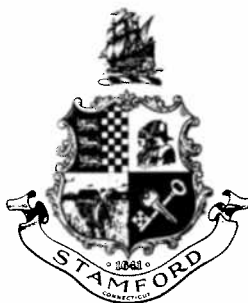


Minutes: April 9, 2015

DAVID R. MARTIN
MAYOR

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

STAMFORD GOVERNMENT CENTER
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STAMFORD, CONNECTICUT 06904-2152

MINUTES

Regular Meeting

Thursday, April 9, 2015: 7:00 PM
Board of Finance Meeting Room, 4th Floor

Call to Order: (Video-Hours: Minutes; 00:00) Performed by Chairman John J. Louizos at 7:05 PM, reporting that all Members were present.

Pledge of Allegiance: (Video:00:00) Led by Chairman Louizos

Approval of Minutes: (Video:00:01) March 12, 2015: 6:30 PM: Regular Meeting	Approved
	6-0-0
	Motion by
	S. Gabriele
	Seconded
	M. Rinaldi

Public Participation: None

Reports to the Board: None

Items are Shown in Order of Consideration

GRANTS

CDBG- Annual Action Plan for Yr. 41: 7/1/15-6/30/16 & HOME Investment Program Funds

Item 1	Request for Approval of Annual Action Plan for Year 41: July 1, 2015-June 30, 2016 for use of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) & HOME Investment partnerships Program funds totaling \$1,216,918.	Approved
Action Requested:	Annual Action Plan Approval	6-0-0
Amount:	CDBG: \$864,525; HOME Program: \$352,393	Motion
Fund/Budget:	US Dept. of HUD: 100% Grant Funded	G. Bosak
Submitted by:	Erik Larson, Grants Coordinator	Second
Video:00:02	Mr. Larson explained that these are funds for HUD programs used for building and rehabbing affordable housing. He thanked the Board members for completing the new conflict of interest form that HUD asked of all those who are involved in the decision making process.	S. Gabriele

Justice Assistance Grant 14/15

Item 2	Request for Approval of Transfer in the amount of \$5,600 from the Overtime Account to the Program Supplies Account to purchase radar and laser units.	Approved
Action Requested:	Transfer	6-0-0
Amount:	\$5,600	Motion
Fund/Budget:	Federal Grant	M. Rinaldi
Submitted by:	Jon Fontneau, Chief of Police	Second
Video:00:04	Lt. Duckworth reported that the Police Department decided to use the funds from this Grant to purchase laser equipment for the traffic enforcement unit.	S. Gabriele

OPM Police & Youth/Girls Leadership Program

Item 3	Request for Approval of Transfer in the amount of \$2,500 from the Contracted Services Account to the Overtime & Office Supplies Accounts to pay for Police overtime, anti-graffiti campaign; meals for the homeless shelters, and leadership training.	Approved
Action Requested:	Transfer	6-0-0
Amount:	\$2,500	Motion
Fund/Budget:	State Grant	G. Bosak
Submitted by:	Jon Fontneau, Chief of Police	Second
Video:00:04	Lt. Duckworth stated that this transfer was being sought to put funds into overtime where they would be used for the above noted programs.	S. Gabriele

Cost Sharing Grant

Item 4	Request for Approval of Transfer in the amount of \$42,569 from the Part-time, Seasonal & Social Security Account to the Salaries, Permanent Part-time & Medical & Life Account due to a reallocation of the cost sharing grant funds wherein two part time positions will be one permanent part time position	Approved
Action Requested:	Transfer	6-0-0

Amount:	\$42,569	Motion
Fund/Budget:	Grant Funded	G. Bosak
Submitted by:	Anne Fountain, Director of Health	Second
Video:00:05	Director Fountain reported that this transfer was requested to reallocate the grant funds to create one permanent position from two part time positions.	D. Williams

Welfare Division- Relocation Expense

Item 5	Request for Approval of Additional Appropriation in the amount of \$80,000 to pay outstanding hotel bills for emergency housing, food reimbursement, moving expenses, and rehousing expenses per State Mandated Relocation Assistance Act.	Approved
Action Requested:	Additional Appropriation	6-0-0
Amount:	\$80,000	Motion
Fund/Budget:	Contingency	G. Bosak
Submitted by:	Anne Fountain, Director of Health	Second
Video:00:06	Ms. Fountain advised that these funds are being requested as a result of a State mandated program which requires the City to relocate people who may be residing in illegal housing. She explained that while the City must front the money, the landlord was billed, and they ultimately would recoup the funds, although it may be when the property was sold. Ms. Rinaldi wanted to know what percentage the City recouped of what it paid and also if the City could fine the landlord for the housing refractions in addition to charging them interest. Ms. Fountain stated that the law did not provide for assessment of fines, and due to a step up in enforcement, the City was incurring increased cost, adding that higher hotel costs and less availability of affordable housing compounded the issue. Chairman Louizos made the point that the department had to make an organized and coordinated effort with the Law Department aimed at providing a greater incentive to the landlord to follow the law and at the same time achieve a rate of reimbursement closer to 100%, adding that they may be able to foreclose on the leined property.	S. Gabriele

WIC Grant 14/15

Item 6	Request for Approval of Additional Appropriation in the amount of \$122,479 to fund a full time Nutrition Aide as well as to convert a Permanent Part-Time Nutritionist to a full time Nutritionist.	Approved
Action Requested:	Additional Appropriation	6-0-0
Amount:	\$122,479	Motion
Fund/Budget:	100% Grant Funded	M. Rinaldi
Submitted by:	Ann Fountain, Director of Health	Second
Video:00:23	Director Fountain stated that in order to meet greater client demands, this appropriation is being requested and the State provided the City with additional funding to allow the department to hire 2 more people. Ms. Rinaldi asked if	S. Gabriele

	this employee would be offered benefits and if so, if the grant would cover this. Director Fountain replied in the affirmative to each of these questions.	
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Additional Appropriation: Inspirica Warming Center

Item 7	Request for Approval of Additional Appropriation in the amount of \$9,000 to pay Inspirica for the provision of overnight warming services at 8 Woodland Place during the harsh winter at times when the Governor called for severe weather protocols.	Approved
	Action Requested: Additional Appropriation	6-0-0
	Amount: \$9,000	Motion
	Fund/Budget: Contingency	M. Rinaldi
	Submitted by: Ted Jankowski, Director of Public Safety	Second
	Video: 00:25 Chairman Louizos noted that Director Jankowski had provided the Board with a letter urging them to approve these funds. Director Fountain stated that this request is to pay Inspirica for their provision of overnight heating shelters during the harsh winter which they were able to do at a lesser cost than the City. The Board approved this item by unanimous vote.	S. Gabriele

Citywide Dredging

Item 9	Request for Approval of Supplemental Capital Appropriation in the amount of \$136,516 to pay for design funds relating to the dredging of Cummings Marina.	Approved
	Action Requested: Supplemental Capital Appropriation	6-0-0
	Amount: \$136,516 (Grant City) \$34K City match	Motion
	Fund/Budget: State Dept of Transportation Grant (\$136,516) ;CP 0231	S. Gabriele
	Submitted by: Lou Casolo, City Engineer/Karen Cammarota, Grants	Second
	Video: 00:25 Grants Administrator Cammarota advised that this request is for funds to pay for dredging of Cove, Cummings & Southfield Marinas, noting that the City's match would come from capital funds which are already appropriated.	D. Williams

Acquisition of Property for Right of Way

Item 10	Pursuant to Section 9-7.1 of the Code of Ordinances, Request for Approval of Acquisition of 4 Pulaski Street for the purpose of gaining Right of Way for Roadway Improvements at Pulaski Street & Washington Boulevard.	Approved
	Action Requested: Purchase of Real Estate	4-1-0
	Amount: \$	Motion
	Fund/Budget: Capital Project C56211	R. Freedman
	Submitted by: Mani Poola, City Traffic Engineer	Second
	Video: 00:27 City Traffic Engineer Mani Poola asked for approval of the purchase of a small piece of property from Bridgeport Diocese on the southwest corner of Washington & Pulaski to make turning radius improvements for vehicles which would improve pedestrian safety- by inclusion of a pedestrian ramp & traffic flow. Responding to questions	J. Louizos

	from Messrs. Gabriele and Bosak, he advised that the construction will be completed & paid for by Harbor Point Development, while the City paid for the right of way. On a motion by Mr. Freedman which was seconded by Mr. Louizos, the Board acted to approve this item by a vote of 4-1-1, with Mr. Bosak dissenting, and Mr. Gabriele abstaining.	
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DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION

Purchase of Property

Item 11	Request for Approval of Agreement between the City of Stamford & Paul D. Plotnick for the purchase & sale of 671 Bedford Street, Stamford, CT.	Approved
	Action Requested: Approval of Agreement/Purchase of Property	6-0-0
	Amount: \$497,500	Motion
	Fund/Budget: Capital	D. Williams
	Submitted by: Michael Handler, Director of Administration	Second
	Video:00:30 Corporation Counsel Attorney Chris Dellaselva reported that the City negotiated a \$497K purchase price to acquire this property which was adjacent to the property where the present Police Headquarters was located. Ms. Rinaldi signaled her support for the purchase, noting that the Board was committed to this project and this acquisition was the first step in moving forward. Chairman Louizos then made the point that even if the City did not use the land for a new Police headquarters, there were other public purposes for acquiring this property due to its location. The Board acted to approve this purchase by unanimous vote.	S. Gabriele

Approval of Agreement

Item 12	Request for Approval of Agreement between the City of Stamford & PMA Management Corp of New England for Third Party Administrative Services for Liability Claims for a period of three years commencing on May 1, 2015.	Approved
	Action Requested: Approval of Agreement	6-0-0
	Amount: \$	Motion
	Fund/Budget:	S. Gabriele
	Submitted by: Ann Marie Mones, Risk Manager	Second
	Video:00:33 Risk Manager Mones stated that this agreement was for the handling of liability claims against the City, noting that the present provider's (Gallagher-Bassett) agreement just expired, so the City went out to bid. According to Ms. Mones, the City received 3 responses & interviewed all 3. PMA was awarded the contract due to the pricing (the lowest) & superior services. In response to a question from Mr. Freedman, Ms. Mones explained that PMA assisted the City by using their experience to help investigate as well as to adjust the City's liability claims.	D. Williams

Approval of Agreement

Item 13	Request for Approval of Agreement between the City of Stamford & Perkins Eastman for Design Services for a New K-5 Inter-district Magnet School at 200 Strawberry Hill Avenue, Stamford, CT.	No Action Taken
	Action Requested: Approval of Agreement	
	Amount: \$2,986,120	
	Fund/Budget: Capital	
	Submitted by: Lou Casolo, City Engineer	
	Video:00:41 Chairman Louizos, noting that the Board had been informed that this agreement was still in draft form, suggested that the Board hold a special meeting to consider the finalized agreement on April 29. Ms. Rinaldi made the point that this Board had previously approved an additional appropriation with the understanding that it would be for a magnet school, and since we still did not know if the State was going to approve the Grant, what was the rush to judgement by taking this expense on now. City Engineer Casolo and Director of Legal Affairs Emmett advised that that this was carefully thought through and the contract reflected this by segregation of the project in phases, noting that they would not go beyond Phases I & II until they received approval for the additional funds. Board Member Freedman stated that it seemed clear that the \$351K which was earmarked for these phases which included asbestos testing and light renovation, would have to be expended in any case since these aspects would have to be undertaken even if the City did not receive the magnet approval. Mr. Williams stated that he did not believe that achievement of this grant was a 'shot in the dark', but rather progressing to fruition, and that taking this risk was a wise choice. Responding to a question from Mr. Gabriele, Mr. Pollard promised that they would provide information at the special meeting of the repercussions of delaying this project by a year if the Board did not act to approve these funds now.	

OFFICE OF OPERATIONS

Snow Overtime

Item 8	Request for Approval of Additional Appropriation in the amount of \$378,283 to cover anticipated and earned overtime (\$351,401) as well as associated Social Security (\$26,882) incurred for the current fiscal year.	Approved
	Action Requested: Additional Appropriation	6-0-0
	Amount: \$378,283	Motion
	Fund/Budget: Contingency	R. Freedman
	Submitted by: Ernie Orgera, Director of Operations	Second
	Video: 01:09 Mr. Turk reported that this request is to cover the cost of overtime for snow removal during the winter where the number of storms exceeded 21, noting that the workers did not start until the first flake fell, and did not stop until the last flake. Mr. Bosak asked if the costs were higher this year due	J. Louizos

	<p>to the timing of the storms coming during the weekend, which was replied to in the affirmative. Mr. Freedman asked how the cost had increased from last year to this year, with OPM Director Hricay advising that it increased 10%, noting that the minimum cost for a 10-year span was \$232K compared to a high of \$804K, which was for the current year.</p>	
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ITEMS REQUESTED UNDER SUSPENSION OF RULES

Additional Appropriation

Item 14	Request for Approval of Additional Appropriation in the amount of \$150,940 to pay for costs associated with an additional Firefighters Entry Level Exam due to the initial test not meeting testing standards. (Also, see associated bid waiver & agreements, below).	Approved
	Action Requested: Additional Appropriation	5-1-0
	Amount: \$150,940	Motion
	Fund/Budget:	D. Williams
	Submitted by: Kathy Emmett, Director of Legal Affairs	Second
	Video: 01:15 On a motion made by Mr. Bosak, which was seconded by Mr. Williams, the Board agreed by unanimous vote to hear items numbered 14-16 under suspension of the rules. Corporation Counsel Emmett advised that they were asking for approval of these items which were all related to the retesting of the Firefighter’s Entry Level Exam. Ms. Emmett reported that she made a determination after the results were reviewed of the January exam, that she needed to hire an expert to determine that the test was in conformance with industry standards. She received complaints & looked at the numbers by protected group status & saw that the test had a disparate impact on minorities as well as the volunteer firefighter candidates. The expert verified what Ms. Emmett suspected- that the test did not conform to standards- did not properly identify candidates for the job, so she made a determination to retest. Mr. Williams asked why they used this test in the first place, to which Ms. Emmett replied that we contracted with a company who represented to us that we could buy a test that was valid. Ms. Rinaldi said the test should have been reviewed and that this was a costly mistake. Ms. Emmett advised that we don’t know the questions in advance and that cost was a factor in contracting with this vendor, and in this case you ‘get what you pay for’. Chairman Louizos said that if you lie and deceive and misrepresent, you will be sued, and he strongly suggested that this was the proper course of action in this situation. Mr. Gabriele remarked that the City could now lose the funds from the FEMA Grant, to which Ms. Emmett stated that, while we could request an extension time to use the funds, the sooner we re-test, the better are our chances, noting that our obligation was based on an agreement with Turn of the River to hire this firefighters utilizing the Grant they secured. On a motion by Mr. Williams, which was seconded by Mr. Freedman the Board then acted to approve this appropriation by a vote of 5-1-0, with Mr. Bosak casting the dissenting vote.	R. Freedman

Bid Waiver

Item 15	Request for Approval of Bid Waiver totaling \$115,940 for Agreements with Morris & McDaniel due to special source relating to the retesting of 750 entry level firefighter applicants including Development & Administration of the Firefighter Selection Process (\$99,700) & Monitoring Services & Vetting for the retest (\$16,240).	Approved
<i>Action Requested:</i>	Bid Waiver	5-1-0
<i>Amount:</i>	\$115,940	Motion
<i>Fund/Budget:</i>		R. Freedman
<i>Submitted by:</i>	Kathy Emmett, Director of Legal Affairs	Second
Video: 01:15	See item # 14 above. On a motion by Mr. Freedman, which was seconded by Mr. Williams, the Board then acted to approve this Bid Waiver by a vote of 5-1-0, with Mr. Bosak casting the dissenting vote.	D. Williams

Approval of Agreements

Item 16	Request for Approval of (2)Agreements with Morris & McDaniel relating to the retesting of 750 entry level firefighter applicants: 1) for Development & Administration of a Firefighter Selection Process(\$99,700) and 2)Provision of Monitoring Services & Vetting Training for the entry level Firefighter retest (\$16,240) which together exceed \$100K.	Approved
<i>Action Requested:</i>	Approval of Agreements	5-1-0
<i>Amount:</i>	\$115,940 (\$99,700/ \$16,240)	Motion
<i>Fund/Budget:</i>		M. Rinaldi
<i>Submitted by:</i>	Kathy Emmett, Director of Legal Affairs	Second
Video: 01:15	Also, see item # 14 above. On a motion by Mr. Freedman, which was seconded by Ms. Rinaldi, the Board then acted to approve these Agreements by a vote of 5-1-0, with Mr. Bosak casting the dissenting vote.	D. Williams

Next Regular Meeting of the Board: Thursday, May 14, 2015 @ 7:00 P.M.

Adjournment: (Video: 02:00). Chairman Louizos noted that the next meeting, which was Tuesday, April 14 was when the Board took action on the budget and thanked the Board Members, City personnel and the Public alike for their time, effort and input throughout this budget process. On a motion by Mr. Bosak which was seconded by Mr. Williams, the Board unanimously agreed to adjourn this meeting at 9:05 PM.



Lorraine C. Gilden

Lorraine C. Gilden
Clerk of the Board