

Minutes: January 11, 2007

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ROBERT KOLENBERG
TIMOTHY E. ABBAZIA
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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 11, 2007: 7:00 PM
Board of Finance Meeting Room, 4th Floor

Members Present: Ms. Rinaldi, Mr. Pollard, Mr. Kolenberg, Mr. Louizos, Mr. Abbazia & Mr. Tarzia

Approval of Minutes: Regular Meeting: December 11, 2006: 7:00 PM

Approved
6-0-0
Motion by
T. Abbazia
Seconded
M. Pollard

Public Participation: None.

Reports to the Board: Mr. Louizos reported on the Legal Affairs Committee meeting which took place directly preceding this meeting, stating that potential 'big picture' claims were discussed in open session. Chairman Louizos also noted that specific claims and related legal strategy was discussed in executive session. Mr. Tarzia noted the upcoming Joint Revaluation Committee Meeting of January 16, stating that the purpose of which was to discuss the results and impact of revaluation.

OFFICE OF OPERATIONS

Approval of Agreement

Item 1 Request for Approval of Agreement between the City of Stamford and the Stamford Golf Authority for the Authority's Leasing of the property known as 1349 Newfield Avenue, Stamford, for the operation of the Sterling Farms Golf Course.

Approved

Action Requested: Approval of Agreement
Amount: \$
Fund/Budget:
Submitted by: Tim Curtin, Director of Operations

6-0-0
Motion by
J. Louizos
Seconded
R. Kolenberg

Operations: Administration- Game Courts

Item 2 Request for Approval of Supplemental Capital Appropriation in the amount of \$100,000 for game courts improvements as per lease agreement with RBS.

Approved

Action Requested: Supplemental Capital Appropriation
Amount: \$100,000
Fund/Budget: Gift: CIF Project C56259
Submitted by: Tim Curtin, Director of Operations

6-0-0
Motion by
T. Abbazia
Seconded
M. Pollard

Snow Removal

Item 3 Request for Approval of Additional Appropriation in the amount of \$102,854 to cover the cost of emergency charges related to power outages and storms which occurred in August & September.

Withdrawn

Action Requested: Additional Appropriation
Amount: \$102,854
Fund/Budget: General
Submitted by: Alex Tergis, Director of Public Services
This item was withdrawn from the agenda at the department's request due to the lack of snow to this point in time.

Operations: Parks & Recreation Overtime

Item 4 Request for Approval of Additional Appropriation in the amount of \$6,440 to reimburse labor support related to the production of films at Cove Island Park three days in October and November.

Approved

Action Requested: Additional Appropriation
Amount: \$6,440
Fund/Budget:
Submitted by: Tim Curtin, Director of Operations
Mr. Louizos abstained, noting that he represented the Connecticut Film Center.

5-0-1
Motion by
J. Tarzia
Seconded
R. Kolenberg

Approval of Agreement

- Item 5** Request for Approval of Agreement between the City of Stamford and Grindline Parks, Inc. for Construction of a Skate park in Scalzi Park. **Held**

Action Requested: Approval of Agreement

Amount: \$309,850.00

Fund/Budget:

Submitted by: Ed Gentile, Engineering/Mickey Docimo:

Much discussion took place regarding this item including assessment of the public's response to this park as well as the possibility of increased liability to the City due to greater exposure by building such a park. The Board's consensus was that more information was needed in this area as well as the Risk Manager's presence to answer such questions.

6-0-0

Motion by

J. Louizos

Seconded

M. Pollard

OFFICE OF PUBLIC SAFETY

Police Department: Overtime

- Item 6** Request for Approval of Additional Appropriation in the amount of \$500,000 to prevent a deficit in the account based on current projections. **Approved**

Action Requested: Additional Appropriation

Amount: \$500,000

Fund/Budget: General

Submitted by: Brent Larrabee, Police Chief

Mr. Abbazia thanked the Police Department for its cooperation in creating a detailed report which included monthly overtime expenses as well as the projection of an additional amount required for the remainder of the fiscal year. Chair Rinaldi maintained, and it was the Board's consensus, that the department needed to stay within projections as well as bring down the projected required increase. Mr. Tarzia abstained from voting on this item.

5-0-1

Motion by

T. Abbazia

Seconded

R. Kolenberg

Overtime

- Item 7** Request for Approval of Additional Appropriation in the amount of \$50,098 to reimburse the Police overtime account for hours worked at the Maccabie Games. A check for the same amount has been received and deposited as miscellaneous revenue. **Approved**

Action Requested: Additional Appropriation

Amount: \$50,098

Fund/Budget:

Submitted by: Brent Larrabee, Police Chief

6-0-0

Motion by

T. Abbazia

Seconded

M. Pollard

GRANTS

Bio-Terrorism Response Grant

- Item 8** Request for Approval of Transfer in the amount of \$3,462 from the Salaries Account to the Office Supplies Account since the employees salary and benefits are paid directly by the State. **Approved**
- Action Requested:* Transfer **6-0-0**
Amount: \$3,462 **Motion by**
Fund/Budget: **J. Tarzia**
Submitted by: William Callion, Dir. of Public Safety **Seconded**
R. Kolenberg

Bulletproof Vest Grant

- Item 9** Request for Approval of Additional Appropriation in the amount of \$982 to purchase bulletproof vests for the police department. **Approved**
- Action Requested:* Additional Appropriation **6-0-0**
Amount: \$982 **Motion by**
Fund/Budget: U.S. Dept. of Justice **M. Pollard**
Submitted by: William Callion, Dir. of Public Safety **Seconded**
J. Louizos

The Big Read Grant

- Item 10** Request for Approval of Additional Appropriation in the amount of \$10,000 to share in a \$40,000 award with the cities of Bridgeport, Norwalk and Shelton to implement an innovative, community-wide read of Harper Lee's novel 'To Kill a Mockingbird' during the month of April, 2007. **Approved**
- Action Requested:* Additional Appropriation **6-0-0**
Amount: \$10,000 **Motion by**
Fund/Budget: Grant: National Endowment of the Arts **M. Pollard**
Submitted by: Sandy Dennies, Director of Grants Administration **Seconded**
J. Tarzia

Youth Services Bureau

- Item 11** Request for Approval of Additional Appropriation in the amount of \$500 to be used to help support after proms at Westhill and Stamford High Schools. **Approved**
- Action Requested:* Additional Appropriation **6-0-0**
Amount: \$500 **Motion by**
Fund/Budget: **J. Tarzia**
Submitted by: Mary Willis, Youth Services Director **Seconded**
J. Louizos

Health Risk Reduction Grant: Transfer

Item 12 Request for Approval of Transfer in the amount of \$1,345 from the Salaries account to the Medical & Life account to bring the City’s budget to grant approved levels. Due to an absence of three months, funds may be allocated to cover medical and life insurance costs.

Approved

Action Requested: Transfer
Amount: \$1,345
Fund/Budget:
Submitted by: Dr. Johnnie Lee, Director of Health

6-0-0
Motion by
M. Pollard
Seconded
T. Abbazia

OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATION

Director of Administration

Item 13 Approval of Board of Finance Resolution concerning Certificate of Safe Debt Limit for Fiscal Year 2007-2008.

Approved for Lesser Amount of \$38 Million

Action Requested: Approval of Safe Debt Limit
Amount: \$44 million Requested: \$38 Million Approved
Fund/Budget:
Submitted by: Ben Barnes, Director of Administration
Mr. Barnes stated that the amount recommended was, in his view, both sustainable and necessary and would have a neutral impact on the City’s credit rating. Mr. Abbazia stated that a jump in capital debt to this amount was too high and that he believed that the City could meet its future needs with the lesser amount of \$38 million. With this, Mr. Abbazia recommended approving a safe debt limit of \$38 million, which was seconded by Mr. Pollard. Mr. Tarzia proposed a safe debt limit of \$32 million, which was what he believed that the City could afford. Mr. Kolenberg seconded this motion, but it failed by a vote of 2-4-0. The Board then entertained Mr. Abbazia’s original motion of \$38 million, which was approved by a vote of 4-2-0, with Messrs. Tarzia & Kolenberg dissenting.

4-2-0
Motion by
T. Abbazia
Seconded
M. Pollard

BOARD OF FINANCE

Discussion

Item 14 Discussion: Status of Collections in Maria Glander Case

**No Action
Taken**

Action Requested: Discussion

Amount:

Fund/Budget:

Submitted by: Joseph Tarzia, Member
Mr. Tarzia stated that his purpose of bringing this item up was to ensure that the City aggressively pursued collection of the amount awarded to the City in this case. Mr. Louzios stated that it was discussed in Legal Committee from the Corporations Counsel report and that many actions would be pursued.

ITEMS HEARD UNDER SUSPENSION OF THE RULES

OFFICE OF PUBLIC SAFETY, HEALTH & WELFARE

Stamford Fire & Rescue

Item 15 Request for Approval of Additional Appropriation in the amount of \$79,341 to fund four new firefighter positions not included in 2006-07 budget.

Approved

Action Requested: Additional Appropriation

Amount: \$79,341: FY 2006-07

Fund/Budget:

Submitted by: William Callion, Director of Pub. Safety, Health & Welfare

6-0-0

Motion by

J. Tarzia

Seconded

R. Kolenberg

On a motion made by Mr. Abbazia, seconded by Mr. Pollard, the Board voted unanimously to suspend the rules to hear items # 15 & 16. Mr. Callion asserted that the City would be rewarded by reduced overtime by hiring these new employees. Mr. Tarzia agreed, whereupon he made a motion to approve each of these items. After a second by Mr. Kolenberg, the Board unanimously approved Items # 15 & 16.

Minutes: Thursday, January 11, 2007

Turn of the River Fire Department

Item 16 Request for Approval of Additional Appropriation in the amount of \$94,872 to fund four new firefighter positions not included in 2006-07 budget. Two will be used to meet staffing demands at Turn of the River and two to be available for Belltown, Glenbrook and Turn of the River Fire Districts as needed.

Approved

Action Requested: Additional Appropriation
Amount: \$94,872: FY 2006-07
Fund/Budget:
Submitted by: William Callion, Director of Pub. Safety, Health & Welfare

6-0-0
Motion by
J. Tarzia
Seconded
R. Kolenberg

On a motion made by Mr. Abbazia, seconded by Mr. Pollard, the Board voted unanimously to suspend the rules to hear items # 15 & 16. Mr. Callion asserted that the City would be rewarded by reduced overtime by hiring these new employees. Mr. Tarzia agreed, whereupon he made a motion to approve each of these items. After a second by Mr. Kolenberg, the Board unanimously approved Items # 15 & 16.

GRANTS

Stamford WIFI

Item 17 Request for Approval of Additional Appropriation in the amount of \$15,000 to provide wireless networking in Latham & Veterans Parks and the Stamford Train Station.

Approved

Action Requested: Additional Appropriation
Amount: \$15,000
Fund/Budget: Grant Funded: Business Council of Fairfield County
Submitted by: Sandy Dennies, Director of Grants
Presented by: Karen Cammarota, Grants Coordinator

6-0-0
Motion by
J. Tarzia
Seconded
T. Abbazia

On a motion made by Mr. Abbazia, seconded by Mr. Pollard, the Board voted unanimously to suspend the rules to hear this item.

Next Regular Meeting of the Board: Thursday, February 8, 2007 @ 7:00 P.M.

Adjournment: On a motion by Mr. Tarzia which was seconded by Mr. Louizos, the Board unanimously elected to adjourn this meeting at 9:05 PM.

Lorraine C. Gilden

Lorraine C. Gilden
Clerk/Staff Analyst