ Last year’s budget request was cut by $30,000 and full time fire fighter was removed.
   ➢ Currently, all staffing hours needed are not being covered by part time per diem staff.
   ➢ Part time staffing 3% salary increase request with a reduction in hours scheduled reduces salaries by $30,196.
 ❖ Poquétanuck will contribute $70,000 out of the ambulance fund.

 T. Casey noted that the additional per diem hires are working because calls and transports are no longer being missed.

• **Ethics Commission**
  1st Selectwoman Allyn-Gauthier stated that Ethics requested a very small amount this year that totals to $650.00.

• **Resident Trooper**
  1st Selectwoman Allyn-Gauthier stated that the State Trooper budget request is an estimate because the Fringe Benefit may be decreased by an additional 10% this year. They estimated wages at ~$350,000.
  J. Grabarek questioned whether the Town needs 2 troopers.
  1st Selectwoman Allyn-Gauthier noted that the schools appreciate a Trooper spending time at the schools, and people wanted and voted for two resident troopers.
• **Donation Requests**
  - Sex Assault Crisis Center of Eastern CT – $100
  - TVCCA – $1,000
  - New London Homeless – $1500
  - Safe Futures – $300

• **Membership & District Dues/Fees**
  - SeCTer – annual membership $1654
  - COG – annual membership $2599
  - Norwich District Probate - $3400
  - Uncas Health - $31,584

**Public Comment**
A. Depta stated that Senior Affairs provides many services and noted how much Fran Minor does for Senior Affairs, including driving the vans because they have not been able to find a driver to hire.

**Adjournment**
A motion was made by K. Zachem and seconded by J. Grabarek to adjourn the meeting at 7:53 pm.
All in favor. Motion carries.

Respectfully submitted,

Roberta Charpentier
recorder