

A Special Meeting of the 25th Board of Representatives of the City of Stamford will be held Tuesday, May 2, 2000 p.m. in the Legislative Chambers of the Board of Representatives in the Government Center, 888 Washington Boulevard, Stamford, Connecticut.

Minutes – Special Budget Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 8:35 p.m.

INVOCATION: By Rep. Giordano

A transcript of the invocation is attached hereto and made a part hereof.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG: Led by President Carmen L. Domonkos.

ROLL CALL: Conducted by Acting Clerk of the Board Ellen Mellis. There were thirty-three members present. Absent and excused were Reps. Esposito, Fortunato, Gaztambide, Green-Carter, Lyons, Summerville and White. The Chair declared a quorum.

MACHINE TEST VOTE: The machine was in good working order.

PAGES:

President Domonkos read the call of the meeting as follows:

NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING

I, Carmen L. Domonkos, President of the 25th 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:

Tuesday, May 2, 2000
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, Capital, E.G. Brennan Fund, Grants and Police Extra Duty Fund, Risk Management Fund, Smith House Fund and WPCA Fund Budgets for the fiscal year 2000/2001, as transmitted by the Board of Finance on April 11, 2000, pursuant to provisions of Section C8-30-7 of the Stamford Charter; and RESOLUTIONS associated therewith.

President Domonkos expressed the full Board's appreciation and thanks to David Martin, as Chair of Fiscal, knowing what a huge job it is to go through the budget process every year. President Domonkos stated that the Board also appreciates the work of Bobby Owens, Vice Chair. President Domonkos also thanked every member of the Committee, and added that the Board knows how much attention each member pays to all of the departments, the hours and hours of work in subcommittees, and that the Board appreciates everyone's diligence and hard work.

Representative DeLuca expressed accolades to David Martin and his Committee, and stated the Board would be remiss if it didn't extend its sincere thanks and appreciation to Tom Hamilton and Dena Diorio. Rep. DeLuca stated that in his judgment this was the best presentation of the budget in all the year's he has been on the Board of Representatives.

Representative Martin stated that with everyone's cooperation, it has been easy this year, despite the budget being a challenging process. Rep. Martin stated there was never a problem with quorums despite all the meetings, there were late nights and he was pleased with the participation of the members of the Fiscal Committee and other members of the Board that attended at various times. Rep. Martin stated he appreciates everyone's cooperation and agreed with Gabe, adding that he still has some questions with the budget book that will be straightened out. Rep. Martin added that in terms of the ability of the people who came before the Board, they seemed to have a better sense of critical budget issues, and this had a lot to do with Tom Hamilton and Dena Diorio and the Office of Policy and Management and their efforts in trying to tighten up the budget.

Rep. Martin added that OPM was now recommending cuts to the Mayor that the Board previously would take. He added that specifically with regard to Gabe, he has hounded some issues, and we now have approximately \$200,000 in revenue, much of which was missed in the budget due to Gabe's work.

Rep. Martin stated that rather than reading a list of attendance for each budget meeting, he will submit a report to the Board Office. Rep. Martin stated he would make a series of recommendations to the Operating Budget and make a motion regarding the Fiscal Committee's recommended cuts.

Rep. Martin said that everyone has received three sets of handouts. These materials were prepared by the Office of Policy and Management, and he knows that the cuts are correct, but cannot assure that the account numbers are correct. He stated he would read the page number where each cut occurs.

Rep. Martin read the cuts that the Fiscal Committee made to the budget.

First, in the Controller's Office, Page 75, Account No. 01410333604, Outside Payroll Service - a reduction of \$10,000 bringing that line item to \$303,718.

On Page 133, Building Maintenance, Account No. 01421351100, Salaries - a reduction of \$1,000 bringing that line item to \$1,176,351.

On Page 308, Human Resources, Account No. 01440201100, Salaries - a reduction of \$1,000 bringing that line item to \$656,231.

On Page 351, Stamford Museum and Nature Center, Account No. 01460568605 - a reduction to the Stamford Museum Line of \$35,000 bringing that line item to \$1,140,620.

Rep. Nakian moved to amend the motion to restore the \$35,000 reduction and bring the Stamford Museum budget line back up to \$1,175,620. Said motion was seconded. Rep. Nakian stated that she understood the Fiscal Committee suggested this cut because they thought that the \$35,000 represented the funds that the Museum was requesting for its search for a new executive director. However, she added that when the Museum submitted its budget, it submitted its regular budget and added a one time cost of \$40,000 for the search and relocation costs. When the Mayor submitted his budget, he specifically cut the \$40,000 plus an additional \$2,265, so in effect, the cut that is proposed by the Fiscal Committee would be a double cut for the same purpose.

The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Representative Martin continued with the Fiscal Committee's budget cuts.

On Page 353, Debt Service, Account No. 01480809006, Transfer to Debt Service - a reduction of \$25,000 bringing the line item to \$26,910,688. Rep. Martin stated that the debt

service is a contributor to our budget increase this year due to the extraordinary activity in capital projects.

On Page 386, Employee Benefits, Account No. 01483012200, Social Security line - a reduction of \$75,000 bringing the line item to \$2,963,157.

On Page 356, Employee Benefits, Account No. 01483018911, Labor Contract Estimate - a reduction of \$5,000 bringing the line item to \$60,000.

On Page 359, Board of Education, Account No. 01490009998 - a reduction of \$40,000 bringing the line item to \$145,476,000.

Chair Martin stated that in addition, there is an item that does not appear readily in the budget book. All of the account codes that end with 5301, which are the telephone accounts. The Committee made a cut of \$50,000 to be allocated by the City across all of the 5301 accounts, representing a city-wide reduction in expected telephone expenses, bringing the total of these accounts from \$530,085 to \$480,085.

Chair Martin stated the total recommended cuts are \$242,000; as amended the total operating budget reduction is \$207,000. Chair Martin moved these reductions.

President Domonkos stated that Rep. Esposito joined the meeting at this time.

Said motion was seconded.

Rep. Boccuzzi moved to accept the Operating Budget as recommended by the Fiscal Committee and as amended tonight. Said motion was seconded.

President Domonkos asked for a total from the tellers; i.e., the total budget less the \$207,000 recommended reductions. The tellers stated that the final total of the operating budget was \$300,199,463.

Rep. Loglisci stated, on behalf of the Republican Caucus, that the Mayor committed to present a budget with an increase note greater than the rate of inflation, however, the proposed budget increase of approximately 3.7% is well above the current rate of inflation, which is closer to 2%. Rep. Loglisci stated that moreover, this 3.7% increase disguises the truth that shortfalls are being made up by substantial increases in user fees paid for by Stamford citizens. He stated we are moving for \$1.9 million in increases user fees. Rep. Loglisci stated that these user fees are, in reality, de facto tax increases, that are not deductible by Stamford's taxpayers. Additionally, despite raising taxes and increasing user fees, this budget is vulnerable to additional appropriations. Rep. Loglisci stated the Mayor has made arbitrary cuts in police, fire, health inspectors and operations.

Rep. Loglisci stated that department heads in this area emphasizes to the Fiscal Committee that additional appropriations will most likely be required. Rep. Loglisci stated that the Republican Caucus shares the administration's concern for the health of our City. He stated

that although the Caucus is reluctantly supporting this budget, it remains concerns as to the fiscal integrity of this budget.

The motion and second to accept \$300,199,463 was approved by unanimous voice vote.

Chair Martin stated that next the Board will turn to the Capital Budget. Chair Martin stated that the Fiscal Committee made no recommended cuts to the capital budget and moved to approve the capital budget of \$47,273,000. Said motion was seconded.

Rep. Loglisci referred everyone to Page 26. Rep. Loglisci stated that he hopes everyone is aware of how high the capital budget has been in the last few years. What was normally considered safe debt is now only a partial amount, and the City does have the Board of Education capital budget which is high and shadow budgets for the WPCA and others. Rep. Loglisci stated that under Open Space Acquisition, there is currently \$1.1 million in funds authorized for Open Space Acquisition. The administration is requesting an additional \$500,000, and Rep. Loglisci moved to cut the \$500,000, leaving the line item at \$1.1 million because this line is already funded at \$1.1 million. Said motion was seconded.

Rep. Martin stated, on behalf of the Committee, the Committee had a 5-5 vote on this amendment, so the amendment did not pass. Rep. Martin stated, speaking for himself, that he personally agrees with this reduction. He added that the Open Space Acquisition line item used to be an item that was bonded, but the IRS has eliminated our ability to bond the money. Rep. Martin stated that there should be some funds so that the administration can move quickly to deal with certain opportunities that may arise.

President Domonkos stated that the Board would vote by machine. Said motion failed by a machine vote of 15-19.

Rep. Loglisci stated that under the Mill River Corridor, there is currently \$875,000 in the account, and the Mayor is requesting another \$650,000. Rep. Loglisci moved to cut the appropriation by \$150,000. Rep. Loglisci stated that the area is one short block, and he can't imagine them spending more than \$1,375,000 in this area that is primarily a basketball court and some open ground. Said motion was seconded.

Chair Martin stated that this motion was discussed in Committee and the motion was defeated. Chair Martin added that the Mill River Corridor Project is much broader than the Phase I block that Rep. Loglisci referred to.

President Domonkos noted that Rep. Lyons arrived.

Said motion failed by machine vote 8-26-1.

Rep. Boccuzzi moved to accept the capital projects budget in the amount of \$47,273,000; said motion was seconded.

Rep. Sherer stated that he is abstaining from the Mayor's Housing Development Fund due to a conflict of interest.

Said motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

Rep. Martin stated the Board would now take up the Grants and Off Duty Police Special Revenue Budget in the amount of \$12,826,219. Rep. Martin stated no reductions were recommended by the Fiscal Committee. Rep. Martin moved acceptance of the budget; said motion was seconded and approved by unanimous voice vote.

Rep. Martin stated the Board would now take up the E.G. Brennan Golf Course Budget in the amount of \$909,720. Rep. Martin stated no reductions were recommended by the Fiscal Committee. Rep. Martin moved acceptance of the budget; said motion was seconded and approved by unanimous voice vote.

Rep. Martin stated the Board would now take up the Water Pollution Control Authority Budget in the amount of \$2,553,908. Rep. Martin stated no reductions were recommended by the Fiscal Committee. Rep. Martin moved acceptance of the budget; said motion was seconded.

Rep. Zelinsky asked what impact the budget would have on the sewer tax. Co-Chair Owens replied that it would be staying the same.

The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

Rep. Martin stated the Board would now take up the Smith House Budget in the amount of \$9,400,965. Rep. Martin stated no reductions were recommended by the Fiscal Committee. Rep. Martin moved acceptance of the budget; said motion was seconded and approved by unanimous voice vote.

Rep. Martin stated the Board would now take up the Risk Management Fund Budget in the amount of \$5,797,035. Rep. Martin stated the Fiscal Committee recommended a reduction of \$75,318, specifically in Account No. 93483218802, the Stamford Transportation Center. Rep. Martin moved acceptance of the budget in the amount of \$5,721,717; said motion was seconded and approved by unanimous voice vote.

Rep. Martin read the resolutions authorizing the budget. Said resolutions are attached hereto and made a part hereof.

Resolution No. 2582, authorizing adoption of the Operating Budget (including the Board of Education Budget) for the Fiscal Year July 1, 2000 to June 30, 2001 in the amount of \$300,199,463, was moved, seconded and approved by unanimous voice vote.

Resolution No. 2583, authorizing adoption of the Capital Budget (including approval of Exhibit A) for the Fiscal Year July 1, 2000 to June 30, 2001 in the amount of \$47,273,000, was moved, seconded and approved by unanimous voice vote.

Resolution No. 2584, authorizing adoption of the E.G. Brennan Fund for the Fiscal Year July 1, 2000 to June 30, 2001 in the amount of \$900,700, was moved, seconded and approved by unanimous voice vote.

Resolution No. 2585, authorizing adoption of the Grants and Police Extra Duty Fund for the Fiscal Year July 1, 2000 to June 30, 2001 in the amount of \$12,826,219, was moved, seconded and approved by unanimous voice vote.

Resolution No. 2586, authorizing adoption of the Risk Management Fund for the Fiscal Year July 1, 2000 to June 30, 2001 in the amount of \$5,721,717, was moved, seconded and approved by unanimous voice vote.

Resolution No. 2587, authorizing adoption of the Smith House Fund for the Fiscal Year July 1, 2000 to June 30, 2001 in the amount of \$9,400,965, was moved, seconded and approved by unanimous voice vote.

Resolution No. 2588, authorizing adoption of the WPCA Fund for the Fiscal Year July 1, 2000 to June 30, 2001 in the amount of \$10,553,908, was moved, seconded and approved by unanimous voice vote.

COMMUNICATIONS

1. President Domonkos announced that computer training is available to any representative who is interested.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion duly made and seconded and approved by unanimous voice vote, the meeting was adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

*The proceedings are available on audio tape at the
Offices of the Board of Representatives.*