



Fiscal Committee - Board of Representatives

Randall M. Skigen, Chair Linda Cannady, Vice Chair

Report of Meeting & Public Hearing

Date: Monday, April 27, 2009
Time: 7:00 p.m.
Place: Democratic Caucus Room; 888 Washington Boulevard;
Stamford, CT

The Fiscal Committee met at the above time and place. Present were Chair Skigen and Vice Chair Cannady and Committee Member Reps. Day, DeLuca, Figueroa, Lyons, Mirkin, Mitchell, Rauh and Summerville. Absent/excused was Committee Member Rep. Fedeli. Also present were: Reps. Berns and Gabriele; Karen Cammarota, Grants Office; Sandra Dennies, Office of Administration; Lou Casolo, Engineering Bureau; Debra Katz of the Health Department; Tim Beeble of Stamford Community Development; Bill Callion of Public Safety, Health & Welfare and Allen Brown of the Smith House.

Chair Skigen called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

Item	Description	Committee Action
1. F27.477	PROPOSED ORDINANCE; <u>for public hearing & final adoption</u> ; amending Section 47-62 of the Code of Ordinance by revising the Minimum Mandatory Contribution for OPEB (Section 47-62 (b)).	COMMITTEE APPROVED 7-0-0

Chair Skigen opened the public hearing; there being no one from the public present to speak, the public hearing was closed.

A motion to approve the ordinance was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 7-0-0 (Reps. Skigen, Day, DeLuca, Figueroa, Mirkin, Rauh and Summerville in favor).

2. F27.531	REVIEW; Recovery Act Justice Assistance Grant (JAG).	REPORT MADE
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Chair Skigen stated that no action was necessary on this item.

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| 3. F27.530
\$2,909,550.00 | ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION (Grants Budget);
Neighborhood Stabilization Program; to establish a
fund to finance acquisition of bank-owned, foreclosed
property and rehabilitation/demolition as necessary. | COMMITTEE
APPROVED
9-0-1 |
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Mr. Beeble stated that the State has allocated \$2.9 million to Stamford out of the \$25 million it will receive, as Stamford was ranked #3 in foreclosures. The funds will be used to purchase, rehabilitate and then sell (as affordable) foreclosed homes. The fund will provide up to \$50,000 in 0 interest, no-payment (until the sale of the property) down payments for qualified purchasers. Chair Skigen confirmed that the City 's lien will come after the first mortgage.

Rep. Day stated that while the City had no choice as the Federal government dictates how the program works, he would have liked to see these funds be used to maintain people in their houses.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, Item No. F27.505 was approved by a vote of 9-0-1 (Reps. Skigen, Cannady, Day, DeLuca, Figueroa, Lyons, Mirkin, Mitchell and Summerville in favor; Rep. Rauh abstaining).

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| 4. F27.504
\$38,606.00 | ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION (Grants Budget);
Buffer Zone; Equipment – Other; to purchase a
portable automated fingerprint ID system and
improvised explosive device response equipment. | COMMITTEE
APPROVED
10-0-0 |
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Karen Cammarota stated that this equipment will be used at pre-determined sites, such as the train station.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, Item No. F27.505 was approved by a vote of 10-0-0 (Reps. Skigen, Cannady, Day, DeLuca, Figueroa, Lyons, Mirkin, Mitchell, Rauh and Summerville in favor).

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| 5. F27.506
\$10,000.00 | ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION (Grants Budget);
Safe Neighborhoods; Investigations; efforts related to
reducing violent gang and firearms crime; funds will
purchase evidence and information (“buy money”). | COMMITTEE
APPROVED
10-0-0 |
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Karen Cammarota confirmed that proper accounting records of the use of these funds are maintained by the Police Department.

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| 6. F27.510
\$6,968.00 | ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION (Grants Budget);
Hazardous Devices School; Conferences & Training;
reimbursement for Police Bomb Squad member who
attended an FBI Hazardous Devices School training
course. | COMMITTEE
APPROVED
10-0-0 |
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Karen Cammarota stated that these funds will reimburse the expenses of a police officer who attended this training several months ago.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, Item No. F27.505 was approved by a vote of 10-0-0 (Reps. Skigen, Cannady, Day, DeLuca, Figueroa, Lyons, Mirkin, Mitchell, Rauh and Summerville in favor).

7. [F27.511](#) ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION (Grants Budget); **COMMITTEE**
 \$3,121.00 911 Telecommunications Grant; to appropriate **APPROVED**
 increased allocation from the State of CT; funds are **10-0-0**
 used for salaries for dispatchers.

8. [F27.505](#) ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION (Grants Budget); **COMMITTEE**
 \$628.00 HIV Mobile Prevention; Part Time; to appropriate **APPROVED**
 additional funds award by the State. **10-0-0**

9. [F27.507](#) ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION (Grants Budget); **COMMITTEE**
 \$23,964.00 AIDS Risk Reduction Grant; to appropriate additional **APPROVED**
 funds awarded by the State; funds will implement two **10-0-0**
 HIV Prevention initiatives.

10a. [F27.514](#) GRANTS RESOLUTION; with CT Dept. of Public **HELD IN**
 10b. [F27.520](#) Health; **COMMITTEE**
 10c. [F27.522](#) **10-0-0**

For	Amount	City Match
F27.514-AIDS Educa- tion/risk reduction	\$285,583	\$210,657
F27.514-HIV mobile prevention services	\$42,483	\$15,013
F27.520-Childhood Immunization Grant	\$88,645	\$13,190
F27.522-Preventive Health Services Block Grant	\$20,745	\$0
F27.527-WIC Prog.	\$595,821	\$77,392
F27.516-Per Capita Grant	\$143,909	\$0
F27.526-TB and STD Treatment & Control Program	\$95,600	\$45,294

11. [F27.513](#) GRANTS RESOLUTION; with CT Dept. of Public **HELD IN**
 Safety; **COMMITTEE**
 10-0-0

For	Amount	City Match
Regional Public Safety Emergency	\$252,762	\$4,576

Telecommunications Center		
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12. [F27.518](#)

GRANTS RESOLUTION; with CT Office of Emergency Management;

HELD IN COMMITTEE 10-0-0

For	Amount	City Match
Emergency Management Performance Grant	\$37,252	\$37,252

13. [F27.519](#)

GRANTS RESOLUTION; with CT State Library;

HELD IN COMMITTEE 10-0-0

For	Amount	City Match
Historic Preservation Grant Program	\$17,000	\$0

14a. [F27.515](#)
14b. [F27.517](#)

GRANTS RESOLUTION; with CT Dept. of Social Services;

HELD IN COMMITTEE 10-0-0

For	Amount	City Match
F27.515-Counseling Services to the Elderly	\$55,476	\$16,657
F27.517-Stamford Day Care Program	\$2,274,710	\$0

15. [F27.521](#)

GRANTS RESOLUTION; with State of CT Dept. of Mental Health & Addiction Services;

HELD IN COMMITTEE 10-0-0

For	Amount	City Match
Local Substance Abuse Prevention Council Program	\$7,130	\$0

16a. [F27.523](#)
16b. [F27.528](#)
16c. [F27.524](#)

GRANTS RESOLUTION; with State of CT Dept. of Education;

HELD IN COMMITTEE 10-0-0

For	Amount	City Match
F27.523-Quality Enhancement Program	\$82,398	\$0
F27.528-Youth Services Bureau	\$59,930	\$59,930
F27.524-School Readiness and Child Day Care	\$3,748,063	\$11,818

17. [F27.525](#) GRANTS RESOLUTION; with the Southwestern Connecticut Agency on Aging; **HELD IN COMMITTEE 10-0-0**
- | For | Amount | City Match |
|------------------------|----------|------------|
| Senior Health Services | \$40,000 | \$44,319 |
- 03/25/09 – Submitted by Mayor Dannel P. Malloy

18. [F27.529](#) APPROVAL; of the 2009-10 Mill River Corridor Project Tax Increment Financing Budget; amount of TIF funds: \$1,295,956.13 **COMMITTEE APPROVED 8-0-0**

Ms. Dennies explained that this amount represents 50% of the TIF funds received, and the monies will be used toward the Mill River Project. This is basically an administrative transfer. By motion duly made and seconded, the Item was approved by a vote of 8-0-0 (Reps. Skigen, Cannady, Day, DeLuca, Figueroa, Mirkin, Rauh and Summerville in favor).

19. [F27.508](#) \$145,000.00 ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION (Capital Budget); Mill River Improvements; NOAA Open River Grant; funds to remove Main Street (Mill River) dam and development of Mill River Park. **COMMITTEE APPROVED 10-0-0**

20. [F27.509](#) \$10,648.00 ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION (Capital Budget); Environmental Compl/Stormwater Management; HMGP Toquam; to enhance inadequate drainage at Toquam School. **COMMITTEE APPROVED 10-0-0**

Chair Skigen asked Robin Stein whether Items F27.508 and F27.509 were approved by the Planning Board. Mr. Stein responded that he did not know, and Chair Skigen advised that these matters will not be taken up at the Board's regular meeting until it has been approved in the correct order. Upon motion duly made and seconded, the items were approved by votes of 10-0-0 (Reps. Skigen, Cannady, Day, DeLuca, Figueroa, Lyons, Mirkin, Mitchell, Rauh and Summerville in favor).

- 21a. [F27.512](#) REJECTION; of capital projects closeout for Project CP0051 – Stamford Center for the Arts office & theatre equipment. **HELD IN COMMITTEE 8-0-0**

- 21b. [F27.533](#) \$100,000.00 ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION (Capital Budget); Stamford Center for the Arts; to fund facilities improvements. **HELD IN COMMITTEE 8-0-0**

Chair Skigen stated that items 21a and 21b were not ready for consideration yet. Upon motion duly made and seconded, Item Nos. 512 and 533 were HELD by a vote of 8-0-0 (Reps. Skigen, Cannady, Day, DeLuca, Figueroa, Lyons, Mirkin and Rauh in favor).

22a. F27.534	a. REVIEW; Mayor Malloy's request for an opinion regarding Smith House budget cuts; - and -	REPORT MADE
22b. F27.534	b. APPROVAL; Sense of the Board Resolution urging the Board of Finance to reinstate the \$750,000 budget cut by including said amount in the Contingency Fund.	COMMITTEE APPROVED 7-0-1

Mr. Brown explained that the Smith House cannot simply be shut down, and he reviewed the lengthy State of CT process for closing a nursing home, which involves going through a Certificate of Need process. The State highly regulates nursing homes. Mr. Brown is a licensed nursing home operator, and he must comply with State of CT law. Mr. Brown also explained:

- 80% of expenses are labor-related;
- If he had to cut \$1 million, they would have to cut it almost entirely from staff (roughly 20-23 employees) and they cannot operate the facility with this level of reduced staffing.
- He considered closing one wing (23 patients), but the loss of revenue exceeds the cost savings.
- There are substantial fines imposed by the State for inadequate staffing.
- Even if all staff agreed to forego their annual 3% raises as well as all step increases, they would only save \$300-\$350,000.

The Committee agreed that the Board of Finance essentially made a policy decision through a financial process. While the discussion of whether or not the City should be operating a nursing home is a valid one, and it is a discussion that should be held periodically, the act of cutting tax dollars out of the facility is not the correct way to approach the matter.

Rep. Mirkin asked Ms. Dennies if the Mayor had drawn up any contingency plans in the event the Board of Finance does not include the funds in the contingency plan, and Ms. Dennies stated that she was unaware of any such plans.

Rep. Summerville stated that while she will support the resolution and has always been supportive of Smith House, and while she wanted to accommodate the Mayor by responding to his request for direction, this is really a problem created by the Board of Finance and they should be providing guidance as to their intent relating to the budget cut.

Chair Skigen stated that he believes the Board of Finance had a meeting last week and that they were drafting a communication to the Mayor.

Rep. Mirkin stated he would prefer the resolution not specify that the funds be included in the contingency fund but rather provide for the Board of Finance to determine where else in the budget it wanted to cut funds. Chair Skigen pointed out that the Board of Finance has already transmitted its budget to the Board of Representatives, the deadline was April 20th, and that the Board of Finance would be in violation of the Charter if it were to go back and amend its budget transmittal.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the resolution was approved by a vote of 7-0-1 (Reps. Skigen, Cannady, Day, DeLuca, Figueroa, Rauh and Summerville in favor; Rep. Mirkin abstaining).

Suspension of Rules

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Committee voted 8-0-0 (Reps. Skigen, Cannady, Day, DeLuca, Figueroa, Lyons, Mirkin and Rauh in favor) to suspend its rules to take up Item No. 23 below.

23. F27.536	ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION (Capital Budget);	COMMITTEE APPROVED 8-0-0
\$1,355,052.00	Transfers; Transfer to Self Insurance Fund; to fund deficit in Risk Management, Internal Service Fund; source of deficit is liability accruals made in 07-08 for pending claims; source of fund: 2007-08 surplus.	

Pete Privitera explained that the City had reserved \$2.7 million in reserves last year. The Risk Manager has since advised that only \$1.4 million will be needed. The balance will remain in the reserve for any additional claims received; if it is not used, it will most likely be used to cover any annual operating deficit this year.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the item was approved by a vote of 8-0. The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Randy Skigen, Chair