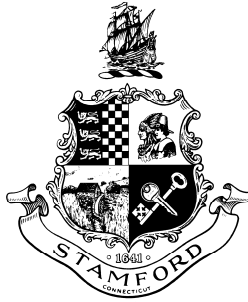


Minutes: January 14, 2010

MICHAEL PAVIA  
MAYOR

JOSEPH TARZIA  
CHAIRMAN  
ROBERT KOLENBERG  
VICE CHAIRMAN  
MARY LOU T. RINALDI  
GERALD BOSAK, JR.  
TIMOTHY E. ABBAZIA  
**KATHLEEN MURPHY**  
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, January 14, 2010: 7:00 PM**  
**Board of Finance Meeting Room, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor**

**Call to Order:** Conducted by Chairman Joseph Tarzia

**Members Present:** Mr. Tarzia, Mr. Kolenberg, Mr. Abbazia, Mr. Bosak, Ms. Rinaldi & Ms. Murphy

**Pledge of Allegiance:** Led by Chairman Tarzia, after which he asked the Board to observe a moment of silence for the victims of the Haitian earthquake.

**Held**

**Approval of Minutes:** December 10, 2009: 7:00 PM: Regular Meeting

The Board decided to hold their approval of the December meeting minutes after Ms. Murphy stated that there should be four accounting deficiencies labeled as “significant” (Item # 1) as opposed to one.

**Public Participation:** None

Minutes: Thursday, January 14, 2010

**Reports to the Board:** Mr. Bosak reported that he held a Legal Affairs Committee this week along with Ms. Rinaldi regarding the status of actuarial valuations, the City's hiring lists and the impact of tax appeals on the City budget in future years, referring to the report already on file. Mr. Kolenberg advised that he also chaired a Public Safety Committee meeting along with Ms. Rinaldi, to review a supplemental appropriation to update a radio system of communication among emergency personnel which would now operate on a single frequency. Mr. Kolenberg relayed that the Committee decided to recommend approval (see Item # 11, below, considered under suspension of the rules).

## ***GRANTS***

### ***Cost Sharing Grant***

**Item 1** Request for Approval of Additional Appropriation in the amount of \$26,924 which represent carry-over funds from FY 2008-09 to be used to pay for a Physician Consultant who will provide services at the Tuberculosis clinic and at the Well Child Conference Program which treats uninsured children's health problems. **Approved**

<b><i>Action Requested:</i></b>	Additional Appropriation	<b>6-0-0</b>
<b><i>Amount:</i></b>	\$26,924	<b>Motion</b>
<b><i>Fund/Budget:</i></b>	Grant Funded: Ct. Dept of Public Health	<b>M. Rinaldi</b>
<b><i>Submitted by:</i></b>	Dr. Johnnie Lee, Director of Health The Board elected to hear items No. 1 & 2 together. Ms. Rinaldi, noting that the funds were from grants, made the motion to approve.	<b>Seconded by</b> <b>R. Kolenberg</b>

### ***DUI Enforcement Expanded***

**Item 2** Request for Approval of Additional Appropriation in the amount of \$19,760 to perform enforcement including DUI patrols and sobriety checkpoints on an overtime basis. **Approved**

<b><i>Action Requested:</i></b>	Additional Appropriation	<b>6-0-0</b>
<b><i>Amount:</i></b>	\$19,760	<b>Motion</b>
<b><i>Fund/Budget:</i></b>	\$14,820: Grant Funds/\$4940 City 25% Match	<b>M. Rinaldi</b>
<b><i>Submitted by:</i></b>	Robert Nivakoff, Police Chief The Board elected to hear items No. 1 & 2 together. Ms. Rinaldi, noting that the funds were from grants, made the motion to approve.	<b>Seconded by</b> <b>R. Kolenberg</b>

**Cost Sharing Grant**

**Item 3** Request for Approval of Transfer in the amount of \$41,121 from various Salary accounts to the Professional Consultant account which will adjust the City’s budget to State grant approved levels. The funds will be used for 1) a public Health Consultant who will organize health fairs and create educational materials; 2) a Dental consultant who will provide services to children ages 0-4 and their care givers through the School Dental program and K.T. Murphy clinic, and 3) for a Physician consultant who will provide services at the Well Child conference program and the TB clinic. **Held**

**Action Requested:** Transfer

**Amount:** \$41,121

**Fund/Budget:**

**Submitted by:** Dr. Johnnie Lee, Director of Health

While the majority of the Board elected to hold this item, preferring to speak with Dr. Lee on the use of these funds, Ms. Rinaldi dissented, noting that it was a transfer.

**5-1-0  
Motion  
R. Kolenberg  
Seconded by  
G. Bosak**

**School Readiness Program**

**Item 4** Request for Approval of Transfer in the amount of \$7,301 from the medical & Life and contracted services accounts to the Salaries & Telephone accounts to pay the School Readiness’ Liaison’s salary & FICA. This will also adjust the City’s budget to reflect the State grant approved amounts. **Approved**

**Action Requested:** Transfer

**Amount:** \$7,301

**Fund/Budget:**

**Submitted by:** Dr. Johnnie Lee, Director of Health

**6-0-0  
Motion  
M. Rinaldi  
Seconded by  
T. Abbazia**

**OFFICE OF OPERATIONS**

**Traffic Engineering Corridor Study**

**Item 5** Request for Approval of Supplemental Capital Appropriation in the amount of \$500,000 for a Traffic Engineering corridor Study at High Ridge & Long Ridge Roads. **Approved**

**Action Requested:** Supplemental Capital Appropriation

**Amount:** \$500,000

**Fund/Budget:** Capital: Federal Grant

**Submitted by:** Lou Casolo, City Engineer

**5-1-0  
Motion  
M. Rinaldi  
Seconded by  
R. Kolenberg**

Chairman Tarzia stated that he held an Operations Committee Meeting on December 16 along with Mr. Abbazia to review this request. Mr. Tarzia reported that the Committee ascertained that previous studies resulted in several necessary improvements, that future SWRPA funds may be available to perform renovations, and that the City should take advantage of this grant, recommending that the full Board approve this item.

Ms. Murphy stated that she was not going to support this item, stating that future grants were not certain. She further advised that her main objection was that the city would be subsidizing a State project utilizing City bond monies which she suggested was not proper given that it was a State asset. Traffic Engineer Poola pointed out that these roads were in Stamford and if the City did not take the initiative to correct these roads, they may never be addressed. Ms. Rinaldi said that she believed that this was a worthwhile project and made a motion that the Board approve this item. Mr. Kolenberg seconded this motion, stating that the City needed a lot of work on its roads. The item was then approved by a vote of 5-1-0, with Ms. Murphy casting the dissenting vote.

**OFFICE OF LEGAL AFFAIRS**

*Lease Agreement*

**Item 6** Request for Approval of Lease Agreement between the City of Stamford and Cox Radio, Inc. for Magee Avenue Property for a period of twenty years for the purposes of operating radio stations and ancillary equipment.

**Held**

**Action Requested:** Lease Agreement

**6-0-0**

**Amount:** \$

**Motion**

**Fund/Budget:** To City: \$30K per year (Yrs 1-5);\$32K:Yrs 6-10;\$34K(Yrs 11-15);\$36K (years 15-20) + variable additional \$ from 3<sup>rd</sup> party

**R. Kolenberg**

**Submitted by:** Michael Larobina, Director of Legal Affairs

**Seconded by  
K. Murphy**

While Atty. Rosenberg advised the Board that this was a long standing lease which now allowed for an increase in rental compensation as well as shared income, the Board voted unanimously to hold this item until the February meeting. Noting that it was 3 acres of land, Mr. Kolenberg expressed concerns as to whether this was the highest and best use of this property. Ms. Murphy asked Mr. Rosenberg for a land appraisal as well as to look into possible inconsistencies in the contract regarding the disposition of the cell tower at the end of the lease period.

*Director of Administration*

**Item 7** Approval of Board of Finance Resolution concerning Certificate of Safe Debt Limit for Fiscal Year 2010-2011.

**Approved for  
\$35 Million**

**Action Requested:** Approval of Safe Debt Limit  
**Amount:** \$40 million Requested: \$35 Million Recommended  
**Fund/Budget:**  
**Submitted by:** Peter Privitera, Acting Director of Administration  
Res. # 2010.SD1

**4-1-1  
Motion  
M. Rinaldi  
Seconded by  
R. Kolenberg**

Mr. Privitera stated that he was recommending a safe debt limit of \$40 million, stating that this would allow the city to both take care of necessary infrastructure improvements while not impacting the City's AAA rating and keeping the City's debt at well below possible levels considering the City's capabilities. After he stated that the City may sell BAN's in the spring as they would need the funds, a discussion ensued as to whether it made more sense to sell bonds and lock in an interest rate that was at record lows as suggested by Ms. Murphy. After Ms. Murphy also noted her objection to the timing of utilizing the savings from previous bond sales in the first year alone, Mr. Privitera recommended that the Board may wish to create a refunding policy. Mr. Tarzia suggested that that this was a discussion for a future time, and Ms. Murphy and Mr. Abbazia agreed to meet on this to provide a recommendation to the full Board. The Board then turned to a discussion on recommending the safe debt limit for 2011. Ms. Murphy advocated approving a zero safe debt, citing the tough economy, the already high tax burden and the opportunity for departments to seek approval project by project while sorting out their priorities. Ms. Rinaldi suggested that this method would not allow for comparison of recommended projects. Mr. Abbazia objected to this also, stating that the City must both invest in its community as well as set a guideline for the Mayor. Mr. Tarzia agreed that a number should be provided which the Board should also adhere to when approving the budgets in the next months. Mr. Kolenberg concurred, stating that a capital budget should be created utilizing guidelines provided by this Board that were both realistic and attainable. Mr. Privitera agreed that he would review the 2010 existing \$58 million in projects which were authorized and unissued to see what could be redirected after determining activity levels and balances. Mr. Kolenberg then made a motion to set a safe debt limit at 35 million which was seconded by Ms. Rinaldi. The Board then passed this motion by a vote of 4-1-1, with Messrs. Tarzia, Abbazia, Kolenberg & Ms. Rinaldi agreeing, with Ms. Murphy objecting and Mr. Bosak abstaining.

**BOARD OF FINANCE**

***Discussion***

**Item 8** Discussion: Risk Management Fund Status Update FY 2009-10 including Insurance Cost Projections

**No Action Taken**

**Action** Discussion

**Requested:**

**Fund/Budget:**

**Submitted by:** Chairman Joseph Tarzia

**Presented by:** Ann Marie Mones, Risk Manager

Mr. Manfredonia provided the Board with an update on his efforts to secure a new health care provider, noting the favorable environment in which to secure significant savings. Ms. Mones then provided the Board with the Risk Management Fund's midyear status report at the behest of Chairman Tarzia. She reported that the Fund was in good shape, citing a balance of \$4.5 million which is 59.5% of the fund balance. Ms. Murphy inquired as to whether legal claims were properly accounted for in the internal service fund and how the expenses worked their way through the budget which Mr. Privitera promised he would provide. Ms. Mones noted that current worker compensation claims were down 9% from the best year-2007-08- & the cost is down 22% from the same. Ms. Mones stated that the top 3 areas with the most progress in reducing losses were Fire & Rescue, WPCA & particularly Operations, while areas needing improved participation included Parks/Facilities Management & the Board of Education with respect to training. She also noted that fleet safety & accident prevention required increased accountability. Ms. Mones also noted that Mr. Tarzia made a recommendation to CERF that they review disability claims annually after it was learned that there were abuses relating to whether certain disability determinations were permanent or not. The Board was unanimous in their praise of Ms. Mones, noting that her efforts in increased training resulted in a remarkable reduction in claims.

**ITEMS REQUESTED UNDER SUSPENSION OF THE RULES**

***Capital Project Close-out Recommendation***

**Item 9** Request for Acceptance of Capital Close-out of Project CP0040: Leased Facilities/Outside Agencies Improvements-Bartlett Visitors Center Renovation in the amount of \$145,100 due to determination that the boiler could be repaired and the windows did not need replacement with the intent of using the funds for renovations to the Education Center Building at the Bartlett Arboretum (see requested Item # 10 below).

**Approved**

**Action Requested:** Acceptance of Capital Close-Out

**Amount:** \$145,100

**Fund/Budget:** CP0040

**Submitted by:** Ernie Orgera, Director of Operations

On a motion by Mr. Kolenberg which was seconded by Mr. Abbazia, the Board voted unanimously to hear items # 9-11 under suspension of the rules.

**6-0-0**

**Motion**

**K. Murphy**

**Seconded**

**T. Abbazia**

***Supplemental Capital Appropriation: Engineering-Bartlett Arboretum Renovations***

**Item 10** Request for Supplemental Capital Appropriation in the amount of \$145,100 to pay for renovations to the Education Center Building at the Bartlett Arboretum; funds to be gained from capital close-out of Project CP0040 (see item #9, above). **Approved**

<b>Action Requested:</b>	Supplemental Capital Appropriation	<b>6-0-0</b>
<b>Amount:</b>	\$145,100	<b>Motion</b>
<b>Fund/Budget:</b>	Capital: New	<b>K. Murphy</b>
<b>Submitted by:</b>	Ernie Orgera, Director of Operations	<b>Seconded</b>
	On a motion by Mr. Kolenberg which was seconded by Mr. Abbazia, the Board voted unanimously to hear items # 9-11 under suspension of the rules.	<b>T. Abbazia</b>

***Urban Areas Security Initiative Grant***

**Item 11** Request for Approval of Supplemental Capital Appropriation in the amount of \$2,765,240 for creation of a 700mhz trunked radio system which would allow for a single radio frequency for Police & emergency responders to communicate with each other across lower Fairfield County. **Approved**

<b>Action Requested:</b>	Supplemental Capital Appropriation	<b>6-0-0</b>
<b>Amount:</b>	\$2,765,240	<b>Motion</b>
<b>Fund/Budget:</b>	Federal Grant (FEMA): 100%	<b>K. Murphy</b>
<b>Submitted by:</b>	Karen Cammarota, Grants	<b>Seconded</b>
	On a motion by Mr. Kolenberg which was seconded by Mr. Abbazia, the Board voted unanimously to hear items # 9-11 under suspension of the rules.	<b>T. Abbazia</b>

**Next Regular Meeting of the Board:** Thursday, February 11, 2010 @ 7:00 P.M.

**Adjournment:** On a motion by Mr. Abbazia which was seconded by Mr. Bosak, the Board unanimously elected to adjourn this meeting at 9:55 PM

Lorraine C. Gilden

Lorraine C. Gilden  
Clerk/Staff Analyst