

MINUTES

SPECIAL MEETING

Chair Martin called the meeting to order at 8:45 p.m. and read the call of the meeting:

“I, David R. Martin, President of the 27th 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, June 15, 2009
7:30 p.m.
Legislative Chambers, 4th Floor
Government Center
888 Washington Boulevard
Stamford, CT 06904-2152

to consider and act upon the following:

1. [P27.110](#) - REJECTION; of a tentative agreement between the City and the Stamford Professional Fire Fighters Association Local #786, I.A.F.F.
2. [P27.111](#) - REJECTION; of a memorandum of agreement between the City and the Stamford Police Association. “

AGENDA

INVOCATION: Led by Rep. Cerasoli

“Dear Lord, we thank You for all the blessings You have bestowed upon our community, upon our families and upon ourselves. Grant that we never lose sight of these blessings in these increasingly difficult times. We ask that You provide us with Your guidance as we struggle to do what is right, what is just and while we work in the service of those around us. For this we pray.”

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-three members present and eight members absent/excused (excused: Reps. Diamond, Giordano, Larobina, Lyons, Mirkin, Pia and White; absent: Rep. Aposporos).

COMMITTEE/BUDGET PRESENTATION: Mary Fedeli, Chair,
Personnel Committee
(Attendance) Meeting: Monday, June 15, 2009
(Votes) 6:30 p.m. – Republican Caucus Room
(Report)

Chair Fedeli reported that the Personnel Committee met on June 15, 2009. Present were Chair Fedeli, Vice Chair Rauh and Committee Member Reps. Skigen, Lodato, Layton, Gabriele, Figueroa, Cannady and Boccuzzi. Also present were Clerk Summerville and Rep. Zelinsky; Peter Privitera of OPM; Sandra Dennies, Director of Administration; Fred Manfredonia of HR; Brendan Kelly of the Fire Department and Jim Kelly of the Police Department.

1. P27.110 REJECTION; of a tentative agreement between the City and the Stamford Professional Fire Fighters Association Local #786, I.A.F.F. **NOT REJECTED BY A MACHINE VOTE OF 3-27-0**

NOTE: Reps. Esposito and Franzetti left the floor and did not participate in the discussion or vote on Item No. P27.110.

Chair Fedeli stated that this is a two-year agreement. The current collective bargaining agreement will be extended for one year from 7/1/10 to 6/30/11. The wage increase that was originally agreed upon effective 7/1/09 will be deferred until 10/1/09. Effective 7/1/10, there will be a general wage increase of 2%. The City's obligated uniform allowance shall be limited to \$7,500 for the period 7/1/9 through 6/30/2010. Effective 7/1/9, employees shall be required to contribute 10%. The language requiring an increase to 11% shall be deferred until 7/1/2010. The requirement that 9 fire marshals be staffed will be reduced to 8 effective 7/1/9. There is a two year no layoff clause. The amount of concessions is \$507,031. The balance needed (to equal the Board of Finance cuts) was put in the contingency fund. The Committee voted not to reject 0-5-3.

Chair Fedeli moved to REJECT Item No. P27.110. Said motion was seconded.

Rep. Lodato stated that the police and fire contracts tonight are an attempt to avoid layoffs slated to be effective 7/1/09. Instead of these agreements dealing with structural cost issues, they provide a bandaid of temporary concessions, returning to business as usual at the end of this fiscal year. In exchange, the administration granted a 2-year no layoff provision. He is opposed to multi-year no layoff clauses because we cannot predict economic conditions in future years.

The administration failed to negotiate for concessions in the second year and instead agreed to a 2% wage increase. If the economy does not recover next year, Stamford will face higher structural costs without the means to pay for them. We will have nothing to offer the unions at that time as an incentive to negotiate. It will be the burden of the next administration to deal with this budgetary problem without the tools to deal with them. The concessions are not reciprocal and the Board does not have the power to make changes to the agreements. The Board has to make a choice of having police and fire personnel laid off or agreement to fundamentally flawed agreements. Rep. Lodato feels that lives would be at risk if the layoffs occur, so for this reason alone, he will support both agreements.

Rep. Coppola stated that he will not support “no layoff clauses” and pay increases. The wage increases in the fire contract are not that severe, but he cannot live with the no layoff clause. Regrettably, he will oppose the contract.

Rep. Zelinsky stated that he strongly supports the agreement. There is much construction in the City, and they protect the city and its residents. He urges his colleagues to support this agreement.

Rep. Day stated that we are presented with a Hobson’s choice here. Public safety considerations are paramount. He is frustrated that as a Board we don’t have the authority to have much impact on these contracts, through our charter and under State statutes.

The motion FAILED by a vote of 3-27-0 (Reps. Cerasoli, Coppola and Lombardo in favor; Reps. Adams, Berns, Boccuzzi, Cannady, Caterbone, Day, DeLuca, DePina, Fedeli, Figueroa, Gabriele, Heaphy, Layton, Lodato, Mallozzi, C. Martin, D. Martin, McGarry, McNeil, Mitchell, Neary, Rauh, Skigen, Summerville, Wallace, Young and Zelinsky opposed) (See [Vote Record No. 1028](#)).

2. [P27.111](#) REJECTION; of a tentative agreement between the City and the Stamford Police Association. **NOT REJECTED BY MACHINE VOTE OF 3-28-0**

NOTE: Rep. Franzetti left the floor and did not participate in the discussion or vote on Item No. P27.110.

A motion to REJECT Item No. P27.111 was made and seconded.

Chair Fedeli reported that the agreement shall be extended for an additional year from 7/1/10 ending 6/30/11. Effective 7/1/10, there will be a general wage increase of 2%. Clothing allowance, effective 7/1/9, the annual sum shall be \$800, which is a reduction from \$1,600. Each employee will be granted zero personal days for the 2009-10 contract year, and it will revert back to two days on 6/30/2010. There is a two-year no lay-off clause.

The concessions equals \$332,053, which would leave the concession short. The police chief has come forward with an overtime mitigation plan, where he will eliminate \$183,026, for a total of \$515,079 in concessions. This amount, together with funds in the contingency fund, will equal the amount of the Board of Finance cut.

Rep. Rauh stated that she agrees with Mr. Lodato that we are putting ourselves in a very difficult position for the second year. But, this is probably the weakest of all agreements. Individually, each police officer is giving up \$800; everything else is being deferred. In return, they will pick up money saved by paying only 10% on their health insurance.

Rep. Zelinsky stated that he strongly supports this agreement. Stamford is one of the safest cities in the United States, due to the men and women in the Stamford Police Department. They put their lives at risk every time they go out on a call, and he attended the recent award ceremony where forty officers were honored. The police deserve every penny.

Rep. Day stated that he wanted to make it clear that everyone in this room has the highest regard for the police. This is not the point here. Everyone recognizes the fantastic job they do, and everyone has appreciation for what they do. The labor agreements are completely separate from this.

Rep. Zelinsky stated that at the Personnel Committee meeting, it was mentioned that if the contract is not approved, approximately 20 new police officers will be laid off. It was also mentioned that they would probably find employment, and it would cost approximately \$100,000 per officer to train each new officer.

Rep. Boccuzzi stated that the Board of Representatives has no other option but to accept or reject. There is inadequate time to ask for more concessions. They should have been submitted in sufficient time that the Board could voice its opinion. No one wants to lay off fire or police personnel.

The motion FAILED by a vote of 3-28-0 (Reps. Cerasoli, Coppola and Lombardo in favor; Reps. Adams, Berns, Boccuzzi, Cannady, Caterbone, Day, DeLuca, DePina, Fedeli, Figueroa, Gabriele, Heaphy, Layton, Lodato, Mallozzi, C. Martin, D. Martin, McGarry, McNeil, Mitchell, Neary, Rauh, Skigen, Summerville, Wallace, Young and Zelinsky opposed) (See [Vote Record No. 1029](#)).

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 p.m.