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BOARD OF FINANCE

STAMFORD GOVERNMENT CENTER
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P.O. BOX 10152
STAMFORD, CONNECTICUT 06904-2152

MINUTES

Regular Meeting

Tuesday, August 20, 2013:7:00 PM
Board of Finance Meeting Room, 4th Floor

Call to Order: Chairman Abbazia

Pledge of Allegiance: To be led by Chairman Abbazia

Approval of Minutes: July 11, 2013: 7:00 PM: Regular Meeting: **Approved 6-0-0**
Motion: G. Bosak; Second: J. Louizos
July 29, 2013: 5:45 PM: Special Meeting: **Approved 5-0-1**
Motion: G. Bosak; Second: K. Murphy. Abstention by M. Rinaldi, noting she was out of the country for this meeting.

Approved As Noted

Public Participation:

Reports to the Board: Mr. Louizos stated that he conducted an Education Committee meeting this evening, noting that due to some procedural issues, the meeting started later than the 5:00 start time, and ended earlier due to a Planning Board meeting requiring attendance by the Board of Education members who were participants at this meeting. Mr. Louizos stated that after 6 months of analysis by the schools regarding school safety upgrades, with police department input and updates and follow- through conducted by this Committee, the Board of Education approved an appropriation for School Safety upgrades and were now presenting a portion of that from the Board of Finance for approval at this meeting (see Item # 17, requested under suspension of the rules).

Note: Items are Shown in Order of Consideration

Revaluation Review

Item 4 Discussion/Additional Appropriation in the amount of $100,000 to hire additional personnel to review anomalies in City property valuations. — No Action Taken

Action Requested: Discussion/Appropriation
Amount: $100,000
Fund/Budget:
Submitted by: Tim Abbazia, Chairman

Video: 00:05 Director of Administration Handler spoke about the reviews undertaken by his department in response to a series of inquiries from citizens regarding issues relating to their tax increases after revaluation. He advised that while it was too soon to come to a judgment, his sense from the hearings already conducted was that most residents argued not with their valuation, but with their tax increase, adding that the information provided by residents did not point to changes in the valuation. He did state that the exception was one case where a clerical error was found in square footage, now corrected, and would result in an adjustment of taxes. He further stated that at this point, he did not believe an audit was warranted. Mr. Martin recommended that co-ops and commercial properties be included in any review, and Ms. Murphy stated that she preferred that an outside firm be engaged for this purpose. Board of Reps Member Jay Fountain provided the Board with input from their fiscal committee should the Board decide to pursue an audit, which was his stated recommendation even if it showed that there was no systemic problem with the revaluation. Mr. Louizos suggested that utilizing the City's website to advise residents of their options which included appealing their taxes in the next year when they could be adjusted, cost no money and was the appropriate course of action. The Board thanked Mr. Handler for this update.

OFFICE OF LEGAL AFFAIRS

Additional Appropriation

Item 6 Request for Approval of Additional Appropriation in the amount of $56,211 to hire a permanent part-time Freedom of Information Officer to receive, assess and disclose information in response to Freedom of Information requests. — **Approved**

Action Requested: Additional Appropriation — **5-1-0**
Amount: $56,211 — **Motion by M. Rinaldi**
Fund/Budget: — **Seconded J. Louizos**
Submitted by: Joe Capalbo, Director of Legal Affairs

Video: 00:23 Mr. Capalbo advised that this position was warranted and necessary to deal with the significant number of requests for information under FOI, in order to ensure that all requests were answered properly, a contact provided, and to track and monitor

every request. Ms. Rinaldi asked if the new employee would be an Attorney (Mr. Capalbo said yes) and if the person would receive benefits (yes to this also, per Mr. Hricay). While Ms. Murphy objected to this position, the Board acted to approve this request by a vote of 5-1-0, with Ms. Murphy casting the dissenting vote.

ITEM HEARD UNDER SUSPENSION OF RULES

Board of Education-Supplemental Capital Request

Item 17	Request for Approval of Supplemental Capital Appropriation in the amount of $815,000 in order to implement safety upgrades at City schools.		**Approved**
	Action Requested:	Supplemental Capital Appropriation	**6-0-0**
	Amount:	$815,000	**Motion by**
	Fund/Budget:	Capital	**J. Louizos**
	Submitted by:	Mayor Michael Pavia/Board of Education	**Second**
	Video: 00:32	On a motion by Mr. Martin, which was seconded by Mr. Louizos, the Board agreed by unanimous vote to hear this item under suspension of the rules. Superintendent Hamilton, pointing to two volumes of research gained from reviewing the school safety systems at city schools, stated that this research provided the Board of Education, along with recommendations from the Police Department, with 7 consistent security issues which warranted improvement and correction. Three priorities were determined that could be acted on now including upgrade and increase of cameras, multiple portals for the intercom system, and alert buttons connected to computers and with GPS, to allow for quick communication among personnel in the event of a safety breach. While there were additional upgrades to be requested later, these immediate priorities totaled $815K including an architect's review. Ms. Rinaldi asked where the funds would be gained (Mr. Hricay stated that there were ample funds in the capital non-recurring account). Mr. Martin suggested that they needed two approvals, one of the new project, and the other of the funding source, suggesting that the latter was lacking. Director of Administration Handler stated that City funds would be fronted if necessary, to allow the Board to expedite this project. Mr. Louizos said that all of the original 7 issues should be dealt with, citing locks as also being a priority. Ms. Hamilton stated that they were already working on this, and would come back before the Board after the architect's determination was made with an additional request. On a motion by Mr. Louizos, which was seconded by Mr. Martin, the Board approved this item by unanimous vote.	**D. Martin**

OFFICE OF PUBLIC SAFETY

Springdale Volunteer Fire Department

Item 9	Request for Approval of Additional Appropriation in the amount of $115,500 to cover funding for the fiscal year 2013-14.		**Approved for Lesser Amount of $12,833.33**
	Action Requested:	Additional Appropriation	**5-0-0**
	Amount:	$115,500 Requested; $12,833.33 Approved	**Motion by**
	Fund/Budget:	Contingency	**G. Bosak**
	Submitted by:	Ted Jankowski, Director of Public Safety/Chief Fahan	**Seconded**
	Video: 00:55	Volunteer Chief Fahan reviewed his budget, stating that in order to make ends meet, the department was utilizing both donations and loans, so needed this funding in order to operate. In response to a question from Ms. Rinaldi, Director of Legal Affairs Capalbo advised the Board that the pending court case which was sought to compel the City to provide said funding was at the point of jury selection, but he was optimistic that an agreement could be reached as there were just two contentious issues remaining. Mr. Bosak asked Chief Fahan for records of response times. After some discussion, the Board decided to provide one month of funding for each of Springdale, Long Ridge & Turn of the River so that they could continue to operate, with the understanding that they come back again next month for additional funds. On a motion by Mr. Bosak, which was seconded by Mr. Louizos, the Board agreed by unanimous vote to approve $117,791.67 for Long Ridge, $25,666.66 for Turn of the River and $12,833.33 for Springdale, each representing one month of the remaining 9 months of funding requested. (Mr. Martin left the meeting prior to this item, citing a previous commitment).	**J. Louizos**

Long Ridge Volunteer Fire Department

Item 7	Request for Approval of Additional Appropriation in the amount of $1,060,125 to cover funding for the fiscal year 2013-14.		**Approved for Lesser Amount of $117,791.67**
	Action Requested:	Additional Appropriation	**5-0-0**
	Amount:	$1,060,125 Requested; $117,791.67 Approved	**Motion by**
	Fund/Budget:	Contingency	**G. Bosak**
	Submitted by:	Ted Jankowski, Director of Public Safety/Chief Teitlebaum	**Seconded**
	Video: 00:55	See item # 9 above.	**J. Louizos**

Turn of the River Volunteer Fire Department

Item 8	Request for Approval of Additional Appropriation in the amount of $231,000 to cover funding for the fiscal year 2013-14.		**Approved for Lesser Amount of $25,666.66**
	Action Requested:	Additional Appropriation	**5-0-0**
	Amount:	$231,000 Requested; $25,666.66 Approved	**Motion by**
	Fund/Budget:	Contingency	**G. Bosak**
	Submitted by:	Ted Jankowski, Director of Public Safety/Chief Jacobellis	**Seconded**
	Video: 00:55	See item # 9 above.	**J. Louizos**

GRANTS

Justice Assistance Grant

Item 1	Request for Approval of Additional Appropriation in the amount of $44,932 to be used for increased Police walking patrols in the Downtown, West side, East side & South End neighborhoods to deter crime and enhance positive interaction with the community.		**Approved**
	Action Requested:	Additional Appropriation	**5-0-0**
	Amount:	$44,932	**Motion by**
	Fund/Budget:	100 % Grant Funded	**G. Bosak**
	Submitted by:	Karen Cammarota, Grants Officer	**Seconded**
	Video: 01:12	Ms. Cammarota advised that while Stamford receives an allocation of grant funds for this every year, it changes according to the federal formula.	**M. Rinaldi**

OPM Police & Youth Program Grant

Item 2	Request for Approval of Additional Appropriation in the amount of $10,000 to be used for implementation of a Girl's Leadership & Youth Police Commission Program; with the funds used for police overtime, contracted services, and office supplies.		**Approved**
	Action Requested:	Additional Appropriation	**5-0-0**
	Amount:	$10,000	**Motion by**
	Fund/Budget:	100 % Grant Funded: CT OPM	**J. Louizos**
	Submitted by:	Karen Cammarota, Grants Officer	**Seconded**
	Video: 01:14		**G. Bosak**

WPCA Audit

Item 3	Review & Approve: WPCA Audit Scope		**Approved**
	Action Requested:	Approve WPCA Audit Scope	**4-0-0**
	Amount:	$	**Motion by**
	Fund/Budget:		**J. Louizos**
	Submitted by:	Tim Abbazia, Chairman	**Seconded**
	Video: 01:17	Ms. Rinaldi advised that she would neither participate in discussion or vote on this item, and left the floor. After some discussion, with input sought from Board of Reps Members Jay Fountain, Joe Coppola & Mary Uva who attended the meeting, the Board acted to approve the scope as submitted with one change sought from Chairman Abbazia, which was to increase the capital project review to 12 years as opposed to 10. It was also noted that respondents should be able to bid on any and all items in the scope separately.	**G. Bosak**

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Unexpended Funds

Item 5 Pursuant to Law 10-248a, request for approval of usage of unexpended funds in accordance with agreement between the City of Stamford and the Board of Education. **Held**

Action Requested:	Discussion/Approval of Unexpended Funds agreement
Amount:	$
Fund/Budget:	Board of Education
Submitted by:	Superintendent Winnie Hamilton, Board of Education
Video: 00:00	This item was held, as an amended agreement was not yet completed.

OFFICE OF OPERATIONS

Notice of Capital Project Close-Out

Item 10 Notice of close-out/reduction of Capital Projects totaling $5,546,632.49 (per attached listing). **No Action Taken**

Action Requested:	Capital Project close-outs
Amount:	$5,546,632.49
Fund/Budget:	Capital
Submitted by:	Mayor Pavia
Presented by:	Jim Hricay, Acting Director of OPM
Video: 01:35	The board took no action on this notice.

Supplemental Capital Appropriation: Seawall Replacement/Repairs

Item 11 Request for Approval of Supplemental Capital Appropriation in the amount of $758,000 to perform Citywide retaining wall replacement and repairs as needed. **Withdrawn**

Action Requested:	Supplemental Capital Appropriation
Amount:	$758,000: $568,500: Grant Funded (75% FEMA) $189,500: Bonds
Fund/Budget:	Capital: New
Submitted by:	Lou Casolo, City Engineer
Video: 00:00	

Supplemental Capital Appropriation: Street Patch Resurface

Item 12 Request for Approval of Supplemental Capital Appropriation in the amount of $126,000 to resurface walks at Michael J. Drotar Park and to resurface parking lot at Inspirica located at 8 Woodland Place. **Action taken as Noted**

Action Requested:	Supplemental Capital Appropriation
Amount:	$126,000 Requested; $50,000 held for Michael J. Drotar Park portion. Balance of $76,000 failed
Fund/Budget:	Capital: C56182: Bonds $77,790 $48,210:Inspirica Contribution
Submitted by:	Lou Casolo, City Engineer
Video: 01:43	Ms. Rinaldi asked why the City was paying for resurfacing of

a parking lot not owned by the City, referring to Inspirica. City Engineer Casolo explained that it was a cost share, with the City contributing just the top portion and also advising that the Health Department said that Inspirica provided a vital service. Ms. Murphy, noting that she recognized that these organizations do provide a benefit, also said that the City should not be paving their parking lots. Mr. Louizos wanted to make sure that the City was indemnified if they did so. Mr. Casolo relayed that the work sought for the Michael J. Drotar portion, which the City owned, was not a luxury, but a needed improvement. On a motion by Mr. Louizos, which was seconded by Ms. Rinaldi, the Board acted by unanimous vote to hold the portion of the appropriation related to the walks at the Michael J. Drotar Park, noted as $50,000. On a motion by Mr. Louizos, which was seconded by Mr. Bosak, the Board failed the remaining request of $76,000, by a vote of 3-1-1, with Ms. Murphy dissenting and Ms. Rinaldi abstaining.

Supplemental Capital Appropriation: Paving/Resurfacing

Item 13	Request for Approval of Supplemental Capital in the amount of $100,000 to resurface and perform drainage improvements at the Dolan Middle School parking lot.		**Failed**
	Action Requested:	Supplemental Capital Appropriation	**3-2-0**
	Amount:	$100,000	**Motion by**
	Fund/Budget:	Capital: C5B623 City Bonds	**J. Louizos**
	Submitted by:	Lou Casolo, City Engineer	**Seconded**
	Video: 01:55	Mr. Casolo advised that the Board of Education had very little funds left in their paving account, but this would improve the parking lot and he would program it in at the earliest opportunity. Ms. Murphy stated that other funds should be‘re-purposed’ rather than seeking an additional appropriation. Ms. Rinaldi concurred, stating that there were $18M in other open projects that could be re-prioritized. Mr. Abbazia stated that this was a smart investment of City funds, and Mr. Louizos said that he would recommend approval, with the advice that other capital projects be turned back first, noting that as a Board policy. On a motion by Mr. Louizos, which was seconded by Mr. Bosak, the Board failed this request by a vote of 3-2-0, with Ms. Murphy and Ms. Rinaldi casting the dissenting votes.	**G. Bosak**

Supplemental Capital Appropriation: WPCA Rehab of Dyke Lane Pumping Station

Item 14	Request for Approval of Supplemental Capital Appropriation in the amount of $800,000 for the rehabilitation of the Dyke Lane Pumping Station.		**Approved**
	Action Requested:	Supplemental Capital Appropriation	**4-0-0**
	Amount:	$800,000	**Motion by**
	Fund/Budget:	Capital:CP5241:100% Grant Funded-US Econ Develop Admin	**J. Louizos**
	Submitted by:	Ernie Orgera, Director of Operations	**Seconded**
	Presented by:	Bill Brink, WPCA Director Per Jim Hricay 8/2	**J. Bosak**
	Video: 02:05	Ms. Rinaldi advised that she would neither participate in discussion or vote on this item, and left the floor. Prakash Chakravarti, who advised that he is managing this project, stated that the City managed this pumping station, but the equipment was old and due to the work in the south end, it had to be protected, which these funds would achieve. He said that the grant funds were received, but not yet assigned. Ms. Murphy asked for a copy of the Grant application, which Ms. Cammarota agreed to provide. The Board acted to approve this item by unanimous vote.	

SUT: Phase II

Item 15	Review & Status Update: SUT Phase II- Status of Project		**No Action Taken**
	Action Requested:	Status Update	
	Amount:	$	
	Fund/Budget:		
	Submitted by:	Tim Abbazia, Chairman	
	Video: 02:11	Ann Brown reviewed the scope and limits of this project, stating that Phase II was a continuation of Phase I. She advised that there were five bidders for this work, with the low bidder of $12.9 million being awarded the job. The project was noted as containing a 2 year schedule, with construction and necessary demolition already having started. Mr. Louizos asked about lessons learned from Phase I, with Ms. Brown noted as urging the utility companies to ‘go new’ as much as possible and to get the materials off-site so as not to block the roads. She also provided charts of funding and bonding information as sought by Ms. Murphy, with Mr. Hricay adding that all but $150K of bonds were issued.	

Future Agenda Items

Item 16 Review: Possible future Agenda Discussion Items **No Action Taken**

Action Requested: Discussion
Amount:
Fund/Budget:
Submitted by: Tim Abbazia, Chairman
Video: 02:33 Ms. Rinaldi advised that she wanted to see how departments were handling any big cuts, including those made in personnel areas, made by the Boards to learn what they were doing to adjust to these cuts. Mr. Hricay said he would speak to this at the September meeting, agreeing to get in touch with Ms. Rinaldi to insure her questions were answered. Mr. Louizos asked that the Board of Education be invited back to talk about the additional safety items not requested within the $815K (see item # 17), and Mr. Bosak wanted Smith House to speak to their A/R collection status. Ms. Murphy wanted to revisit the scrap metal issue.

Next Regular Meeting of the Board: Thursday, September 12, 2013 @ 7:00 P.M.

Adjournment: On a motion by Mr. Louizos, which was seconded by Mr. Bosak, the Board agreed by unanimous vote to adjourn this meeting at 9:50 PM.

Lorraine C. Gilden

Lorraine C. Gilden
Clerk of the Board