

Minutes: November 14, 2013

MICHAEL PAVIA
MAYOR

TIMOTHY M. ABBAZIA
CHAIRMAN
MARY LOU T. RINALDI
VICE CHAIR
JOHN J. LOUIZOS
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BOARD OF FINANCE

STAMFORD GOVERNMENT CENTER
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MINUTES

Regular Meeting

Thursday, November 14, 2013: 7:15 PM

Board of Finance Meeting Room, 4th Floor

Call to Order: (Video: (hours, minutes) (00:00) Conducted by Chairman Abbazia, noting Members present as himself, Vice Chair Mary Lou Rinaldi, and Board Members John Louizos and Gerald Bosak, Jr., David Martin & Kathleen Murphy. Mr. Abbazia congratulated Mayor-Elect David Martin and re-elected Member Gerald Bosak, Jr.

Pledge of Allegiance: Led by Chairman Abbazia

Approval of Minutes: October 10, 2013: 7:15 PM: Regular Meeting

Mr. Martin and Ms. Murphy abstained from voting as they were not present at the October meeting.

Video: 00:01

4-0-2

Motion by

M. Rinaldi

Second

J. Louizos

Public Participation: None

Reports to the Board: (00:01) Audit Committee Chairman John Louizos stated that he held Committee Meetings on both October 10 and October 29, stating that the Committee reviewed outstanding items for the audit, but noting that draft financial statements were provided by October 31, and adding that reports for these meetings were already on file.

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At the meeting's end (Video:02:56), OPM Director Hricay shared the results of his first quarter projections for FY 2013-14, noting that they were projecting a City side operating shortfall of \$600K, and a City-wide surplus, inclusive of BOE projections, of nearly \$800K.

Note: Items are Shown in Order of Consideration

GRANTS

Medical Reserve CORP

Item 1	Request for Approval of Additional Appropriation in the amount of \$4,000 to pay for office supplies.	Approved
	Action Requested: Additional Appropriation	6-0-0
	Amount: \$4,000	Motion by
	Fund/Budget: 100% Grant Funded	K. Murphy
	Submitted by: Ann Fountain, Director of Health	Second
	Video: 00:04 Grants Director Cammarota reported that there was no City match required for this grant. The Board approved this item by unanimous vote.	G. Bosak

OFFICE OF LEGAL AFFAIRS

Law Department- Additional Appropriation

Item 2	Request for Approval of Additional Appropriation in the amount of \$175,000 to cover legal expenses related to federal lawsuits pending, outside counsel in cases of conflict, and day to day costs for professional consultants and expert witnesses.	Approved
	Action Requested: Additional Appropriation	5-1-0
	Amount: \$175,000	Motion by
	Fund/Budget: Contingency	J. Louizos
	Submitted by: Joe Capalbo, Dir. of Legal Affairs	Second
	Video: 00:05 Mr. Capalbo explained that these funds were needed to cover legal expenses related to pending matters that were on the verge of completion. Mr. Abbazia asked how long these funds would last which was estimated by Director Capalbo as approximately 9-10 months. Mr. Louizos asked if the rationale for provision of the funds at this time was due to the transition, which Director Capalbo stated was correct. Ms. Murphy cast the dissenting vote to approve.	M. Rinaldi

Law Department- Transfer

Item 3	Request for Approval of Transfer in the amount of \$4,500 from the Salaries Account to the Car Allowance Account to cover the cost of car allowance for one employee.	Failed
	Action Requested: Transfer	1-5-0
	Amount: \$4,500	Motion by
	Fund/Budget:	G. Bosak
	Submitted by: Joe Capalbo, Dir. of Legal Affairs	Second
	Video: 00:08 While Mr. Capalbo advised that the City was contractually liable to pay for this cost, the Board did not approve it as they cut the funds during the budget process. Mr. Bosak cast the lone vote to approve.	T. Abbazia

Agreement

Item 4	Request for Reconsideration of Approval of Lease Agreement between the City of Stamford and Sacred Heart University, Inc. for lease of approximately 110 square feet of space located on the 10 th floor of the government center for a period of five years commencing on date of contract.	Failed
	Action Requested: Approval of Lease Agreement	1-4-1
	Amount: \$144 month	Motion by
	Fund/Budget:	G. Bosak
	Submitted by: Mayor Michael A. Pavia	Second
	Presented by: Chris Dellaselva, Asst. Corporation Counsel	J. Louizos
	Video: 00:12 No action was taken on this item at the October meeting after the Board learned that no changes were made after their recommendation at the September meeting (when they held this item) that the Law Department look for more appropriate space to house this tenant. It was the Board's view that the 10 th floor should be reserved for governmental operations only. The Board noted again that no changes had been made in this agreement and failed to approve the item (Motion: G. Bosak; Second J. Louizos- Mr. Bosak cast the lone vote to approve, Mr. Martin abstained from voting on this item).	

OFFICE OF OPERATIONS

WPCA: Notice of Capital Project Close-Outs/Reductions

Item 6	Notice of partial close-out of Wedgemere Road Capital Project #C20052: Wedgemere Road Sewers in the amount of \$200,000 (also, see Item # 13 below).	No Action Taken
	Action Requested: Capital Project close-out	
	Amount: \$	
	Fund/Budget: Capital:C20052	
	Submitted by: Mayor Pavia	
	Presented by: Bill Brink & Prakash Chakravarti	
	Video: 00:13 Ms. Rinaldi left the room when the Board took up Items No. 6-8; refraining from participation in any discussion and action on these items.	

WPCA Supplemental Capital Appropriation: Carriage Drive Sewers

Item 7	Request for Approval of Supplemental Capital Appropriation in the amount of \$200,000 to service 70 parcels at various streets to replace failing septic systems which will include approximately 10,000 linear feet of gravity sewers, 1500 Linear feet of Force Main and 1 Lift Pump Station.	Approved
	Action Requested: Supplemental Capital Appropriation	4-1-1
	Amount: \$200,000	Motion by
	Fund/Budget: Capital: C22045	J. Louizos
	Submitted by: Bill Brink, WPCA	Second
	Video: 00:13 Ms. Rinaldi left the room when the Board took up Items No. 6-8; refraining from participation in any discussion and action on these items. Director Brink turned the presentation over to Engineer Prakash Chakravati who reviewed the budget for this project,	G. Bosak

	noting that they were approximately \$200K short due to change orders and necessary contingency. The Board acted to approve this item, with Ms. Murphy casting the dissenting vote and Ms. Rinaldi abstaining.	
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Bond Resolution

Item 8	Request for Approval of Bond Resolution related to the authorization and issuance of \$200,000 of WPCA Revenue Bonds to finance the Carriage Drive Sewer project.	Withdrawn
	Action Requested: Bond Resolution	
	Amount: \$200,000	
	Fund/Budget: Capital	
	Submitted by: Jim Hricay, Director of OPM	
	Video: 00:13 After Ms. Murphy pointed out that the resolution provided included a larger amount than the \$200K in requested funds to finance this project; the Department withdrew this item in order to provide further clarification of this request at a future meeting.	

Maintenance- Transfer

Item 9	Request for Approval of Transfer in the amount of \$70,650 from the Contracted Services Account to the Salaries accounts to pay for the salary of the position of Operations Manager at Parks & Facilities which was previously performed by an independent contractor.	Approved
	Action Requested: Transfer	6-0-0
	Amount: \$70,650	Motion by
	Fund/Budget:	G. Bosak
	Submitted by: Ernie Orgera, Director of Operations	Second
	Video: 00:25 Director of Administration Handler explained that this transfer was sought in order to pay for an Operations manager to manage City buildings and grounds which was formally handled by an independent contractor. Chairman Abbazia questioned the change in thinking regarding switching from advocating outsourcing to performing this function in-house. While Mr. Handler stated that the contractor provided admirable service and offered to reduce his cost, the reporting structure was at issue where city employees were reporting to an outside contractor causing confusion, and loss of control. Mr. Handler added that the resultant savings from hiring in-house was also significant. Member Martin stated that while it would seem that a new position would be needed, it appeared from HR Director's Hibson explanation that reclassification of another position caused the loss of a position. Mr. Hibson said that this was not the case, and that the actions taken could be 'undone' without undue burden if the new Mayor sought this. While Mr. Louizos noted that the timing was not optimal and expressed his concern that personnel decisions were being made while a transition was in place for a new Administration, the Board approved this request by unanimous vote.	J. Louizos

Building Inspection- Transfer

Item 10	Request for Approval of Transfer in the amount of \$16,809 from the Permanent Part-time account to the Seasonal Account to cover the cost of seasonal employees instead of a Permanent Part-time position.	Approved
	Action Requested: Transfer	6-0-0
	Amount: \$16,809	Motion by
	Fund/Budget:	J. Louizos
	Submitted by: Ernie Orgera, Director of Operations	Second
	Video: 00:38 OPM Director Hricay explained that this transfer was sought to move funds into the seasonal account as hiring seasonal workers was less expensive than that of a permanent part-time position.	M. Rinaldi

OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATION

Controller's Office- Additional Appropriation

Item 13	Request for Approval of Additional Appropriation in the amount of \$48,985 to hire a manager of the City's time and attendance system; funding for 6 months from January 1, 2014 through June 30, 2014.	Withdrawn
	Action Requested: Additional Appropriation	
	Amount: \$48,985	
	Fund/Budget: Contingency	
	Submitted by: Michael Handler, Dir. Of Administration	
	Video: 00:40 Director Handler stated that this position was necessary to manage the City's time and attendance system, help prevent fraud and to incorporate the remaining City departments, including Fire, Police and the Board of Education into KRONOS. The Board preferred that before any decision could be made on an appropriation, a position should first be created. Director Handler agreed to withdraw the request.	

Office of Administration- Transfer

Item 14	Request for Approval of Transfer in the amount of \$27,300 from the OPM Salaries account to various accounts to cover costs associated with overages in various salary line items	Failed
	Action Requested: Transfer	2-4-0
	Amount: \$27,300	Motion by
	Fund/Budget:	D. Martin
	Submitted by: Michael Handler, Director of Administration	Second
	Video: 00:47 In response to questions by both Mr. Abbazia and Ms. Rinaldi regarding the timing of this transfer so early in the fiscal year, Director Hricay advised that he recognized the need now so wanted to take care of it forthwith. On a motion to approve this item by Mr. Martin, which was seconded by Mr. Bosak, the item failed with all other members dissenting.	G. Bosak

Discussion

Item 15	Follow-up: Revaluation		No Action Taken
	<i>Action Requested:</i>	Discussion	
	<i>Amount:</i>		
	<i>Fund/Budget:</i>		
	<i>Submitted by:</i>	Tim Abbazia, Chairman	
	Video: 00:52	<p>Chairman Abbazia asked Director Handler to summarize his Departments efforts regarding their review of resident’s complaints concerning the results of the October 2012 revaluation. Mr. Handler stated that after conducting hundreds of meetings and myriad phone conversations, while there was a general sense of unhappiness about the revaluation’s resultant tax increase for some, that there was an understanding gained on why individual properties were valued as they were. He recommended that if it was the Board’s determination to have an audit performed, it should be done by a statistical random sampling of both residential and commercial properties to be fair. The Board noted that regarding a scope they would like a review of the largest decrease in valuations for commercial properties; correction of errors utilizing information provided on the City’s website, a second look at the Department’s review, and a determination of any bias or gross errors. Ms. Murphy stated that she preferred a look at options to make the reval more equitable. Audit Committee Chairman Louizos suggested that the Board approve an audit inclusive of these items, noting that CCM & the Connecticut Association of Appraisers could be used as a resource to identify appropriate auditing firms. Chairman Abbazia asked the Clerk to work with the Director of Administration to ensure that the audit process was started.</p>	

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Unexpended Funds

Item 12	Pursuant to Law 10-248a, request for approval of usage of unexpended funds in accordance with agreement between the City of Stamford and the Board of Education.		Approved
	Action Requested:	Discussion/Approval of Unexpended Funds agreement	5-1-0
	Amount:	\$	Motion by
	Fund/Budget:	Board of Education	M. Rinaldi
	Submitted by:	Superintendent Winnie Hamilton, Board of Education	Second
	Video: 01:16	Director of Legal Affairs Capalbo submitted an amended agreement which sought to address Board of Finance concerns such as yearly approval, subject to normal appropriation process, and limited usage of any unexpended funds for Pensions, OPEB and capital improvements, but noting that in cases of emergency, the Board of Education may request usage of these funds for other items. Ms. Rinaldi asked for examples of such usage, stating that while she was not against using unexpended funds for items such as OPEB and Pensions, she did not intend for this to be a “slush fund”. Superintendent Hamilton stated that these costs might be unanticipated Health Insurance & Special Education costs, noting that they would have to come before the Boards to request any appropriations. On a motion by Ms. Rinaldi, which was seconded by Mr. Martin, the Board acted to approve this agreement by a vote of 5-1-0, with Ms. Murphy casting the dissenting vote, noting that she preferred a sharing of any unexpended funds between the City and the BOE.	D. Martin

Advisory Opinion

Item 11	Pursuant to Section C6-20-7 (c) of the <i>City of Stamford Charter</i> , request for Advisory Opinion to the Board of Education on the tentative agreement between the Board of Education and the Security and Community Liaison Employees, Local 502 for the period July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2016.		Advisory Opinion to be Provided
	Action Requested:	Advisory Opinion	
	Amount:	\$	
	Fund/Budget:	Board of Education	
	Submitted by:	Winnie Hamilton, Superintendent of Schools	
	Video: 01:25 & Video: 02:25	After ascertaining that they could review the terms of the tentative agreement openly, Tom Mooney made a presentation on behalf of the Board of Education, noting that the changes were straightforward. The Board thanked the Board of Ed, and advised that an advisory opinion would be provided. Later in the meeting, and on a motion by Mr. Bosak, which was seconded by Ms. Rinaldi, the Board entered executive session to discuss negotiations and strategy. After approximately 3 minutes, the Board exited executive session, stating that no action was taken, but an advisory opinion would be provided.	

Advisory Opinion: UAW

Item 5	Pursuant to Section C6-20-7 (b) of the City charter, request for Advisory Opinion to the Mayor on the tentative Agreement between the City of Stamford and the United Auto Workers Union for the period July 1, 2010-June 30, 2015.		Additional Information Requested
	Action Requested:	Advisory Opinion	
	Amount:		
	Fund/Budget:		
	Submitted by:	Clemon Williams, Asst. Director of Human Resources	
	Video: 01:30 & Video: 02:20	On a motion by Mr. Bosak, which was seconded by Mr. Louizos, the Board agreed by unanimous vote to discuss this item in executive session due to on-going contract negotiations. After approximately 50 minutes, the Board exited executive session, stating that no action was taken, and that the Chairman would provide a letter to the department requesting additional information consistent with the Board’s discussion.	

Discussion

Item 16	Status: WPCA Audit		No Action Taken
	Action Requested:	Discussion	
	Amount:		
	Fund/Budget:		
	Submitted by:	Tim Abbazia, Chairman	
	Video: 02:53	Audit Committee Chairman Louizos said that it was a matter of appointing a selection committee to move forward on this item. Chairman Abbazia suggested that the committee may determine whether the audit should be awarded to the one respondent on just one of audit items to assess the results. The Clerk advised the Board that Chairman Abbazia had previously recommended that a selection committee be comprised of 5 individuals to include 2 Board of Finance members (TBD), 1 Board of Rep designee (TBD)- but recommended as Joe Coppola by Randy Skigen in Feb, 2013, Dan Capano- WPCA OPS Committee Chairman & the Purchasing Agent.	

Next Regular Meeting of the Board: Thursday, December 12, 2013 @ 7:00 P.M.

Vice Chair Rinaldi spoke, thanking departing Chairman Tim Abbazia for his many years of service and praising his congenial disposition, his fairness and intelligence in leading this Board for his second time as Chairman.

Adjournment: On a motion by Mr. Bosak, which was seconded by Ms. Murphy, the Board agreed by unanimous vote to adjourn this meeting at 10: 18 PM.

Lorraine C. Gilden

Lorraine C. Gilden
Clerk of the Board