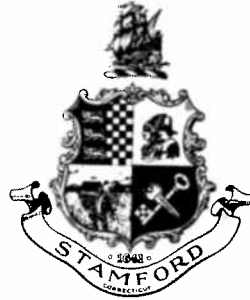


Minutes: January 8, 2015

DAVID R. MARTIN
MAYOR

JOHN J. LOUIZOS
CHAIRMAN
MARY LOU T. RINALDI
VICE CHAIR
GERALD BOSAK, JR.
SAL GABRIELE
RICHARD FREEDMAN
DUDLEY N. WILLIAMS
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BOARD OF FINANCE

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

MINUTES

Regular Meeting

Thursday, January 8, 2015: 6:30 PM

Board of Finance Meeting Room, 4th Floor

Call to Order: (Video: 00:00) Performed by Chairman John J. Louizos at 6:40 PM, noting that all Members were present except Mr. Bosak, who had a work commitment.

Pledge of Allegiance: Video: 00:01 Led by Chairman Louizos

Approval of Minutes: (Video:00:02) December 17, 2014: 6:30 PM: Regular Meeting

	Approved
	4-0-1
	Motion by
	D. Williams
	Seconded
Mr. Gabriele abstained from voting, noting that he was not present at the 12/17 meeting .	M. Rinaldi

Public Participation: None

Reports to the Board: None

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

Discussion: Executive Session Request

Item 1	Discussion: Update on Labor Negotiations & Strategy: Mayor Martin		No Action Taken
	<i>Action Requested:</i>	Discussion	
	<i>Amount:</i>	\$	
	<i>Fund/Budget:</i>		
	<i>Submitted by:</i>	Mayor David Martin	
	Video: 00:03	<p>The Mayor reported that since he wanted to discuss labor strategy and negotiations as well as an on-going investigation, that this item and Item # 2 (following) should be heard in executive session. He also advised that he first wished to review an analysis of Employee costs along with a review of unfunded OPEB & Pension Liability performed for Police as an example. Regarding the former report, the analysis showed that it was more cost effective to pay overtime rather than hire additional employees due to benefits representing an average of 77% of base salary. Relating to latter item, the unfunded liability was divided by the number of employees to arrive at an average liability for both active and retired police officers, but the Mayor said it was applicable for all unions, although the Police was the highest. The Mayor then advised the Board that he was ready to provide an update on labor negotiations as well as a report on an investigation (Item # 2) relating to misappropriation of funds. On a motion by Ms. Rinaldi (video: 00:28), which was seconded by Mr. Freedman, the Board agreed by unanimous vote to hear these items in executive session due to discussion of negotiations, strategy & an on-going investigation. In addition to Board of Finance Chairman John J. Louizos, Vice Chair Mary Lou Rinaldi Members Richard Freedman, Dudley Williams and Sal Gabriele, the following individuals took part in executive session: Mayor David Martin, Director of Administration Michael Handler, Director of Legal Affairs Kathy Emmett, & Human Resource Director Clemon Williams. After approximately 40 minutes, the Board exited executive session, with Chairman Louizos stating that no action was taken.</p>	

Discussion: Executive Session Request

Item 2	Discussion: Update on Investigations: Mayor Martin		No Action Taken
	<i>Action Requested:</i>	Discussion	
	<i>Amount:</i>	\$	
	<i>Fund/Budget:</i>		
	<i>Submitted by:</i>	Mayor David Martin	
	Video: 00:03	See Minutes for Item # 1, above.	

Items are Shown in Order of Consideration

GRANTS- Estimated Start Time: 7:00 PM

DUI Enforcement

Item 3	Request for Approval of Additional Appropriation in the amount of \$6375 due to receipt of larger than anticipated funds from the State, to be used for police personnel to conduct traffic stops, on an overtime basis, for Driving Under the Influence infractions.	Approved
	Action Requested: Additional Appropriation	5-0-0
	Amount: \$6375: 100% Grant	Motion by
	Fund/Budget: State Grant (75%) City Match (25%)	M. Rinaldi
	Submitted by: Jon Fontneau, Chief of Police	Seconded
	Video: 00:31 Grants Administrator Karen Cammarota reported that this was a grant received in an amount larger than expected for Police to conduct DUI traffic stops on an overtime basis. On a motion by Ms. Rinaldi, which was seconded by Mr. Williams, the Board acted to approve this appropriation by unanimous vote.	D. Williams

Medical Reserve Corp

Item 4	Request for Approval of Additional Appropriation in the amount of \$4,000 to pay for uniforms and medical, emergency and office supplies for the Medical Reserve Corp which is a volunteer unit trained to assist during public health emergencies.	Approved
	Action Requested: Additional Appropriation	5-0-0
	Amount: \$4,000	Motion by
	Fund/Budget: 100% Grant Funded	S. Gabriele
	Submitted by: Ann Fountain, Director of Health	Seconded
	Video: 00:31 Director of Health Fountain reported that these were funds for the MRC for which there was no City match. The Board acted to approve this item by unanimous vote.	D. Williams

Day Care Grant

Item 5	Request for Approval of Additional Appropriation in the amount of \$56,896 due to receiving higher than expected amount budgeted. Funds are contracted out to CLC to provide day care services.	Approved
	Action Requested: Additional Appropriation	5-0-0
	Amount: \$56,896	Motion by
	Fund/Budget: 100% Grant Funded	D. Williams
	Submitted by: Karen Cammarota, Grants Director	Seconded
	Video: 00:31 Ms. Cammarota reported that these funds were subcontracted to Childcare Learning Center (CLC). In response to a question from Ms. Rinaldi, Ms. Cammarota advised that CLC was the sole contractor for the Day Care Grant.	R. Freedman

OFFICE OF LEGAL AFFAIRS

Additional Appropriation

Item 6	Request for Approval of Additional Appropriation in the amount of \$250,000 to pay additional legal fees associated with outside legal counsel related to union labor negotiations as well as miscellaneous legal consulting fees.		Approved
	Action Requested:	Additional Appropriation	4-1-0
	Amount:	\$250,000	Motion by
	Fund/Budget:	Contingency	M. Rinaldi
	Submitted by:	Kathryn Emmett, Director of Legal Affairs	Seconded
Video: 00: 33	Director of Administration Handler reported that these costs were incurred due to the fact that the City decided to engage an outside firm to assist in labor negotiations. Mr. Gabriele stated that he objected to hiring an outside firm when the City already had a Labor Negotiator position for this purpose. Director Handler said that these were for two different functions, as the in-house Labor Negotiator dealt with employees and grievances on a day-to-day basis, working within the HR Department, while the outside counsel was an expert in labor negotiations endowed with a breathe of knowledge and an ability to provide strategic advice. Several other Board members concurred, noting that an outside expert was able to achieve results that an inside negotiator could not (Mr. Freedman); that it was imperative to attain outside expertise who did this every day (Mr. Williams), that this Board had previously pushed for outside assistance due to labor costs being so high (Ms. Rinaldi) and that it was best practices that other municipalities were also utilizing, and money well spent (Chairman Louizos). On a motion by Ms. Rinaldi, who added that she was happy to support this, which was seconded by Mr. Williams, the Board then acted to approve this appropriation by a vote of 4-1-0, with Mr. Gabriele dissenting.	D. Williams	

Smith House: Transfer

Item 7	Request for Transfer from the Salaries Account to the Contracted Services Account in the amount of \$112,000 due to the hiring of an outside company engaged to perform the duties of managing the Dietary Department through November.		Approved
	Action Requested:	Transfer	4-1-0
	Amount:	\$112,000	Motion by
	Fund/Budget:		D. Williams
	Submitted by:	Bob Mislow, Executive Director	Seconded
Video: 00:44	OPM Director Hricay reported that this transfer was sought due to the engagement of an outside consultant to temporarily manage the Dietary Department due to the retirement of the supervisor who performed this function. The Board considered holding this item, noting the absence	R. Freedman	

	of Director Mislow. While they acted to approve this transfer, Mr. Handler suggested that Director Mislow come to the February meeting to discuss Smith House. On a motion by Mr. Williams, which was seconded by Mr. Freedman, the Board then acted by a vote of 4-1-0, with Ms. Rinaldi dissenting, to approve this transfer. Chairman Louizos added that this Board expected Director Mislow to be present for Smith House requests.	
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OFFICE OF OPERATIONS

Recycling

Item 8	Request for Approval of Transfer in the amount of \$25,000 from the Salaries Account to the Seasonal Account to cover a shortfall in the latter due to an employee out on Worker's Compensation all year.	Approved
<i>Action Requested:</i>	Transfer	5-0-0
<i>Amount:</i>	\$25,000	Motion by
<i>Fund/Budget:</i>	General Fund	R. Freedman
<i>Submitted by:</i>	Ernie Orgera, Director of Operations	Seconded
Video: 00:46	Solid Waste Supervisor Dan Colleluori relayed to the Board that they were requesting a transfer to the seasonal account due to a shortfall in this account.	D. Williams

Lathan Wider Center/Yerwood Center

Item 9	Request for Approval of Additional Appropriation in the amount of \$72,000 to pay for higher than anticipated maintenance costs due to increased occupancy including seasonal help, maintenance and housekeeping supplies (\$47K) at the Lathan Wider Center as well as overtime & building maintenance expenses incurred for emergency work provided to the Yerwood Center(\$25K).	Approved
<i>Action Requested:</i>	Additional Appropriation	5-0-0
<i>Amount:</i>	\$72,000	Motion by
<i>Fund/Budget:</i>	Contingency	R. Freedman
<i>Submitted by:</i>	Ernie Orgera, Director of Operations	Seconded
Video: 00:47	OPM Director Hricay advised that they were seeking a \$72K appropriation which was for both the Lathan Wider Center (\$47K) as well as Yerwood (\$25K). Facilities Manager Kevin Murray stated that due to increased activity at CTE (Lathan Wider Community Center), the City incurred increased costs to maintain the building, noting that the building was open from 7AM to 9 PM. Mr. Freedman asked about the business case for the Yerwood Center, with Ms. Rinaldi noting that there was a leadership gap at this center. Director Handler advised that there were no activities at the Yerwood, but that the City needed to maintain the building. Mr. Murray added that there was a soup kitchen on the first level. While the Board acted to approve this appropriation, Chairman Louizos asked that the Board be kept up to the date on this matter.	D. Williams

OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATION

Safe Debt Limit


Item 10	Approval of Board of Finance Resolution concerning Certificate of Safe Debt Limit for Fiscal Year 2015-2016.		Approved at \$60M
	Action Requested:	Approval of Safe Debt Limit	4-1-0
	Amount:	\$60M	Motion by
	Fund/Budget:	Capital	R. Freedman
	Submitted by:	Michael Handler, Director of Administration	Seconded
Video: 00:51	<p>Director of Administration Handler again reviewed his recommendation for a \$60M Safe Debt Limit for 15-16, \$45M for FY 16-17 and \$25M for each subsequent year which he originally presented to the Board at the December meeting. The Board again engaged in discussion on the proposed spending plan, including comments that the plan for the magnet school should proceed even if the school is closed as it is a great financial deal for the City (Mr. Freedman); that State funding should be explored to mitigate the cost of the Police building (Mr. Williams), and that this Board would have to carefully review the upcoming capital budget in light of these two major projects (Ms. Rinaldi). While Mr. Gabriele made a motion for a safe debt limit of \$35M, it was not seconded; and the Board acted to approve the \$60M recommended amount, with Mr. Gabriele casting the dissenting vote.</p>		D. Williams

Bond Resolution

Item 11	Request for Approval of Resolution with Respect to Issuance & Sale of Not to Exceed \$40M of City of Stamford General Obligation Refunding Bonds.		Approved
	Action Requested:	Bond Resolution	5-0-0
	Amount:	NTE \$40M	Motion by
	Fund/Budget:	Capital	D. Williams
	Submitted by:	Michael Handler, Director of Administration	Seconded
Video: 01:21	<p>Director of Administration Handler stated that he is recommending this refinancing – Issuance of 2005- because the analysis points to savings of approximately \$4M spread out over 9 years. He provided the Board with three different scenario trade dates from mid-February to mid- April, with the most savings noted for the Mid-April trade date due to its settlement in line with the May call date. Mr. Freedman stated that since no one knew where interest rates were going, that he was in favor of the mid April trade date to avoid paying a penalty. On a motion by Mr. Williams, which was seconded by Mr. Freedman, Board acted to approve this resolution by unanimous vote.</p>		R. Freedman

Next Regular Meeting of the Board: Thursday, February 12, 2015 @ 7:00 P.M.

Adjournment: (Video: 01:31) On a motion by Mr. Williams which was seconded by M. Rinaldi, the Board unanimously agreed to adjourn this meeting at 8:50 PM.


Lorraine C. Gilden

Lorraine C. Gilden
Clerk of the Board