



## ***Fiscal Committee - Board of Representatives***

John Mallozzi, Chair    Linda Cannady, Vice Chair

# **Committee Report**

**Date:** Thursday, March 25, 2010  
**Time:** 7:00 p.m.  
**Place:** Democratic Caucus Room, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Government Center, 888  
Washington Boulevard, Stamford, CT 06905-2098

The Fiscal Committee met at the above time and place. Present were Chair Mallozzi and Vice Chair Cannady and Committee Member Reps. DeLuca, Fedeli, Figueroa, Kaufman, Mallozzi, Mirkin, Mitchell, Rauh and Sklover. Absent/excused was Committee Member Rep. Day. Also present was Rep. Cerasoli; Karen Cammarota, Grants Office; Peter Privitera, Director of OPM; Peter Brown, Stamford Fire & Rescue; Sean Cooney, Stamford Police Department; Annie Fountain, Acting Health Director and Robert Nivakoff, Police Chief.

Chair Mallozzi called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

<b>Item No.</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Committee Action</b>
1. <a href="#">F28.037</a>	RESOLUTION; authorizing the Mayor to file an application with the CT Dept. of Public Health to receive funds under the Preventive Health Services Block Grant; amount of grant: \$17,911.	<b>COMMITTEE APPROVED 7-0-0</b>
Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Item was approved by a vote of 7-0-0 (Reps. Mallozzi, DeLuca, Fedeli, Figueroa, Mirkin, Mitchell and Rauh in favor).		
2. <a href="#">F28.039</a> \$46,248.00	ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION (Grants Budget); Town Clerk; Historic Preservation Grant; to scan and convert military discharge documents.	<b>COMMITTEE APPROVED 7-0-1</b>
Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Item was approved by a vote of 7-0-1 (Reps. Mallozzi, DeLuca, Fedeli, Figueroa, Mirkin, Mitchell and Rauh in favor; Rep. Cannady abstaining).		
3. <a href="#">F28.043</a> \$6,600.00	ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION (Grants Budget); Click it or Ticket Grant; Overtime; to establish and run	<b>COMMITTEE APPROVED</b>

check-points for seat belt enforcement (formerly submitted as Item No. [F28.004](#)) **8-0-0**

Chair Mallozzi noted that this item was previously on the agenda, but because the Board of Finance turned it down, the Board of Reps never acted on it. It has been resubmitted. Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Item was approved by a vote of 8-0-0 (Reps. Mallozzi, Cannady, DeLuca, Fedeli, Figueroa, Mirkin, Mitchell and Rauh in favor).

4. [F28.041](#) ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION (Operating Budget); **COMMITTEE**  
~~\$854,270.00~~ Stamford Police; Overtime; to fund anticipated deficit **APPROVED**  
\$600,000.00 in overtime account due to 25 vacancies. **9-0-0**

Chief Nivakoff reported:

- Last week the storm cost approximately \$50,000 in overtime.
- They are at a minimal staffing level. They are supposed to have 313 officers, but they only have 279 at this time. The vacant positions have been eliminated in the budget. By July 1<sup>st</sup>, with retirements, they expect to be down to 274.
- The police contract has minimum staffing requirements.
- The Chief must keep the narcotics squad at full capacity, and he chooses to keep internet crimes at full capacity, he has created a 7pm -3am neighborhood unit, and this is also fully staffed.
- He is trying to be as fiscally responsible as possible, but they are experiencing a lot of street robberies and home burglaries.
- His overtime has dropped over the last two months.
- They have lost 6 civilian positions, and he is not certain how this will affect overtime.
- Next year's budget has been cut to \$250,000 a month for overtime. They have used about \$284,000 a month for the last two months.

Mr. Privitera stated that they will be back for additional overtime. They currently have about 1 ½ weeks worth of overtime in their account, and this will bring them current but will not take them until the end of the year.

Mr. DeLuca asked about the drug confiscation money. Chief Nivakoff stated that these funds can only be used in the narcotics area and cannot be used to supplant existing budgeted line items. The money is used to purchase equipment that they otherwise would not purchase. He also noted that the department recently confiscated \$1.1 million. The DEA only would allot 6% to Stamford. After negotiations, they had that amount raised to 16%. Further, it takes anywhere from a few weeks to a few years to actually receive the funds from the DEA.

Mr. Mirkin asked that detailed breakdowns in overtime and overtime cost-drivers be provided at the budget hearing. Chief Nivakoff stated he would provide this information.

Chair Mallozzi noted that the Board of Finance reduced the requested amount to \$600,000.00. Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Item was approved by a vote of 9-0-0 (Reps. Mallozzi, Cannady, DeLuca, Fedeli, Figueroa, Mirkin, Mitchell, Rauh and Sklover in favor).

5. <a href="#">F28.045</a>	ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION (Operating Budget);	<b>COMMITTEE APPROVED 9-0-0</b>
<del>\$585,354.00</del>	Stamford Fire; Overtime; to fund anticipated deficit in	
\$450,000.00	overtime account due to 16 vacancies.	

Peter Brown reported that:

- Fire overtime is 95% driven by minimum manpower requirements.
- It has increased because of the hiring freeze, and they currently have 17 vacancies.
- They are required to have 55 fire fighters working at all times.
- They cover about 80% of Stamford.
- Overtime is running \$44,000 per week.
- They will be holding a test on June 5<sup>th</sup>, and fire fighters can be ready to work in 8-12 weeks after hiring.
- They will be back for additional funds before year end, probably for about \$350,000.
- They are proud of their average of only 5-6 sick days per year per fire fighter.
- One firefighter was called up by the National Guard, and he will be out for one year. Replacing this one position will cost about \$100,000 in overtime over the course of a year.
- The recent storm cost about \$11,000 in overtime.
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Chair Mallozzi noted that the Board of Finance reduced the requested amount to \$450,000.00. Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Item was approved by a vote of 9-0-0 (Reps. Mallozzi, Cannady, DeLuca, Fedeli, Figueroa, Mirkin, Mitchell, Rauh and Sklover in favor).

6. <a href="#">F28.040</a>	ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION (Operating Budget);	<b>COMMITTEE APPROVED 9-0-0</b>
\$1,000,000.00	Medical & Life; City Active Primary Claims; to fund anticipated deficit in Medical & Life accounts. Reduction due to Board of Finance budget cut and actual claims experience; source of funds: 2008-09 fiscal year surplus.	

Mr. Privitera explained that the Board of Finance cut \$1 million from this account. This fund is solely used to pay medical bills. The reserve fund should have about 8-10% of anticipated claims in it; it currently has about 4%.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Item was approved by a vote of 9-0-0 (Reps. Mallozzi, Cannady, DeLuca, Fedeli, Figueroa, Mirkin, Mitchell, Rauh and Sklover in favor).

7. [F28.044](#) ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION (Operating Budget); **ITEM**  
\$225,000.00 Snow Removal; Salt & Sand; to fund anticipated **WITHDRAWN**  
deficit in Snow Removal/Salt & Sand Accounts.

Mr. Privitera asked that this item be withdrawn; he will decide whether or not it will be resubmitted.

8. [F28.042](#) ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION (Operating Budget); **COMMITTEE**  
\$28,000.00 Special Events; Overtime; reimbursement to support **APPROVED**  
DSSD summer concert event (Alive at 5). **9-0-0**

Mr. Privitera explained that this is a reimbursement check.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Item was approved by a vote of 9-0-0 (Reps. Mallozzi, Cannady, DeLuca, Fedeli, Figueroa, Mirkin, Mitchell, Rauh and Sklover in favor).

9. [F28.046](#) ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION (Operating Budget); **COMMITTEE**  
\$1,171,922.00 Smith House; Labor and Non-Labor Accounts; to fund **APPROVED**  
2 requests: 1) \$747,908 restoration of Board of **8-0-1**  
Finance cut; and 2) \$424,014 to fund outsourced  
services and supplies which will generate increased  
Medicare revenue.

Mr. Privitera explained:

- The Board of Finance deducted \$750,000 from the budget last year. Thereafter, the BOF included the same amount in the contingency fund to allow adequate time to determine whether they wanted to pursue closing this facility.
- The remaining \$422,000 represents expenses incurred for physical therapy services that they are providing. These funds will be reimbursed.
- The census numbers are better this year.
- The facility is still losing about \$1.7 to \$1.9 million per year that the City has to fund.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Item was approved by a vote of 8-0-1 (Reps. Mallozzi, Cannady, DeLuca, Fedeli, Figueroa, Mirkin, Mitchell and Rauh in favor; Rep. Sklover abstaining).

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

The Committee was scheduled to reconvene at 8:00 p.m. for a budget hearing.

Respectfully submitted,

John Mallozzi, Chair