

City of Danbury 2008-2009 Budget



April 7, 2008

Mark D. Boughton, Mayor

David St. Hilaire, Director of Finance

Welcome



Mayor Mark Boughton
City of Danbury

Strong Financial Footing

- Highest credit rating
- Highest bond rating
- Increase in personal income
- Lowest effective property tax rates in Connecticut
- Drop in overall poverty rate
- Unemployment at historic lows



Challenges



Building permit revenue

- off by \$2 million

➤ Real Estate conveyance fees

- down dramatically

➤ Grand List

- growth has slowed



Challenges

➤ Unprecedented increases in:



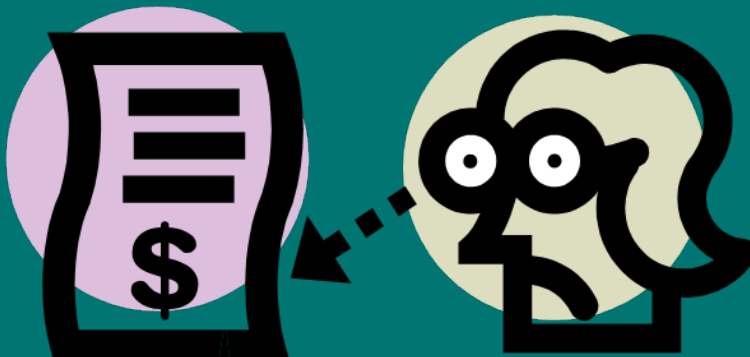
- Fuel
- Heating oil
- Energy

- General operating expenses



Challenges

- Multi-million dollar loss in revenues
- Increase in 2008-2009 operating expenses



Proactive Steps

1. Internal Financial Review Team

- look for potential savings in every department



2. Review of employee cell phone & vehicle use policy



Proactive Steps

3. Hiring freeze

4. Department spending
frozen

5. Reduce workforce through attrition



Proactive Steps

- Look for opportunities to cut operational costs when appropriate
- Reserve the right to revisit budget throughout the year
- Do more with less

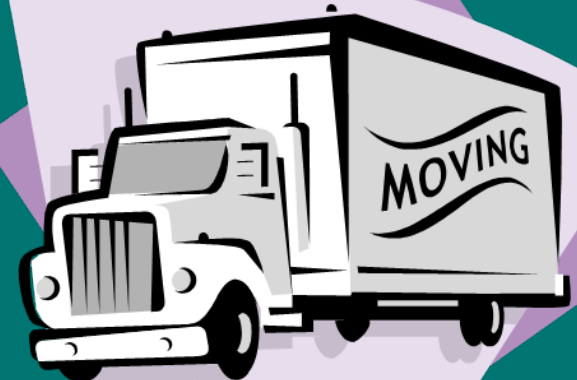


Economic Growth

- One of the lowest unemployment rates in the nation



- Increased businesses relocating to Danbury



Economic Growth

➤ Increased film productions



➤ CT Film festival in May



➤ Create a Film Production Center at Main Street Post Office



City of Danbury Mission Statement

The City of Danbury's mission is to ensure a superior quality of life for its citizens by providing the most cost effective municipal services while preserving the cultural, historical and natural resources of the City. We are committed to working with citizens to enhance Danbury's position as a premier place to live, work and raise a family in a traditional yet progressive community.

Public Safety

➤ Fire Department

- Additional staffing
- Funding for 4 Lieutenants to lead operations



Public Safety

➤ Police Department

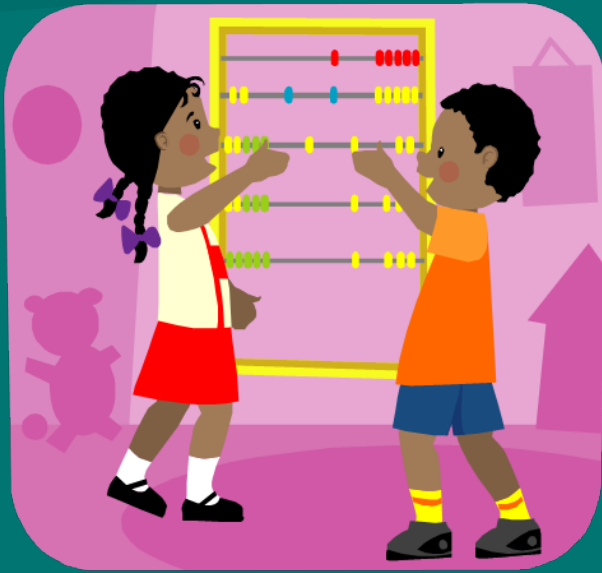
- New headquarters on schedule & on budget



- Replacement vehicles
- Improve IT infrastructure
- Funding for Vision 2009 plan

Education

➤ Proposed increase of:



5.5%

Or

\$5.8 million

➤ Additional funding from:

- School Capital Improvement Plan
- School Technology Bond



Capitol Improvements

- \$2.5 million borrowed towards capital improvements
- Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) will fund:
 - weather tight the Richter House
 - replace roof at Park Avenue School
 - replace & upgrade technology at DHS
 - Public Safety equipment
 - phosphorous study on wastewater treatment plant
 - drainage improvements

Capital Improvements

The Richter House



Sewer & Water Funds

- NO rate increases
- NO connection fee increases



Senior Tax Credits

➤ Energy Assistance:

- Available tax credit were raised to:
up to \$250 for single residents
up to \$350 for married couples
- Qualification income levels were also raised



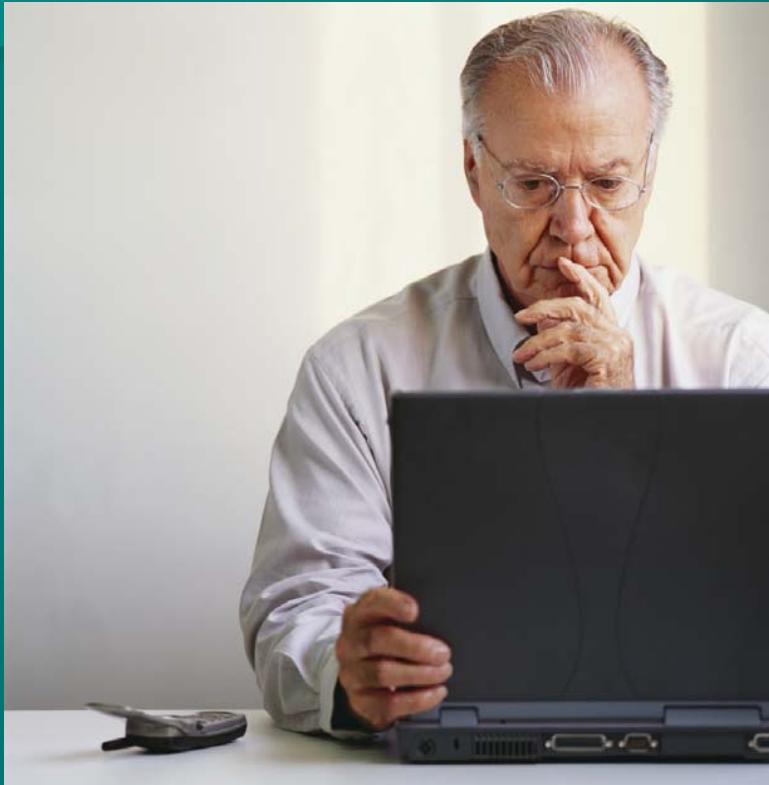
Senior Tax Credits

➤ Senior Property Tax Deferral:

- Defer the increase in property tax for seniors for a period of time



Senior Tax Credits



➤ S.A.V.E.

- Allows qualifying seniors to volunteer their skills to receive a property tax break

2008 – 2009 Budget Summary

- Same quality service as in the past with a watchful eye towards spending

➤ Mill Rate:

21.35

A decrease of 4%

2008 – 2009 Budget Summary

- Property reevaluation phase in
 - 60% of homeowners will see a 0-6% increase in taxes
 - Reduction in personal property & motor vehicle tax =
reduced impact to taxpayers

2008 – 2009 Budget Summary

- **NO** sewer & water rate increases
- City's spending plan redesigned to project realistic revenue
- Capital improvement plan:
 - protects city's assets
 - manages challenging property reevaluation
- More tax relief for seniors

Thank You



Mayor Mark Boughton
City of Danbury