

29TH BOARD OF REPRESENTATIVES CITY OF STAMFORD

President
RANDALL M. SKIGEN

Clerk of the Board
ANNIE M. SUMMERVILLE

Majority Leader
ELAINE MITCHELL

Minority Leader
MARY L. FEDELI

MINUTES

President Skigen called the meeting to order at 8:15 p.m., and read the call of the meeting:

I, Randall M. Skigen, President of the 29th 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, May 4, 2015

8:00 p.m.

Legislative Chambers, 4th Floor
Government Center
888 Washington Boulevard
Stamford, CT 06904-2152

to consider and act upon the following:

1. Operating (including Board of Education budget), Capital, E.G. Brennan Fund, Grants Fund, Police Extra Duty Fund, Risk Management Fund, Marina Fund, WPCA Fund and Parking Fund, and WPCA Capital Budgets for the fiscal year 2015/2016, as transmitted by the Board of Finance on April 16, 2015, pursuant to provisions of Section C8-30-7 of the Stamford Charter; and RESOLUTIONS associated therewith.

AGENDA

INVOCATION: Led by Pastor Blaine Edele.

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

President Skigen appointed Representative Fedeli Temporary Clerk.

ROLL CALL: Conducted by Temporary Clerk of the Board Mary L. Fedeli. There were 36 members present and 4 members absent or excused (Reps. Caterbone, Heaphy, Reeder and Summerville). [See Vote Record 1698](#).

President Skigen wished Jim Hricay a happy birthday.

COMMITTEE/BUDGET PRESENTATION: Jay Fountain, Chair, Fiscal Committee

Chair Fountain stated that the Committee had just received some OPEB adjustments as recommended by the actuaries, as follows, and these are incorporated into the final budget amounts:

EG Brennan Fund:	\$659 reduction
Grants Funded Programs Fund	\$4,349 reduction
Risk Management Fund	\$283 reduction
Marina Fund	\$218 reduction
Parking Fund	\$2,740 reduction
WPCA Fund	\$11,320 reduction
Board of Education	\$11,650 reduction
General Fund – City	\$114,770 reduction

Chair Fountain reviewed the Fiscal Committee’s [recommended cuts](#) for the City’s Education and Operating Budget below:

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Committee Action

\$200,000 – Board of Education **APPROVED 8-2-0**

OPERATING BUDGET

\$20,000 – Employee Benefits, UAW Training – Tuition **APPROVED 10-0-0**

\$15,000 – Employee Benefits, UE Training – Tuition **APPROVED 10-0-0**

\$15,000 – Citywide Employee Benefits, Deferred Compensation **APPROVED 10-0-0**

\$10,000 – Citywide Employee Benefits, College Tuition **APPROVED 8-2-10**

\$30,000 – Citywide Utilities and Commodities, Telephone **APPROVED 10-0-1**

\$10,000 – Citywide Supplies, Laundry **APPROVED 8-3-0**

President Skigen stated that the Board would vote to approve the report of the Fiscal Committee as a whole, and called for any motions to amend the report.

Representative Buckman made a motion to cut Non-City Agencies, Cultural & Environmental, as follows: \$3,966 from the Stamford Museum & Nature Center; \$26,602 from the Ferguson Library; \$1,555 from the DSSD Ambassador Program and \$40,750 from the Mill River Collaborative. This motion was seconded. Representative Buckman stated that the Board of Education is receiving a 2.6% increase; since the Board of Education is the most important non-

city agency; outside organizations with greater than \$50,000 budgets should not receive a percentage increase greater than the Board of Education.

Representative Zelinsky made a motion to divide this resolution, which motion was seconded and failed by a vote of 15-21-0 (Reps. Buckman, Cerasoli, de la Cruz, DePina, Figueroa, Giordano, McGarry, McMullen, Mitchell, Moore, Okun, Ryan, Savage, Silver and Zelinsky in favor; and Reps. Adams, Briscoe, Coleman, Coppola, Day, DeLuca, Di Costanzo, Fedeli, Fountain, Franzetti, Giraldo, Kolenberg, Kooris, Mahoney, McNeil, Nabel, Pratt, Quinones, Skigen, Wallace and Watkins opposed). [See Vote Record 1699](#).

Representative Fedeli spoke in opposition to the motion, stating that these outside agencies are good public-private partners with the City.

Representative Di Costanzo spoke in opposition to the motion, stating that these agencies were cut heavily in 2009; the Board of Education is not an agency of the City and doesn't equate to agencies who are raising money. These partnerships are critical to the City and the City has not lived up to its agreements with them.

Representative Watkins spoke in opposition to the motion, stating that the Mill River pays operating expenses which the City would otherwise have to pay. The City is not paying its 50% share.

Representative Mitchell stated that she cannot support this motion because it is a package of cuts.

Representative Coppola stated that the Stamford Museum and Nature Center and the Ferguson Library are learning venues and huge assets to the City. As long as the Mill River is holding up its end of the bargain, their budget cannot be cut.

Representative Fountain stated that each of these agencies received substantial cuts in 2011: the DSSD was cut \$40,000, the Ferguson Library was cut \$800,000, and the Stamford Museum and Nature Center was cut \$328,000.

Representative Mahoney stated that this is a small fraction of the budget. The Mayor's budget is increasing by 4%, but the school budget increase is limited to 2.68%. The Mayor's budget has taken priority over the schools.

Representative DeLuca made a motion to move the question, which motion was seconded and failed by a vote of 23-13-0 (Reps. Adams, Briscoe, Coleman, Day, de la Cruz, DeLuca, DePina, Di Costanzo, Fedeli, Figueroa, Fountain, Giordano, Kooris, Mahoney, McNeil, Mitchell, Moore, Nabel, Pratt, Quinones, Savage, Wallace and Watkins in favor; and Reps. Buckman, Cerasoli, Coppola, Franzetti, Giraldo, Kolenberg, McGarry, McMullen, Okun, Ryan, Silver, Skigen and Zelinsky opposed). [See Vote Record 1700](#).

Representative Zelinsky stated that he will not be supporting this motion.

Representative Nabel stated that she will not be supporting this item, because it is posited on the cut to the Board of Education budget made by the Board of Finance, and before other cuts are made, and the effect of this cut is not known because it is not a line item. The analogy between the school system and cultural institutions is a false analogy.

The main motion to cut Non-City Agencies, Cultural & Environmental, as follows: \$3,966 from the Stamford Museum & Nature Center; \$26,602 from the Ferguson Library; \$1,555 from the DSSD Ambassador Program and \$40,750 from the Mill River Collaborative was defeated by a

vote of 3-31-0 (Reps. Buckman, McGarry and Savage in favor; Reps. Briscoe, Cerasoli, Coleman, Coppola, Day, de la Cruz, DeLuca, Di Costanzo, Fedeli, Figueroa, Fountain, Franzetti, Giordano, Giraldo, Kolenberg, Kooris, Mahoney, McMullen, McNeil, Mitchell, Moore, Nabel, Okun, Pratt, Quinones, Ryan, Silver, Skigen, Wallace, Watkins and Zelinsky opposed). [See Vote Record 1701.](#)

Representative Franzetti made a motion to cut the Smith House Nursing Facility budget by \$17,865,952, which motion was seconded by Representative McMullen. Representative Franzetti stated that the City can no longer afford to run Smith House.

Representative Fountain pointed out that the Board of Finance had cut this budget by \$200,000 and made a friendly amendment to change this motion to \$17,665,952, which amendment was accepted by Representative Franzetti and Representative McMullen.

Representative McMullen spoke in favor of this motion, stating that the costs of the facility seem to be accelerating and it will take several years to shut down.

Representative Watkins stated that the Mayor understands there is a problem with Smith House and is going to look at it.

Representative Cerasoli spoke in opposition to the motion , but stated that the City must start the process to deal with Smith House.

Representative Day stated that the City needs to be careful regarding how to solve a problem concerning something that is viewed as an asset to the City.

This motion failed by a vote of 3-30-2 (Reps. Franzetti, McMullen and Zelinsky in favor; Reps. Adams, Briscoe, Buckman, Cerasoli, Coleman, Coppola, Day, de la Cruz, DeLuca, Di Costanzo, Fedeli, Figueroa, Fountain, Giordano, Giraldo, Kolenberg, Kooris, Mahoney, McNeil, Mitchell, Moore, Nabel, Okun, Pratt, Quinones, Ryan, Savage, Skigen, Wallace and Watkins opposed; Reps. McGarry and Silver abstaining). [See Vote Record 1702.](#)

Representative Cerasoli made a motion to cut \$55,000 from Operations Administration/Full Time Salary, which motion was seconded. Representative Cerasoli stated that the Bureau Chief position, which was budgeted for half a year, has not been filled.

Representative Fedeli stated that staff has been cut for the department and she would prefer to see this money going to other staff positions.

This motion was approved by a vote of 21-13-2 (Reps. Adams, Cerasoli, Coleman, Coppola, Day, de la Cruz, DeLuca, Fedeli, Figueroa, Franzetti, Kolenberg, Mahoney, McGarry, McMullen, Nabel, Okun, Quinones, Ryan, Wallace, Watkins and Zelinsky in favor; Reps. Buckman, Di Costanzo, Fountain, Giordano, Giraldo, Kooris, McNeil, Mitchell, Moore, Pratt, Savage, Silver and Skigen opposed; Reps. Briscoe and DePina abstaining). [See Vote Record 1703.](#)

Representative Zelinsky made a motion to cut \$568,934 from the Board of Education budget, which motion was seconded. Representative Zelinsky stated that he would like to cut the BOE HR Director, Assistant Superintendent and Assistant Principal positions, as a symbolic message to the public of the Board's disapproval of the findings of the recent Pullman and Comley report regarding the Board of Education.

Representative Day stated that voting against this motion does not mean that a representative does not disapprove of the findings of the report.

The motion failed by a vote of 4-26-3 (Reps. Mahoney, McMullen, Ryan and Zelinsky in favor; Reps. Adams, Briscoe, Cerasoli, Coleman, Coppola, Day, de la Cruz, DeLuca, Di Costanzo, Fedeli, Fountain, Giordano, Giraldo, Kolenberg, Kooris, McNeil, Mitchell, Moore, Nabel, Okun, Pratt, Quinones, Savage, Skigen, Wallace and Watkins opposed; Reps. Buckman, DePina and Franzetti abstaining). [See Vote Record 1704.](#)

Representative Zelinsky made a motion to cut Non-City Agencies, Cultural & Environmental/DSSD Ambassadors by \$69,300, which motion was seconded. He stated that this program should be paid for by downtown business.

The motion failed by a vote of 1-31-2 (Rep. Zelinsky in favor; Reps. Adams, Briscoe, Buckman, Cerasoli, Coleman, Coppola, Day, de la Cruz, Di Costanzo, Fedeli, Figueroa, Fountain, Giordano, Giraldo, Kolenberg, Kooris, Mahoney, McGarry, McMullen, McNeil, Mitchell, Moore, Okun, Pratt, Quinones, Ryan, Savage, Silver, Skigen, Wallace and Watkins opposed; Reps. DePina and Franzetti abstaining). [See Vote Record 1705.](#)

Representative Quinones made a motion to restore the \$200,000 cut by the Fiscal Committee from the Board of Education budget. This motion was seconded and defeated by a vote of 11-23-2 (Reps. Adams, Buckman, Di Costanzo, Giordano, Giraldo, Pratt, Quinones, Savage, Silver, Skigen and Wallace in favor; Reps. Briscoe, Cerasoli, Coleman, Coppola, Day, de la Cruz, DeLuca, Fedeli, Figueroa, Fountain, Kolenberg, Kooris, Mahoney, McGarry, McMullen, McNeil, Mitchell, Moore, Nabel, Okun, Ryan, Watkins and Zelinsky opposed; Reps. DePina and Franzetti abstaining). [See Vote Record 1706.](#)

RESOLUTIONS

- A motion to approve the [Operating Budget Resolution](#) in the amount of \$269,491,373 was made, seconded and approved by a machine vote of 30-4-0 (Reps. Adams, Briscoe, Buckman, Cerasoli, Coleman, Coppola, Day, de la Cruz, DeLuca, Di Costanzo, Fedeli, Figueroa, Fountain, Giordano, Giraldo, Kolenberg, Kooris, McNeil, Mitchell, Moore, Nabel, Okun, Pratt, Quinones, Savage, Silver, Skigen, Wallace, Watkins and Zelinsky in favor; Reps. Franzetti, Mahoney, McMullen and Ryan opposed) (Representative DePina left the floor during this motion). [See Vote Record 1707.](#)
- A motion to approve the [Board of Education Budget Resolution](#) in the amount of \$255,113,422 was made, seconded and approved by a machine vote of 32-1-2 (Reps. Adams, Buckman, Cerasoli, Coleman, Coppola, Day, de la Cruz, DeLuca, Di Costanzo, Fedeli, Figueroa, Fountain, Giordano, Giraldo, Kolenberg, Kooris, Mahoney, McGarry, McNeil, Mitchell, Moore, Nabel, Okun, Pratt, Quinones, Ryan, Savage, Silver, Skigen, Wallace, Watkins and Zelinsky in favor; Rep. McMullen opposed; Reps. Briscoe and Franzetti abstaining). [See Vote Record 1708.](#)
- A motion was made to approve the [Special Funds Budget Resolution](#) in the amounts of:

\$1,412,646 – E.G. Brennan Fund
\$9,917,524 – Grants Funded Programs Fund
\$9,246,000 – Police Extra Duty Fund
\$12,745,003 – Risk Management Fund
\$367,916 – Marina Fund
\$26,479,535 – WPCA Fund
\$6,720,642 – Parking Fund

Said motion was seconded and approved by a machine vote of 31-0-3 (Reps. Adams, Buckman, Cerasoli, Coleman, Coppola, Day, de la Cruz, DeLuca, Di Costanzo, Fedeli, Figueroa, Fountain, Giordano, Giraldo, Kolenberg, Kooris, Mahoney, McMullen, McNeil, Mitchell, Nabel, Okun, Pratt, Quinones, Ryan, Savage, Silver, Skigen, Wallace, Watkins and Zelinsky in favor; Reps. Briscoe, Franzetti and Moore abstaining). [See Vote Record 1709.](#)

CAPITAL BUDGET

Chair Fountain stated that the Fiscal Committee's had made no recommended cuts to the City's Capital Budget which had been approved by the Committee 9-1-0.

Representative Coppola made a motion to cut \$200,000 from the Stamford Fire Department / Scofield Area Temporary Firehouse. Said motion was seconded. Mr. Coppola stated that this is an unnecessary cost because there is adequate coverage.

Representative Fountain stated that the Fire Chief stated that there is not adequate coverage and that this area of the City is currently underserved.

The motion failed by a vote of 7-22-5 (Reps. Cerasoli, Coppola, DeLuca, Fedeli, McMullen, McNeil and Okun in favor; Reps. Adams, Coleman, de la Cruz, Di Costanzo, Fountain, Franzetti, Giordano, Giraldo, Mahoney, McGarry, Mitchell, Moore, Nabel, Pratt, Quinones, Ryan, Savage, Silver, Skigen, Wallace, Watkins and Zelinsky opposed; Reps. Briscoe, Buckman, Day, Kolenberg and Kooris abstaining). [See Vote Record 1710.](#)

CAPITAL BUDGET RESOLUTIONS

- A motion to approve the [Capital Budget Resolution](#) in the amount of \$74,304,812, including an amount for general obligation bonds in the amount of \$64,809,212, was made, seconded and approved by a machine vote of 30-4-1 (Reps. Adams, Briscoe, Buckman, Coleman, Day, de la Cruz, DeLuca, Di Costanzo, Fedeli, Figueroa, Fountain, Giordano, Giraldo, Kolenberg, Kooris, Mahoney, McGarry, McNeil, Mitchell, Moore, Nabel, Pratt, Quinones, Ryan, Savage, Silver, Skigen, Wallace, Watkins and Zelinsky in favor; Reps. Cerasoli, Coppola, McMullen and Okun opposed; Rep. Franzetti abstaining). [See Vote Record 1711.](#)
- A motion to approve the [Capital Budget Resolution](#) in the amount of \$74,304,812, including an amount for general obligation bonds and/or revenue bonds in the amount of \$3,370,000 for water pollution control projects, was made, seconded and approved by a machine vote of 32-0-2 (Reps. Adams, Buckman, Cerasoli, Coleman, Coppola, Day, de la Cruz, DeLuca, Di Costanzo, Fedeli, Figueroa, Fountain, Giordano, Giraldo, Kolenberg, Kooris, Mahoney, McMullen, McNeil, Mitchell, Moore, Nabel, Okun, Pratt, Quinones, Ryan, Savage, Silver, Skigen, Wallace, Watkins and Zelinsky in favor; Reps. Briscoe and Franzetti abstaining). [See Vote Record 1712.](#)

ADJOURNMENT

President Skigen adjourned the meeting at 9:37 p.m.