



Appointments Committee – Board of Representatives

Annie M. Summerville, Chair John Boccuzzi, Vice Chair

Committee Report

Date: Tuesday, January 26, 2009
Time: 7:00 p.m.
Place: Democratic Caucus Room, 4th Floor, Government Center, 888
Washington Boulevard

The Appointments Committee met as indicated above. Present were Chair Summerville and Vice Chair Boccuzzi and Committee Member Reps. Caterbone, Cerasoli, Franzetti and Savage. Absent/excused was Committee Member Rep. McGarry. Also present were Mayor Michael Pavia; and Representatives Cannady, Coppola, Day, Fedeli, Heaphy, Molgano and Zelinsky.

7:00pm	<u>Old Long Ridge Road Historic Society</u>	NO ACTION TAKEN
1. A28.003	Cynthia Russell (D) 1374 Rock Rimmon Road Stamford, CT 06903 Term Expires: 12/01/12	Reappointment (Term Exp. 12/01/09)

Chair Summerville noted that Ms. Russell was unable to attend tonight's meeting but would attend next month.

7:10 pm	<u>WPCA</u>	COMMITTEE APPROVED 6-0-0
2. A28.016	Louis Basel (I) 106 Carriage Drive Stamford, CT 06902 Term Expires: 02/01/13	Repl. Chris Maggio (Exp. 1/1/8)

In response to a question by Chair Summerville, Mr. Basel stated that he intends to abstain on any votes regarding the upcoming sewer installation project on Carriage Drive.

Mr. Basel stated that he has attended several WPCA meetings as a member of the public and has participated in the public testimony portion of the meeting. Committee Members noted his impressive background. Chair Summerville noted she has received many telephone calls urging her to support Mr. Basel's appointment.

Vice Chair Boccuzzi noted that the WPCA has not had an engineer for a very long time, and the other Board members welcome Mr. Basel's input, especially when complicated bids and projects are reviewed by the Board.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the appointment was approved by a vote of 6-0-0.

7:20pm	<u>Camera Review Committee</u>	NO ACTION TAKEN
3. A28.002	Rev. Leroy G. Parker (D) New Appointment 817 Newfield Avenue Stamford, CT 06905 Term expires: No expiration date	

Chair Summerville noted that Rev. Parker was unable to attend tonight's meeting but would attend next month.

7:30pm	<u>Chief of Police</u>	COMMITTEE APPROVED 5-0-1
4. A28.011	Robert A. Nivakoff c/o Stamford Police Department 805 Bedford Street Stamford, CT 06901 Term expires: 11/30/13	

Chair Summerville noted that Rep. Franzetti would not be participating in the discussion nor the vote for Item Nos. A28.011 and A28.012.

Mayor Pavia introduced Acting Chief Nivakoff, noting that he has over 32 years with the Stamford Police Department and a masters degree in criminal justice. Mayor Pavia stated that while some had recommended he consider a national search for a new police chief, he is confident he would find no better candidate.

Acting Chief Nivakoff stated:

- His goal is to make the City of Stamford safer and a better place to live.
- He has worked as a police officer for 15 years, as a sergeant for 14 years, undercover for 4 years and has an expertise in forensics and investigations.
- He is concerned with the Police Department's image and is asking officers to focus on courtesy, promptness and other aspects of customer service. He is confident he can inspire the City's officers by setting an example of consideration and fairness at the top.
- In response to Vice Chair Boccuzzi's concerns about overtime, Mr. Nivakoff stated that he is aware of the problem, the City is short-staffed, and his goal of being more responsive to the needs of the public may not always contribute to reductions in overtime. On the other hand, he is very fiscally prudent and will not tolerate abuse of the system.
- A priority is hiring and increasing diversity. He would like to see on-line testing so veterans can take the test overseas. He is familiarizing himself with other community's testing procedures, and Stamford's is definitely lacking.
- He stated he is satisfied with the narcotics division's work.

- He is concerned about the complete lack of training. The City has plenty of equipment, but officers have had no training in using it. He is contacting local corporations to try and get funding for training.
- The optimal level of officers would be 307. Stamford is currently operating at the same percentage shortage as the NYC police department.
- He is not optimistic that the SRO program will return to elementary schools in the immediate future. He is satisfied with having them in the high schools. He is working on building a strong relationship with the Board of Education.
- The Detective Bureau issue is still not solved. Currently, Stamford has 1 sergeant for every 5 officers, the standard is 1 for every 8, but while this will be adjusted over time, the current standard allows for better supervision.
- He hopes to greatly reduce any problems with officers by changing the hiring system so that the Police Department has a longer time in which to get to know the candidate before they are hired. He would like to see employment of 18-19 year-olds who would then take the test at age 21, after the department has known them for a few years. He is not in favor of the current high school police academy in that it is not fair to the students who fail the test after having participated in the academy for a significant period of time.
- He feels he can make do with the current building, and he has spoken with Mayor Pavia about finding ancillary space in the City. He stated it is up to the Boards to decide when he will get a new police department building.
- He is in favor of the substations and would like to see them staffed.
- A canine unit is being established, and it will have 5 dogs. They had to call on Westport 84 times last year for use of dogs. He hopes to be adding a bomb-sniffing dog with donated funds.

Chair Summerville noted that the Board conducted a confidential background investigation. The investigator concluded that there is nothing in Mr. Nivakoff's background that would preclude appointment as Chief of Police and noted that in the preparation of the report, he experienced an extraordinary level of cooperation.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the motion to appoint Acting Chief Nivakoff was approved by a vote of 5-0-1 (Reps. Summerville, Boccuzzi, Caterbone, Cerasoli and Savage in favor; Rep. Franzetti abstaining).

5. A28.012	RESOLUTION; waiving the residency requirement under Section C5-20-20(b) of the Code of ordinances for Police Chief candidate Nivakoff.	COMMITTEE APPROVED 5-0-1
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Upon motion duly made and seconded, the motion to appoint Acting Chief Nivakoff was approved by a vote of 5-0-1 (Reps. Summerville, Boccuzzi, Caterbone, Cerasoli and Savage in favor; Rep. Franzetti abstaining).

7:50pm

6. [A28.014](#)

Director of Economic Development

Laure C. Aubuchon
325 E. 79th Street, Apt. 3E
New York, NY 10075
Term Expires: 11/30/13

COMMITTEE

APPROVED

6-0-0

Mayor Pavia introduced Ms. Aubuchon noting that she worked for the City of New York in a similar capacity.

Ms. Aubuchon stated:

- She will devote 101% of her time to the City of Stamford. She is very familiar with Stamford as close family resides here.
- She brings experience in large and small companies in the private sector and has experience in the public sector, she has had responsibility, she knows what businesses are looking for, and she enjoys working with people.
- In response to a question from Rep. Savage, Ms. Aubuchon stated her strengths are that she is relentless and fearless (in pursuing her positions on matters).
- She is aware that the City has limited resources in making offerings to companies.
- In response to a question from Rep. Franzetti, she stated that her vision is that of the Mayor's as she serves at his pleasure. But, they both share the same vision – not only pursuing and attracting and retaining large companies but also paying attention to small and medium-sized businesses, especially “mom-and-pop” enterprises.
- In response to a question of Vice Chair Boccuzzi, she stated that she knew what the Enterprise Zone was, but only having been on the job for 6 days, she would be happy to return in two months to discuss it to allow time for her to study the Zone and its issues.
- She is familiar with Reinventing Stamford and has met with Kip Bergstrom.
- Rep. Day stated that the position of Economic Development Director has always been defined by the individual who occupied the job. Ms. Aubuchon stated that this is an enormous job, and she sees her main job as the economic development piece – this is what she ultimately wants to be measured.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the appointment was approved by a vote of 6-0-0.

7. [A28.017](#)

RESOLUTION; waiving the residency requirement under Section C5-20-20(b) of the Code of ordinances for Director of Economic Development candidate Aubuchon.

COMMITTEE

APPROVED

6-0-0

Upon motion duly made and seconded, Item No. A28.017 was approved by a vote of 6-0-0.

8:15 pm
8. [A28.013](#)

Director of Administration
Frederick C. Flynn, Jr.
256 Ocean Drive West
Stamford, CT 06902
Term Expires: 11/30/13

**COMMITTEE
APPROVED
6-0-0**

Mayor Pavia introduced Mr. Flynn, stating that he was very impressed with Mr. Flynn's preparations for their meetings/interview and his thorough understanding of Stamford's fiscal processes – budgeting, capital projects, etc.

Mr. Flynn stated:

- In response to Chair Summerville's question as to why Mr. Flynn wanted the position, he responded that he is excited about being able to help Stamford. He has a fairly extensive background in the private sector, has lived in Stamford for 13 years, is active in the corporate world on two small public companies, and at this time in his career, he was looking for something meaningful, and he believes in public service.
- He wants to apply his private sector experience to strengthen the financial management of the City.
- He is an outside director and chair of the audit committee for two public companies – one in Danbury and one in North Carolina. Each board meets about 6-7 times per year. Mr. Flynn assured the committee that his work at the City would take priority over these outside directorships.
- Vice Chair Boccuzzi was impressed, after speaking with some city employees, that Mr. Flynn is a "no-nonsense" business person, who is interested in conclusions and completeness of analysis.
- In response to concerns about Stamford's AAA bond rating, Mr. Flynn stated that Stamford is one of only 11 cities with a population over 100,000 with AAA bond rating, and he cannot guarantee that it can be maintained given economic reality.
- He is interested in establishing performance targets and holding people accountable for meeting those targets.
- He believes that the outstanding (but yet-to-be bonded) \$60 million in capital projects should be looked at again. Some of these projects were approved years ago.
- In response to a question about taking advantage of today's low interest rates, he stated that this should be taken into consideration, along with the appropriateness of the capital project.
- He has done a comparative analysis with other municipalities in Connecticut and throughout the U.S., and he visualizes a process in the future where we are very clear and specific about the priorities of the City and how resources are deployed relative to the budget categories: e.g., if our highest priorities are determined to be police, fire and education, our resources should be aligned to support these functions.
- He sees IT as key to helping the city be more responsive to the citizens and an integral part in reducing costs.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the appointment was approved by a vote of 6-0-0.

8:30pm

9. [A28.015](#)

Director of Operations

Ernest Orgera
88 Gaymoor Drive
Stamford, CT 06907
Term Expires: 11/30/13

**COMMITTEE
APPROVED
6-0-0**

Mayor Pavia introduced Mr. Orgera, noting that he was a long-standing city employee who is held in high regard by fellow workers, elected officials and the public. Committee Members agreed, and upon motion duly made and seconded, the Committee approved Mr. Orgera's appointment by a vote of 6-0-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Annie Summerville, Chair