

*A Special Meeting of the 25th Board of Representatives of the City of Stamford will be held Wednesday, November 1, 2000 at 8:00 p.m. in the Legislative Chambers of the Board of Representatives in the Government Center, 888 Washington Boulevard, Stamford, Connecticut.*

# Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 8:10 p.m. President Carmen L. Domonkos read the call of the meeting, which is attached hereto and made a part hereof.

**INVOCATION:** Led by Clerk of the Board Annie M. Summerville.

“Dear Lord, cleanse our hearts and minds of all malice, all hatred and jealousy that might linger here tonight. Let us approach our duties with an open mind and friendliness toward all our fellow board members. Let us not forget that our fellow citizens have placed us on this board, which has grown and developed through sacrifices and labors of many faithful who have gone on before us. Let us quickly recognize that our greatest contribution to the public service will be honesty and integrity and the application of the principle of the golden rule. Amen.”

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG:** Led by President Carmen Domonkos.

**ROLL CALL:** There were thirty members present and ten members absent-excused. See attached attendance sheet. (Note: Reps. Lyons and Blackwell arrived shortly after attendance was taken.)

**MACHINE TEST VOTE:** The machine was in good working order.

**PERSONNEL COMMITTEE** Randall Skigen, Chair  
Ralph Loglisci, Vice Chair  
Meeting: Wednesday, November 1, 2000  
7:00 p.m. - Democratic Caucus Room

Chair Skigen thanked those representatives in attendance. He stated that because next Tuesday, Election Day, is the last day by state law to take up this arbitration award, this was the only available date to meet.

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| 1. P25.089 | REJECTION; of Arbitration Award dated October 11, 2000 between the City of Stamford and the International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) #786.<br>10/19/00 - Submitted by Bill Stover<br>11/1/00 - Favorable Recommendation by Board of Finance | <b>FAILED BY<br/>MACHINE<br/>VOTE (0-29-1)</b><br>(Rep. Gasparrini abstained) |
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Rep. Lyons joined the meeting at this time.

Chair Skigen reported that approximately one year ago, the City reached a tentative agreement with the International Association of Fire Fighters Local #786. That contract was scheduled to run from July 1 of 1999 to June 30, 2001. Because of timing issues, the Board took that up at a regularly scheduled meeting and approved the agreement. Subsequently, leadership took it back to rank and file and it was rejected by the rank and file. The contract was then submitted for arbitration, and the arbitration award was handed down on October 11, 2000 and received by the City on October 13 or 14.

Chair Skigen reported that the contract provides for a 3% wage increase in both the first and second year. It also provides for a uniform allowance increase of \$200 for each union member. The two issues that went to arbitration that have a fiscal impact on what was approved one year ago were:

The contract called for a shift of vacation leave payout instead of coming out of the general operating fund, it would come out of the firefighter's pension fund. When that issue went to arbitration, the union objected to the funds being paid out of the pension and the arbitrators decided in the union's favor on that issue. The cost to the City is estimated at \$61,812 for the loss of that item in the arbitration.

The contract did originally provide that one additional firefighter could take compensatory time on Friday, Saturday and Christmas Day. That issue was put to the arbitrators as well, and the City won on that issue, so that an additional firefighter cannot take the weekends or Christmas Day. The approximate cost savings to the City in not having to bring on additional employees for overtime is \$60,000. So, the contract we are looking at now is approximately \$1,812 more expensive than the one approved a year ago.

Chair Skigen stated there were some other issues that went to arbitration. The City prevailed on five of those issues, as they were set forth in the contract. The union prevailed on two, which were both re-openers to the contract, so they have no fiscal implication. The City will begin negotiation with firefighters in the next month or two for a new contract, because this one will expire in June of next year.

Chair Skigen stated that under State Law, the power of the Board on an arbitration award is to reject the award of the arbitrators. State Statute provides that the rejection must be by 2/3 majority vote of the members present at a regular or special meeting. The procedure that this Board employs on an arbitration award is a motion to reject the arbitrator's award, and by voting no on that motion, you are in essence voting to approve the arbitrator's award. Chair Skigen stated that the City has recommended approval of the award.

The Personnel Committee met this evening, and present were Committee Member Reps. Skigen, Cannady, MacInnis, Boccuzzi, Loglisci, Spandow, Fortunato, Gasparrini and Fedeli. Also present were Mr. Stover and Chief McGrath. The Committee voted 0-8-1 on a motion to reject the contract. Chair Skigen moved to reject the arbitration award. Said motion was seconded.

President Domonkos stated there was a motion and second to reject the arbitration award. President Domonkos stated again that the vote is that if you want to reject the award, vote yes; if you want to approve the award, vote no. The Committee voted to approve, and therefore voted no.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Upon motion duly made and seconded and approved by unanimous voice vote, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

*The proceedings are available on audio tape at the  
Offices of the Board of Representatives.*