

MINUTES

MAY 8, 2006 SPECIAL BUDGET MEETING

President David R. Martin called the meeting to order at 8:00 p.m., stating that the purpose of the meeting is to consider and act upon the following:

Operating, Capital, E.G. Brennan Fund, Grants and Police Extra Duty Fund, Risk Management Fund, Smith House Fund, WPCA Fund and Parking Fund Budgets for the fiscal year 2006/2007, as transmitted by the Board of Finance on April 11, 2006, pursuant to provisions of Section C8-30-7 of the Stamford Charter; and RESOLUTIONS associated therewith.

INVOCATION: By Rep. Ruby Blackwell

“We gather tonight to plan for this special session of the budget meeting. Let us be mindful, our Father, that this is a very serious situation, allow us to plan for this meeting to be beneficial to everyone in Stamford. Bless the homes that are represented here this evening. This is my prayer. Amen.”

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 30 representatives present and 10 absent excused (Reps. Aposporos, Berns, Coppola, DePina, Esposito, Hunter, Layton, C. Martin, McCullen and Nowakowski). Rep. Layton arrived at 8:22 p.m. Rep. Esposito arrived at 8:35 p.m.

BUDGET PRESENTATION: Randall Skigen, Chair, Fiscal Committee

President Martin thanked the Committee for its hard work and turned the meeting over to Mr. Skigen for the Fiscal Committee Report.

Chair Skigen reported that the Fiscal Committee met on March 14, March 20, March 22, March 27, March 29, April 5, April 10, April 24, April 26 and May 3 to review and deliberate the budget. Chair Skigen thanked his committee members, and, in particular, Rep. DePina who started the budget season on the Committee but due to work commitments felt it was unfair for her to continue to serve on the Committee when she would not be able to attend meetings. Rep. Mitchell, jumped in during the middle of this process and filled this slot more than ably. Along with all of the listed meetings, various committee members met with each department throughout the City, each department head, to go through with a fine-toothed comb this budget. It was the impression of the Committee that the budget submitted by the Mayor and as acted upon by the Board of Finance was a rather tight budget, and the Committee looked for savings wherever it could find them, and we reached a unanimous bi-partisan consensus on the cuts that should be made on the City side.

Chair Skigen moved for acceptance of the May 3, 2006 Fiscal Committee Report (the "Report"), a copy of which is attached [hereto](#). Said motion was seconded.

Chair Skigen stated the cuts were spread out over the budget; there was some discussion of doing a general budget reduction, but there were areas that the Committee felt targeted cuts were more appropriate. Additionally, there were areas that they felt no cuts should be made, and, therefore, the Committee decided that working with Ben Barnes and Pete Privitera that certain cuts would be made in certain lines to reflect the Committee's priorities and concerns. The cuts that the Committee recommended are as follows:

Page 35, Director of Administration, a general budget reduction of \$5,879.00
Page 81, Road Maintenance-Salaries, a reduction of \$45,000 with a corresponding social security reduction of \$3,443. Chair Skigen noted that those salaries are not all targeted at road maintenance but are for delayed hiring in program expansion throughout the Operations Department.
Page 106, Haulaway Garbage, a reduction of \$350,000
Page 183, Operations-Administration, a general budget reduction of \$32,482.
Page 187, Office of Public Safety, Health & Welfare, a general budget reduction of \$68,131
Page 227, Payments to Insurance-Stamford Fire and Rescue, a \$15,000 budget reduction. This is to be spread among a variety of departments, but it has been placed in here, and OPM will allocate to the payments to insurance line throughout the City.
Page 260, general budget reduction to the Director of Law in the amount of \$3,065

President Martin stated it is customary to go through the budget page by page, offering the opportunity for people to make further amendments to the Fiscal Committee's recommendations. After speaking to leadership, President Martin stated that this will not be necessary. And, if there are no objections, this will not be done this year. Instead, he will entertain amendments to the Fiscal Committee's report. Hearing no motions, President Martin stated the review of the Operating Budget is concluded.

BOARD OF EDUCATION

For the discussion on the Board of Education budget, President David Martin and Rep. White left the floor. Clerk of the Board Summerville was acting president during the discussion on the Board of Education budget.

Chair Skigen moved the Fiscal Committee's recommended cut of \$277,000; said motion was seconded. Chair Skigen stated that there was a city charge-back to the Board of Education that was originally budgeted in the amount of almost \$4.9 million from last year's total of \$4.122 million, which can be found on Page 11 of Section 10 of the Board of Education budget book. After discussions with Messrs. Privitera, Barnes and the Superintendent of Schools, the City agreed that they would charge the same amount that they would charge last year, \$4.122. The Board of Finance had recommended a cut of \$300,000 from that account to get us to the \$4.122, the \$277,000 brings us back to last year's level. The Superintendent contacted Chair Skigen and stated that if the City is not charging this money, he doesn't need the money and that the Board can feel free to cut it. It will have no impact on programs, on any students within the system, and he is more than glad to take the money back.

Clerk of the Board Summerville stated that Rep. Layton has entered the meeting.

There being no further motions regarding the Board of Education budget, Acting President Summerville turned the Chair back to President Martin.

CAPITAL BUDGET

Chair Skigen reported that there the Committee looked long and hard, but did not see any cuts in the capital budget that made any sense. Chair Skigen moved the Fiscal Committee's report that calls for no reductions beyond those recommended by the Board of Finance. Said motion was seconded. President Martin heard no motions to amend.

WPCA BUDGET

Chair Skigen reported that the Fiscal Committee moved for reduction of the WPCA budget; said motion was seconded. Chair Skigen moved to amend the Fiscal Committee's report; said motion was seconded.

Chair Skigen reported that the WPCA ordinance provides for a different budget process. It provides that the Board cannot make budget line cuts to the WPCA, however, we can accept the budget, reject the budget or make a bottom line cut to the budget. The intent was to ask for a \$200,000 reduction in the WPCA budget; instead, the Committee rejected it. At this time, Chair Skigen moved for a \$200,000 reduction; said motion was seconded. The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

Chair Skigen reported he had discussions with Jeanette Brown, the executive director, as well as Tim Curtin, and they are prepared to recommend to their Board, which meets tomorrow night, for acceptance of the \$200,000 cut.

Chair Skigen reported that there were no further recommendations to the Special Revenue Funds Budgets with the exception of the Risk Manager, Page 404, a \$15,000 reduction, which is a corresponding reduction to the earlier reduction, and this has been allocated to Stamford Fire & Rescue on payments to the insurance fund. Since they are not paying it out, it is not going in, so there should be a \$15,000 reduction on Page 404, Risk Management Fund.

President Martin stated that the \$15,000 reduction is part of the Committee's Report.

RESOLUTIONS

Chair Skigen moved acceptance of the first resolution ([attached](#)) approving the Operating Budget (including the Board of Education budget) in the amount of \$388,103,558.00. Said motion was seconded and approved by a machine vote of 28-0-2 (Reps. Adams, Blackwell, Boccuzzi, Cannady, Day, DeLuca, Diamond, Fedeli, Figueroa, Franzetti, Heaphy, Larobina, Layton, Lodato, Lombardo, Lyons, Mallozzi, D. Martin, Mirkin, Mitchell, Molgano, Munger, Pia, Rauh, Skigen, Summerville, Young and Zelinsky in favor (Reps. Greenberg and White abstaining) (See [RCS Vote Record #706](#)).

Chair Skigen moved acceptance of the second resolution ([attached](#)) approving the E.G. Brennan Fund of \$1,152,381.00, the Grants Budget of \$8,132,387.00, Police Extra Duty Budget of \$3,983,790.00, Marinas Fund of \$413,417.00, Parking Fund of \$3,658,738.00, Risk Management Fund of \$37,797,629.00, Smith House Fund of \$12,966,933.00 and WPCA Fund of \$20,460,706.00. Said motion was seconded and approved by a machine vote of 28-0-2 (Reps. Adams, Blackwell, Boccuzzi, Cannady, Day, DeLuca, Diamond, Fedeli, Figueroa, Heaphy, Larobina, Layton, Lodato, Lombardo, Lyons, Mallozzi, D. Martin, Mirkin,

Mitchell, Molgano, Munger, Pia, Rauh, Skigen, Summerville, White, Young and Zelinsky in favor (Reps. Franzetti and Greenberg abstaining) (See [RCS Vote Record #707](#)).

Clerk Summerville noted that Rep. Esposito entered the room at 8:35 p.m.

Chair Skigen moved acceptance of the third resolution ([attached](#)) approving the Capital Budget in the amount of \$80,254,422.00. Said motion was seconded and approved by a machine vote of 29-0-1 (Reps. Adams, Blackwell, Boccuzzi, Cannady, Day, DeLuca, Diamond, Esposito, Fedeli, Figueroa, Franzetti, Heaphy, Larobina, Layton, Lodato, Lombardo, Lyons, Mallozzi, D. Martin, Mirkin, Mitchell, Molgano, Munger, Pia, Rauh, Skigen, Summerville, Young and Zelinsky in favor (Reps. Giordano and White abstaining) (See [RCS Vote Record #708](#)).

Chair Skigen moved acceptance of the fourth resolution ([attached](#)) approving the WPCA Capital Budget in the amount of \$2,715,000.00. Said motion was seconded and approved by a machine vote of 30-0-1 (Reps. Adams, Blackwell, Boccuzzi, Cannady, Day, DeLuca, Diamond, Esposito, Fedeli, Figueroa, Franzetti, Heaphy, Larobina, Layton, Lodato, Lombardo, Lyons, Mallozzi, D. Martin, Mirkin, Mitchell, Molgano, Munger, Pia, Rauh, Skigen, Summerville, White, Young and Zelinsky in favor (Rep. Giordano abstaining) (See [RCS Vote Record #709](#)).

Rep. Greenberg stated that he abstained from voting on the budget because he has only been back on the Board for one week.

Chair Skigen thanked his Committee Members, Reps. Cannady, Day, DeLuca, Figueroa, Mirkin, Fedeli, Giordano, Lyons, Mitchell and Rep. Hunter. He also thanked the Clerk, who was at most of the budget meetings and made sure everyone was well fed. He thanked Director Barnes, Mr. Privitera and Superintendent Starr and their staffs for their hard work, presentations. Whenever the Committee asked questions of them or any department heads, they received answers quickly. Chair Skigen also thanked his colleagues across the aisle. This year especially, the Committee worked extremely well together, and this was an extraordinary year working on a bi-partisan basis to see the City move forward and do it in such a way that the impact on taxpayers was as minimal as possible.

COMMUNICATIONS

President Martin stated that the Board of Representatives has an appointment to the SEMS board. President Martin will be joining the SEMS board as this Board's representative, in that he has previously served on the SEMS Board.

ADJOURNMENT:

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m. by unanimous voice vote.