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## BOARD OF FINANCE

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April 11, 2014

### ACTION REPORT (MINUTES) OF THE BOARD OF FINANCE SPECIAL BUDGET MEETING

Thursday, April 10, 2014  
Stamford Government Center  
Board of Finance Conference Room

A special meeting to approve the Mayor's Proposed FY 2014-2015 Operating, Special Fund, and Capital and the Board of Education Budgets of the City of Stamford was held by the Board of Finance on Thursday, April 10, 2014 at the Stamford Government Center in the Board of Finance Conference room on the 4<sup>th</sup> Floor. Members present were Chairman John J. Louizos, Vice-Chair Mary Lou Rinaldi, and Board members Gerald Bosak, Jr., Richard Freedman, Dudley Williams and Sal Gabriele. Also present were Michael Handler, Director of Administration, Jim Hricay, OPM Director, Lee Berta, OPM Asst. Director, and Lorraine Gilden, Clerk of the Board. Chairman Louizos opened the meeting at 6:32 PM and invited all to recite the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Chairman Louizos reviewed the budget process to this point, thanked the public for their input noting participation in the joint public hearing which now is live-streamed, and thanked his colleagues on the Board, noting the countless hours the Board spent on thoughtful analysis and consideration of the Mayor's and the Board of Education's budgets. Mr. Bosak then spoke, acknowledging that it was a difficult budget season and noted several heartfelt letters received from residents regarding their hardships in paying higher taxes. He also asked that a letter be sent to the Board of Representatives, asking them for consideration to raise the conveyance tax. Vice Chair Rinaldi volunteered to draft this letter.

Chairman Louizos then asked all to turn to page 1 of the budget book.

The Board adjourned the meeting at 10:27 PM after passing the following motions:

### BUDGET MOTIONS PASSED

## OPERATING BUDGET

On a motion by Mr. Louizos, noting that there were savings to be made through attrition, vacancies, and timing of the same, which was seconded by Mr. Freedman, the Board agreed by unanimous vote to a **General Budget reduction of \$400K**, which would be distributed as appropriate, by the Office of OPM.

Ms. Rinaldi made a motion to cut the General Fund Debt Service in the amount of **\$250K; Transfer to Debt Service**, referring to BAN's, which was seconded by Mr. Bosak, and then approved by unanimous vote.

On a motion by Ms. Rinaldi, which was seconded by Mr. Bosak, referring to a correction in the Medical insurance payment, the Board agreed by unanimous vote to a **Budget Reduction to the Board of Education** in the amount of **\$800,993**.

On a motion by Mr. Williams, who cited several areas in the Board of Education budget for his rationale, which was seconded by Mr. Bosak, the Board agreed by unanimous vote to make a **Budget Reduction** in the amount of **\$2,900,000** to the **Board of Education budget**.

On a motion made by Ms. Rinaldi, which was seconded by Mr. Bosak, to cut **\$464 from the Overtime Line** from the **Office of Administration, Director of Administration, with associated FICA in the amount of \$35**, the Board agreed by unanimous vote to approve said cut.

On a motion made by Ms. Rinaldi, which was seconded by Mr. Bosak, for a Budget Reduction in the amount of **\$12, 680** from the Office of Administration, Director of Administration, the Board agreed by unanimous vote to approve said cut.

On a motion made by Mr. Williams, which was seconded by Mr. Bosak to cut **\$40K from the Office of Administration: Assessment & Taxation Contracted Services Account**, the Board agreed by unanimous vote to approve this cut.

On a motion made by Mr. Bosak, which was seconded by Mr. Gabriele, to cut **\$5K from the Office of Administration, Assessment & Taxation Seasonal Account, along with associated FICA in the amount of \$383**, the Board agreed by unanimous vote to approve this cut.

On a motion made by Ms. Rinaldi, which was seconded by Mr. Gabriele, to cut **\$109,541 from the Office of Administration, Assessment & Taxation Revenue Services Manager Line Item, along with associated FICA in the amount of \$8,380**, the Board agreed by unanimous vote to approve this cut.

On a motion made by Mr. Bosak, which was seconded by Mr. Gabriele, to cut **\$10K from the Office of Administration, Assessment & Taxation Contracted Services Line Item**, the Board agreed by unanimous vote to approve this cut.

On a motion made by Mr. Bosak, which was seconded by Mr. Gabriele, to cut **\$4K from the Office of Administration, Assessment & Taxation Seasonal Line Item, along with associated FICA in the amount of \$306**, the Board agreed by unanimous vote to approve this cut.

On a motion made by Ms. Rinaldi, which was seconded by Mr. Bosak, to cut **\$7K from the Office of Administration, Taxation Services Seasonal Line Item, along with associated FICA in the amount of \$535**, the Board agreed by unanimous vote to approve this cut.

On a motion made by Ms. Rinaldi, which was seconded by Mr. Bosak, to cut **\$3,500 from the Office of Administration, Controller Seasonal Line Item, along with associated FICA in the amount of \$268**, the Board agreed by unanimous vote to approve this cut.

On a motion made by Ms. Rinaldi, which was seconded by Mr. Bosak, to cut the **Operations: Public Services, Traffic & Road Maintenance Seasonal Line Item in the amount of \$10K, along with associated FICA in the amount of \$765**, the Board agreed by unanimous vote to approve this cut.

On a motion by Ms. Rinaldi to cut the **Operations: Public Services: Traffic & Road Maintenance Stormwater Management Office Support Specialist Line Item in the amount of \$42,192, along with associated FICA in the amount of \$3,228** which was seconded by Mr. Bosak, the Board agreed by unanimous vote to approve this cut.

On a motion by Mr. Bosak to cut the **Operations: Public Services, Traffic & Road Maintenance Stormwater Management Seasonal Line Item in the amount of \$7K, along with associated FICA in the amount of \$536** which was seconded by Ms. Rinaldi, the Board agreed by unanimous vote to approve this cut.

On a motion by Mr. Williams to cut the **Operations: Public Services, Traffic & Road Maintenance Vehicle Maintenance Seasonal Line Item in the amount of \$5K, along with associated FICA in the amount of \$383** which was seconded by Mr. Bosak, the Board agreed by unanimous vote to approve this cut.

On a motion by Ms. Rinaldi, which was seconded by Mr. Bosak, the Board acted by unanimous vote to cut the **Operations: Public Services: Fleet Management Vehicle Maintenance Overtime Line Item by \$10K, along with associated FICA in the amount of \$765.**

On a motion by Ms. Rinaldi, which was seconded by Mr. Bosak, the Board acted by unanimous vote to cut the **Operations: Facilities Management: Building Inspection Seasonal Line Item by \$5K, along with associated FICA in the amount of \$383.**

On a motion by Ms. Rinaldi, which was seconded by Mr. Bosak, the Board acted by unanimous vote to cut the **Operations: Facilities Management: Building Inspection Permanent Part-Time Account by \$16,809, along with associated FICA in the amount of \$1,286.**

On a motion by Mr. Bosak, which was seconded by Mr. Gabriele, the Board acted by unanimous vote to cut the **Operations: Public Services: Solid Waste-Transfer Station Seasonal Account by \$5K, along with associated FICA in the amount of \$383.**

On a motion by Mr. Bosak, which was seconded by Mr. Freedman, the Board acted by unanimous vote to cut the **Operations: Public Services: Overtime Account by \$3K, along with associated FICA in the amount of \$229.**

On a motion by Mr. Williams, which was seconded by Mr. Bosak, the Board acted by unanimous vote to cut the **Operations: Public Services: Solid Waste-Recycling by a \$25K Budget Reduction.**

On a motion by Mr. Williams, which was seconded by Mr. Bosak, the Board acted by unanimous vote to cut the **Operations: Public Services: Solid Waste-Recycling Seasonal Account Line by \$5K along with associated FICA in the amount of \$382.**

On a motion by Ms. Rinaldi, which was seconded by Mr. Bosak, the Board acted by unanimous vote to cut the **Operations: Public Services: Solid Waste-Collection** by a **\$17K Budget Reduction**.

On a motion by Mr. Freedman, which was seconded by Ms. Rinaldi, the Board acted by unanimous vote to cut the **Operations: Public Services: Solid Waste-Collection Overtime Account** in the amount of **\$8K, along with associated FICA in the amount of \$612**.

On a motion by Mr. Bosak, which was seconded by Mr. Louizos, the Board acted by unanimous vote to cut the **Operations: Public Services: Cashiering Overtime Account** in the amount of **\$3,500, along with associated FICA in the amount of \$268**.

On a motion by Mr. Bosak, which was seconded by Mr. Louizos, the Board acted by unanimous vote to cut the **Operations: Public Services: Citizens Services as a Budget Reduction** in the amount of **\$14,863**.

On a motion by Mr. Bosak, which was seconded by Mr. Gabriele, the Board acted by unanimous vote to cut the **Operations: Engineering: Traffic Engineering Overtime Account** in the amount of **\$5K, along with associated FICA in the amount of \$383**.

On a motion by Mr. Louizos, noting that there were additional savings to be made through attrition, which was seconded by Ms. Rinaldi, the Board agreed by unanimous vote to a **General Budget reduction** of **\$50K**, which would be distributed as appropriate, by the Office of OPM.

On a motion by Mr. Bosak, which was seconded by Mr. Gabriele, the Board acted to cut the **Operations: Administration: Facilities Management, Maintenance Operations Foreman Line Item** in the amount of **\$80,775, along with associated FICA in the amount of \$6,179** which was agreed to by a vote of 4-2-0, with Messrs. Freedman & Williams dissenting.

On a motion by Mr. Louizos, which was seconded by Ms. Rinaldi, the Board acted to cut the **Operations: Administration: Facilities Management, Maintenance by a Budget Reduction** in the amount of **\$117K** which was agreed to by a vote of 4-2-0, with Messrs. Freedman & Williams dissenting.

On a motion by Mr. Bosak, which was seconded by Mr. Gabriele, the Board acted to cut the **Operations: Administration: Facilities Management, Maintenance Overtime Account** in the amount of **\$10K, along with associated FICA in the amount of \$765** which was agreed to by unanimous vote.

On a motion by Mr. Bosak, which was seconded by Mr. Gabriele, the Board acted by unanimous vote to cut the **Operations: Administration: Administration-Leisure Services Administration Overtime Account** in the amount of **\$5K, along with associated FICA in the amount of \$383**.

On a motion by Mr. Williams which was seconded by Mr. Gabriele, the Board acted by unanimous vote to cut the **Operations: Administration: Administration-Overtime Account** in the amount of **\$45,034, along with associated FICA in the amount of \$3,446**.

On a motion by Mr. Williams which was seconded by Mr. Gabriele, the Board acted by unanimous vote to cut the **Police Department: Department Wide Salaries Account** in the amount of **\$130K, along with associated FICA in the amount of \$1,612**.

On a motion by Ms. Rinaldi which was seconded by Mr. Bosak, the Board acted by unanimous vote to cut the **Police Department: Department Wide Budget Reduction** in the amount of **\$300K**.

On a motion by Mr. Bosak which was seconded by Mr. Gabriele, the Board acted to cut the **Emergency Communications Center Overtime Account in the amount of \$50K, along with associated FICA in the amount of \$3,824** which was agreed to by a vote of 4-2-0, with Messrs. Williams & Freedman dissenting.

On a motion by Ms. Rinaldi which was seconded by Mr. Bosak, the Board acted by unanimous vote to cut the **Fire Department: Budget Reduction in the amount of \$200K.**

On a motion by Mr. Bosak which was seconded by Mr. Gabriele, the Board acted by unanimous vote to cut the **Smith House Administration Executive Secretary Line Item Account in the amount of \$61,649, along with associated FICA in the amount of \$4,716..**

On a motion by Mr. Bosak which was seconded by Ms. Rinaldi, the Board acted by unanimous vote to cut the **Smith House Administration Seasonal Account in the amount of \$20,622, along with associated FICA in the amount of \$1,578.**

On a motion by Mr. Bosak which was seconded by Ms. Rinaldi, the Board acted by unanimous vote to cut the **Smith House Administration Housekeeping Aide Line Item in the amount of \$35,465, representing one position, along with associated FICA in the amount of \$2,713.**

On a motion by Mr. Bosak which was seconded by Mr. Williams, the Board acted by unanimous vote to cut the **Smith House Maintenance Seasonal Account in the amount of \$5K, along with associated FICA in the amount of \$383..**

On a motion by Mr. Freedman which was seconded by Mr. Bosak, the Board acted by unanimous vote to cut the **Smith House Maintenance Overtime Account in the amount of \$5K, along with associated FICA in the amount of \$382.**

On a motion by Mr. Freedman which was seconded by Ms. Rinaldi, the Board acted by unanimous vote to cut the **Smith House Nursing Services Overtime Account in the amount of \$100K, along with associated FICA in the amount of \$7,650..**

On a motion by Mr. Freedman which was seconded by Ms. Rinaldi, the Board acted by unanimous vote to cut the **Office of Legal Affairs, Director of Law Seasonal Account in the amount of \$5K, along with associated FICA in the amount of \$383.**

On a motion made by Ms. Rinaldi which was seconded by Mr. Bosak, to approve a cut in the **Office of Legal Affairs, Human Resources Department Labor Relations Specialist Salary Line Item** in the amount of **\$122,039, along with associated FICA in the amount of \$9,335** the Board agreed by unanimous vote.

On a motion made by Mr. Bosak which was seconded by Mr. Williams, to approve a cut in the **Office of Legal Affairs, Human Resources Department Seasonal Account** in the amount of **\$5K, along with associated FICA in the amount of \$383,** the Board acted to approve this by unanimous vote.

On a motion made by Mr. Bosak which was seconded by Ms. Rinaldi, to approve a cut in the **Office of Legal Affairs, Human Resources Department Overtime Account** in the amount of **\$5K, along with associated FICA in the amount of \$383,** the Board acted to approve this by unanimous vote.

On a motion made by Mr. Bosak which was seconded by Ms. Rinaldi, the Board acted by unanimous vote to approve a cut in the **Office of Legal Affairs, Human Resources Department City Training Account** in the amount of **\$4K.**

On a motion made by Mr. Williams which was seconded by Mr. Bosak, the Board acted by unanimous vote to approve a cut in the Mayor's Office, Administration, **Seasonal Account** in the amount of **\$2,500, along with associated FICA in the amount of \$191.**

On a motion made by Mr. Bosak which was seconded by Mr. Williams, the Board acted by unanimous vote to approve a cut in the Mayor's Office, Administration, **Overtime Account** in the amount of **\$1K, along with associated FICA in the amount of \$76.**

On a motion made by Mr. Bosak which was seconded by Mr. Gabriele, the Board agreed to approve a **Budget Reduction** in the **Stamford Partnership** Total in the amount of **\$20K by a vote of 4-2-0**, with Messrs. Williams & Freedman casting the dissenting votes.

On a motion made by Mr. Freedman which was seconded by Mr. Bosak, to make a **Budget Reduction** in the **Community & Cultural Activities Yerwood Center** Total in the amount of **\$100K**, citing the policy, the presentation, and current status with Mr. Williams adding that when this entity had a viable plan, that the Board may re-consider this, the Board agreed by **unanimous vote** to make this cut.

On a motion made by Mr. Bosak, which was seconded by Mr. Louizos and agreed to by **unanimous vote**, the Board acted to make a **Budget Reduction** in the **Community & Cultural Activities Lathan Wilder** Total in the amount of **\$100K**, citing the lack of a presentation.

On a motion made by Mr. Bosak to make a **Budget Reduction** in the **Community & Cultural Activities East Side Community Center** Total in the amount of **\$1,400**, which was seconded by Ms. Rinaldi, the Board agreed by a **vote of 4-2-0**, with Messrs. Williams & Freedman dissenting, to make this cut.

On a motion made by Mr. Freedman, which was seconded by Mr. Bosak, to make a cut in the **Community & Cultural Activities Ferguson Library Total** in the amount of **\$355K**, stating that he was reducing an increase, so should still be viewed as a significant increase which should be used to increase Library Hours, the Board agreed by **unanimous vote** to make this cut.

On a motion made by Mr. Freedman, was seconded by Mr. Williams, the Board agreed by a vote of 4-1-1, with Mr. Gabriele dissenting, and Mr. Louizos abstaining, that a cut be made to the **Community & Cultural Activities: Bartlett Arboretum Total in the amount of \$9K.**

On a motion made by Mr. Louizos, was seconded by Mr. Bosak, the Board agreed by a vote of 5-1-0, with Mr. Gabriele dissenting, that a cut be made to the **Community & Cultural Activities: Stamford Museum & Nature Center Total in the amount of \$12K.**

On a motion made by Mr. Louizos, which was seconded by Mr. Bosak, the Board agreed by **unanimous vote** to cut **Citywide Overtime**, as appropriate, in the amount of **\$200K.**

On a motion by Mr. Louizos, noting that there still may be additional savings to be made through attrition, which was seconded by Mr. Williams, the Board agreed by unanimous vote to an additional **General Budget reduction of \$50K**, which would be distributed as appropriate, by the Office of OPM.

## CAPITAL BUDGET

On a motion by Ms. Rinaldi, which was seconded by Mr. Bosak, the Board agreed by unanimous vote to cut the **Childcare Learning Center Lockwood/Maple Avenue K-Wing Renovation Project**, noting that this amount was also requested in the current year as an additional appropriation, in the State Grant Funded amount of **\$1,430,000**.

On a motion by Ms. Rinaldi, which was seconded by Mr. Freedman, the Board agreed by a vote of 5-1-0, with Mr. Gabriele dissenting, to cut the **Smith House Generator Replacement Project** in the amount of **\$200K**.

On a motion by Mr. Louizos, which was seconded by Ms. Rinaldi, noting that this was no reflection on the Stamford Museum, the Board agreed by unanimous vote, to cut the **Stamford Museum Multi-Use Building Construction Project**, in the amount of **\$600K**.

On a motion by Mr. Freedman, which was seconded by Ms. Rinaldi, noting that this was a major project, but at too high a cost at this time, the Board agreed by unanimous vote, to cut the **Ferguson Library Main Library Building Restoration Project**, in the amount of **\$475K**.

On a motion by Ms. Rinaldi, which was seconded by Mr. Bosak, the Board agreed by a vote of 5-0-1, with Mr. Louizos abstaining, to a **Budget Reduction** to the **Bartlett Arboretum Site & Infrastructure Improvements Project** in the amount of **\$50K**.

On a motion by Mr. Bosak, which was seconded by Mr. Williams, the Board agreed by unanimous vote, to cut the **Board of Education Temporary Space Project** in the amount of **\$500K**.

On a motion by Mr. Freedman, which was seconded by Ms. Rinaldi, the Board agreed by unanimous vote, to cut the **Board of Education Permanent Space Project** in the amount of **\$100K**.

On a motion by Mr. Williams, which was seconded by Mr. Bosak, the Board agreed by unanimous vote, to cut the **Citywide Equipment Replacement & Upgrade Project** in the amount of **\$250K**.

Mr. Freedman made the point, noting the above Long-term capital cuts in the amount of \$1,925,000 & \$250K Short term cuts, that it was his hope that the City re-purpose these funds for City paving.

## WPCA BUDGET

On a motion by Mr. Louizos, which was seconded by Mr. Bosak, the Board agreed by a vote of 4-1-0, with Ms. Rinaldi out of the room and abstaining from discussion and vote on this item, to **recommend the lower amount of \$25, 812,992 as the Water Pollution Control Authority Fund Budget**. It was the Boards' view that cuts could be made in the following areas: Account Clerk: \$50K, Contingency: \$250K, and Seasonal: \$10K, totaling a recommended budget of \$310K less than submitted.



Lorraine C. Gilden

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Lorraine C. Gilden  
Clerk of the Board