



**THE CITY OF POUGHKEEPSIE  
NEW YORK**

**PUBLIC HEARING  
(PROPOSED 2013 BUDGET)  
MINUTES**

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**Monday, December 3, 2012 5:30 pm**

**City Hall**

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Chairwoman Johnson called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

**David Bersak - 24 Tamidan Road** – Former City of Poughkeepsie Planning Supervisor from 1979-1984. Lived in the City since 1979. Wanted to speak on two budget items. One is the proposal from Councilwoman Johnson regarding garbage removal. Is 100% in favor of that proposal. Not interested in the cost; just wants to save the 13 positions. These people have families, so it will be affecting upwards of 50 lives. Commends the Council and Chair on their well thought through proposal in a very short period of time. As to the main portion of the budget, it seems to be impacting people's taxes at an increase of approximately 16% above their 2012 taxes. Even though the overall budget is going up 2%, because of the decrease in rateables in the City of Poughkeepsie, the mill rate is going up 16%. His school and city taxes are increasing by approximately \$500 or \$600. Impact is very severe. That impact is that when somebody qualifies for a mortgage, they look at the mortgage portion which is the amount borrowing against the value of the house, plus your taxes, plus homeowners' insurance. When the taxes go up, the amount that's left to borrow goes down. Therefore, what this budget is doing is causing a downward spiral of tax rateables throughout the city, which has no end. This will cause a deeper impact each successive year which will be the result of poor planning on the part of the City of Poughkeepsie. The country's been in a downward recession for the last 4 or 5 years, and the City has not made the appropriate adjustments. One thing I would ask the Council to consider is that, the City, with every household tried to live within its' means and its' ability to raise revenue and not try to put upon certain citizens, the burden of support of things that are no longer fiscally viable.

**Frank Clark - 50 Rinaldi Blvd.** – During the recess at the last public hearing of the regular Common Council meeting, I was informed by the Mayor and Finance

Commissioner that although my figures were correct, my total of \$2,000,002,800 came up short of 2.9 million needed to sustain the 13 Sanitation workers. I apologize for that. An article in the Poughkeepsie Journal on November 20<sup>th</sup> had been erroneous. Quoted the Mayor in saying that, "Eliminating trash pickup for the City's approximately 6,200 households would save \$2.9 million next year, and residents would have to hire their own trash haulers." Although my figures of \$20 per month were too low, administration's estimate was \$40 per month was too high. It's actually \$30 per household. True, there are 6,200 households, but they were multiplied by 40 which equals \$2,981,000,760. However, they didn't take into consideration that many of the 6,200 households have two and three households within them. There are 4,393 units with one household. There are 1,505 units with two households which is 3,010 households. There are also 314 units with three households, for a total of 942, which brings the total number of households to 8,345 in the city. Multiply that by \$30 per household, you get \$3,004,200 annually. \$22,440 more than is needed. I suggest hiring a new Sanitation and Recycling Coordinator who job would include starting an educate to separate program for the citizens of the City of Poughkeepsie, especially in the school system for our youth so that we can reduce tipping fees that it costs to dispose of our garbage. Also, since the residents will be paying for trash removal, we can coordinate a program, if we could have bulk pickup once a year between April 1st – September 30<sup>th</sup> free of charge. In my opinion, the administration was grossly negligent, by not working with this Council way back in May, when it was obvious to them that the City would have to find a way to continue trash pickup and keep what I consider to be the best City workers any municipality could ask for. The Legal Department costs the City taxpayers hundreds of thousands of dollars per year. There should be at least one attorney who could figure out how to implement this charge legally. Wished everyone a happy and peaceful holiday.

**Virginia Hancock - 26 Loockerman Avenue** – Poughkeepsie has gone down to a very low visual impact at this point. Without the sanitation workers, the City would be a really pathetic looking place. Feels that the residents could afford to pay a monthly fee in order to keep these committed employees. These employees do all kinds of jobs in this community; leaves, snow removal, as well as garbage, etc. We've let people go, such as the Planner, City Administrator. We need to find a plan that would keep these people who've been loyal to the City. Let's don't keep on that path.

**Laura Downing - 25 Lincoln Avenue** – The City is really reaching at the bottom of the can now. You'd all seen this coming the last time around, but you didn't take safeguards to protect it. First, you guys went to making multiple apartments and got private haulers. That didn't go down too good, but it passed through. Doesn't use City sanitation pickup; pays for private hauling and has a single family home. She is able to afford it, but neighbors cannot. Why would we privatize, when we have these guys who have been with the City for many years. They work hard. Keep our guys here. Stop trying to cut out and contract out. The City has had issues since she was little; it has had some kind of financial problems, one way or the other. By working together, they were resolved. These guys have covered our backs since you've been a councilmember. Most of you

know some of them personally. So, why are you going to put their jobs and their family's lives in jeopardy by making us all pay your fees? Uh-uh, not doin' it. Sorry.

**William Smith - 42 Columbia Street** – Suggestions for the Common Council budget:

1. The Army base at 25 Oakley Street was sold November 15<sup>th</sup>. It has over 3 acres. It should be on the tax roll for the 2013 Budget for about \$40,000 to \$50,000 in revenue.
2. If the Common Council gave up 4 trees that each council member receives from the City, then the work that goes in planning, maintenance and leaf pickup; this would save the City between \$10,000 and \$20,000.
3. District parking is a joke. Non-residents are allowed to get permits. If we're going down this route, the City should start charging \$50.00 or more for non-residents for these permits. The Parking Enforcement and Police Department would help generate more money for the 2013 Budget. Keep in mind, parking enforcement officers don't give out tickets for proper registration or violation. Parking tickets are about \$20.00 now. Law enforcement can generate more money for the buses.
4. There will be a property auction on December 12<sup>th</sup> which will generate more cash for the City.
5. If the City lays off the Public Works Department, who'll do the snow removal?

**Richard Primeau - 17 Greenhouse Lane** – As previous speakers have stated, it's all about saving jobs. Has a concern with both of the Mayor's proposals. First of all, by going to private haulers and the cost is at the very least, inaccurate and at worst, grossly misleading. It would not cost \$6.00 - \$27.00 per month, as the Mayor proposed, but cost between \$22.00 to \$42.00 per individual depending upon the size of the container and type of service they use. The alternative plan, doesn't pan out much better. If someone needs a reference, take a look at the size of the trash can. You can figure out much it will cost you by approximating the amount of bags you will use in a month. He feels that the best alternative is given by the Democratic Majority of the Council given the circumstance, is to save money by saving jobs. By keeping the sanitation workers, the cost is commensurate with hiring private haulers. Asks that the third solution be considered as the best of all possible solutions under the circumstances.

**Frances Shealy - 105 Crystal Hill Lane** – To refresh everyone's memory, Gov. Cuomo listened to us and adopted a way to control NYS property taxes, which are the highest in the nation. The cap limits the growth and tax levy to 2% per year or rate of inflation, whichever is lower. It's been 2% for the last 2 years. 81% of local and 95% of schools stayed within the limit. In September, Gov. Cuomo reported that the 2% tax increase was less than the previous 10 year average. I question our City Government in considering the closing of the Hooker Avenue Fire Station. This is a life and death issue. The Fire Department almost always arrives before the ambulance and performs the emergency attention needed, and are responsible for saving lives. There is a very short window of opportunity to save homes and lives in case of a fire, and the nearness to the station is imperative. I don't understand your position with regards to the garbage issue, either. It's a health issue and one that the Health Department is involved in and enforced if the garbage isn't properly collected, protecting us from rodents and disease. Again, this is a

life and death issue. I've never lived in a city where they didn't collect the garbage, and know that it is their responsibility; you owe this to the taxpayers. It should be a given. Government must make spending and revenue match and make life and death issues their first priority and saving jobs, of course.

**Chairwoman Johnson:** I just want to be clear - there's always rumors going around, but I have not heard of the Mayor saying anything about closing any firehouse. I just want to be clear about that. If that's being proposed, this Council doesn't know anything about it. OK, so let's not carry that rumor out the door.

**Constantine Kazolias - 47 Noxon Street** – This is the third public hearing. I'll just make mention of the thing so it can be incorporated into the record. Brought packets of previous issues that he typed. First, let's talk about the sales tax. The sales tax, as far as I'm concerned as Will Rogers said, "Figures don't lie, but liars figure." I throw that right in the lap of the County Executive. As was stated here, the 2% sales tax, first cut sales tax stands. This is the one I read at the first meeting, why other cities have less cops per thousand than we have, and also the privatization of the Fire Department, a rumor being spread around, which is the most ridiculous and asinine thing I ever heard in my life, unless the Mayor plans on privatizing the Fire Department, like they do in the Southwest. Another thing is that the Commissioner of Finance has the final veto or say in purchasing orders. Usually in a big corporation, you have a Purchasing Department and they approve it. The other thing people don't know, is that they want to get rid of the buses and the Community Development Funds, which is in this article here (holds up handouts). I'll be reading a statement, so I won't burden you with these. Proceeds to hold up each statement he printed out. Feels that the City should not be maintaining the East-West Arterial and feels that it's ludicrous and asinine (holds up another handout). The Poughkeepsie Journal published an article about the garbage with the different fee schedules, and all. One other thing I wanted to mention is that these municipal pensions are included in the tax cap but not the teachers' pensions, which we pay 93% of here in the City of Poughkeepsie. We're being piloted to death, and they don't pay land tax.

Read the following statement:

Privatization of garbage was discussed decades ago, especially during the spendthrift/bond everything Mayor Lafuente/Mike Murphy era. Councilman O'Neil 'carried the Mayor's water being he was the Mayor's point man' advocating privatization. It was on the back burner for years until recently its' ugly garbage hydra head reappeared. Telltale signs started to appear when the City stopped buying/issuing City blue recyclable containers to the public. Not purchasing a new garbage truck, but a used clonker [sic] which is offline on many occasions. The \$3.00 garbage bag wasn't in Mayor's 2013 Budget speech. FYI, May, 2012 was when this \$3.00 bag was discussed by the Tkayzik administration in private; only to surface and blindside the Common Council during the Mayor's 2013 Proposed Budget Hearing. All the above were premeditated moves by the Tkayzik administration. The 211 non-homestead lawsuit was filed by the 2010 Democratic mayor candidate Levinson, who lost the election because of the suit. Legal proceedings are still being adjudicated in the courts. A decision is

forthcoming shortly which could financially adversely affect the City with an additional \$400,000 + City tax burden. Could this be a prime reason why Mayor Tkayzik has opted proposing to privatize the sanitation division which would eliminate and throw the 16 + garbage men under the bus? Another shortcoming of Tkayzik's administration was/is why a more favorable reduced tipping fee pursued at the Burn Plant similar to that of Royal Carting's tipping fees. These fees are granted and set by the burning plant manager. Dutchess County issues burning plant bonds and subsidizes the annual operating deficit for the plant. At the lower fees over \$100,000 + could be saved yearly!!! As an alternate disposal site, the City could/can save \$150,000/yr. by sending its' trash to a landfill across the river. Recycling is a Dutchess Local Law. How can Poughkeepsie enforce the DC Local Law and other related County and City Ordinances when the Sanitation Inspector is out in the field cutting grass? There are three garbage proposals before the Common Council.

1. The zero based/\$3.00 a bag.
2. Royal Carting, a private hauler.
3. Keeping sanitation workers with a fee schedule.

A box containing twenty 32 gallon clear garbage trash bags can be purchased at local supermarkets for \$4.00 +. Far less than the zero based consultant's \$3.00/bag. The \$6.00/month rate in the Mayor's budget message is a temporary low ball figure to suck the City in. The garbage is not going away by waving a magic wand. The third one where the city keeps its' employees and can control all the facets of sanitation is the one similar to Schenectady and Newburgh which have on the books a fee schedule approved by New York State. The one where the city controls sanitation, I prefer out of all three proposals before the Common Council and should be approved/implemented/enforced in Poughkeepsie. For the record, I witnessed sanitation men doubling up as parking lot maintenance personnel. By terminating them, who would service the many parking facilities? Is sanitation men's time being charged to sanitation and not to the parking division? If not, why not? Or do we co-mingle funds/services which are not accepted accounting principles!!! Not having a CPA or certified adjuster is absurd and corrective measures should be implemented immediately!!! Remember, the Poughkeepsie garbage men AKA to many in the community as Poughkeepsie Minute Men wearing many hats. In the construction industry they would be known as having a roofer's book, because they cover the world!!! Get it?!!! Let's not terminate other divisions/services with critical personnel that make this City as a viable, breathing community. I feel very strongly about this because I was born and raised and will probably die [here].

Additionally the following was submitted for the record:

Mayor Tkyczik pits public safety against public health as stated in his 2013 budget. Public safety is untouchable. Other comparable surrounding cities have less police /thousand. Newburgh with its 800 abandoned properties vs. Poughkeepsie with 500 has less police i/400per thousand while Poughkeepsie.1/343/k. T/POK has 1/480/k; Schenectady 1/413/k Additionally Poughkeepsie has the Sheriff, State Police and MTA. The finance commissioner [czar] controls all monies because he has veto power over all P.O.s. He is not a CPA administering an \$80+ million budget. Some city auditing is being done by an unlicensed auditor. Legal dep't 2011budget was \$80,000 but over- spent an additional \$400,000 without C.C. approval. An overall view by eliminating city rubbish will change

Poughkeepsie from tree city to rat city. Closing the transfer station would be a DISASTER!!!! It primarily meets the city needs during emergencies as a backup. Additionally, eliminating bulk pickup creating a critical hardship for many, especially senior citizens and those without means to fend for themselves. The transfer station's actual revenues for 2011 were \$113,902.20 but the entry was \$90,165.60!!!! Why the shortfall? PONZI accounting, one of many!! Transfer stations revenue receipts for periods prior to 2011 are squirreled away in finance office. Last year's Irene storms cleanup cost the T/POK \$300,000. The city 'DPW minute men', not the Bacon-Davis \$51.71/hr. Personnel, cleaned the debris and saved the city big bucks .Obama told Jersey would get aid in 15 minutes!!! How much did FEMA give

city? On short notice, the 'DPW s orange shirted minute men' cleaned Waryas Park for Gov. CUOMOS 'unannounced visit'. Cutting DPW mechanics who service 474 vehicles, 83 police, inspecting 200 taxis, losing \$50,000 yearly in revenues, and servicing many other pieces of equipment This will necessitate outsourcing much of the maintenance work. DPW personnel having taking a major hit in the past by adding the additional workloads on those that remain contribute to 'the burnout factor'. Why does the city service the N/S arterial lighting ,free, and maintends E/W arterial at \$60,000/yr. , which is a costing/losing the city big bucks.The political deal between Tkyzik/Molinaro was for a county takeover by coupling both the Community development funds, a wash

to the city, pays city office rental and the city federally purchased buses with fed subsidies going to the private Loop bus system. FYI, LOOP maintenance is below par and many times non-existent!!!

There are three restaurants located on city park land that have leases with the city. The Ice House has the city pickup its garbage container at no cost [freebee] to them. Another expense DPW absorbs without a revenue offset. Ice House recyclables are not separated, violating both County/ City recycling law.

Enforcement, huh? FYI, the city sanitation inspector is out cutting grass full time!!!! The other two restaurants pay Royal Carting a fee. There are seven federal housing projects that the city receives fed funds that cost the city \$50,000/yr. to service. Those funds were in the city coffers until the city changed

its category to NH class #411, there are many questionable accounting practice: which the audit report should be noted and clarified. I leave that to the to the official audit report which has been delayed in forthcoming!!!

CONSTANTINE P.KAZOLIAS

47 Noxon Street, Poughkeepsie, N.Y.

11/01/2012

At the last C.C. public hearing on Mayor Tkycziks proposed 2013 budget; the Hooker Ave Fire House was discussed by a citizen who talked about its closing. Who fed this citizen who wants to be a player should not get hoodwinked by being fed ludicrous and assine rumors. To close Hooker Ave Fire House would add 3 to 4 minutes to another fire truck to respond. A fire doubles every 30 seconds. By time the other fire truck arrived on the scene, that house would be completely engulfed in flames. Being that Mayor Tkyczik wants to privatize the DPW, I'd be less surprised if he could he would privatize the fire dept. as in other parts of the United States. Newburgh is laying off two fire fighters, how can they do it and still have a good insurance rating?

Being that Milo is micro managing to the point where DPW vehicles are only allowed to get 10 gal of gas a and mileage recorded, Milo ought get the Mass software which does all the above being the city gets its fuel at certain gas stations where the city takes advantage of state discounted purchases.

Additionally, being Milo and Mayor Tkyczik are interested is gas mileage on city vehicles, it's ironic, the firing of a mechanic who could be servicing them including tune-ups, is another false city economic move. When I visited my son down in Tampa, separation of the recyclables was strictly enforced and the garbage was picked up once a week. Why not here. But don't have four barrels for single family residences!! Whats up?

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Mayor Tkyczik sandbagged the present CC keeping it in the dark before and during the city budget review process. Unknown to the public, is a tentative political deal between Mayor Tkyczik and DC Executive Molinaro for the county takeover of two city projects by coupling the Federal Grants and the city busses!! The annual \$800,000 Federal Developing Grants costing the city nothing because 20% goes for administration costs. A plus for the city because it receives revenue for office rental space!! The other is the federally purchased busses with an annual 20% federal bus subsidy. If the subsidy goes to the city, who gets the subsidy, if privatized. FYI, The LOOP system is privately owned and its maintenance is sub-par to the point of being nonexistent!!!

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In the EAST-WEST ARTERIAL Brochure dated July 1966, the question who will maintain the road, the state will have the responsibility. They may discharge this responsibility through contract with city or directly with its own forces. It's a loss for the city, why continue? Another big city expense was the \$300,000 rerouting water main under the route #9 highway for Marist college underpass!! The state picked up Marist College share!!! Why does the city pick up some of the maintenance for NYS N/S arterial sticking it to the taxpayer on both ends!!!! Marist College is tax exempt but sticks it to the local and state taxpayer while having about \$2 billion in yearly tuition forcing the other tax rated properties to carry their non-fair burden!!! GREAT COUNTRY AMERICA!!!!!!

**Dutchess County Resource Recovery Agency: Inefficient, expensive & in debt**

*Written by Mary Beth Pfeiffer Poughkeepsie Journal  
Dec 02*

The Dutchess County trash-burning plant needs millions from taxpayers to break even each year, costs 46 percent more to operate than 13 other plants in New York and Connecticut and has debts stretching years beyond all of them.

The findings come from a Poughkeepsie Journal analysis of the finances and functioning of the 22-year-old Town of Poughkeepsie facility on the Hudson River. In almost every respect, the waste-to-energy plant, which burns about 150,000 tons a year and generates enough electricity to power 10,000 homes, fares poorly when compared to other plants, the Journal found. One bright spot is that it meets state emission limits for seven key pollutants.

"This burn plant uses obsolete technology, and it's very expensive," said R. Stephen Lynch, a newly appointed board member of the Dutchess County Resource Recovery Agency, which oversees the plant. Lynch, a solid waste consultant who is administrator for two of the plants in the Journal's analysis, said the Dutchess facility has been "mismanaged from a financial and taxpayer point of view for many years."

Officials of the trash agency, a public authority whose board is appointed by the county executive and Legislature, defended the plant and said its fiscal picture had been influenced by expensive environmental upgrades, competition for waste from cheaper alternatives and less waste delivered by haulers in a down economy. They questioned whether figures provided by other plants reflected the true cost of waste processing and whether the comparison was "apples to apples."

"This business is full of variables," said William Conners, board chairman. "It all depends on what you're looking at, what number you come up with."

The Journal analysis raises questions about the economics of the trash plant at a time when county leaders have seen revenues decline and have made frequent calls for austerity. Among the findings:

- While the Dutchess plant receives a multimillion-dollar county subsidy every year - one that's grown 250 percent since 2001 - seven other facilities are self-sufficient, operating almost entirely on the sale of electricity and trash-dumping fees. The Dutchess facility receives that money and then some. In 2008, it brought in \$11.1 million in "tipping," or dumping, fees and \$4.2 million in electricity revenues - but still needed a \$3.5 million county subsidy to break even.

The subsidy added \$24.50 to each ton of trash burned, bringing the plant's total per-ton processing fee to a little less than \$102. The 13 other plants averaged \$70 a ton. As significantly, Dutchess' cost will likely rise about a fifth this year.

- Four other plants are supported by taxes paid to governments that arrange trash pickup, while one, in Hudson Falls, Washington County, gets a municipal subsidy as in Dutchess. However, all five operate far more economically than the Dutchess facility and cost taxpayers far less. Westchester County's plant, for example, costs \$72 to burn a ton of waste in 2008; with its subsidy, the Washington plant cost \$75.

- Though older than 12 other plants, the Dutchess plant has debt extending years beyond every other facility in the two states. Among the 14 plants, four have paid or will pay their debt by the end of 2009, six more will be debt-free by 2019, as will three more by 2023. The Dutchess plant's debt extends to 2027 - with \$49 million in bond payments remaining.

- The plant also lags behind others in "availability," namely the percentage of hours annually that it operates and thereby produces revenue. The 13 other plants operated an average of 91 percent in 2007 or 2008; Dutchess' figure was 86 percent for 2007 and 85.3 percent for 2008; 85 percent is the lowest acceptable level under state environmental regulations.

#### Operating deficit grows

The Journal inquiry was prompted by the plant's growing operating deficit, which the county is obligated to cover in the form of a subsidy or "net service fee." In 2001, the facility received \$1.1 million in county support; by last year, the figure had more than tripled to \$3.5 million. For 2009, the county has budgeted \$6.3 million to cover agency deficits, which promise to continue and perhaps worsen as competition for trash intensifies in a slowing economy.

Dutchess County Executive William Steinhaus deferred to agency officials on questions about the burn plant.

"Without looking at the numbers, I can't tell you why" other plants function without subsidies, said Connors, the agency chairman.

William Calogero, the Resource Recovery Agency's executive director, estimated the cost to burn a ton of trash at the plant was \$76 to \$79.

"The comparisons being made can be misleading without complete system understanding and need to be clearly presented to be understood properly," he wrote in an e-mail. However, he acknowledged his figure did not include the additional \$24.50 per ton paid by taxpayers in the form of the county subsidy.

One reason the plant may be costlier than others is its relatively small size, burning 450 tons a day, Calogero said. Indeed, Neil Sheehan, the overseer of a 900-ton-per-day plant in Huntington, Suffolk County, said there are "economies of scale" in trash burning. Both plants have about the same staffing - 44 at Dutchess and a little less than 50 at Huntington - a prime expense.

On another point, Calogero said the Dutchess plant operated less time than other plants because of difficulty obtaining waste, while also noting other plants may overstate their operating time by measuring it in a different way.

"When we're shut down because we don't have fuel ... that's why our numbers are lower," said Calogero, who was a board member for eight years before becoming director in 2006.

#### Landfill fees drop

Indeed, the plant seldom comes close to operating at its maximum capacity of 164,000 tons per year because there are cheaper places, primarily upstate landfills, for haulers to dump their trash. In 2008, the plant, which takes about half the county's waste, processed its lowest tonnage since at least 2000 - 142,800 - as tipping fees elsewhere dropped.

Ulster County, for example, transports its trash to landfills at a cost, including dumping and transportation, of \$70 a ton. The Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency also receives a government subsidy to offset tipping fee shortfalls but, unlike Dutchess', it is dropping, from an average of \$4 million from 2000-03 to \$1.3 million this year.

While acknowledging that dumping trash in a landfill is cheaper, officials of the Dutchess agency maintained waste-to-energy technology was environmentally superior, a point of debate among environmentalists.

"This whole plant is the most socially responsible approach to waste management this county could have," Connors, a Republican appointee, said. "I personally do not believe putting waste in a truck and hauling it 250 miles and burying it is a solution. It may be cheaper but it's garbage-be-gone."

Connors, who is also an outdoor sports columnist for the Poughkeepsie Journal, estimated 850,000 gallons of diesel fuel were saved annually by not having to truck Dutchess' waste to landfills. If the plant closed, its waste would likely go 245 miles away to Seneca Meadows Landfill in Waterloo, Seneca County, which takes 85 percent of Ulster's 125,000 tons a year of trash. (It should be noted the Dutchess plant produces about 50,000 tons of ash yearly, which is trucked to landfills.)

The Dutchess facility - built with \$40 million in bonds and a \$13.4 million state grant - has been troubled virtually since the agency entered into a construction agreement with Pennsylvania Resource Systems Inc. in 1984. Pennsylvania went belly up in 1988 and construction was completed in 1989 by Westinghouse Electric Corporation. Westinghouse operated the plant until 1998, when it sought to get out of its contract, and Montanay Dutchess LLC, now Veolia Environmental Services Dutchess LLC, was hired to take over. The parent company of Veolia operates 10 waste-to-energy plants in the United States; its Dutchess contract expires in 2014.

Standard industry practice is for plants to structure loan payments so debts are paid off simultaneously with the expiration of long-term contracts with plant operators - on the assumption that plants will at least operate through that time. But Dutchess' debt, due largely to \$16.1 million in bonds issued in 2007, will extend to 2027. The bonds were issued in order to pay off short-term notes from 2005, which in turn had funded modifications to the plant's emission-control systems required under the federal Clean Air Act.

"Everything was extended when it were reissued," Calogero said about the bonds.

'Dinosaur' tied to county

Roger Higgins, D-New Hamburg and chairman of the county Legislature, said the findings point "to what appears to be mismanagement" of the facility, which he called a "dinosaur with tremendous implications to the taxpayers."

Dutchess essentially guarantees the plant's debt under its agreement with the agency, extended in 2007, to pay operating shortfalls and assure delivery of 140,000 tons of waste a year.

Based on its current budget, the Dutchess plant's per-ton processing cost will rise 20 percent this year, according to a separate analysis by Lynch, the board member and solid waste consultant. Lynch, a registered independent who was appointed by the Democrat-controlled Legislature in January, compared the Dutchess facility to two similarly sized plants he is contracted to manage as part of his Millbrook-based waste planning and administration business.

He found Dutchess' 2009 per-ton cost will be \$121, based on its adopted budget, compared to \$74 and \$84 for the two other facilities, located in Lisbon, Conn., and Hudson Falls. Significantly, if the Dutchess plant's debt were structured to be paid off in tandem with the expiration of Veolia's contract in 2014, as other plants' do, the cost would be an "astronomical" \$147 per ton, he noted.

Lynch is also a member of the Higgins-appointed Green Ribbon Solid Waste Management Task Force, which began meeting this spring and poses a clear threat to the future of the Resource Recovery Agency. The task force's mandate, along with recommending ways to expand recycling and waste reduction, is to "complete a review of the need and feasibility of continuation of the Resource Recovery Agency."

At the same time, the agency recently hired its own consultant, at a cost of \$60,000, for a mission seemingly at cross purposes with the task force's: to study waste-generation in the county and suggest ways to manage it - ideas that "may include expansion of the Resource Recovery waste-to-energy facility, the construction of an additional facility, the construction or leasing of transfer stations and requiring all carters to bring a percentage of their collected waste to DCRRA," according to an agency document.

Given the plant's cost and performance, any proposal for a new or expanded burn plant would likely be highly controversial.

Shabazz Jackson, president of Greenway Environmental Services in Newburgh and a task force member, said, "It's not sustainable. We're seeing the technology, the mass-burn technology, nearing the end of its life."

"It would be met with resistance - that's a good word," said Higgins, who blamed the agency's poor performance on "lack of oversight by the previous Republican-controlled Legislature of this agency. That's what happens when you have a one-party government."

## Official Minutes of Public Hearing held Monday, December 3, 2012

Conners maintained Dutchess residents pay only \$21 per capita for solid waste disposal while Westchester County residents, who also have a burn plant, pay \$108 per capita in their county taxes.

He acknowledged, however, the \$21 is the taxpayer cost of the Dutchess plant's subsidy alone and does not reflect private trash collection bills paid by most Dutchess residents, generally about \$300 a year for a household. In Westchester, Conners' figure of \$108 per capita pays for municipal trash collection in 36 of 43 communities, although some additional amount may be paid in town or village taxes.

In addition to burning trash, the Resource Recovery Agency manages a recycling center on Fulton Street in the Town of Poughkeepsie - which may exacerbate the agency's fiscal straits this year. While the agency broke even on recyclables last year and made \$650,000 in 2007, Calogero said the agency expects to lose money in 2009 as recycling markets collapse in the economic downturn.

"Right now we're losing money every month," he said.

The economy has also prompted trash volumes to plunge - by about 10,000 tons since 2006 - a constant worry for plant operators. The biggest user of the plant is Royal Carting, which is contracted to deliver 115,000 tons of waste a year in exchange for a discounted tipping fee. The City of Poughkeepsie delivered about 12,000 tons last year - its total output - and Waste Management, another private hauler, delivered about 6,800 tons.

Royal officials defended the plant.

"It's a stable, reliable, locally controlled facility," said James Constantino, general counsel. While asserting there is a "phenomenal amount" of landfill capacity with disposal costs in the mid-20s per ton, he added: "That's what it is today. We don't know in five years ... We have clear recollection of what it was like when we had no place to bring it."

**Edward Ohms - 210 Crystal Hill Lane, President of Fox Hill Assn. Bd. of Directors** – Gave thanks for being given the opportunity of speaking. There are 384 families in Fox Hill. More than 2 years ago the taxes doubled in his phase (VI) as a result of a status change. Some older units more than doubled depending on which phase they were in. They maintain their street lights, roads and sidewalks. Snowplowing is done at their own expense, yet they're paying taxes at the same rate as everyone else. A large population of it are seniors, elderly and on fixed incomes. They just went through their own budget process. Have to be sensitive to the ability of our people to pay anything additional, and if garbage collection will incur an additional expense, I would ask what these taxes are going for. There will be health issues if garbage pickup is reduced to only once per week. His phase contains 44 families. It fills up the dumpster twice per week easily. The dumpster is small. The size cannot be increased due to the size of the enclosure. By spreading out the garbage collections, there's a health issue with having no place to put it, if it will only be picked up once per week. Asked for sensitivity in making this decision and base it on the ability of the homeowners to pay as his association did.

**John Mylod – Beechwood Avenue** – Comments regarding the overall budget. Difficult to read online. The City Administrator's job should be a full-time position. Doesn't feel it prudent that the Mayor budgeted way less than \$50,000 for a part-time person. This is due to kinds of needs and problems the City has. Explore ways to find savings. The Mayor can look at the money that was being allocated for the part-time City Administrator or look outside the budget or outside the community to find the money in order to hire a full-time administrator. That person has to be allowed to do his or her job; to be energetic, creative and to help get the City back to the kind of city we want and the kind of city we had community it was. Is a lifelong resident. It was very different

while he was growing up. We can get back to that condition at some point in the future. As the saying goes, “As the tide rises, all boats must work toward that”, and there has to be a concerted effort on the part of the Council and the Mayor, going out in the future to work together to help Poughkeepsie. Perhaps we can obtain a grant, such as the Dyson Grant. Sell the fireboat; get out from underneath the debt of the fireboat, something we don’t need. Get a \$20,000 boat. We don’t need a \$167,000. Find a way to make it happen. Find a City Administrator who is allowed to do the job. Next topic is to urge the Council to restore the CDBG program and its’ current administrator in the City budget. Don’t give it to the County. Have thought about it and can’t see any upside to giving the Community Development program to the County. The money has to be in Poughkeepsie. Restore those budget lines for the Community Development program; it’s not an impact on the budget. The money is from Federal Grants that come to us; covers those costs. Keep the Sanitation workforce and the other positions being eliminated in the Mayor’s budget. Of the three different plans, the Council’s Plan (3<sup>rd</sup> plan), makes the most sense. Would like to somehow see it factored into the taxes. If that’s not possible because of the cap or because it wouldn’t be prudent to go forward with the fee schedule to do this in that manner. Option #2, clear plastic bag issue is difficult. It requires action by the citizens to go get them, so that means that a lot of people won’t go get them. On a weekly basis, has gone out in front of his property with a plastic bag and filled it halfway with trash strewn onto his property from passing cars, etc. Recyclables are separated from the regular trash and then includes it with his own. That kind of thing will continue to happen. Is in agreement with Mr. Clark; that recycling produces revenue. If it would help to have the community form committees to work on this issue, let’s do that. Let’s not get bogged down with partisan ideas – we can’t keep doing that. Mentioned that there is one capital issue in particular, regarding funding for parks and the waterfront issue with the docks, that he was interested in, but wasn’t able to find, while looking through the 365 pages of the 2013 Preliminary Budget on the City’s website. Is aware of the requirements that the City has to put in docks in the Spring.

**Terry D. Horner - 81 South Hamilton Street** – I’m going to speak heresy here. Just exceed the cap and keep the jobs. I would rather pay the \$264.00 at \$22.00 per month, as a tax increase, rather than it not being deductible than have it tacked onto my water bill. Moreover, although we’re not to the point of actual Ordinance wording, I have concerns on how each type of residential uses will be defined for purposes of enforcing the monthly fee. Has a household of three, which is a low trash household. Puts out 1 bag per week. If the Council adopts the Democratic proposal, if possible, I would like to opt out and just go up to the transfer station myself because I don’t want to subsidize big trash households. I am personally in favor of Pay-as-you-Throw plan in light of the low volume of trash that we generate. Not clear on the sanitation issue. If it’s about curbside pickup or it’s about transfer station fees. I’ll reiterate, just exceed the cap, keep the jobs. Keep our city clean.

**Penny Lewis - 28 Harrison Street** – I can understand what you’re going through on that side. I sat on that side once upon a time. I can understand what you have to do. Think back to what we were. Once upon a time, we had a trash pickup; once a year, twice a

year, the City went well. But that stopped. Now, there will be chaos. New people moving in, absentee landlords, people who continue to purchase homes, whose tenants don't have to throw their trash out, don't come and do it. It's going to be terrible. Once, when we had Weed 'n Seed money, I was sent to Detroit, Michigan on a 3-day seminar. The purpose of the seminar was to learn about restoration of the City of Poughkeepsie. Meaning that we were supposed make sure that we don't have garbage, old tires, etc. in the backyard. When I returned home to the 5<sup>th</sup> Ward, things were working nicely for a while; a man was hired to make sure that this was being done. Now, all of sudden, it's not happening. The vermin are taking over the City. There are woodchucks walking the streets like people, going into the backyards, crows are getting into the garbage cans, which are going into the streets. We have a nasty looking area. I've gone out and picked up the garbage and talked to my neighbors about it and have picked up the trash as well. I'm captain of the Neighborhood Block Association – you can't do it all over the city and it's getting bad. Discussed the possibility of three trash pickups per week to see if that works. If we go down to one time per week with recycling, which we must have see if that works. These laws need to be enforced, because there are people throwing boxes out which are not cut up. I've seen the garbage men come twice on a holiday, because the garbage is being put out even though there's no pickup on holidays. This should be enforced by giving out tickets, which can be put onto their land taxes. My husband saw someone come and put their trash in a neighbor's yard. It's not right. People are coming from the County are coming into the City to throw their trash into our dumpsters. It isn't easy to sit there. The point is, you've got to enforce the law. The garbage is left on the street and our garbage men have to pick it up. We shouldn't get rid of our garbage men – they're very good people and they work very hard. They're out there working while you're sleeping, picking up garbage, snowplowing, etc. Rethink how you can keep these people, because we need them. Our city is going to be "The Rat City." It used to be called the Queen City. They'll be calling it the Rat City, a ghost town. We used to be the model city.

**John Murphy - 34 Hurlihe Street** – Half of the DPW workers are his friends. He doesn't think that the Council wants to see anyone lose their job. Thinks the Council could look deeper into the budget. Besides the garbage pickup, there are other things to look into, such as the Countywide 9-1-1 Back-Up System. Thinks there are approximately 15 people that the City pays, which is budgeted at \$800,000 to \$1 Million. The City gets reimbursed for around \$80,000 per year. We could explain to the County Executive to get the other municipalities to chip in, such as Milan, Town of Poughkeepsie, Wappingers, Fishkill. All are in the county. Let them put it into their budget and see how that impacts their budget. The City of Poughkeepsie has taken a huge hit on this. Let the County employ these people, or have the other municipalities chip in. Although some are smaller and others larger, there's got to be a way to prevent the City from getting hammered with this bill every year. It's atrocious. When he found out about it while he was on the Common Council last year, he was amazed. That's a lot of money. That keeps a lot of people working in the City for years and years to come. Some of these DPW workers are young; between 18 – 20 years of age, who want to make this a lifetime job. Doesn't think this should be on the City taxpayer's cuff. They shouldn't have to foot this bill for the rest of the county. Urged the Council to look into

this, as there's still time to see what you can come up with. It will save the City a lot of money and keep these guys working.

**Ken Stickle - 118 Catherine Street** – Lifelong resident of this “Hell Hole” for 56 years. Go up and down Main Street on a Saturday or Sunday. There's no street clean up anymore; it looks like war torn Beirut. I told you there's no more money coming from the Federal Government and more money coming from your “Uncle Andrew” in Albany. I don't appreciate the Mayor's dress fee, because this could work. I don't like the \$3.00 bag fee – who's going to make the tenant pay for that? I'm tired of hearing about absentee landlords. I work for a landlord who owns approximately 30 properties. He not only cleans in front of his own property, but he also cleans two to three properties on either side of his. Today's paper (holds up newspaper), “More Local Governments are Going to Exceed over the 2% Cap.” Our Governor had a great idea, but forgot that he imposed how many ridiculous things about retirement, this, that, so on and so forth. I hate to say this, but stop acting like the Federal Government right now. We're about to go over the “Financial Cliff” in this country and will go into a recession, because the Republicans and Democrats can't agree in Washington and every one of us is going to suffer on this. These guys get out at 4 and 5 o'clock in the morning no matter what type of weather, plow the streets when there's snow and ice and you want to lay them off? You want to talk about safety? I don't have a nice little apartment down by the waterfront. I live in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Ward. I clean in the 5<sup>th</sup> Ward!!! I probably do more than the Council and the Mayor and the Attorneys. I go to College Hill from May to September to cut the grass. I had to call the DPW guys to go clean up trash that people are throwing in there. You want to get rid of these guys? This is ridiculous! Go over the 2% Cap. Put it into my property tax, so I can write it off my income taxes. Everything that everybody is proposing is forgetting one thing. I can't write off Royal, Waste Management or any of those guys for my home. The \$22.00 per month I understand, but again, I can't write my water bill off unless I let it exceed and let it go into the next year's tax. This means that the City has to pick up my water bill – that's the only way that I can do that. The \$22.00 is a great idea, but put it in the taxes. Feels sorry for the senior citizens. Somebody's got to listen to the taxpayers; we don't have anybody cleaning up on the weekend. You need to have a couple of these guys cleaning up Main Street. You want to bring people into the City? The waterfront is not the only thing in the City. Upper Main Street needs it; our City looks like a dump. I said it when the 411's went in. I hate to say it. I said, “I guarantee you, when the 411's came in, the next thing to happen was that everybody would be paying for their garbage one way or another, and it's coming back to haunt us.” I'm telling you. Nobody's happy about any of this. Any way you slice and dice it, I'm looking at a 50% increase. You don't have to say it's a tax, but you might as well put it on my property tax, because guess what? I am getting a 50% increase. Fishkill is getting a 53% increase, because they realized that there's no money coming in from the locals. Start figuring. You can't keep it at the 2% - it's not going to work.

**Yvonne Polito - 222 Panorama Court** – Has lived in the City for 3 years and is upset with the whole Sanitation situation. I'm also on the Board for my Phase (IV). Has people from \outside the complex dumping garbage in their dumpster. Wants to keep the Sanitation services as they are. The city deserves it. We have elderly people, retired

people; nobody needs to pay for basic services, and I think some of the people cannot afford to do anything else. It's going to become a health issue with rats, as other people have stated. Also, we maintain our roads and snowplowing. Our taxes are outrageous for what we get. I don't understand why. I'd like to see some sort of reduction. I don't know where the confusion was, but there was talk about closing the Hooker Avenue Fire Station, which really is an asset to the community. So, I'm hoping that the Sanitation services remain the way they are and that people will get the services they deserve.

**Chairwoman Johnson:** Again, I have not heard anything about the Hooker Avenue Fire Station being proposed by the Mayor to be closed. Mayor Tkayzik, do you have anything being proposed to close the Hooker Avenue Fire Station? (Mayor's response was inaudible). OK, so there you go. Rumors, please, please...we have enough problems in the City; the one thing we don't need is rumors.

**Sharon Haugh - 307 Crystal Hill** – A City resident for 51 years. Several years ago, the City of Poughkeepsie decided to double our taxes. 384 properties were doubled. Basically, we're a senior citizens group. We do not use the school system. Although we are charged as individual homes, in terms of our taxes, we are not allowed to have our snow removal by the City. We have no street lights provided by the city, nor the charge for running the street lights; we pay for that ourselves. We have no street cleaning, no leaf pickup, no street repair by the City. We do have the privilege of Police and Fire. Because we are very compact, I don't have a back yard, nor back stairs to take garbage down and store it somewhere for a time. I have a front door, and I can't store a week's worth of garbage there. Regarding the \$3.00 charge for plastic bags; in two years, will be \$4.50. I think most families would have at least 4 bags per week. That comes to a charge of \$50.00 per month if you were paying only \$3.00 per bag. It would be more if it were \$4.50. The garbage men, when they service us work hard. When they leave, it looks good. I would encourage you to keep the garbage service. Increase our taxes if you must, but I don't think it's a fee that should be put on the water bill, because that means that we're going to have to hire someone extra to do the extra work. So, if we're cutting services we'll have to hire someone to work in the Finance Department. I'd like to thank you for your patience in listening to us. You have our support, and please keep the garbage men.

**John Myhans – 43 Wilbur Blvd.** – This issue on the Sanitation. I think it's a no brainer; you keep the sanitation the way it was. If you go down to once per week, that's fine with me, but I've often said that in the City of Poughkeepsie I see something for my money. That is the Sanitation people. I see them out there. They do a great job, I have no problem with them at all. We should look at exceeding this cap; I don't know what the ramifications are if you exceed the cap. 2% is ridiculous in these times of rising costs. We were broke before they put a cap on. Exceed the tax and put it on the homeowners' taxes so they can at least file them with the Federal Government and get some write off on it. I don't know how this or any other city can live within a 2% cap that some idiot sat up there and figured out 2% is as far as you can go without something happening against you. I believe we should raise the taxes to whatever we have to in order to keep the Sanitation. To tell you the truth, the other part of the issue about charging homeowners a

certain or flat fee for a single family home is that I put out less than one bag every two weeks, to be honest with you. I'm not generating a lot of garbage. I see my neighbors putting out 4 or 5 cans per night (or day), and they will pay the same \$20.00 as I will. I don't think it's fair and that I'm getting screwed somewhere along the line. So, keep the Sanitation the way it is, and I'll be satisfied.

**Judy Green - 10 South Clinton Street** – I'm here mainly to talk about the garbage situation. Our Sanitation service is the best service we receive for our tax dollar. It's a reliable, consistently dependable and excellent service. The idea that this will change is really something none of us want to deal with. Most of the people here have addressed that and want our garbage system to pretty much stay the way it is. I think that all of the proposals basically represent flat tax. That basically penalizes people on low and fixed incomes. If we're going to have a tax increase, override the 2% tax and actually increase our taxes, instead of doing it by having privatization or charging for garbage bag fees. This translates into a flat tax. Again, this penalizes the poor and low income people of our community. The other thing is that we can really be creative about the budget and go through it. I think there are a lot of areas that can be cut. Personally, I don't think that increasing the amount of money for a City Administrator is the way to go. People seem to think that the more money, the higher the quality. I think that's not the case. I think we could save a lot of money if we lower administrative salaries. It's the rank and file workers who do the real work in the City and the administrators, as far as I can see, are terribly overpaid and we don't get the quality we should. Another thing is, we're treated like a poor relative by the County. We're constantly neglected, overlooked and we're not compensated. Less than 50% of us pay 100% of the taxes. That's mainly due to the fact that these tax exempt county facilities are located in the City of Poughkeepsie and are on our tax rolls. We're not being compensated and we really need to be compensated for this, it's terribly unfair. We're being treated like the poor relation to Dutchess County, and I'd like to know why. They undermine our city a lot. We can consider instituting a "commuter" tax. Every morning, numerous people come into the City. They work here. Many work for the County. What do they put into our city? If anything, maybe they're buying lunch...they really don't support the businesses. They go home and take their money with them and spend it in other areas, and use our services; we're paying for that. So, I would encourage you to rethink all of these things and find other avenues other than discontinuing the garbage service.

**Marta Knapp - 10 South Clinton Street** – You guys have a horrible job listening to this, but our job's worse, 'cause we don't get paid. The first thing I want to say is, "How much equipment and trucks, leaf removal and plows does the City own now? How old is the fleet of garbage trucks? What will become of these if we lose sanitation service? Why would the City request the use of even more plastic bags, when cans have been used as receptacles for so many years? We have to purchase plastic bags already, why should this cost increase by asking us to purchase \$3.00 bags for every garbage pickup? The costs for average households will increase rents for many people who can barely pay their current rents in the City? Landlords won't take the hit without burdening the tenants. Many people are in the City who are on a fixed income and can't afford the fees for services they have counted on for years, and have paid for in their taxes. I previously

mentioned that the extras we pay for, such as the Common Council members benefits should be curtailed. Chairwoman Johnson said that you don't enjoy benefits for life anymore due to term limits. I don't know if that's accurate, but what about the former council members who served for years. Do they need or deserve benefits for life? I don't think so. Do the administrative offices of City Hall, like Mr. Ackermann's, deserve big, fat salaries and the City's funded continuing education taxpayers pay for, for people like in the Corporation Counsel, so they can go on, getting higher levels of education while the taxpayers foot the bill? I don't think that's right. Also, like Judy just said, what about charging the County for the use of all of our infrastructure. What about that \$2 Million gap you're trying to cover went to demolish the Historic Nelson House? What a total waste and crime that really is, to destroy that treasure, and then make the taxpayer pay for it, and then pay for Sanitation services we shouldn't be paying extra for. More bad planning: The County Jail, the Department of Social Services, the County Office Buildings, the County Health Department. Why aren't we not being compensated for all the property the County uses? It doesn't help pay for the services the City uses like snowplowing, etc. The County dumps all their problems here and doesn't help us handle the people that come here with the big problems because of all the county agencies they need to access. They often end up homeless, on our streets. We then end up with the profitable non-profits or all the hundred plus churches are not paying taxes. A small percentage – 40% of us...are paying the taxes and carrying the whole burden. We need to squeeze the County, the non-profits, the rich churches, the colleges and utilities, like Verizon and Central Hudson that can help us make up the budget shortfall. You're just making the people pay for something that all these others are getting a free ride and they've got megabucks. We're being exploited more and more, by bad planning and illogical proposals. You want us to pay extra for essential services, or else our DPW will be decimated. It's a form of emotional blackmail. You're creating an atmosphere where we are being blamed for your proposals. Thus, people will be terminated because of your bad decisions, not our ability to cover that budget gap, or unwillingness to accept those suggested fees. And, where is the CSEA? Where's the union; why aren't they on strike? I think that's an excellent idea. You know, the Bridge Authority makes a fortune, why can't we get some of that cashola? I really think this Council needs to get more creative. You're trying, because there's a lot of resistance. You need to try a lot, a lot, a lot harder.

**James Guarnaccia - 19 Harrison Street** – Just a couple of items. One is first on the City Administrator position. I do agree with Mr. Mylod, that the City needs a City Administrator. I think that running a city of this size is an incredible challenge and calls for very specialized skills. I think expecting an elected Mayor, who may or may not have any of the skills necessary may be very popular and expecting them to come in and run the city. You're seeing the budget challenges we are facing now, and how difficult this is between dealing with the various laws on a day to day, and week to week basis and constant changes in funding models – the Grant Programs. You need someone who's an expert in navigating that, maintaining our City and that our budget plan should mirror our charter, not its anticipated change into ones made; that's on the City Administrators position. In hard times, families need to work together, and you can see by the gathering here that we're all proud to have the Sanitation team as part of our City of Poughkeepsie

family. These times also call for leadership and difficult choices and I know you have some very challenging ones ahead of you. But, if you truly want to stay within a 2% tax cap, then I think you need to take true reductions. Moving fixed costs that we know every household must incur off the books and onto a selected set of residents is a defacto tax hike, and to call it anything else is disingenuous. Going to a pay by household is a tax hike and since the fees are equivalent for each household in that case, the change is a lift in shift. Those that can't afford it can afford it the least. If my numbers are right, given this year's tax rate of 8.09 per thousand dollars, even if we assume \$22.00 per month, which from what I can find in the commercial space is where we'd end up. Maybe we can do better on a short term negotiation. That's \$264.00 per year. For a house valued at \$125,000, that's a 26% increase over what they're paying today in city taxes. If your house is valued at \$250,000, then it's a 13% increase. It's a disproportionate shift of taxes to those who can least afford it in this city. The garbage needs to be collected. In a city where the population is reduced means, only a system that ensures garbage is collectible is really workable. To me, it's simple. Keep the garbage is collected with the City employees, restore the cost to the budget, and either exceed the cap or find true reductions to stay within the 2%.

**Bernard Daisley - 6 High Street** – I feel obliged to be here to look at the issue of garbage collection in the City of Poughkeepsie. I join former speakers in commending the Sanitation workers, for the tremendous job they do every week. Twice per week on my street. They do work for their money, and it may be a wrong signal to say we should get rid of them. In other words, hard work doesn't pay anymore. I find it kind of questionable, that when the City picks up the garbage and takes it to Royal; now we are asking Royal to also pick up the collection and to take it to themselves. I'm just throwing out this question. Is Royal really giving us enough for our money in paying them to do the disposal of our garbage? Or, are they just playing a system where they can become a monopoly? And then very soon, next year and the year after, will we feel that what we are trying to reduce now will be a massive increase on every taxpayer and every homeowner in the City of Poughkeepsie? We look at Waste Management; I read earlier this year, where the Federal Government had to fine them because of unscrupulous behavior. Are we trusting sanitation of this small city to these big companies that have dotted pasts? We have to be very careful about doing that. Therefore, I believe, that's why you need someone with the skill set to be City Administrator, to look beyond the cutting of budget lines and trying to make figures work. The skill set is much more than a political persuasion. We have to go beyond that. Trying to bring the budget in and trying to reduce employment. You want taxes from the same people you are taking money from. It's a vicious cycle; if you take monies from these people, they have no taxes to pay to us, then their homes or the properties go back to the landlords, who do not live in the city – absentee landlords you call them. Therefore, we go back to the bigger problem - all we're doing is piling problems upon problems. I come here to support that we keep each member of the Sanitation force empire. We must support them fully, and they are doing a tremendous job.

**Steven Planck - 81 Carroll Street** – I'm a business owner. I own multiple properties in the City. I'd like to invest more money in the City of Poughkeepsie. I really do love it

here. I'm not an absentee landlord, but I do feel that the absentee "landlordship" is a major problem in the City of Poughkeepsie. I think the City needs to be run more like a business. I think that's the simple logic behind it. It's illogical for the City to think that they can continue to employ a workforce of 10,000 people, any more than they think they can "rise" taxes forever, because both are illogical thoughts. I think that if layoffs are inevitable, that is the natural course of events, but do not think they are necessary. I've actually read the entire budget three times. I've compared it to the last 7 years of budgets, and I've also researched many of the past notes from these public meetings. I'm sorry that I made it here a little too late. I should have been here earlier, when I realized what was happening. The problem with the City of Poughkeepsie, is that currently...I'll pose this question to everyone that can hear my voice and give you a pause so that you can answer it to yourself. But, if I was to give you \$11 Million, how many people do you suppose you could employ? \$11 Million – how many people do you think you can employ...just think about that quietly, and I'll tell you the truth. The truth of the matter is that the City employs approximately 100 people for \$11 Million. The City has a compensation problem, to put it plainly. I don't believe the problem lies in the budget. I think there are sneaky things going on with inter-department transfers, which somebody needs to get to the bottom of. I also think, and as much as I respect all of our...everybody in the City of Poughkeepsie, and I respect everyone here on the Board, I just don't agree with your thinking. I think that we have an overtime problem as well. According to last year's statistics, this is a fact: \$1.6 Million was paid in overtime. That's not even including the compensation for stipends, food, travel, boots, bi-lingual pay, I'm not even sure if we've hired anybody, but we're still giving them bi-lingual pay. That's not even including reimbursements for healthcare. I don't think that we have an income problem, I think we have a spending problem in the City of Poughkeepsie, much like what our Federal Government is going through right now as well. I was at the press conference on Monday or Wednesday and heard the two proposals that were on the table for the Sanitation and the layoffs. I was discouraged to say the least, that a municipality that pays out more than \$24 Million per year, to the people that run it, that the only two things you can come up with were either, to pay-as-you-go, which I respectfully disagree with, or to pass off another tax to the people of the City of Poughkeepsie. I can assure you that as a property owner in Poughkeepsie, I can assure you that I will pass that cost onto my tenants, and I don't think that's fair. I think it's probably too late at this point, to come up with something fiscally responsible, but I also truly believe that fiscal stability is achieved not by asking how or where we can raise taxes, but by asking, "What are the City's inherent advantages, and how can we use them?" Thank you for your time. God Bless and Merry Christmas.

**Mae Parker-Harris - 16 Allen Place** – Everything I was going to say has already been said, so, I concur with that and much more. I would like to at this time, tell the Sanitation Department with me going throughout the City, that you are well supported by the constituents and City (inaudible)...for your work, I want to give you a stand [stands up and applauds; others join in]. When I think about the City workers, many of them, I knew as children. I think about they have families now, and what would happen to them if they didn't have a job. It means that we'd be putting more families back on Welfare and some kind of subsidy in the City. So, that's where the taxpayer will still have to pay

money for those families that you're getting rid of. So, we need to keep the people working and not lay them off. My thoughts are leaving me because I am rather touched and I would rather speak from my heart, than speak from a piece of paper. This budget apparently going out is hurting so many people throughout the city that I have lived in all my life. It's very disturbing, that we have to come up with solutions, because every year the City has been going down, down, down. We don't even have places for our youth to go in the City. We don't have a community center. We have nothing for our young families to do, and we're talking about getting rid of City workers. Shame on Poughkeepsie. Somebody needs to say something. Now, what are we going to do about bringing the City back to where it used to be by working together? Having sensitivity to each other and working together and finding ways that everybody can live comfortably. When I talk about the County Office Building, and think about how the commuters come in, how they've taken all the City's spots for the people to come in and park. We get nothing in the City of Poughkeepsie. You go down by the Train Station, they got numbers on the streets and residents can't even park in their own community unless they get a permit themselves, or they're going to get a ticket. How ridiculous is that? Are we here for the City of Poughkeepsie that's paying taxes, or the people that commute in and out of here? What are we thinking about? I was brought up to take care of home first. That's what we need to start doing – taking care of home. We need to think about when we get people to run our City, we need to think about getting mature, grown-ups to run our City, because no child will run my household. From now on that's what we need to think about. Get mature, seasoned people to run this household, which is this City.

**Bruce Dooris - 41 Wilson Blvd (CSEA Vice President)** – First of all, most of the people on this Council are trying to save all jobs. All jobs, meaning the ones in the Sanitation Department and also the ones in the Police Department, Juvenile Division and the mechanics of the Central Garage. I want to make that clear, too. Second of all, there was a young lady here that said that, "Where's the CSEA?" I think I've been here from the start, and I'm not hiding. I would love to go on strike, but then somebody's going to have to bail me out of jail. That's not a problem, but I really don't want to be in jail. So, getting to the topic of tonight, it's obvious we're backing the Council plan for Sanitation. We believe that's the best and most equitable way of going. \$22.00 we believe, is a very competitive price. This weekend, I happened to be at a very good friend of mine's house who lives in the Town of Poughkeepsie, who happens to be contracted out to a local carter. It doesn't matter the name, but I asked him what he pays for the local contractor. He even gave me his bill. His bill was \$46.14 for two months, \$23.07. On that bill is a fuel charge of \$.67. It's nothing new by local carters or any shipping company, because the way fuel is nowadays, it's added on. They just keep adding on to the customer. So, \$22.00 is a very, very competitive price, and this is just once per week. He only gets pickup once per week, and top of it, he and his wife is over 70 years old. As senior citizens, they do not generate that much garbage. Sometimes, he doesn't even put it out some weeks because he just doesn't need to. The two-family, three-family is obviously pro-rated by the unit and the price on dumpsters is competitive to the market price. One thing I'd like to say is, the units we do have in the City of Poughkeepsie that we pick up is the Commons, Fox Hill, Hudson Heights and the Piano Factory. The prices vary

because of the amount of dumpsters they have in the complex. So, the less dumpsters they have, the less obviously is the price. Some may be able to get away with a little bit less, some not. But, I can tell you the one thing. The Commons over on Cedar, is probably the best I've ever seen at recycling – they are tremendous. I give them kudos for what they do over there. They have 90 units, I believe and have only one 8-yard dumpster over there. They have tons and tons of toters for recycling. I'll get to that later on, so the idea here is to recycle, recycle, recycle. The guy I told you about gets his garbage and recyclables picked up for \$22.00. Here, in the City of Poughkeepsie is what you get for \$22.00: You're going to get twice per week pick up, you're going to get your recyclables picked up, you're going to get your yard waste picked up, your leaves picked up, your brush picked up if they're tied and bundled, you're going to get your streets swept, you're going to get the downtown all around business district, Main Street picked up, along with the parks, all the cans that are on the streets, in the parks, the dead animals picked up, you're going to get the plowing and salting of all the parking lots. A gentleman said, "Why is Sanitation in parking lots?" Well, we have combined parking maintenance with Sanitation now. Why? Because we have not rehired the maintenance workers in Parking. We only have one maintenance guy. The other one was not rehired, with cutbacks. Now the Sanitation workers are doing that. Not only are they picking up the trash, cleaning it, but they're plowing the sidewalks, parking lots, little lots off the arterial, off the other streets – the ones on Delafield, Corlies. They're all over. They plow that. They maintain that. They also cut grass. Someone mentioned, why are we doing the East/West arterial? You know why we're doing it? Because the City made a deal with the State to maintain it. Now we're stuck with the deal; we made the deal. So, we plow the sidewalks, we plow the roads on East/West from the bridge to Grand Avenue, and the grass is being cut by Sanitation, the garbage is being picked up by Sanitation. They do Rinaldi Blvd., all city-owned properties, Wilbur Blvd. They cut the grass on properties that were taken over by the City for back taxes. They cut the grass on properties with violations; when Corporation Counsel calls up because they need something cut because of violations, they go out and do it. The storms that are popping up now; the windstorms, the freak snowstorms in October – we cannot pick that stuff up without the garbage truck. That's what picked up "Irene." That's what picked up the garbage off the streets from Irene and a lot of the brush. They did, and their manpower. Towns are spending hundreds of thousands of dollars. We're spending virtually only tens of thousands. Very little. I could go on and on about what you get for \$22.00. You get a heck of a lot more than what a contractor can do. Then, they also do the Transfer Station. The Transfer Station is your insurance, just in case the burn plant, for some reason, goes down; and they have gone down. So, where do we dump? We dump in the Transfer Station, put it in the truck and when the burn plant is up and running, we haul it down to the burn plant. That's your insurance policy. In the survey, the guy said you'd be crazy to get rid of the Transfer Station. It's a money making proposition. We already have the permits there; we can make money at the Transfer Station by taking in recyclables, by taking in everybody's garbage.

**Chairwoman Johnson:** Can you go into...with the Sanitation user's fee, there is also the second phase of that. Can you touch on the recycling and the enforcement?

**Bruce Dooris:** By all means. Recycling is...

**Chairwoman Johnson:** How much do we get now in recycling?

**Bruce Dooris:** Zero.

**Chairwoman Johnson:** Zero. What can we get?

**Bruce Dooris:** We can get, I believe, upwards of \$25.00 per ton for recycling. We only recycle 1,100 tons. We believe, through this new program, that we can at least double recycling on our own if we can dedicate manpower we already have to go door to door, go to schools and educate people on recycling. I'll tell you, I'm going to see the manager of The Commons, to see what he does. We're going to promote recycling – how do you do that? It's door to door, putting stickers on containers, all over, mailings, everything. It's easy to recycle now. Recycling is single stream now.

**Chairwoman Johnson:** Can you explain what single stream is?

**Bruce Dooris:** Single stream is that you could put cardboard, paper, plastic, glass, everything together in one container. They pick it up, they mix it and take it to a drop off center where they can now get paid for it.

**Chairwoman Johnson:** Municipalities like Newburgh and Schenectady are getting paid for recycling. That's revenues...

**Bruce Dooris:** A lot of municipalities, not just these, are now getting paid for the recycling. Matter of fact, I just heard, and I won't say who it is, that a recycling center is going to open up here in Poughkeepsie. There's money in recycling now. We took it over to the County on Fulton Street and got zero. I believe they took it to Beacon and got \$25.00 per ton. Recycling is the key to go. In closing, I just want to say that the other one, with the 1.5 bags is \$234.00. The other one, if you use just one half bag more, it's \$312.00. Now you're over the \$264.00 which is what we had. God forbid you use 2.5, then you're way up. So, we believe that this is the most equitable, but we need to recycle. In closing, we were working on Fairview today. They recycle in a clothes hamper and a kitchen garbage can, because they didn't have any bins. We need to either buy bins, or start a program like the other towns, and use a garbage can, put the letter "R" on it and recycle. We can make \$114,000 more by just doubling it from what we do now, less than 15% to 30%. If we go up to 45, we're getting close to \$250,000 in revenue income.

**Chairwoman Johnson:** It's better for the environment...but, we have to move on now.

**Bruce Dooris:** A lot better for the environment. In closing, I just want to say, like I said in the Press Conference, the best present the Mayor can give is the employees here in the City that I represent, for Christmas, is their jobs, to continue to have their jobs January 1<sup>st</sup>. Thank you very much.

**Dr. Cutler - 16 Innis Avenue** – I just want to share something I've been thinking a bit...sometimes we want to have input from the public, and I think this time is crunched to a crisis. When we first speculated on this, we should have had people come forward with these ideas. We'd probably be a lot farther ahead than we are now. But, what I'd like to do is suggest that, had we done all the creative thoughts in trying to collect garbage in many ways, and my whole point was that you're trying to dispose of garbage from a home. Have you considered that every home should have a standard, heavy-duty trash compactor, where you don't have to put out that much? The thing is, I was wondering if the City would help a homeowner who decides to install a compactor, and every home, to install a compactor that was a standard that would meet the test – it wouldn't break down every other week, and assist the homeowner, once they decide how collectively you need to do this. It's not when "Katrina" happens, or another storm happens. You need to consider this almost immediately, or sometime in the very near future that every home has a trash compactor of a standard that can compact garbage at the home level. Reassign your Sanitation workers to service those in the homes, so that they can work efficiently, and that you can dispose of garbage very efficiently, very effectively. Now, if you need an environmental study on that, maybe get started and don't pay anybody millions of dollars to try to do this. You better do as much research as you possibly can. If you come to a crisis, you've got to get creative. If every home needs a compactor, come up with a standard for one, and assist the homeowners with some kind of financial way they decide to do it and a contractor who owns homes in this area assist them in putting them in, or make it a standard that they must put it in, if that's the case. So, if you want creativity, start thinking what you need to do and you won't need to do anything once you get it done. This is just a suggestion. If you need to consider that, maybe you've tried everything else. Try this. I'm done.

**Sean Harden - 36 Glenwood Avenue** – I'm going to say, just over the past few weeks, that looking over all these proposals for trash pickup, that every one of them has pros and cons. For example, the Council's trash plan, the \$22.00 fee for a one-family home is overall a good idea, but how are we going to enforce who pays and who doesn't pay the bill? Are we going to have the "thing" like the water bill where it carries over and the people will cut it off the property taxes? Will there be a list of who pays and who doesn't pay the bill, and not pick up their garbage? That's the thing with the Pay-as-you-Throw plan which is necessarily the same, having pros and cons. But, the pros with that it would be more enforceable because if you don't have the bag, they won't pick up your garbage. The \$3.00 fee might be a little hefty, but people who don't want to do that, will do midnight runs as we heard before. The commercial businesses, go to Fox Hill, the developments off Rinaldi for example, anywhere, just to dump garbage. Someone else said that people come in from other municipalities throughout the county and dump it at their relatives or friend's house in the City and the City still foots the bill for all of it. That's why some of these people have 4 or 5 cans every "delivery" pick up saving their relative or family friend money by doing that. There's really not much else I can say about this, but as a Council, I think everyone should come together. Every meeting, there's arguments against one another. In closing, I'm just going to say is, playing musical chairs isn't going to stop everything. Everyone needs to come together and work

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together to solve this budget crisis, because the garbage is not going away. The problem's going to stay here, regardless of whether you get rid of Sanitation or not. It's just going to stay here. It's not a wise move getting rid of these guys. They do an excellent job, so everyone needs to work together and solve this budget crisis.

**Chairwoman Johnson:** It's 7:30 p.m. We do have another public hearing and the regularly scheduled meeting that we really need to get to. So, now at this time I'm going to conclude the Public Hearing for the 2013 Budget. If we have any students that need their papers signed, please come up now.

Dated: March 1, 2013

I hereby certify that this a true and correct copy of the Minutes of the Public Hearing held on Monday, December 3, 2012 at 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

City Chamberlain