

*The Special Budget Meeting of the 28th Board of Representatives of the City of Stamford was held on **Tuesday, May 4, 2010** at 8:00 p.m. in the Legislative Chambers of the Board of Representatives in the Government Center, 888 Washington Boulevard, 4th Floor, Stamford, Connecticut.*

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 8:50 p.m.

President Randall M. Skigen read the call of the meeting.

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG: Led by President Randall M. Skigen

ROLL CALL: Conducted by Clerk of the Board Annie M. Summerville. There were 39 members present and 1 member excused (Rep. Giordano).

VOTING MACHINE STATUS: The machine was in good working order.

COMMUNICATIONS: President Skigen announced:

1. The Steering Committee will meet on Tuesday, May 11, 2010. The deadline for submissions is this Thursday at 9:00 a.m.
2. Monday, May 10, 2010 is the Citizen of the Year Award Dinner. Rep. Caterbone will be honored as Veteran of the Year.
3. Rep. Day has resigned from the Smith House Board of Directors; Rep. Coppola will take his place on that Board.

FISCAL COMMITTEE: **John Mallozzi, Chair**
 Linda Cannady, Vice Chair

April 28, 2010 [Committee Report](#)

May 4, 2010 [Committee Report](#)

Chair Mallozzi reported that the Fiscal Committee met throughout March and April, and records of those meetings are available in the Board Office. The Fiscal Committee met on April 28, 2010 for deliberations and again this evening at 6:30 p.m.

Chair Mallozzi stated that the Fiscal Committee has recommended no cuts to the Operating, Board of Education and Capital budgets. In addition, the Fiscal Committee is recommending that the \$300,000 that was cut by the Board of Finance be restored to the WPCA.

Operating Budget

Chair Mallozzi reported that the Fiscal Committee is recommending no cuts to the Operating Budget. Chair Mallozzi moved for approval of the Operating Budget; said motion was seconded.

Rep. Kaufman stated that after some careful consideration and listening to the message to do more with less in an attempt to save money in our budget, he moved to reduce the Salary Account in the Mayor's Office Budget by \$65,000. Said motion was seconded.

Clerk Summerville called for a five-minute recess at 8:55 p.m. The Board reconvened at 9:20 p.m.

Rep. Mirkin stated that he was surprised that Mr. Kaufman, who is a member of the Fiscal Committee, did not move for any cuts during the Fiscal Committee's deliberations. Rep. Mirkin agreed that the Mayor has called for fiscal austerity. The Mayor also saved about \$120,000 in salary alone by taking on the duties of the Director of Public Safety & Health. He stated that he supports the Mayor, his new direction and will support the Mayor by not supporting this reduction.

Rep. Kaufman stated that he is not taking this position lightly, and he thought about the message from the administration, doing more with less, driving efficiencies across our government and with the help of our CFO, he thought there would be no department that would be more successful in achieving these types of savings. Rep. Kaufman stated he acknowledges the Mayor is doing a number of things to realize the benefits by bringing in the right people and driving this type of budget. But, he feels the Mayor's office can do a little bit more, and this \$65,000 reflects a position of raising the bar, doing more with less, driving a lean organization, and that department is more than positioned to do so.

Rep. Zelinsky stated that if this motion passes, it will result in the elimination of a position in the Mayor's Office. Our previous mayor had a person in his office (different position, higher salary), and he is uncomfortable in eliminating another position in this office so he will not support it.

Clerk Summerville stated that she is not voting for this just to cut a position. She is supporting this cut because it is a reduction within the Mayor's total budget. While

some may think a position is going to be eliminated, she feels it is up to the Mayor within his salary line to decide how he is going to live with this cut. She is not asking the Mayor to choose any one person to be eliminated from his budget.

Reps. Savage and Sklover left the floor of the Board for this vote.

The motion to reduce the Mayor's Office Budget Salary Line by \$65,000 was approved by a machine vote of 19-17-1 (Reps. Adams, Boccuzzi, Cannady, DePina, Figueroa, Giraldo, Heaphy, Kaufman, Martin, McGarry, McNeil, Merritt, Mitchell, Rauh, Skigen, Summerville, Wallace, White and Young in favor; Reps. Caterbone, Cerasoli, Coppola, Day, DeLuca, Fedeli, Franzetti, Gabriele, Layton, Lombardo, Mirkin, Molgano, Pia, Raduazzo, Taylor, Uva and Zelinsky opposed; Rep. Mallozzi abstaining) (See [Vote Record No. 1091](#)).

There were no further motions regarding the City side of the budget.

Board of Education Budget

Chair Mallozzi reported that the Fiscal Committee recommended no cuts to the Board of Education Budget.

Reps. White, Pia and Rauh left the floor of the Board for the discussion and vote on the Board of Education Budget.

Rep. Molgano moved to reduce the Board of Education budget by \$500,000. Said motion was seconded.

Rep. Molgano stated that as a member of the Education Committee, he believes there are savings. First, savings can be found in the instructional supplies line by adopting better purchasing agreements and by instituting procedures that conserve consumption of instructional supplies. Second, as introduced by Rep. Mirkin in the Fiscal Committee, he recommends the Board of Education take a reduction in the funded medical reserve line which will leave the account within the safe range limits. Finally, as also suggested by Rep. Mirkin, he recommends maintaining a similar reserve line amount as on the City side of the budget for labor contract settlements. Rep. Molgano stated he is fully aware that the Board of Representatives cannot dictate where the cuts will be taken but added that he would not ask for budget cuts if he did not explicitly provide where he thinks the cuts can be made. He makes these cuts as a city representative who is mindful of his obligations to promote the education of the City's children.

Rep. Mirkin stated that in the Fiscal Committee, when making his motions, his recommended cuts would not affect teachers, children or the classroom unless the superintendent or the Board of Education decided to do that. The two areas he focused on were labor contracts and the insurance reserves.

Rep. Mirkin continued. The Board of Education has budgeted \$1.2 million for labor contracts for step increases and salary wages. The City has no funds set aside for this. The Mayor has taken a firm stand in communicating that business as usual will no longer be tolerated in the City of Stamford. In the future, when arbitrators are looking at what the City is offering vs. what the Board of Education has set aside, he would have preferred the Board of Education adopt the same discipline as the City of Stamford.

The insurance reserve of \$2.7 million is about 7% of a reserve. Mr. Murphy willingly offered that the range he looks for is 5 to 9%. In these difficult times, if the Board of Ed were to accept a 5% reserve, that would bring the \$2.7 million down by \$800,000. If you add the \$1.2 for contracts and the \$800,000, this is \$2 million that would not affect teachers, children or classrooms.

Rep. Mirkin went on to state that in the Fiscal Committee he made a motion to cut \$800,000, which would provide a \$1.2 million cushion. He realizes there is a \$1.3 million OPEB issue, and this would provide \$1.2 of it. Unfortunately that motion failed as did a motion to cut \$500,000. Rep. Mirkin stated that for those who are concerned with saving money on the City side, they should support the same budget discipline on the Board of Education side.

Rep. Zelinsky commended Dr. Starr and the Board of Education members on their budget. This is the lowest in many years, an increase of only 1.8% over last year's budget. He is concerned about the plight of Stamford's taxpayers, however, this \$500,000 cut, if approved, will not save our taxpayers much money. Since the Board of Representatives has no authority to dictate where the cuts will be taken, he urges his colleagues not to support this motion.

Rep. Franzetti stated that when he reviews the budget books, he is concerned about Page 315, which shows the City has about \$500,000,000 in deficit. The Board of Education has a \$250,000,000 budget. We cannot continue in this manner, and for the reasons Reps. Molgano and Mirkin mentioned, he will support the cut.

Rep. Sklover stated that as co-chair of the Education Committee, he has the utmost respect for his co-chair, Rep. Molgano. For several weeks he has been hearing that the Board of Education needs to face a cut as it has not done what the City side has done. No one has spoken as an actuary as to the medical reserves, and the term "surplus" is a dangerous misnomer. We are self-insured, and most actuaries would probably think that a 7% reserve is not sufficient. It is irresponsible to reduce the reserve we have, and if anything, we need to build the City-side reserves.

Said motion FAILED by a vote of 12-24-0. (Reps. Caterbone, Cerasoli, Coppola, Fedeli, Franzetti, Gabriele, Layton, Lombardo, Mirkin, Molgano, Taylor and Uva in favor; Reps. Adams, Boccuzzi, Cannady, Day, DeLuca, DePina, Figueroa, Giraldo, Heaphy, Kaufman, Mallozzi, Martin, McGarry, McNeil, Merritt, Mitchell, Raduazzo, Savage, Skigen, Sklover, Summerville, Wallace, Young and Zelinsky opposed) (See [Vote Record No. 1092](#)).

Resolution – Operating Budget

A motion to approve the [Resolution](#) approving the Operating Budget in the amount of \$226,145,341 was made, seconded and approved by a machine vote of 38-1-0 (Reps. Adams, Boccuzzi, Cannady, Caterbone, Cerasoli, Coppola, Day, DeLuca, DePina, Fedeli, Figueroa, Franzetti, Giraldo, Heaphy, Kaufman, Layton, Lombardo, Mallozzi, Martin, McGarry, McNeil, Merritt, Mirkin, Mitchell, Molgano, Pia, Raduazzo, Rauh, Savage, Skigen, Sklover, Summerville, Taylor, Uva, Wallace, White, Young and Zelinsky in favor; Rep. Gabriele opposed) (See [Vote Record No. 1093](#)).

A motion to approve the [Resolution](#) approving the Board of Education Budget in the amount of \$223,382,203 was made, seconded and approved by a machine vote of 31-5-0 (Reps. Adams, Boccuzzi, Cannady, Cerasoli, Coppola, Day, DeLuca, DePina, Fedeli, Figueroa, Franzetti, Giraldo, Heaphy, Kaufman, Layton, Lombardo, Mallozzi, Martin, McGarry, McNeil, Merritt, Mitchell, Raduazzo, Savage, Skigen, Sklover, Summerville, Taylor, Wallace, Young and Zelinsky in favor; Reps. Caterbone, Gabriele Mirkin, Molgano and Uva opposed) (See [Vote Record No. 1094](#)).

(Note: Reps. Pia, Rauh and White left the floor for the vote on the Board of Education Budget Resolution.)

WPCA Budget

Chair Mallozzi stated that by a 2/3 vote of the Board, the Board of Representatives can restore the \$300,000 cut by the Board of Finance. Chair Mallozzi moved to restore the \$300,000 cut. Said motion was seconded and approved by a machine vote of 37-2-0. (Reps. Adams, Boccuzzi, Cannady, Caterbone, Cerasoli, Coppola, Day, DeLuca, DePina, Fedeli, Figueroa, Giraldo, Heaphy, Kaufman, Layton, Lombardo, Mallozzi, Martin, McGarry, McNeil, Merritt, Mirkin, Mitchell, Molgano, Pia, Raduazzo, Rauh, Savage, Skigen, Sklover, Summerville, Taylor, Uva, Wallace, White, Young and Zelinsky in favor; Reps. Franzetti and Gabriele opposed) (See [Vote Record No. 1095](#)).

Special Funds Budgets

A motion to approve the [resolution](#) for the Special Funds Budgets was made and seconded, in the amounts of:

\$1,385,362.00 – E.G. Brennan Fund
\$8,369,069.00 – Grants Funded Programs Fund
\$6,555,000.00 – Police Extra Duty Fund
\$85,172,955.00 – Risk Management Fund
\$425,503.00 – Marina Fund
\$21,628,582.00 – WPCA Fund
\$5,761,009.00 – Parking Fund

and approved by a machine vote of 38-0-1. (Reps. Adams, Boccuzzi, Cannady, Caterbone, Cerasoli, Coppola, Day, DeLuca, DePina, Fedeli, Figueroa, Gabriele, Giraldo, Heaphy, Kaufman, Layton, Lombardo, Mallozzi, Martin, McGarry, McNeil, Merritt, Mirkin, Mitchell, Molgano, Pia, Raduazzo, Rauh, Savage, Skigen, Sklover, Summerville, Taylor, Uva, Wallace, White, Young and Zelinsky in favor; Rep. Franzetti abstaining) (See [Vote Record No. 1096](#)).

Capital Budget Resolutions

A motion to approve the first Capital Budget [Resolution](#), in the amount of \$45,511,840, providing for the issuance of \$29,225,250 in general obligation bonds, was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 38-0-0. (Reps. Adams, Boccuzzi, Cannady, Caterbone, Cerasoli, Coppola, Day, DeLuca, DePina, Fedeli, Figueroa, Franzetti, Gabriele, Giraldo, Heaphy, Kaufman, Lombardo, Mallozzi, Martin, McGarry, McNeil, Merritt, Mirkin, Mitchell, Molgano, Pia, Raduazzo, Rauh, Savage, Skigen, Sklover, Summerville, Taylor, Uva, Wallace, White, Young and Zelinsky in favor) (See [Vote Record No. 1097](#)).

A motion to approve the second Capital Budget [Resolution](#), in the amount of \$950,000.00 in either general obligation bonds or revenue bonds, was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 37-0-0. (Reps. Adams, Boccuzzi, Cannady, Cerasoli, Coppola, Day, DeLuca, DePina, Fedeli, Figueroa, Franzetti, Gabriele, Giraldo, Heaphy, Kaufman, Lombardo, Mallozzi, Martin, McGarry, McNeil, Merritt, Mirkin, Mitchell, Molgano, Pia, Raduazzo, Rauh, Savage, Skigen, Sklover, Summerville, Taylor, Uva, Wallace, White, Young and Zelinsky in favor) (See [Vote Record No. 1098](#)).

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 p.m.