

The Special Meeting of the 26th Board of Representatives of the City of Stamford will be held Monday, April 29, 2002 at 8:00 p.m. in the Legislative Chambers of the Board of Representatives in the Government Center, 888 Washington Boulevard, Stamford, Connecticut.

MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING

AGENDA:

Chair Martin called the meeting to order at 10:30 p.m.

Chair Martin read the call of the Special Meeting: I, David R. Martin, President of the 26th Board of Representatives of the City of Stamford, Connecticut, and pursuant to Section C2-10-4 of the Stamford Charter, hereby call a Special Meeting of said Board of Representatives at the following time and place:

Monday, April 29, 2002
8:00 p.m.
Legislative Chambers, 4th Floor
Government Center
888 Washington Boulevard
Stamford, CT 06904-2152

to consider and act upon the following:

1. Operating, Capital, E.G. Brennan Fund, Grants, Police Extra Duty and Marinas Operating Funds, Risk Management Fund, Smith House Fund and WPCA Fund Budgets for the fiscal year 2002/2003, as transmitted by the Board of Finance on April 11, 2002, pursuant to provisions of Section C8-30-7 of the Stamford Charter; and RESOLUTIONS associated therewith.

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG: Led by President David R. Martin

CLERK OF THE BOARD
ANNIE M. SUMMERVILLE

MINORITY LEADER
RALPH F. LOGLISCI

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
Valerie A. Pankosky 977-5032

ROLL CALL: Conducted by Clerk of the Board Annie M. Summerville.
There were thirty-nine members present; Rep. Sherer was excused.

President Martin stated the sole item this evening is the budget. President Martin stated that the Fiscal Committee will give its recommendations by turning through the Budget Book, page by page. Mr. Skigen will note the reductions made by the Board of Finance. These reductions cannot be restored, so this information is just for our understanding.

President Martin stated that if any member wishes to ask questions or move to amend the Fiscal Committee's recommendations, s/he should do so at the time the page is announced. After the department has been reviewed, no motions will be entertained regarding that department.

BUDGET PRESENTATION: Randall Skigen, Chair, Fiscal Committee

Chair Skigen stated the Fiscal Committee has met fifteen times over the past two months to review all of the budgets. Chair Skigen thanked the members of his Committee who made this difficult process much easier. The Committee worked well, considering these are difficult times with difficult decisions to be made. Each member was also on a subcommittee to review a specific part of the budget.

Chair Skigen stated the review would begin on Page 47, with the Office of Administration.

Rep. DeLuca moved to accept the recommendations of the Fiscal Committee. Said motion was seconded.

Rep. O'Neill stated that he will vote against the motion as there are items that some members would like to discuss separately.

Rep. Day stated that the Fiscal Committee worked hard and reviewed this budget thoroughly. Pain-staking detail has gone into this work, and to get into a long extended debate tonight, members on the other side of the aisle will try to restore items and that will provide certain members on his side of the aisle to cut certain items. This might result in the meeting going all night. Since there was tremendous amount of effort and thinking that went into this budget, and given where we are and where we are as a City, Rep. Day feels that Mr. DeLuca's amendment is well thought out and should be given serious consideration.

Rep. Boccuzzi stated that there are a few places in the budget that some people would like to discuss, and while he appreciates the work of the Fiscal Committee, the members on his side of the aisle feel the budget should be reviewed page by page so that members can speak or offer motions to areas of the budget that they are concerned with.

Rep. DeLuca stated that everyone on the Board was notified of every meeting, and several members did show up for meetings. Now, at the last minute and considering that many think the budget is still too high, the cuts made were reasonable. This is being offered only so that some people can restore one or two cuts due to pressure they are under.

Rep. Loglisci moved the question was made and seconded. Said motion was approved by a machine vote of 24-14 (see attached [Vote Record #237](#) for a record of the vote).

The main motion, to accept the Fiscal Committee's recommendations, failed by a machine vote of 18-20-1 (see attached [Vote Record #238](#) for a record of the vote).

Chair Skigen took this opportunity to thank the Clerk and the Administrative Assistant for their support of the Fiscal Committee meetings.

Office of Administration:

Page 47; Director of Administration – No reductions.

Page 51; Office of Policy & Management – No reductions.

Page 55; Grants Administration – No reductions.

Page 59; Assessor – The Fiscal Committee recommends a reduction of \$2,280 on the car allowance line.

Page 61; Board of Assessment Appeals – No reductions.

Page 64; Tax Collection – No reductions.

Page 66; Taxation Services – No reductions.

Page 68; Tax Administration – No reductions.

Page 71; Cashiering – No reductions.

Page 75; Controller – The Board of Finance passed a general budget reduction of \$5,000.

Page 77; Payroll – No reductions.

Page 80; Purchasing – No reductions.

Page 82; Central Services – No reductions.

Page 86; Technology Management Services – The Board of Finance passed a general budget reduction of \$50,000, a reduction to the telephone line of \$5,000. The Fiscal Committee recommends a reduction to the permanent part time line of \$5,000.

Chair Martin announced that Richard Lyons was keeping totals for the Democratic side; Mary Fedeli was keeping totals for the Republican side and the Administrative Assistant

is keeping a running total. The Board of Representatives reductions total \$7,280 and the Department total is now \$708,0321 as reported on the spreadsheet.

Page 94; Public Services Administration – The Board of Finance passed a general budget reduction of \$30,000.

Page 98; Road Maintenance – The Board of Finance passed a general budget reduction of \$10,000, an overtime reduction of \$5,000, a telephone reduction of \$3,000. The Fiscal Committee recommended a 3,000 in the communication utility line.

Page 102; Traffic Maintenance – The Board of Finance passed a \$5,000 reduction to the small tools and replacements line. The Fiscal Committee recommends an additional \$15,000 reduction to that line, and a \$500 reduction to the telephone line.

Page 104; Leaf Collection – No reductions.

Page 106; Snow Removal – The Fiscal Committee has recommended a \$35,000 reduction to the salt and sand line in that budget.

Page 108; Winter Material Removal – The Fiscal Committee has recommended a reduction of \$20,377, bringing that department request to zero.

Page 112; Vehicle Maintenance – The Board of Finance passed a \$10,000 reduction to the vehicle maintenance line. The Fiscal Committee recommends a further \$10,000 reduction to that line. The Board of Finance passed a \$2,000 reduction to the telephone line and a \$15,000 general budget reduction.

Page 114; Gasoline - The Board of Finance passed a \$1,500 reduction to the gasoline line.

Page 116; Transportation Center – No reductions.

Page 120; Park Maintenance - The Board of Finance passed a \$50,000 general budget reduction. The Fiscal Committee has recommended \$1,500 reduction to the telephone line.

Page 125; Terry Conners Rink – No reductions.

Page 126; Terry Conners Rink – No reductions.

Page 130; Transfer Station - The Board of Finance passed a \$25,000 general budget reduction. The Fiscal Committee has recommended a \$1,500 reduction in the telephone line.

Page 133; Recycling – No reductions.

Page 136; Solid Waste Collection – The Board of Finance passed a \$25,000 general budget reduction.

Page 138; Haulaway - The Board of Finance passed a \$50,000 general budget reduction. The Fiscal Committee has recommended a \$30,000 reduction to the Haulaway/Garbage line.

Page 142; Traffic Enforcement – No reductions.

Page 149; Engineering - The Board of Finance passed a \$20,000 general budget reduction. The Fiscal Committee has recommended a \$3,000 reduction to the telephone line.

Page 153; Traffic Engineering - The Board of Finance passed a \$15,000 general budget reduction.

Page 154; Traffic Engineering – No reductions.

Page 157; Building Inspection - The Board of Finance passed a \$30,000 general budget reduction.

Page 162; Land Use Administration – The Fiscal Committee is recommending a \$4,000 reduction to stenographic services.

Page 165; Planning – No reductions.

Page 168; Zoning – No reductions.

Page 170; Zoning Board of Appeals – No reductions.

Page 173 – Environmental Protection Board – No reductions.

Page 175 – Technology – No reductions.

Office of Operations, Administration Bureau:

Page 180; Customer Relations – No reductions.

Page 185; The Board of Finance passed a \$3,000 reduction to the telephone line and a \$5,000 general budget reduction. The Fiscal Committee has recommended a salary line reduction of \$5,446.

Page 188; Parking Facilities – No reductions.

Page 190; Government Center – The Board of Finance passed a \$10,000 general budget reduction.

Page 193; Building Maintenance - The Board of Finance passed a \$40,000 general budget reduction.

Page 194; Building Maintenance – No reductions.

Page 196; Kweskin Theaters - The Board of Finance passed a \$5,000 reduction to building maintenance.

Page 199; Citizens Service Center – No reductions.

Page 201; Leisure Services Administration - The Board of Finance passed a \$50,000 salary line reduction, a \$7,350 reduction to the medical and life insurance line; a \$3,825 reduction to the social security line. The Fiscal Committee has recommended a \$4,500 reduction to the car allowance line and a \$1,500 reduction to the telephone line.

Page 202; Leisure Services Administration – No reductions.

Page 204; Aquatics – No reductions.

Page 206; Project Music – No reductions.

Page 208; Subsidized Programs - The Board of Finance passed a \$5,000 reduction to the performing arts line.

Page 210; Fee Supported Programs - The Board of Finance passed a \$10,000 general budget reduction.

Page 212; Self Sustaining Programs – No reductions.

Page 213; Special Events - The Board of Finance passed a \$15,000 general budget reduction.

Office of Public Safety, Health & Welfare:

Page 217; Public Safety, Health & Welfare Administration – The Fiscal Committee has recommended a \$39,370 reduction in the salary line and a \$3,011 reduction to the social security line.

Rep. Fahan moved to restore the \$39,370 reduction recommended by the Fiscal Committee; said motion was seconded.

The motion was approved by a vote of 22-16 (see attached [Vote Record #239](#) for a record of the vote).

Rep. Fahan moved to restore the \$3,011 reduction in the social security line recommended by the Fiscal Committee; said motion was seconded. The motion passed by a vote of 23-16 (see attached [Vote Record #240](#) for a record of the vote).

The total of cuts recommended on Page 217 are \$162,377.

Page 224-6; Police Department-Wide - The Board of Finance passed a \$75,000 general budget reduction.

Page 228; Police Department Safe Neighborhood Program – No reductions.

Page 230; Police Department Support Services – The Board of Finance passed a \$100,000 cut to the communications maintenance line.

Page 232; Animal Control – No reductions.

Page 233; Harbor Master – No reductions.

Page 237; Emergency Communications Center – No reductions.

Page 241; SEMS – No reductions.

Page 244; Big Five Volunteer Departments – No reductions.

Page 246; Big Five Volunteer-Glenbrook – No reductions.

Page 248; Big Five Volunteer-Belltown – No reductions.

Page 250; Big Five Volunteer-Turn of River – No reductions.

Page 254; Stamford Fire Department – The Board of Finance passed a \$50,000 reduction to the salary line.

Page 255; Stamford Fire Department – No reductions.

Page 256; Stamford Fire Department – No reductions.

Page 258; Alarms Administration – No reductions.

Department of Health & Social Services:

Page 263; Director of Health – No reductions.

Page 265; Laboratory – No reductions.

Page 267; Public School Health Program – No reductions.

Page 269; Private & Parochial School Health Program – No reductions.

Page 271; Community Nursing – No reductions.

Page 274; Inspection Services – No reductions.

Page 275; Liberation Programs – No reductions.

Page 276; Shellfish Commission – No reductions.

Page 282-3; Social Services – No reductions.

Rep. Zelinsky moved to reduce the salary line account by \$10,408 in the position of Social Services Coordinator. Said motion was seconded. Rep. Zelinsky stated that this is an outrage that an employee would receive a 28% salary increase in one year, or \$16,842 in one year. This is an insult to our Stamford taxpayers.

Chair Skigen responded that this increase is a result of a union- and city-negotiated matter due to increased job responsibilities assigned to the position. Almost 11% is due to the settlement of a union contract. If the cut is enacted, most likely the Social Services Coordinator or someone else in the office will lose his/her job. Chair Skigen stated he would oppose this cut.

Rep. Fahan stated he shares Rep. Zelinsky's outrage, however, due to the fact that it is a contractual issue, it appears there is nothing the board can do about it.

The motion failed by a vote of 33-5-1 (see attached [Vote Record #241](#) for a record of the vote).

Office of Legal Affairs:

Page 289-90; Director of Law –

Page 295-6; Human Resources Department –

Page 298; Employee Benefits

Government Services:

Page 304-5; Administration – The Board of Finance passed a \$14,000 reduction to the contracted services line and a \$5,000 overall budget reduction. The Fiscal Committee recommends an additional \$14,000 cut to the contracted services line, a \$5,000 reduction to the deferred compensation line and a \$3,000 to the Mayor's Expense Account line.

Page 306; Professional Organizations – No reductions.

Page 310; Economic Development – The Board of Finance passed a \$10,000 general budget reduction.

Page 313; Board of Representatives – No reductions.

Page 315; Board of Finance – The Board of Finance passed a \$5,000 general budgeted reduction.

Page 316; Board of Ethics – No reductions.

Page 320-21; Town and City Clerk – The Board of Finance passed a \$5,000 general budget reduction.

Page 322; Probate Court – No reductions.

Page 325-6; Registrar of Voters – The Board of Finance passed a \$5,000 general budget reduction.

Page 328; Stamford Partnership – No reductions.

Page 329; Patriotic Observation Commission – No reductions.

Page 330; Stamford Cultural Development Corporation – The Board of Finance passed a \$40,000 general budget reduction. The Fiscal Committee recommends a \$30,000 reduction in the Operating Expense account.

Page 331; Community Centers – No reductions.

Page 333; Summer 2001 Festival – No reductions.

Rep. Zelinsky moved to reduce this item by \$25,000. Said motion was seconded. Chair Martin reported that this account is misnamed, it should be Culture, Crafts & Cuisine.

Rep. Zelinsky stated that the purpose of this project is to bring out of town people into our community for this event. Rep. Zelinsky stated that in today's fiscal situation the City of Stamford taxpayers should not have to subsidize this program. He stated the DSSD, that sponsors the program, should pay for it. The mandate of the DSSD is to encourage involvement in the downtown area, they have a budget of over \$2 million, and they should be able to find \$25,000 to fund this event. Also, the DSSD was recently allowed to increase the amount they assess.

Rep. Skigen stated that although this event is co-sponsored by the DSSD, the City also co-sponsors it and receives equal, if not higher, billing for this event. This event is not

designed to attract people from out of town but designed to bring people into the downtown. It is an economic driver for the City, and the \$25,000 is well spent.

The motion failed by a machine vote of 1-37 (see attached [Vote Record #242](#) for the record of the vote).

Page 333; Stamford Historical Society – The Fiscal Committee has recommended a \$2,500 reduction.

Page 333; Bartlett Arboretum – The Fiscal Committee has recommended a \$5,000 reduction.

Page 333; Park Square West Garage – The Fiscal Committee has recommended a \$3,889 reduction.

Page 333; Keep America Beautiful – The Board of Finance passed a \$50,000 reduction.

Page 333; DSSD Ambassador Program – No reductions.

Page 334; Other Special Revenue Funds – No reductions.

Page 335; Transfer to Debt Service Fund – The Fiscal Committee has recommended a \$25,000 reduction to this line.

Rep. Loglisci moved to increase the Fiscal Committee's reduction of \$25,000 to \$185,744. Said motion was seconded. Rep. Loglisci stated that with the rebonding issue, the City has gained \$785,744. That total amount was placed in this line, and by leaving \$600,000 in that account, a little breathing space will remain and the \$185,744 will provide probably the largest cut this Board has considered in this process.

Rep. Loglisci stated Mr. Hamilton indicated he could withstand the \$185,744 cut in this line. The motion failed by a machine vote of 15-23 (see attached [Vote Record #243](#) for the record of the vote).

Rep. Loglisci moved to increase the Transfer to Debt Service Fund cut to \$100,000 was made and seconded.

Rep. DeLeo stated that we are looking at tax increases here, and if everyone is concerned about that, then something should be taken out of this budget. Rep. Mirkin stated that this is a \$28 million fund, and he is hard-pressed to believe that this cut would put the city in any fiscal danger. He urged all members to support the motion by Mr. Loglisci. Said motion failed by a machine vote of 14-25 (see attached [Vote Record #244](#) for the record of the vote).

Rep. Mirkin moved to increase the Transfer to Debt Service Fund cut to \$50,000 was made and seconded. Rep. Mirkin reminded everyone that Mr. Hamilton stated that the

City could live with this cut. Rep. DeLeo stated that the Board is adding back to the budget and is not removing anything from it. Said motion failed by a machine vote of 14-24 (see attached [Vote Record #245](#) for the record of the vote).

President Martin noted for the record that Rep. Giordano intended to vote NO on this vote, but his vote did not record.

Chair Skigen stated there were three reductions to general lines throughout the budget. The Board of Finance passed an overall reduction to the Medical & Life Insurance line of \$75,000. The Fiscal Committee has recommended a reduction of \$100,000 to the miscellaneous salary lines, and a \$7,650 reduction to the Social Security general lines. This is summarized on the worksheet as being on Page 338, but it is really those salary and medical and life insurance lines throughout the budget.

Page 340; Contingency – This has been eliminated by the Board of Finance.

Page 341; Board of Education – The Board of Finance passed a \$1.6 million reduction. The Fiscal Committee offered no further reductions.

Rep. Boccuzzi stated that he wished to go on record to say that he does not appreciate the remarks made by Mr. Levine in reference to the senior citizens of the City of Stamford. It is impossible for a lot of them to get out and go to a lot of the budget hearings. And, going to the budget hearings would not have done any good anyway. Mr. Levine should remember that the senior citizens have been paying taxes in this town for fifty or fifty-five years, and his remark that they should know where city hall is and should have gone to the budget hearings is uncalled for.

Chair Martin stated that we are at the end of the general fund and called for a total. The tellers concurred that the total of the operating budget, including Board of Education, is \$325,323,376.

Page 349; E. G. Brennan Golf Course – The Fiscal Committee has recommended a reduction in the salary line of \$35,512.

Rep. Giordano moved to restore the \$35,512 cut in the salary line. Said motion was seconded. Rep. DeLuca stated that they have operated for two years with part time cashiers, and this position is not necessary. This just puts an extra burden on the course to raise additional revenues. Rep. DeLuca stated that he tried to cut Mr. Docimo's salary from this budget but this was not effected.

Rep. Biancardi seconded Mr. Giordano's motion, and stated that E. Gaynor Brennan is essential to the vibrancy of west Stamford. This course is very busy and anything that can keep it successful is important. Rep. O'Neill stated that the golf course is self-sustaining and will not impact the tax rates of the residents of the City of Stamford. Further, it should make the golf course more efficient.

Chair Skigen stated that while this is a self-sustaining fund, his notes state that the Superintendent stated that if the cashier's position was added, they would eliminate a laborer position. Rep. Mirkin stated that while not a golfer, if he were he would probably rather have someone attending to the greens than a cashier.

Rep. Giordano stated that the Cashier's Office is being streamlined so they can accept credit cards, and the cashier position is important to this project.

Rep. Loglisci stated that he does not understand how you can streamline a position that never existed.

The motion failed by a machine vote of 16-21-1 (see attached [Vote Record #246](#) for the record of the vote).

Page 352; E. G. Brennan Golf Course – No reductions.

Chair Martin called for a total for the E. G. Brennan Budget. All concurred it was \$983,180.

Page 358; Risk Management – The Board of Finance has passed a \$10,000 general budget reduction.

Page 360; Grants Budget – No reductions.

Page 369; Police Extra Duty – No reductions.

Page 370; Marina Special Revenue Fund – No reductions.

WPCA:

Page 376; WPCA – The Fiscal Committee is recommending a \$85,560 reduction to the salary line. The Committee also recommended a \$6,545 reduction to the social security line.

Page 377; WPCA – No reductions.

Page 379; Process Control– No reductions.

Page 381; Laboratories – No reductions.

Page 383; Sludge Processing and Disposal – No reductions.

Page 384; Building Maintenance – No reductions.

Page 386; Equipment Maintenance – No reductions.

Page 388; Pump Station Maintenance – No reductions.

Page 390; Sanitary Sewer Maintenance – No reductions.

Page 391; Hurricane Barrier Maintenance – No reductions.

Smith House:

Page 399; Administration – No reductions.

Page 400; Administration – No reductions.

Page 402; Social Services – No reductions.

Page 404; Recreation – No reductions.

Page 406; Housekeeping – No reductions.

Page 408; Maintenance – No reductions.

Page 410; Laundry; No reductions.

Page 412; Food Service – No reductions.

Page 415; Nursing Services – No reductions.

Page 416; Physician Services; No reductions.

Page 417; Physical Therapy; No reductions.

It was concurred that the Smith House Fund totals \$10,225,138. The WPCA total is \$9,665,156. Risk Management Fund is \$8,100,482. The Grants, Police Extra Duty and Marinas Operating Fund totals \$14,334,541.

Capital Budget:

Chair Skigen stated there were no reductions to the Capital Budget by the Fiscal Committee.

Rep. Loglisci moved to accept the Capital Budget as recommended by the Fiscal Committee. Said motion was seconded and approved by unanimous voice vote.

Chair Skigen read three [resolutions](#) approving the following budgets:

1. Operating Budget for the Fiscal Year 2002-03 (including Board of Education) totaling \$325,323,376.00.

President Martin stated that approving this resolution would also approve the recommendations of the Fiscal Committee, as amended. Chair Skigen moved the resolution; said motion was seconded and approved by unanimous voice vote.

2. E.G. Brennan Fund, Grants, Police Extra Duty and Marinas Operating Fund for the Fiscal Year 2002-2003 totaling:

	\$983,180.00 - E.G. Brennan Fund
	\$14,334,541.00 - Grants, Police Extra Duty and Marinas Operating
Fund	
	\$8,100,482.00 - Risk Management Fund
	\$10,225,138.00 - Smith House Fund
	\$9,665,156.00 - WPCA Fund

Chair Skigen moved the resolution; said motion was seconded and approved by unanimous voice vote.

3. Capital Budget for the Fiscal Year 2002-2003 totaling \$39,381,000.00.

Chair Skigen moved the resolution; said motion was seconded and approved by unanimous voice vote.

Rep. Mirkin stated that regarding the entire proceeding, right now based on the work of the Board of Representatives, there will be a tax increase a little over 6.1 percent. That includes the contingency being added in of no more than \$4.3 million. There are other issues that could make it higher such as what happens with state revenue, the loss of fees from the alarms registration and assumptions of interest income. Today he spoke to Office of Policy & Management staff, and they advised this does not include a \$2.4 million surplus the City wants to have at year end.

Rep. Mirkin added that after the efforts of many, the Board was not able to do better in terms of a lower tax increase. Rep. Mirkin stated he was also disappointed that many members of the Fiscal Committee decided not to approve recommendations that the Committee worked diligently, long and hard on. He was also disappointed that the majority was not willing to support another \$25,000 cut to the debt service fund to at least give the taxpayers back what we took away by adding back the position in the Department of Health.

Rep. DeLuca stated the Board would be remiss if it did not extend its thanks to Dena Diorio and her staff for attending every meeting and the deliberations, for answering all questions and requests. They did a fantastic job.

ADJOURNMENT: Upon motion duly made and seconded and approved by unanimous voice vote, the meeting was adjourned at 12:37 a.m.

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