

Minutes: May 3, 2007

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ROBERT KOLENBERG
TIMOTHY E. ABBAZIA
JOHN J. LOUIZOS
JOSEPH TARZIA
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, May 3, 2007: 7:00 PM
Board of Finance Meeting Room, 4th Floor

Call to Order: Conducted by Chairperson Mary Lou T. Rinaldi

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

Approval of Minutes: Regular Meeting: April 11, 2007: 7:00PM

Approved
5-0-0
Motion by
T. Abbazia
Seconded
M. Pollard

Public Participation: None

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Reports to the Board: Mr. Abbazia reported on the audits discussed at the Audit Committee meeting held this past Monday including the volunteer fire departments, the injured on duty and the vehicle maintenance audits paying particular attention to follow-through of recommendations. Regarding the Firehouse Audits, while Springdale, Belltown & Turn of the River each reflected minor issues; the Audit of Long Ridge indicated that it was operating under tight cash flow constraints. Of import to this Committee was scheduling a future meeting with the Long Ridge Board as well as Public Safety Chief Callion to determine how to address this matter. Mr. Abbazia also asked OPM to confirm the response of the Glenbrook Board as to following the audit recommendations, and was not convinced that Glenbrook was able to manage their finances appropriately. The Committee decided to contact each of the Volunteer Firehouses and ask if they were in agreement to implement the recommendations. Mr. Abbazia noted that the official report was forthcoming.

Mr. Abbazia also brought up last evening's 'unofficial' meeting held by Board of Reps President Martin concerning phasing in revaluation, stating that both he and Mr. Tarzia were strongly in favor of the City phasing in reval over a five-year period to mitigate tax increases. Mr. Tarzia added that time was of the essence for this Board to convey its support to the Board of Reps and to recommend further that this Board be involved in oversight of this process. On a motion by Mr. Abbazia, seconded by Mr. Tarzia, the Board then unanimously agreed to send such a letter, prepared by Chair Rinaldi to the Board of Representatives (see attachment). Mr. Pollard then took the floor, reporting on the Operations Committee meeting, also held this past Monday. He stated that the most significant result was the potential of energy savings regarding the Noresco contract, to be followed through at future meetings. Mr. Louizos also noted that he participated in the Board of Educations' schools visit from the Panasonic Foundation, endorsing this firm's offer of consulting services to further enrich City schools.

Smith House Skilled Nursing Facility

Item 1 Discussion: Update on FY 06-07 Year to date Financial results of Smith House & Latest Patient Survey **No Action Taken**

Action Requested: Discussion

Amount: \$

Fund/Budget:

Submitted by: Ron Deal, Vice President: Premier Healthcare Resources
Mr. Deal reported that a declined census through March produced a greater deficit than was originally anticipated, noting that the cost of care for Medicaid patients approximated \$20,000 per year for each resident. The Board expressed their concern over this occurrence with Mr. Abbazia asking for a pro-forma plan to manage this facility on a break-even basis. Mr. Deal stated that he would provide this, and noted that they were also responding to State Licenses concerning correcting any noted deficiencies. Finally, he was pleased to report that the latest patient survey results were both encouraging as well as achieving a high response rate.

OFFICE OF LEGAL AFFAIRS

Risk Management: Agreement

Item 2 Request for Approval of Agreement between the City of Stamford and Webster Risk Services, Inc. for Workers' Compensation and Heart and Hypertension Claims Administration for one year commencing on July 1, 2007. **Approved**

Action Requested: Approval of Agreement **5-0-0**
Amount: \$ **Motion by**
Fund/Budget: **J. Tarzia**
Submitted by: Burt Rosenburg, Office of Legal Affairs **Seconded**
Presented by: Ann Marie Mones, Risk Manager **J. Louizos**
The Board commended Ms. Mones on her proactive stance to control costs in this area.

GRANTS

School Readiness Program

Item 3 Request for Approval of Transfer in the amount of \$11,985 from the Permanent Part -Time & Travel Accounts to various accounts to pay for an Early Literacy program for over 200 Stamford pre-school and kindergarten teachers. **Approved for Amended Amount**

Action Requested: Transfer **5-0-0**
Amount: \$11,985: Amended to \$8,832 **Motion by**
Fund/Budget: Grant **J. Tarzia**
Submitted by: Karen Cammorata, Grants Director **Seconded**
Karen Cammorata asked that the Board approve this transfer at an amended amount of \$8,832 in order to comply with State restrictions. **T. Abbazia**

Enhanced SST Program

Item 4 Request for Approval of Additional Appropriation in the amount of \$158,958 to provide an Elderly & Disabled Demand Responsive Transportation program. **Approved**

Action Requested: Additional Appropriation **5-0-0**
Amount: \$158,958 **Motion by**
Fund/Budget: State Department of Transportation Grant **M. Pollard**
Submitted by: William Callion, Director of Public Safety, Health & Welf **Seconded**
J. Louizos

Bio-Terrorism Emergency Response Grant

Item 5 Request for Approval of Additional Appropriation in the amount of \$3,614 to bring grant lines up to approved level and to pay for increased medical costs, travel & training. **Approved**

Action Requested: Additional Appropriation

Amount: \$3,614

Fund/Budget:

Submitted by: William Callion, Director of Public Safety, Health & Welf

**5-0-0
Motion by
M. Pollard
Seconded
T. Abbazia**

OFFICE OF PUBLIC SAFETY, HEALTH & WELFARE

Stamford Police Department: Overtime

Item 6 Request for Approval of Additional Appropriation in the amount of \$900,000 for overtime due to a deficit of this amount in the account. **Withdrawn**

Action Requested: Additional Appropriation

Amount: \$900,000

Fund/Budget:

Submitted by: Brent Larrabee, Police Chief
Since Chief Larrabee was unable to attend this meeting, this item was withdrawn by the department in favor of the June, 2007 regular meeting.

Stamford Police Department: Gasoline Account

Item 7 Request for Approval of Additional Appropriation in the amount of \$82,000 due to the implementation of the 4th squad deployed at peak hours as well as higher than projected gasoline prices. **Withdrawn**

Action Requested: Additional Appropriation

Amount: \$82,000

Fund/Budget:

Submitted by: Brent Larrabee, Police Chief
Since Chief Larrabee was unable to attend this meeting, this item was withdrawn by the department in favor of the June, 2007 regular meeting.

Stamford Police Department: Tuition Reimbursement

- Item 8** Request for Approval of Additional Appropriation in the amount of \$40,000 for College Tuition costs, a contractual benefit, due to a deficit in the account at the end of the Spring 2007 semester. **Withdrawn**

Action Requested: Additional Appropriation
Amount: \$40,000
Fund/Budget:
Submitted by: Brent Larrabee, Police Chief
Since Chief Larrabee was unable to attend this meeting, this item was withdrawn by the department in favor of the June, 2007 regular meeting.

ITEMS HEARD UNDER SUSPENSION OF THE RULES

OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATION

General Obligation Refunding Bonds

- Item 9** Request for Approval of Resolution with respect to the Issuance & Sale of City of Stamford General Obligation Bond Anticipation Notes not to exceed \$47,000,000. **Approved**

Action Requested: BAN's Issuance **4-1-0**
Amount: \$47,000,000: NTE **Motion by**
Fund/Budget: Capital **T. Abbazia**
Submitted by: Sandy Dennies, Director of Administration **Seconded**
On a motion by Mr. Louizos which was seconded by Mr. Abbazia, the Board unanimously agreed to hear this item under suspension of the rules. While the Board acted to approve this issuance, Mr. Tarzia dissented, noting that a vote in favor may imply his assent to the City's assuming a larger future debt of which he was not in favor. **M. Pollard**

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Board of Finance

Item 10 Discussion: Recommendations to Reduce City Expenses

**No Action
Taken**

Action Requested: Discussion

Amount:

Fund/Budget:

Submitted by:

Joseph Tarzia, Member

On a motion by Mr. Tarzia which was seconded by Mr. Abbazia, the Board unanimously agreed to hear this item under suspension of the rules. Mr. Tarzia introduced this item to discuss ways to help departments respond to the City's budget cuts. Mr. Tarzia noted that in particular, it was his belief that significant savings could be achieved by action to reduce the number of city vehicles taken home. Chair Rinaldi asked the Board to consider savings in other areas as well. It was Mr. Pollard's belief that the Board accomplished this through the budget process and that it should not further micro-manage departments in this regard.

Next Regular Meeting of the Board: Thursday, June 14, 2007 @ 7:00 P.M.

Adjournment: On a motion by Mr. Pollard which was seconded by Mr. Louizos, the Board unanimously elected to adjourn this meeting at 8:30 PM.

Lorraine C. Gilden

Lorraine C. Gilden
Clerk/Staff Analyst