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VICE CHAIR
SAL GABRIELE
DUDLEY N. WILLIAMS
DAVID KOORIS
Shelley A. Michelson
TEL: (203) 977-4699

BOARD OF FINANCE

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

MINUTES

Regular Meeting

Thursday, January 14, 2016: 6:30 PM
Board of Finance Meeting Room, 4th Floor

Call to Order: Performed by Chairman Freedman Freedman at 6:32 PM (video:00:00), noting that all Members were present except Ms. Rinaldi, who had advised the Board that she was recuperating from surgery. Chairman Freedman welcomed new Member Shelley Michelson who was confirmed at the Board of Representative's January 4 meeting.

Pledge of Allegiance: Led by Chairman Freedman

Approval of Minutes (video:00:01) December 10, 2015: 6:30 PM: Regular Meeting	**Approved**
	4-0-0
	Motion by
	R. Freedman
	Second
Ms. Michelson abstained from voting on this approval as she was just confirmed as a Board of Finance member this month.	**D. Williams**

Public Participation: None

Minutes: Thursday, January 14, 2016

Reports to the Board: Audit Committee Chairman Richard Freedman held an Audit Committee Meeting at 5:30 this evening at which the Annual Internal Audit Plan/Risk Assessment for FY 2015-16 was reviewed by City Auditor Teresa Viscariello and for which the report is already on file.

Executive Session: 6:30PM

Item 1	Mayor's Update: Contract negotiations/Litigation update/Labor disputes		**No Action Taken**
	Action Requested:	Discussion	
	Amount:	$	
	Fund/Budget:		
	Submitted by:	Mayor David Martin	
	Video: 00:03	The Mayor advised the Board that he needed to update the Board on three items which included the status of contract negotiations, pending litigation and labor disputes. Regarding contract negotiations, the Mayor advised that several negotiations of these were on-going. The Mayor reported that City Smith House Employees became Center Management employees on January 1, followed by full management of Smith House being turned over to Center Management on January 4. He stated that resulting from this, there will be several 1199 union retirements, and any unsettled items, including prohibitive practice claims were all settled. He stated that there will likely be unemployment claims, but the City did not believe they were proper as the employees were offered employment. The Mayor stated that, at present, there were 37 grievances (no teachers or MAA members included) and 5 prohibitive labor practice complaints. Regarding the latter, the Mayor explained that prohibitive practice complaints are claims that the City hasn't followed labor law, while grievances arise from differences between the union & the City as to how the contract is followed, stating that there were approximately 5 new grievances filed each month. The Mayor advised that the portion of grievances which went to arbitration took time for prep, witness hearings (held in Wethersfield) and the filing of briefs, which was handled by City Labor Attorney Murray. The Mayor then reviewed some of the current grievance activity including several regarding the custodians union, as well as one related to provision of breathing apparatus for the Firefighters. The Mayor then indicated that he wanted to update the Board on the more significant grievances which involved strategy and negotiations, for which executive session was recommended. On a motion by Mr. Williams which was seconded by Mr. Kooris (00:20), the Board then agreed by unanimous vote to enter executive session to hear this update. Participants in Executive Session included Board of Finance Chairman Richard Freedman, Members Dudley Williams, Sal Gabriele, David Kooris and Shelley	

	Michelson along with Mayor David Martin, Director of Administration Michael Handler, Director of Legal Affairs Kathryn Emmett, Director of Human Resources Clemon Williams and City Labor Attorney Bob Murray. After approximately 33 minutes, the Board exited executive session, with Chairman Freedman stating that no action was taken.	

Additional Appropriation: Mayor's Office

Item 2	Request for Approval of Additional Appropriation in the amount of $65,000 to support activities for Stamford's 375th anniversary which will include founding re-enactment, neighborhood history tours, honoring famous Stamford residents, Stamford's history at Old Town Hall as well as an oral history and film series.		**Approved**
	Action Requested:	Additional Appropriation	**5-0-0**
	Amount:	$65,000	**Motion by**
	Fund/Budget:	Contingency	**S. Gabriele**
	Submitted by:	Mayor David Martin	**Second**
	Video: 00:24	OPM Director Fountain stated that this request was to provide funding for the City's 375th anniversary. DSSD Director Sandy Goldstein then advised the Board of the yearlong celebration of this event which would commence on April 17. She stated that activities included rededication of historic buildings, a float in the parade, neighborhood tours, and also included school involvement as well as honoring both famous and non-famous residents alike. Ms. Goldstein said that they had asked for more than the $65K proposed by the City, and needed this at a minimum. Mr. Kooris, noting that the event crossed over two fiscal years, asked if more funds would be requested next year, which was affirmed by Ms. Goldstein. On a motion by Mr. Gabriele, which was seconded by Mr. Williams, the Board then acted to approve this request by unanimous vote.	**D. Williams**

Additional Appropriation: Environment Hazard Abatement

Item 3	Request for Approval of Supplemental Capital Appropriation in the amount of $100,000 to pay for expenses related to emergency asbestos removal at the current Police Headquarters located at 850 Bedford Street.		**Approved**
	Action Requested:	Supplemental Capital Appropriation	**5-0-0**
	Amount:	$100,000	**Motion by**
	Fund/Budget:	Capital:CP9230	**S. Gabriele**
	Submitted by:	Ted Jankowski, Director of Public Safety	**Second**
	Video: 00: 35	Kevin Murray reported that these funds were needed to pay for emergency asbestos removal in the Youth Services Offices located at the Police Headquarters building on Bedford Street. Mr. Murray noted that this was a necessary expense to safeguard the health and safety of anyone who had business in this building and that they had done a lot of	**D. Kooris**

	work in the old Police Building resulting from an active water leak, which led to complaints about the air quality in the building. Mr. Freedman asked about the role of Fuss & O'Neil , to which Mr. Murray advised that they were the licensed party responsible for preparing the required State of Ct. required 'AWP' (action work plan). The Board acted to approve this appropriation by unanimous vote.	

OFFICE OF PUBLIC SAFETY

Additional Appropriation: Inspirica Warming Center

Item 4	Request for Approval of Additional Appropriation in the amount of $12,000 to pay Inspirica for the provision of overnight warming services at 8 Woodland Place at times when the Governor calls for severe weather protocols.		**Approved**
	Action Requested:	Additional Appropriation	**5-0-0**
	Amount:	$12,000	**Motion by**
	Fund/Budget:	Contingency	**S. Gabriele**
	Submitted by:	Ted Jankowski, Director of Public Safety	**Second**
	Video: 00:37	Ellen Bromley, Social Services Coordinator, requested that the City authorize these funds to pay Inspirica for their provision of overnight heating shelters as needed during a harsh winter, noting that this happened when the Governor initiated severe weather protocols. She stated that Inspirica was able to provide these services at a lesser cost than the City due to the staff and open space available at 8 Woodland Place. The Board approved this appropriation by unanimous vote.	**D. Williams**

Health Department: Transfer

Item 5	Request for Approval of Transfer in the amount of $24,500 from the Salary Account to the Professional Consultant Account to cover the cost of the new Interim Health Director until June 30, 2016.		**Approved**
	Action Requested:	Transfer	**5-0-0**
	Amount:	$24,500	**Motion by**
	Fund/Budget:	General	**D. Kooris**
	Submitted by:	Ted Jankowski, Director of Public Safety	**Second**
	Video: 00:40	OPM Director Fountain stated that this request was to move the funds from the Salaries account to the Consultant account to pay the new Interim Health Director, which was a required position by State law. Mr. Kooris made a motion to approve, which was seconded by Mr. Gabriele, and then approved by unanimous vote.	**S. Gabriele**

DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION

Safe Debt Limit

Item 6	Approval of Board of Finance Resolution concerning Certificate of Safe Debt Limit for Fiscal Year 2016-2017.		**Approved at $45M**
	Action Requested:	Approval of Safe Debt Limit	**4-0-1**
	Amount:	$45M (Approved at $60M for 15-16)	**Motion by**
	Fund/Budget:	Capital	**D. Kooris**
	Submitted by:	Michael Handler, Director of Administration	**Second**
	Video: 00:41	DOA Handler reviewed his recommendation for a $45M Safe Debt Limit for 16-17, noting that it was in accordance with his projections last year. He stated that the current fiscal year and the upcoming FY 16-17 were unique in that the City was funding two major capital projects- a new K-8 Inter-district Magnet School and a new Police Headquarters. Regarding the latter, Mr. Handler advised that the bond issuance for the new Police Headquarters would be $47M, and that they were $13M short. He added that the refunding opportunity (slated for the Board of Finance February meeting) provided for a savings of $2M which were already reflected in these numbers. In response to a question from Ms. Michelson, he stated t that the projected issuance of $61M in City BAN's for the School Project was the worst case scenario. Mr. Williams asked if there was any part of the school building that may be ineligible for reimbursement to which Mr. Handler stated that there was a committee working to oversee this and Engineering was clear on this directive. In response to a question from Chairman Freedman regarding adequate capital funding for the out-years, Mr. Handler advised that staying within the $25M projections was dependent on operating expenses and also the ability of the taxpayers to tolerate tax increases for additional capital projects. He stated that he is endeavoring to keep debt service below 10% of the operating budget. After this discussion, Chairman Freedman called for a motion to approve the recommended $45M safe debt limit, which was made by Mr. Kooris. After a second by Mr. Williams, the Board then acted to approve this limit by a vote of 4-0-1, with Ms. Michelson abstaining.	**D. Williams**

Next Regular Meeting of the Board: Thursday, February 11, 2016 @ 7:00 P.M

Adjournment: (Video: 01:00) On a motion by Mr. Williams which was seconded by Mr. Kooris, the Board unanimously agreed to adjourn this meeting at 8:05 PM.

Lorraine C. Gilden

Lorraine C. Gilden
Clerk of the Board