

The Special Meeting of the 26th Board of Representatives of the City of Stamford will be held Monday, April 28, 2003 at 8:00 p.m. in the Legislative Chambers of the Board of Representatives in the Government Center, 888 Washington Boulevard, Stamford, Connecticut.

Minutes

CALL TO ORDER: By President of the Board David R. Martin. President Martin read the call of the 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 28, 2003
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 the Marina Fund, Risk Management Fund, Smith House Special Fund Budget and WPCA Fund Budgets for the fiscal year 2003/2004, as transmitted by the Board of Finance on April 10, 2003, pursuant to provisions of Section C8-30-7 of the Stamford Charter; and RESOLUTIONS associated therewith.”

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 p.m.

INVOCATION: By Rep. Brian O’Neill

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

ROLL CALL: Conducted by Clerk of the Board Annie M. Summerville. There were thirty-nine members present and voting. Excused was Rep. Adams. Attached is the [attendance sheet](#).

Chair Martin stated that he had three areas of communication pertaining to the budget. As many know, he wrote a memo to Thomas Cassone, Director of Legal Affairs, where he stated he felt the actions of the Board of Finance were in violation of the charter with regard to backyard garbage pickup. His letter asked whether the Board should ignore those cuts since they were invalid. Mr. Cassone wrote back and stated that he was probably right, but ignoring those cuts were not necessary at this time. Although the intent of the Board of Finance was to eliminate backyard garbage pickup, they in fact cut the transfer station and contracted services for recycling. As a result, they did not actually cut garbage pickup.

Chair Martin stated that in further conversations with the Mayor, Tom Hamilton and Thomas Cassone, the cuts before the Board tonight do not in fact cut backyard garbage pick up. The Mayor and Tom Hamilton and Tim Curtin do have a problem with recycling, and it is likely there will be a supplemental appropriation for some of those items cut by the Board of Finance. The Board of Finance is fully aware of this for when it sets the mill rate.

Chair Martin stated that occasionally members of the Board ask if they can make contingent cuts. This issue has risen recently with regard to the Board of Education. Chair Martin stated he received an opinion from Tom Cassone as well as from the Board of Education's attorney, and the bottom line is that the Board cannot make contingent cuts.

Chair Martin stated that he has had extensive discussions with Mr. Hamilton with regard to issues raised regarding the integrity of the budget process given the number of transfers and the amount of transfers. Mr. Hamilton has agreed to provide a quarterly report to the Fiscal Committee regarding the administrative transfers taking place.

BUDGET PRESENTATION: Randall Skigen, Chair, Fiscal Committee

Chair Skigen began by thanking his committee: Reps. Cannady, DeLuca, DePina, Fedeli, Figueroa, Giordano, Hunter, Loglisci and Mirkin. He also thanked the Board Office, Clerk of the Board Annie Summerville, who attended all but one of the Committee's meetings.

Chair Skigen reported that the Fiscal Committee met on the following dates: March 10, 2003; March 12, 2003; March 18, 2003; March 20, 2003; March 24, 2003; March 31, 2003; April 1, 2003, April 3, 2003; April 10, 2003; April 14, 2003; April 17, 2003; April 19, 2003; April 24, 2003 and tonight, April 28, 2003. Lists of attendance are available in the Board Office and on the website.

Chair Skigen reported that after long deliberations, made a series of recommended cuts. Everyone has a copy of them tonight.

President Martin stated that the recommended cuts of the Fiscal Committee would be a rolling motion. Chair Skigen moved all of the operating budget cuts. Said motion was seconded.

Operating Budget:

Rep. Shapiro moved for a 1% across the board cut (excluding debt service); said motion was seconded. Rep. Shapiro stated that he believes government's essential purpose is to protect its citizens and provide them with equal opportunities. We do that primarily in this town through education. Rep. Shapiro stated that in tough times, we must support these essential functions. Unfortunately, that means scaling back in other areas. Rep. Shapiro stated that it is only fair to the taxpayer that we show restraint and seriousness in these difficult times. There are a lot of valuable programs, and to single out programs does result in fair and equitable cuts. Since all of these programs benefit in good times, they should share the burden in bad times. Rep. Shapiro proposed a 1% across the board cut on the city side of the budget (excepting the debt service portion).

Rep. O'Neill stated that the 1% cut be effective for all departments except for the the Department of Health as well as debt service, medical, life and insurance fund as well as payments to the pension funds. Rep. Shapiro accepted that amendment to his motion.

Rep. Lyons stated, with all due respect to the maker of the motion, that the Fiscal Committee spent numerous hours pouring through the budget. It is a very difficult and lean fiscal year, both on the operating and capital sides. Having examined every line of every page, he assures the rest of the Board that if the Committee thought there was extra savings that would alleviate the projected tax increases, it would have been undertaken long before 2:30 a.m. on Friday morning. Rep. Lyons stated he understands and respects the intent, but he can assure the Board that some of these departments have already had their overtime, supplies, telephone and conferences and training reduced to below the 2001-02 historical expenditures, would be impacted financially to a level that could cause paralysis.

Rep. Lyons said that while the intention is noble, he urges his colleagues to understand the magnitude of what the 1% would do to the departments that have already been impacted by cuts.

The motion failed by a machine vote of 12-27-0 (Reps. Browne, Day, DeLeo, Esposito, Greenberg, Imbrogno, McDermott, Mirkin, Morrow, O'Neill, Pavia and Shapiro in favor). ([See Vote Record No. 384.](#))

President Martin stated that this will be a rolling motion. The president will not accept motions after the department has been reviewed.

Chair Skigen stated that the budget begins on Page 37.

Office of Administration

Page 40 – no recommended cuts

Page 45 – The Fiscal Committee made the following recommended cuts: \$3,000 to the permanent part time line; \$230 to the social security line; \$4,000 to the professional consultant line; and \$2,000 to office supplies and expenses.

Page 49 – no recommended cuts

Page 52 – The Fiscal Committee made the following recommended cuts: \$1,000 to overtime, \$77 to social security; \$500 to conferences and training; \$2,000 to copying and printing.

Page 54 – no recommended cuts

Page 56 – The Fiscal Committee made the following recommended cuts: \$1,000 to overtime; \$77 to social security; \$3,000 to postage; and \$500 to office supplies and expenses

Page 58 – The Fiscal Committee made the following recommended cuts: \$3,000 to seasonal; \$2,000 to overtime; \$383 to social security; \$1,000 to telephone

Page 60 – no recommended cuts

Page 63 - The Fiscal Committee made the following recommended cuts: \$2,000 to overtime; \$153 to social security; \$850 to conferences and training; \$2,000 to office supplies and expenses

Page 66 - The Fiscal Committee made the following recommended cuts: \$5,000 to seasonal; \$3,050 to overtime; \$616 to social security; \$3,500 to postage; \$1,500 to office supplies and expenses

Page 68 - The Fiscal Committee made the following recommended cuts: \$1,605 to overtime; \$1,000 to office supplies and expenses; \$123 to social security

Page 69 – No recommended cuts

Page 70 – No recommended cuts

Page 74 - The Fiscal Committee made the following recommended cuts: \$25,000 to salaries; \$1,913 to social security; \$3,000 to telephone

Page 75 – No recommended cuts

Office of Operations:

Page 82 - The Fiscal Committee made the following recommended cuts: \$1,000 to conferences and training; \$3,500 to building maintenance; \$2,000 to grounds maintenance

Page 87 - The Fiscal Committee made the following recommended cuts: \$38,375 to salaries; \$4,300 to overtime; \$3,265 to social security; \$2,500 to conferences and training; \$8,000 to supplies-land; \$3,000 to small tools and replacements

Page 88 – No recommended cuts

Page 91 - The Fiscal Committee made the following recommended cuts: \$36,800 to salaries; \$2,815 to social security; \$5,000 to small tools; \$1,400 to office supplies and expenses

Page 94 - The Fiscal Committee made the following recommended cuts: \$20,000 to overtime; \$2,500 to small tools and replacements; \$1,530 to social security

Rep. Loglisci moved to cut \$240,000 from the Leaf pickup account; said motion was seconded.

Rep. DeLuca stated he is opposed to cutting this. The taxpayer is facing a double digit tax increase, and some people have landscapers that will charge more to bag the leaves.

Rep. Zelinsky stated that it is traditional in our community to have this service, and it would be hard for elderly people to bag their leaves. He urged his colleagues to vote against this recommendation.

Rep. Mirkin stated he is against it. In reality, most people would just push them to the curb and as the wind came they would blow throughout the neighborhood and can cause safety hazards. When winter comes, this could affect plowing the streets. Also the costs for some individuals with larger pieces of property could be onerous. Rep. Mirkin urged his colleagues to vote against this.

Rep. Lyons stated that in Committee, it was inferred that a lot of people with landscaping services could quickly deploy this new system of bagging leaves. Rep. Lyons stated that the average homeowner, much like municipalities, paid a lot more this year to have their driveways plowed and their sidewalks cleared and budgets set aside for landscaping or for yard maintenance are quite decimated – just as the city’s snow removal account is.

Rep. Shapiro stated he agrees that this is a valuable service, but if we are going to take this budget in all seriousness and try to reduce the tax burden, this should be an unfortunate casualty. Rep. Shapiro stated that he will support Mr. Loglisci’s motion, that the Board should focus on the essential services that cities provide, and he doesn’t see anywhere in the constitution a right to leaf collection.

Rep. Boccuzzi stated that the system the city uses for picking up leaves would not work with bags.

Rep. Loglisci stated that he was told by the Operations Committee that the savings that could be achieved by bagging the leaves would be \$240,000.

Rep. DeLeo moved the question. Said motion was seconded and approved by a machine vote of 36-3-0 (See [Vote Record No. 385](#)).

The motion to cut \$240,000 from the budget reduction line for leaf collection failed by a machine vote of 4-35-0. (Reps. Giordano, Loglisci, O'Neill and Shapiro voting in favor.) (See [Vote Record No. 386](#).)

Rep. Zelinsky stated that on Page 94, last year Official Notices increased from \$4,000 to \$22,000. Chair Skigen stated that this item was cut by \$18,000 by the Board of Finance.

Page 95 - The Fiscal Committee made the following recommended cuts: \$2,000 to supplies-land; \$30,000 to salt and sand

Page 96 – No recommended cuts

Page 99 - The Fiscal Committee made the following recommended cuts: \$2,000 reduction to conferences and training

Page 100 – No recommended cuts

Page 101 – No recommended cuts

Page 105 - The Fiscal Committee made the following recommended cuts: \$10,000 to seasonal; \$10,000 to overtime; \$1,530 to social security; \$4,000 to conferences and training; \$2,200 to equipment rental; \$1,759 to telephone; \$5,000 to supplies-land

Page 106 - The Fiscal Committee made the following recommended cuts: \$5,000 to grounds maintenance; \$2,000 to equipment maintenance

Page 109 – The Fiscal Committee made the following recommended cuts: \$5,000 to seasonal; \$383 to social security

Page 110 - The Fiscal Committee made the following recommended cuts: \$3,000 to program services

Page 114 - The Fiscal Committee made the following recommended cuts: \$1,700 to copying and printing; \$8,000 to building maintenance

Page 115 – No recommended cuts

Page 117 – The Fiscal Committee made the following recommended cuts: \$2,000 to copying and printing

Page 120 – No recommended cuts by the Fiscal Committee

Rep. O'Neill moved to cut \$20,000 in the Contracted Services line in Recycling; said motion was seconded.

Rep. O'Neill stated that in keeping with the fiscal prudence the Board is attempting to maintain, Rep. O'Neill felt a \$20,000 cut would not adversely affect this department.

Chair Skigen stated that the Board of Finance has reduced contracted services by \$722,250, which basically would eliminate recycling pick up from October 1st on. The recycling stations would remain open.

Rep. Lyons stated that if the contract calls for these payments to be made on a regular cycle, I believe this line is fixed based upon the contract.

The motion to reduce the contracted services line by \$20,000 failed by a machine vote of 4-35-0. (Reps. Browne, Nowakowski, O'Neill and Zelinsky in favor.) (See [Vote Record No. 387.](#))

Page 122 – No recommended cuts

Page 125 - The Fiscal Committee made the following recommended cuts: \$1,500 to overtime; \$115 to social security; \$1,000 to telephone

Page 126 - The Fiscal Committee made the following recommended cuts: \$40,000 to fireworks

Page 133 – The Fiscal Committee made the following recommended cuts: \$2,540 to seasonal; \$3,000 to overtime; \$424 to social security; \$1,500 to telephone

Rep. Zelinsky asked why the committee didn't recommend cuts to conferences and training. Chair Skigen responded that last year the Mayor centralized all of conferences and training under his budget. This year, it was both in his budget and disbursed throughout the departments. The Committee is recommending a significant cut to the monies in his budget, but in the engineering department as well as some other departments, these conferences are required in order to maintain licenses or certifications.

Page 135 - The Fiscal Committee made the following recommended cuts: \$3,000 to overtime; \$230 to social security; \$1,500 to telephone; \$1,500 to small tools and replacements

Page 138 - The Fiscal Committee made the following recommended cuts: \$4,000 to overtime; \$306 to social security; \$1,000 to telephone; \$1,500 to office supplies and expenses

Page 142 – No recommended cuts

Page 145 – No recommended cuts

Page 147 – No recommended cuts

Page 149 – No recommended cuts

Page 152 – The Fiscal Committee made the following recommended cuts: \$1,500 to overtime; \$115 to social security; \$1,500 to office supplies and expenses

Page 154 – The Fiscal Committee made the following recommended cuts: \$500 to overtime; \$38 to social security; \$1,500 to office supplies and expenses

Page 160 – The Fiscal Committee made the following recommended cuts: \$2,500 to overtime; \$191 to social security; \$918 to equipment rental; \$3,000 to office supplies and expenses

Page 162 – The Fiscal Committee made the following recommended cuts: \$4,500 to electric utility

Page 164 – No recommended cuts

Page 166 – The Fiscal Committee made the following recommended cuts: \$5,000 to overtime; \$383 to social security

Page 167 – No recommended cuts

Page 169 – No recommended cuts

Page 171 – No recommended cuts

Page 173 – The Fiscal Committee made the following recommended cuts: \$3,000 to overtime; \$230 to social security; \$3,000 to copying and printing

Page 175 – No recommended cuts

Page 177 – No recommended cuts

Page 179 – No recommended cuts

Page 181 – No recommended cuts

Page 183 – The Fiscal Committee made the following recommended cuts: \$4,500 to recreation supplies

Public Safety, Health & Welfare:

Page 187 – No recommended cuts

Page 193 – The Fiscal Committee made the following recommended cuts: \$25,000 to overtime; \$218 to social security

Page 194 – No recommended cuts

Page 195 – No recommended cuts

Page 197 – No recommended cuts

Page 199 – No recommended cuts

Page 201 – The Fiscal Committee made the following recommended cuts: \$800 to telephone

Page 202 – The Fiscal Committee made the following recommended cuts: \$300 to gasoline; \$150 to small tools and replacement

Page 206 – The Fiscal Committee made the following recommended cuts: \$13,000 to overtime; \$995 to social security

Page 209 – No recommended cuts

Page 213 – No recommended cuts

Page 215 – The Fiscal Committee made the following recommended cuts: \$4,000 to overtime; \$58 to social security

Page 217 – The Fiscal Committee made the following recommended cuts: \$4,000 to overtime; \$58 to social security

Page 219 – The Fiscal Committee made the following recommended cuts: \$8,000 to overtime; \$116 to social security

Page 225 – The Fiscal Committee made the following recommended cuts:
\$20,000 to overtime; \$197 to social security
Page 226 – No recommended cuts
Page 227 – No recommended cuts
Page 233 – No recommended cuts
Page 235 – No recommended cuts
Page 237 – No recommended cuts
Page 239 – No recommended cuts
Page 241 – No recommended cuts
Page 243 – No recommended cuts
Page 244 – No recommended cuts
Page 245 – No recommended cuts
Page 249 – No recommended cuts
Page 250 – No recommended cuts

Office of Legal Affairs:

Page 255 – No recommended cuts
Page 256 – No recommended cuts
Page 259 – The Fiscal Committee made the following recommended cuts:
\$1,500 to overtime; \$115 to social security
Page 260 – No recommended cuts
Page 262 - The Fiscal Committee made the following recommended cuts:
\$12,000 to labor contract estimate

Mayor's Office & Non-city Agencies:

Page 267 – The Fiscal Committee made the following recommended cuts:
\$22,500 general budget reduction; \$1,500 to Mayor's Expense Account; \$1,500
to conferences and training
Page 268 – No recommended cuts
Page 269 – The Fiscal Committee made the following recommended cuts:
\$35,000 to education, training and certification
Page 271 – The Fiscal Committee made the following recommended cuts:
\$20,000 to professional consultants; \$10,000 to contracted services; \$2,000 to
economic development expense
Page 274 – The Fiscal Committee made the following recommended cuts:
\$20,000 general budget reduction; \$175 to conferences and training
Page 276 – The Fiscal Committee made the following recommended cuts:
\$65,000 to professional consultant
Page 277 – No recommended cuts
Page 280 – No recommended cuts
Page 281 – No recommended cuts
Page 282 – No recommended cuts
Page 285 – No recommended cuts

Page 288 – The Fiscal Committee made the following recommended cuts:

\$17,000 general budget reduction

Page 289 – No recommended cuts

Page 290 – The Fiscal Committee made the following recommended cuts:

\$5,000 to cultural grant line

Page 292 – No recommended cuts

Page 293 - The Fiscal Committee made the following recommended cuts:

\$2,500 general budget reduction

Page 294 – The Fiscal Committee made the following recommended cuts:

\$15,000 to Stamford Museum & Nature Center; \$2,500 to Stamford Historical Society; \$5,000 to Barteltt Arboretum

Rep. Zelinsky moved to cut the Culture, Crafts & Cuisine account of the remaining balance of \$8,000. Said motion was not seconded.

Rep. Zelinsky moved to cut the Ambassador's Program by \$68,000; said motion was seconded.

Rep. Zelinsky stated that he is not happy about eliminating jobs, but with these tough economic times he doesn't feel we need this program, especially since the ambassador program for the parks was eliminated. Rep. Zelinsky stated that Stamford has an outstanding police department, and these ambassadors are helpful for giving directions and to be the eyes and ears of the police department. Rep. Zelinsky stated that the police department really doesn't need the ambassadors to be their eyes and ears. He also doesn't feel the Stamford taxpayers should have to pay for this luxury. Rep. Zelinsky urged his colleagues to support this cut.

Rep. Loglisci stated that quite often the police are too busy to deal with the issues the ambassadors deal with. The ambassadors are also trained in life-saving techniques. They guide people and make people feel secure. Rep. Loglisci feels that this program has done a lot for the City. He feels it will be hard to replace it if the program is cut.

Rep. DeLuca stated that about two years ago the ambassadors saved someone's life. They plan a vital part in the City.

Rep. Lyons stated that, as the Chair of Public Safety & Health, that if you had to pay for this coverage by the municipal police force, you would see patrols deferred from other neighborhoods and we would also see increased overtime costs. The value that this provides back to us, the \$75,000 is well spent. In addition, you can always see these ambassadors helping the commuters. This program keeps the downtown area safe and economically active.

The motion to reduce the ambassador program line by \$68,000 failed by a machine vote of 4-34-1. (Reps. Figueroa, Nowakowski, White and Zelinsky voting in favor.) (See [Vote Record No. 388.](#))

Rep. White moved to restore the \$15,000 recommended cut to the Stamford Museum; said motion was seconded.

Rep. White stated that this group didn't get cut much percentage wise as other functions, but they have always operated on a shoestring budget. Even though the cut is small, it will affect them a lot.

The motion to restore the cut to the Stamford Museum and Nature Center failed by a machine vote of 4-32-0. (Reps. Benyus, Loglisci, O'Neill and White voting in favor.) (See [Vote Record No. 389.](#))

Rep. White moved to restore the \$5,000 cut made to the Bartlett Arboretum. There was no second.

Rep. O'Neill moved to restore the \$2,500 recommended cut to the Historic Society; said motion was seconded by Rep. Loglisci.

Rep. O'Neill stated that the Historical Society has been experiencing hard times. They are the keeper of the historic collection for the City, and Rep. O'Neill suggests we support them by becoming members as well as by restoring these funds.

The motion to restore the \$2,500 cut to the Historic Society failed by a machine vote of 10-28-0. (Reps. Benyus, Browne, Day, Esposito, Giordano, Imbrogno, Loglisci, O'Neill, Pavia and White in favor.) (See [Vote Record No. 390.](#))

Page 295 – No recommended cuts

Page 296 – No recommended cuts

Page 300 – The full amount has been cut by the Board of Finance.

Page 301 – The Fiscal Committee made the following recommended cuts:

\$200,000 to the Board of Education line

President Martin stated that Mr. White and Ms. Clear are leaving the floor. The President stated he would also abstain as his wife is seeking employment with the Board of Education. The President turned the chair over to Clerk of the Board Annie Summerville.

Chair Skigen moved the Committee recommended a \$200,000 cut to the Board of Education budget; said motion was seconded by Rep. Boccuzzi.

Rep. Boccuzzi moved that the Board of Education budget be reduced by an additional \$300,000, making the total reduction \$500,000. Said motion was seconded by several members.

Rep. Loglisci stated that he had recommended the original \$200,000 cut, because he felt that it was the correct amount to cut on top of the \$3.7 million that the Board of Finance cut. The Board of Representatives has no control over where the Board of Education makes its cuts, and Rep. Loglisci fears that additional cuts will fall on the classroom, and students will get hurt. He also stated he fears there are a lot of programs that are going to be decimated already, and he believes this is the wrong item to cut when there are other items that no one wants to cut. Rep. Loglisci feels that education is a basic service and that \$200,000 is sufficient.

Rep. O'Neill stated he concurs with Rep. Loglisci. While we are facing tough times, this impact on the classroom will make a significant difference to many of our kids, as far as the ELP programs and special education programs that will slow the growth of progress toward better CAPT tests. An additional \$300,000 will be too deep a cut at this time. Rep. O'Neill stated that he admits that greater efficiencies have to be brought to bear on the Board of Education, however cutting this funding is not the appropriate action.

Rep. DeLuca stated that he agrees with Mr. Boccuzzi's additional cut. This will not have a dramatic impact on the Board of Education, and it may force them to be more cognizant of what they are doing, to get their act in order. Rep. DeLuca stated he hopes that they don't take it out on the kids. Rep. DeLuca stated that with the \$300,000 additional cut, they are still getting 6.6% over and above what they got last year, which is a significant increase. Rep. DeLuca hopes they take the funds from other areas, such as central staff or the overabundance of assistant principals.

Rep. Esposito stated that 25 years ago he and Mr. DeLuca were on opposite sides of the aisle battling against each other on this issue. This is the first time in all those years that he will support an increase in the cut to the Board of Education. Rep. Esposito stated that he fears that Mr. Loglisci's prophecy may come true – that the cuts will take place in teachers and classroom activities. But, as part of the anger he has toward the Board of Education, is because that is exactly what they think. The first thing they do is cut teachers. He can't believe that out of a \$181 million budget that an extra \$200-\$300,000 has to come out of teachers.

Rep. Esposito stated that when you see the top paid officials listed in the Advocate each year, a large number of them are administrators in the Board of Education. He said he looks for voluntary pay freezes among the administration, or some of them retire. We do have highly paid administrators and a highly paid superintendent, and maybe we can look to those areas to cut. Rep. Esposito

stated that his vote is against this budget, and his dissatisfaction with the job the administration is doing and the job the Board of Education is doing in monitoring the administration. Rep. Esposito states he hopes that we get their attention, and if we don't get their attention with this, something else will have to be tried next year.

Rep. Boccuzzi stated that \$200,000 is practically nothing for the Board of Education. Rep. Boccuzzi stated he hears the same story all the time – if you cut them, the children will be affected, there will not be any paper nor pencils. This is the problem. The Board of Education uses that as a crutch. If they sat down, they could make cuts without affecting the children, without affecting supplies. Rep. Boccuzzi stated he recalls when we approved the teachers' contract. He said he was against the teachers' contract; he said at that time that it was too much money, and he said they told him at that time that they will take care of it in their budget. They gave the teachers raises and then they laid them off. Rep. Boccuzzi stated that \$500,000 to their budget is practically no money at all.

Rep. Boccuzzi stated that we keep hearing that the Board of Finance cut them \$3.7 million, but it is not a cut, it is a cut to their wish list – it is a 6% increase over what they had last year. Rep. Boccuzzi stated it is about time for the Board of Education to look elsewhere for funds besides teachers. If they do cut teachers, he feels the PTOs should fight. For example, do they need five assistant principals in the school? Rep. Boccuzzi urged his colleagues to support the \$500,000 cut.

Rep. Hunter stated that the total amount of the budget is \$180,000,000, and of that 2% would be \$3.6 million. Rep. Hunter added that we all know that budgets are estimates, and hopefully they are reasonable and accurate estimates. In this case, the Board of Finance went over the process and procedures of the Board of Education's fiscal policies, and they have pages and pages of errors. We, as a board, are prohibited by state law from imposing any changes or any restrictions or encumbrances over the Board of Education budget. Therefore, what we give them is totally beyond our control. The budget that the Board of Education submitted provides no assurance of fiscal responsibility. Rep. Hunter proposed that we reduce the Board of Education budget, and bring it more in line with other budget cuts. We are not talking about a cut, but in fact restraining a 6% increase. If we do that, the Board of Education will be faced with two choices. First, it can cut teachers and programs, an action that is the most despicable, indefensible and damaging to our children. Or, they can control spending in other areas. Rep. Hunter added that it is time to stop giving over half of our taxes to the school administration that in the past year, after spending \$34 million on non-salary items, ran out of money for textbooks and school supplies. The education of our children is one of our greatest responsibilities. We must hold our educators to the same high standards of prudence and fiscal responsibility that we impose on the administration and other entities that come before the Board asking for taxpayer money. Rep. Hunter is in favor of the \$500,000 cut.

Rep. Fahan stated that he commends Rep. Hunter on his efforts. He feels that the Board of Education understands that they need to bring some transparency to their budget. Rep. Fahan stated that he sees this as not only a local issue but also a state issue, and certainly, if our state legislators will hear him, he urges them to change the formula so that we get higher state reimbursements for the Board of Education in Stamford. This is certainly part of the problem. Rep. Fahan stated he is not for the cut in that he doesn't know what purpose it really serves. It is not going to give any more of a message to the Board of Education about what it should or should not do. Certainly, there are structural changes that could be looked at down the line. The Board needs to show that it is investing in our community, and the Board of Education is an integral part of that. He is not hearing a rationale here tonight why we should be cutting additional funds. He said he will accept the Fiscal Committee's recommendations in the best interests of the City of Stamford. This is not just about the Board of Education, it is about housing prices, individuals staying in our community and individuals who want to move into our community.

Rep. Browne stated that he supports the additional cut. Even after the proposed cuts, the 6% increase represents an increase of almost twice the cost of living. In this current economic environment, this is an aggressive increase. Rep. Browne stated that the current crisis is a failure of the current administrators of the school system. He voted against the administrators' contract because at the time he believed that the administrators were being overpaid for the value that they were bringing to the school system. He wants his confidence in their ability to manage the school system increased before he will vote on additional increases.

Rep. Day stated that we are talking about less than 1/3 of 1% of the amount being requested. Rep. Day stated he is one of the strongest supporters of our education system, including the teachers' contract. Rep. Day stated he found the administrators' contract to be somewhat of an offense, giving the circumstances the city faced. The recommended increase in cuts represents barely more than two of these highly-paid administrators. Rep. Day stated this is not about being for or against education; everyone on the Board is strongly supportive of our education system. Rep. Day stated he has a great deal of respect for the people on the Board of Education, but we have to get our arms around this situation and get the dollars focused in the classroom. Rep. Day stated that members of the Fiscal Committee and the Board of Representatives have spent untold hours searching for \$1,000 here and \$2,000 there, and agonizing over every aspect of every program on the city side of this budget. What we are talking about here is not asking a lot, and we are not in any danger of doing any irreparable harm.

Rep. Day stated that this will ultimately be better for our education, as it is one more step in the process of coming to grips with the fundamental problems we have.

Rep. Loglisci stated that the real problem here is that there is a lot of anger against the Board of Education over last year's problem. The City asked for roughly the same amount for workers' compensation and insurance claims as the Board of Education did. Because there was a contingency fund for the City, no one seemed that outraged. If you look at what Stamford spends per student, it is in line with what other communities in the area spend. This figure does not indicate we are wasting money unless all the other districts are also wasting money. The real problem is 3% support from the State versus up to 60% support from the state for most big cities. That is the problem, and if we don't do something about getting money from the State, we are never going to solve this problem. The whole school system will descend until we are at New Haven's or Hartford's level, and the state will then rush in and give us money because we have major problems.

Rep. Loglisci stated that the administrators' contract last year was onerous, and the timing was bad, but he doesn't believe we should be vindictive. \$300,000 is not going to change our budget situation. They are already cut \$3.9 million from their request, and he will not vote for a larger cut.

Rep. Skigen stated that he did not support the \$200,000 cut in Committee, and he is prepared to support it tonight, even though he thinks it is probably ill-advised. The reason he believes it is ill-advised is that he believes the Board of Finance, in making its cuts, did a particularly shoddy job in identifying areas within the Board of Education budget to cut. The Fiscal Committee did a much better job in identifying areas to be cut, however, when he looks at the \$3.7 million cut made by the Board of Finance, he can't get to that number. The Fiscal Committee identified areas such as the alternate high school, which realistically is probably not going to go forward this year, and a number of other areas that were realistic. But, the Board of Finance's proposed cuts for the Board of Education, he believes to the tune of about \$1.5 million are unrealistic, unachievable and/or foolish.

Rep. Skigen stated that cutting summer school so that 1st, 2nd and 3rd graders won't have a summer school option will have an impact on our system for many years to come, and he hopes that the Board of Education does not go along with that recommendation. He stated he doesn't know what \$600,000 for "increased productivity of a stabilized work force" means, but it certainly means nothing other than teachers are here longer so they teach better. Well, to get money out of that you need to have them teach more kids, which means class sizes will grow. Rep. Skigen stated there were a lot of things on the Board of Finance list of recommended cuts that don't make a lot of sense.

Rep. Skigen stated that based on the good faith efforts of the Fiscal Committee, he will support the \$200,000 cut, but he cannot see cutting another \$300,000 from this budget.

Rep. Mirkin moved the question. Said motion was seconded and approved by unanimous voice vote.

Acting President Summerville stated that there are 36 members present. The motion on the floor is to cut a total of \$500,000 from the Board of Education budget. The motion passed by a machine vote of 18-17-0. (Reps. Benyus, Blackwell, Cannady, DeLeo, DePina, Fahan, Figueroa, Giordano, Imbrogno, Loglisci, McCullen, Mitchell, Nowakowski, O'Neill, Shapiro, Skigen and Summerville opposed; Rep. Zelinsky not voting.) (See [Vote Record No. 391.](#))

President Martin returned to take over as Chair of the meeting. Reps. White and Clear returned to the floor.

Rep. O'Neill moved for a five-minute break; said motion was seconded by Rep. Giordano. The motion failed by a machine vote of 5-30-0. (See [Vote Record No. 392.](#))

Page 312 – No recommended cuts

Page 313 – No recommended cuts

Page 316 – No recommended cuts

Page 319 – No recommended cuts

Page 324 – The Fiscal Committee made the following recommended cuts: \$75,000 to summer youth recreation grants. Chair Skigen noted that this grant has been cut by the state.

Page 325 – No recommended cuts

Page 326 – No recommended cuts

Page 327 – No recommended cuts

Page 328 – No recommended cuts

Page 329 – No recommended cuts

Page 333 - The Fiscal Committee made the following recommended cuts: \$5,000 to grounds maintenance

Page 339 - The Fiscal Committee made the following recommended cuts: \$3,000 to overtime; \$238 to social security; \$2,000 to conferences and training

Peter Privitera announced that all social security cuts in this area will be reflected on this page. The total social security cut is \$6,116.

Page 340 – The Fiscal Committee made the following recommended cuts: \$120,000 to miscellaneous contingency

Page 341 – No recommended cuts

Page 342 – The Fiscal Committee made the following recommended cuts: \$42,020 to salaries; \$6,387 to overtime

Page 344 – The Fiscal Committee made the following recommended cuts: \$2,000 to overtime

Page 346 - The Fiscal Committee made the following recommended cuts:
\$3,000 to overtime

Page 347 – No recommended cuts

Page 349 – The Fiscal Committee made the following recommended cuts:
\$3,000 to overtime

Page 351 – The Fiscal Committee made the following recommended cuts:
\$7,500 to salaries; \$3,000 to overtime

Page 353 – The Fiscal Committee made the following recommended cuts:
\$10,000 to overtime; \$5,000 to facilities maintenance STP

Page 354 – The Fiscal Committee made the following recommended cuts:
\$5,000 to equipment maintenance

Smith House:

Page 360 – No recommended cuts

Page 361 – No recommended cuts

Page 363 – No recommended cuts

Page 365 – No recommended cuts

Page 367 – No recommended cuts

Page 369 – No recommended cuts

Page 371 – No recommended cuts

Page 373 – No recommended cuts

Page 376 – No recommended cuts

Page 378 – No recommended cuts

Capital Budget:

Page 11 – No recommended cuts

Page 12 – No recommended cuts

Page 13 – No recommended cuts

Page 14 – The Fiscal Committee recommended a cut of \$30,000 to Pavement Markings

Page 14 - The Fiscal Committee recommended a cut of \$25,000 to Citywide Manhole and Basin

Page 15 – No recommended cuts

Page 16 – No recommended cuts

Page 17 - The Fiscal Committee recommended a cut of \$25,000 to Truck Mounted Equipment

Page 18 - The Fiscal Committee recommended a cut of \$25,000 to Multi Use Trails

Page 18 - The Fiscal Committee recommended a cut of \$10,000 to Fencing and Guardrails

Page 20 – No recommended cuts

Page 21 – No recommended cuts

Page 22 - The Fiscal Committee recommended a cut of \$15,000 to Overhead Doors

Page 23 – No recommended cuts
Page 24 – No recommended cuts
Page 25 - The Fiscal Committee recommended a cut of \$50,000 to Major Bridge Design; \$35,000 to Citywide Storm Drains
Page 26 – No recommended cuts
Page 27 – No recommended cuts
Page 28 – No recommended cuts
Page 29 - The Fiscal Committee recommended a cut of \$30,000 to Roadway Reconstruction – Intersection Feasibility and Design
Page 30 - The Fiscal Committee recommended a cut of \$35,000 to Intersection Improvements
Page 31 – No recommended cuts
Page 32 – No recommended cuts
Page 33 – The Fiscal Committee recommended a cut of \$200,000 to Open Space Acquisition; \$200,000 to Mill River Corridor development

Rep. O'Neill moved to restore the cut of \$200,000 to the Open Space Account; said motion was seconded.

Rep. O'Neill stated that this allows us to take advantage of real estate opportunities and to expand and enhance our quality of life and our urban landscape. It also allows us to leverage available grant funds.

Rep. Loglisci stated that there is \$3.3 million plus another \$1.0 million from the federal government, for a total of \$4.3 million in that account already. In tough times like this, we should not be looking to take on additional expenses. \$4.3 million is plenty of money to have in this account at this time.

The motion to restore the cut of \$200,000 to the Open Space Account failed by a vote of 8-28-0. (Reps Benyus, Giordno, Lyons, Nakian, O'Neill, Skigen, Spandow and White in favor.) (See [Vote Record No. 393](#).)

Page 34 – No recommended cuts
Page 35 - The Fiscal Committee recommended a cut of \$100,000 to Palace Theater Restoration
Page 36 – No recommended cuts
Page 37 – No recommended cuts
Page 38 – No recommended cuts
Page 39 – No recommended cuts
Page 40 - The Fiscal Committee recommended a cut of \$25,000 to Parking Structure Renovation
Page 41 – No recommended cuts
Page 42 – No recommended cuts
Page 43 – No recommended cuts
Page 44 – No recommended cuts
Page 45 – No recommended cuts

Page 46 – No recommended cuts
Page 47 – No recommended cuts
Page 48 – No recommended cuts
Page 49 – No recommended cuts
Page 50 – No recommended cuts
Page 51 – No recommended cuts
Page 52 – No recommended cuts
Page 54 - The Fiscal Committee recommended a cut of \$50,000 to Smith House Room Renovation – East 1 and 2
Page 55 – No recommended cuts
Page 56 – No recommended cuts
Page 57 – No recommended cuts
Page 58 – No recommended cuts
Page 59 – No recommended cuts
Page 60 – No recommended cuts
Page 61 – No recommended cuts
Page 62 – No recommended cuts
Page 63 – No recommended cuts
Page 64 – No recommended cuts
Page 65 – No recommended cuts
Page 66 – No recommended cuts
Page 67 – No recommended cuts
Page 68 - The Fiscal Committee recommended a cut of \$200,000 to Districtwide Technology Infrastructure
Page 69 - The Fiscal Committee recommended a cut of \$350,000 to the Alternate High School
Page 70 – No recommended cuts
Page 71 – No recommended cuts
Page 72 - No recommended cuts

Chair Skigen asked Peter Privitera for the operating budget number, including the Board of Education. The number is \$341,541,472.00.

Chair Skigen read the resolution approving the Operating Budget (including the Board of Education Budget). Chair Skigen moved the resolution; said motion was seconded.

Rep. Shapiro moved to split the question into two resolutions – one for the Operating Budget and a second resolution for the Board of Education; said motion was seconded. The motion to split the question passed by a machine vote of 23-13-0. (Reps. Boccuzzi, Browne, Day, DeLeo, DeLuca, Lyons, Martin, Molgano, Morrow, Nowakowski, Pavia, Spandow and Zelinsky opposed.) (See [Vote Record No. 394.](#))

Chair Skigen asked for a revised number for the Operating Budget: the number is \$164,259,472. President Martin stated that the words “including the

Board of Education Budget” will be stricken from the resolution. The [resolution](#) approving the Operating Budget was approved by a machine machine vote of 29-9-0. (Reps. Coppola, DeLeo, DeLuca, Greenberg, Imbrogno, Mirkin, Molgano, Pavia and Shapiro opposed.) (See [Vote Record No. 395.](#))

Chair Skigen read the [resolution](#) approving the Board of Education Budget. President Martin stated that the title would change along with amount of \$177,282,000. Chair Skigen moved the resolution; said motion was seconded and approved by a machine vote of 25-10-3. (Reps. Browne, DeLeo, DeLuca, Greenberg, Kernan, Loglisci, Mirkin, Mitchell, Molgano and Pavia opposed; Reps. Clear, Martin and White abstaining.) (See [Vote Record No. 396.](#))

Chair Skigen read the [resolution](#) approving the Special Funds budgets. Chair Skigen moved the resolution; said motion was seconded and approved by unanimous voice vote.

Chair Skigen read the [resolution](#) approving the Capital Budget. Chair Skigen moved the resolution; said motion was seconded.

Chair Skigen read the resolution approving the WPCA Capital Budget. Chair Skigen moved the resolution; said motion was seconded.

President Martin stated that the Board has never adopted this resolution before to the best of his knowledge in that it provides authorization for the WPCA to issue bonds on behalf of the City of Stamford. President Martin stated that there has been a lot of discussion about this in the past.

Rep. DeLuca stated that this becomes part of the debt service, the items are not tax deductible, and it makes the Mayor’s side of the budget look good as far as debt service goes.

President Martin stated that this is not the issue here. We have been authorizing capital expenditures in the past, and the WPCA is a separate governmental entity, and we have never given them the authority to issue its own bonds. This resolution now authorizes them to issue bonds, and President Martin recommends that we only pass the first part of this resolution and table the rest of it at a later date.

Rep. Day asked whether this has anything to do with whether this helps the Safe Debt Limit.

Rep. Zelinsky moved to split the WPCA Capital Budget resolution into two questions; said motion was seconded.

Clerk of the Board Summerville noted that she had not seen this document prior to this evening.

The motion to split was approved by a machine vote of 34-3-1 (Reps. Giordano, Nakian and O'Neill opposed; Rep. Summerville abstaining.) (See [Vote Record No. 397.](#))

The [WPCA Capital Budget Resolution](#) was approved by unanimous voice vote. The portion of the resolution pertaining to capital bonding was held until Monday, May 5, 2003.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion duly made and seconded and approved by unanimous voice vote, the meeting was adjourned at 1:00 a.m.