



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

John Mallozzi, Chair    Linda Cannady, Vice Chair

# **Committee Report**

**Date:** Monday, April 26, 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, Mirkin, Rauh and Sklover. Excused were Committee Member Reps. Day and Mitchell. Also present were Clerk Summerville; Karen Cammarota, Grants; Jim Hricay, Agnes Cawai and Peter Privitera, OPM; Peter Brown, Fire Department; Robert Nivakoff, Police Department; Marcia O’Kane, Jack Halpert and Gloria Blick Senior Center; Barbara Garvin-Kester, CLC; Laurence Gilgore, CT Grand Opera; Kathleen Walsh, Stamford Partnership; Terri Drew, Youth Services; Lou Ursone and Ted Yudain, Curtain Call; Ken DellaRocco and Jackie Cameron, Bartlett Arboretum; Barbara Soroca, Stamford Symphony; and Frank Larent and Alan Mathis of Liberation Programs.

Chair Mallozzi called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

<b>Item No.</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Committee Action</b>
1. <a href="#">F28.047</a> \$18,078.00	ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION (Grants Budget); Lead Poisoning Prevention Program.	<b>COMMITTEE APPROVED</b> <b>9-0-0</b>
2. <a href="#">F28.048</a> \$1,186,300.00	ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION (Capital Budget); Engineering; EECBG-ARRA; “green” street lighting, municipal energy efficiency, vehicle charging stations.	<b>COMMITTEE APPROVED</b> <b>8-0-1</b>

Ms. Cammarota stated that this is ARRA stimulus funding, and there are four projects in this grant: 1) municipal street lighting; 2) retrofitting the lights in schools and installation of energy-efficient systems in firehouses and the city garage; 3) installing charging stations for electric vehicles; and 4) purchasing the fuel cell for the Government Center. She stated that CL&P has indicated it may install the charging stations, and if so, these funds will be redirected to another

project, but they are asking for approval at this time to use funds as approved by the Federal government.

Reps. Kaufman and Rauh stated that they were under the impression that the vendor, Pareto Energy, was going to provide the fuel cell at its cost. Ms. Cammarota replied that it was her impression that they would in fact install the equipment, but thereafter, the City would reimburse Pareto over a period of 20 years. These funds would be used for a portion of that reimbursement. Rep. Rauh, who serves on the Energy Improvement District board, stated that this was not her understanding. Ms. Cammarota agreed to confirm the information and get back to the committee.

Rep. Sklover asked why Northeast and Springdale schools were eliminated from the retrofitting project, and Ms. Cammarota agreed to get back to the Committee with a reply.

3. <a href="#">F28.049</a> <del>\$667,689.00</del> \$350,000.00	ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION (Operating Budget); Stamford Police Overtime; 25 vacancies; necessary to cover expenditures through end of fiscal year.	<b>COMMITTEE APPROVED 9-0-0</b>
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Chief Nivakoff reported that the Police Department has began tracking overtime daily and weekly. They have been doing an excellent job at reducing overtime. Each department now has its own budget for overtime. Mr. Privitera stated that the Police Department will be back next time for additional overtime as well as for funding for the contract settlement. Upon motion duly made and seconded, the item was approved by a vote of 9-0-0.

4. <a href="#">F28.050</a> <del>\$343,800.00</del> \$125,000.00	ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION (Operating Budget); Stamford Fire & Rescue Overtime; 17 vacancies; necessary to cover expenditures through end of fiscal year.	<b>COMMITTEE APPROVED 9-0-0</b>
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Deputy Chief Peter Brown reported that the overtime in the Fire Department has been reduced and is limited only to contract-related overtime necessary to meet minimum manpower requirements. A hiring test is scheduled for June 5. Despite the hiring freeze, they hope to replace 4-6 individuals who are expected to retire over the next few months. These new hires should have completed their training and be ready to start by January 1<sup>st</sup>.

The Committee then discussed the reductions in overtime made by the Board of Finance. Mr. Privitera stated that it is his responsibility to notify the Board of Finance, at its mill-rate setting meeting, that he expects both the Fire and Police Departments will overspend the budgeted amount. At that time he will explain the ramifications of the under-budgeting to the Board of Finance.

Mr. Mirkin stated that it is his understanding that the Contingency Fund is for unforeseen circumstances and emergencies. Mr. Privitera stated that for several years the overtime accounts have been under-funded during the budget-setting process, and it has been past practice to include anticipated shortfalls in the Contingency Fund. Mr. Privitera also discussed the lack of a mechanism to finance the Rainy Day Fund.

The Committee then discussed the issue of banning smoking and instituting physical fitness standards for both police and fire personnel. Deputy Chief Brown stated that he is currently looking to ban smoking on fire department premises (it is already banned indoors). He stated that physical fitness standards are subject to labor bargaining, and while the City has tried in the past to include them, most negotiations boil down to annual salary increases and employee benefits. Mary Fedeli stated that after the budget process is over, the Personnel Committee will be sitting down with the City's labor negotiator to advise the negotiator of items it would like included in labor negotiations. The Personnel Committee will include this matter in its discussions.

### **Suspension of the Rules**

A motion to suspend the rules to take up an item not appearing on the Agenda was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 8-0-1 (Rep. Mirkin opposed).

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| 5. <a href="#">F28.052</a> | RESOLUTION; supporting providing for \$1.2 million in the contingency funds for the benefit of the Ferguson Library. | <b>COMMITTEE<br/>APPROVED<br/>8-0-1</b> |
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Rep. Mirkin stated that he asked Mr. Privitera to prepare a listing of all outside agencies and the cuts that they received (see [attached](#)). He stated that a smaller cut to some of the smaller agencies could be just as devastating as the cut made to the Library. Therefore, where should the Board draw the line? Rep. Mirkin stated that in a perfect world, the City could fund everyone at 100%, but we cannot, so he will not support this.

Rep. Fedeli stated that she will support the resolution because 1) in all the years she has served on the Board, she has never seen so many people publicly state that they would be willing to pay more to fund the Library (especially in light of the fact that a not-for-profit she serves on, Keep Stamford Beautiful, received a 100% funding cut); 2) the library is different and serves every age level in the community; 3) the Library branches touch a lot of neighborhoods in Stamford; and 4) whether or not the Board of Finance responds to the resolution, it is important for her to show her support of the library to her neighborhood and the City.

Reps. Sklover stated that during these tough economic times, the Library services are needed more than ever. Rep. Kaufman stated that a 15% cut is considerable, and the Library does not have a way to charge fees to make it up. Rep. Figueroa

stated that the Library helps to keep kids off the street. Rep. Rauh stated she will support the resolution, but she has witnessed over-staffing at the Library at certain times. Rep. Cannady stated she will support the resolution but that she was not pleased when the first solution to the budget cut was to close the busy South End branch.

Chair Mallozzi pointed out that the cut was made by the Mayor, not the Board of Finance. Further, he wanted it noted that this resolution does not do anything to restore funding. It merely asks that the Board of Finance set aside \$1.2 in the contingency fund identified for the restoration of the funding cut.

Rep. Mirkin stated that the Library has ways to generate income, including the passport office, Starbucks as well as the bookstore. He referenced a recent Stamford Advocate news article that maintained that other area libraries have larger endowments and are better at fund-raising than Stamford. Rep. Fedeli stated that the Mayor has agreed to assist in a corporate fund-raising effort, and she awaits the outcome of this effort.

Clerk Summerville stated that this resolution should not be considered a weak resolution. It says to the residents that the full Board of Representatives supports the Library. As for anyone with concerns about the actual operations and staffing of the Library, the President of the Library Board, Mr. George Harvey, is a well-respected individual who would certainly address these types of concerns. She thanked Rep. DeLuca for putting the resolution together.

A motion to approve the resolution was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 8-0-1 (Rep. Mirkin opposed).

Mr. Privitera discussed the City's claim reserves and distributed a chart showing the current reserve levels (see [attached](#)). Mr. Privitera stated that he feels an appropriate level of reserve should be 5%.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

John Mallozzi, Chair