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BOARD OF FINANCE

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April 15, 2015

ACTION REPORT (MINUTES) OF THE BOARD OF FINANCE SPECIAL BUDGET MEETING

Tuesday, April 14, 2015
Stamford Government Center
Board of Finance Conference Room

A special meeting to approve the Mayor's Proposed FY 2015-2016 Operating, Special Fund, and Capital and the Board of Education Budgets of the City of Stamford was held by the Board of Finance on Tuesday, April 14, 2015 at the Stamford Government Center in the Board of Finance Conference room on the 4th Floor. Members present were Chairman John J. Louizos, Vice-Chair Mary Lou Rinaldi, and Board members Gerald Bosak, Jr., Richard Freedman, Dudley Williams and Sal Gabriele. Also present were Jim Hricay, OPM Director, Lee Berta, OPM Asst. Director, and Lorraine Gilden, Clerk of the Board. Chairman Louizos opened the meeting at 6:09 PM and invited all to recite the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Chairman Louizos reviewed the budget process to this point, thanked the public for their input and then asked all to turn to page 29 of the budget book to start with the Office of Administration.

The Board adjourned the meeting at 8:50 PM after passing the following motions:

BUDGET MOTIONS PASSED

OPERATING BUDGET

On a motion by Mr. Bosak which was seconded by Mr. Gabriele, the Board agreed by unanimous vote to a **General Budget reduction of \$7K to the Office of Administration: Director of Administration.**

Mr. Bosak made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Williams for a **Budget Reduction to the Office of Administration: Financial Process & Reporting** in the amount of \$5K which was approved by unanimous vote.

On a motion by Mr. Bosak which was seconded by Mr. Gabriele, the Board approved by unanimous vote, a **Budget Reduction** in the amount of \$47K in the **Office of Administration: Office of Policy & Management**.

On a motion by Mr. Williams, which was seconded by Mr. Bosak, the Board approved by unanimous vote, a **Line Item Reduction** in the amount of \$2,500 in the **Office of Administration: Office of Policy & Management: Mail & Duplicating: Overtime Account**.

On a motion by Mr. Bosak, which was seconded by Ms. Rinaldi, the Board agreed by unanimous vote to make a **Budget Reduction** in the amount of **\$5,000** to the **Office of Administration: Office of Policy & Management: Purchasing** budget.

On a motion by Mr. Louizos, which was seconded by Mr. Bosak, the Board agreed by unanimous vote to make a **Budget Reduction** in the amount of **\$10,000** to the **Office of Administration: Technology: Application Support** budget.

On a motion by Mr. Gabriele, which was seconded by Mr. Bosak, the Board agreed by a vote of 5-1-0, with Mr. Freedman dissenting, to make a **Budget Reduction** in the amount of **\$7,500** to the **Office of Administration: Technology: Telecommunications Services** budget.

On a motion by Mr. Louizos, which was seconded by Mr. Gabriele, the Board agreed by unanimous vote to make a **Budget Reduction** in the amount of **\$5K** to the **Office of Administration: Technology: Desktop Support** budget.

On a motion by Mr. Bosak, which was seconded by Mr. Louizos, the Board agreed by unanimous vote to make a **Budget Reduction** in the amount of **\$25K** to the **Office of Administration: Assessor** budget.

On a motion by Mr. Gabriele, which was seconded by Mr. Bosak, the Board agreed by vote of 4-2-0, with Messrs. Williams and Freedman dissenting, to make a **Budget Reduction** in the amount of **\$25K** to the **Office of Administration: Taxation and Revenue: Revenue Services** budget.

On a motion by Mr. Bosak, which was seconded by Mr. Gabriele, the Board agreed by unanimous vote to make a **Budget Reduction** in the amount of **\$10K** to the **Office of Administration: Taxation Services** budget.

On a motion by Mr. Williams, which was seconded by Mr. Freedman, Mr. Williams stated that on behalf of the Education Committee, and after careful review, that he was proposing to **cut \$3,000,000 from the Board of Education total budget**, and provided a sheet of recommended areas to cut. Mr. Williams stated that this still left a 2.73% increase over the current budget and that the Board of Education was not required to adhere to these recommended areas. Chairman Louizos stated that he believed that this cut would not adversely impact the quality of instruction or Education, that it was both fiscally prudent and conservative, adding that he would support this amount. Mr. Bosak made a motion to approve the higher amount of \$3.2M, which was seconded by Mr. Gabriele, but failed by a vote of 2-4-0. The Board then took up the original recommended cut of \$3 million, which was **approved by a vote of 4-2-0**, with Messrs. Bosak & Gabriele casting the dissenting votes.

On a motion by Mr. Freedman, which was seconded by Mr. Bosak, the Board acted by unanimous vote to cut the total **Operations: Road Maintenance budget** in the amount of **\$5,000**.

On a motion by Mr. Gabriele, which was seconded by Mr. Bosak, the Board acted by a vote of 4-2-0, with Messrs. Williams & Freedman dissenting, to cut the total **Operations: Storm Water Management budget** in the amount of **\$25,000**.

On a motion by Mr. Bosak, which was seconded by Mr. Louizos, the Board acted by unanimous vote to cut the total **Operations: Vehicle Maintenance budget** in the amount of **\$20,000**.

On a motion by Mr. Bosak, which was seconded by Mr. Louizos, the Board acted by unanimous vote to cut the **Operations: Leased Facilities total** budget in the amount of **\$35,000**.

On a motion by Mr. Bosak, which was seconded by Mr. Gabriele, the Board acted to approve by a vote of 5-1-0, with Mr. Freedman dissenting, a **Budget Reduction** of **\$40,000**- amended upward from Ms. Rinaldi's original proposal, to the **Operations: Facilities & Parks Maintenance: Government Center total**, which Ms. Rinaldi stated was 'not happening'.

On a motion by Mr. Williams, which was seconded by Mr. Bosak, the Board acted by unanimous vote to cut the **Operations: Facilities: Parks total** budget in the amount of **\$30,000**.

On a motion by Mr. Gabriele, which was seconded by Mr. Bosak, the Board acted by unanimous vote to cut the **Operations: Facilities: Maintenance total** budget in the amount of **\$40,000**.

On a motion by Mr. Bosak, which was seconded by Mr. Gabriele, the Board acted by unanimous vote to cut the **Operations: Solid Waste: Transfer Station total** budget in the amount of **\$30,000**.

On a motion by Ms. Rinaldi, which was seconded by Mr. Bosak, the Board acted by unanimous vote to cut the **Operations: Solid Waste: Collection total** budget in the amount of **\$10,000**.

On a motion by Mr. Gabriele, which was seconded by Mr. Bosak, the Board acted by unanimous vote to cut the **Operations: Solid Waste: Haul-away total** budget in the amount of **\$225,000**.

On a motion by Ms. Rinaldi, which was seconded by Mr. Gabriele, the Board acted by unanimous vote to cut the **Operations: Transportation, Traffic & Parking: Traffic Maintenance Budget total** in the amount of **\$10,000**.

On a motion by Mr. Williams which was seconded by Ms. Rinaldi, the Board acted by a vote of 5-1-0, with Mr. Gabriele dissenting, to cut the **Operations: Building Inspection Total** by **\$5,000**.

On a motion by Mr. Louizos which was seconded by Ms. Rinaldi, the Board acted by a vote of 4-2-0, with Messrs. Bosak and Gabriele dissenting, to cut the **Operations: Citizen Services Center Total** in the amount of **\$1,000**. (Unrelated to this, Chairman Louizos added that that he would like to see a PILOT program in Leisure Services to see if they could be self-sustaining.)

On a motion by Mr. Freedman which was seconded by Ms. Rinaldi, the Board acted by a vote of 4-2-0, with Messrs. Bosak & Gabriele dissenting, to cut the **Public Safety, Health & Welfare Administration Total** in the amount of **\$15,000**.

On a motion by Mr. Freedman which was seconded by Mr. Bosak, the Board acted by unanimous vote to cut the **Office of Public Safety: Police Department: Police Administration Total** in the amount of **\$170,000**.

On a motion by Ms. Rinaldi which was seconded by Mr. Williams, the Board acted by unanimous vote to cut the **Office of Public Safety: Police Department: Patrol Total** in the amount of **\$50,000**.

On a motion by Mr. Williams which was seconded by Mr. Bosak, the Board acted by a vote of 5-1-0, with Mr. Gabriele dissenting, to cut the **Office of Public Safety: Police Department: Special Teams Total in the amount of \$10,000.**

On a motion by Mr. Freedman which was seconded by Mr. Bosak, the Board acted by a vote of 5-1-0, with Mr. Gabriele dissenting, to cut the **Office of Public Safety: Police Department: Police Training Total in the amount of \$25,000.**

On a motion by Ms. Rinaldi which was seconded by Mr. Bosak, the Board acted by a vote of 5-1-0, with Mr. Gabriele dissenting, to cut the **Office of Public Safety: Police Department: Criminal Investigations Total in the amount of \$10,000.**

On a motion by Mr. Bosak which was seconded by Mr. Louizos, the Board acted by a vote of 5-1-0, with Mr. Gabriele dissenting, to cut the **Office of Public Safety: Police Department: Emergency Communications Center Total in the amount of \$10,000.**

On a motion by Ms. Rinaldi which was seconded by Mr. Bosak, the Board acted by unanimous vote to cut the **Office of Public Safety: Stamford Fire Department: Volunteer Fire Total** in the amount of **\$25,000.**

On a motion by Mr. Williams which was seconded by Ms. Rinaldi, the Board acted by a vote of 5-1-0, with Mr. Gabriele dissenting, to cut the **Office of Public Safety: Stamford Fire Department: Suppression Total in the amount of \$100,000.**

On a motion by Mr. Louizos which was seconded by Mr. Bosak, the Board acted by acted by a vote of 5-1-0, with Mr. Gabriele dissenting, to cut the **Office of Public Safety: Stamford Fire Department: Fire Training Center Total** in the amount of **\$15,000.**

On a motion by Mr. Bosak which was seconded by Mr. Williams, the Board acted by unanimous vote to cut the **Office of Public Safety: Stamford Fire Department: Fire Marshall Total** in the amount of **\$20,000.**

On a motion by Mr. Louizos which was seconded by Mr. Bosak, the Board acted by acted by a vote of 5-1-0, with Mr. Gabriele dissenting, to cut the **Office of Public Safety: Stamford Fire Department: Vehicle & Equipment Maintenance Total** in the amount of **\$10,000.**

On a motion by Ms. Rinaldi which was seconded by Mr. Bosak, the Board acted by unanimous vote to cut the **Office of Public Safety: Smith House Nursing Facility: Nursing Services Total** in the amount of **\$200,000-** noting that there were two unfilled positions.

On a motion made by Mr. Bosak which was seconded by Mr. Louizos, the Board acted by unanimous vote to cut the **Office of Legal Affairs, Legal Department Total** in the amount of **\$30,000 .**

On a motion made by Ms. Rinaldi which was seconded by Mr. Gabriele, the Board acted by unanimous vote to cut the **Office of Legal Affairs, Human Resources Total** in the amount of **\$25,000.**

On a motion made by Ms. Rinaldi which was seconded by Mr. Bosak, the Board acted by a vote of 5-1-0, with Mr. Gabriele dissenting to approve a cut in the **Community Grants: Non-City Agencies: Stamford Museum & Nature Center Total** in the amount of **\$33,300**, thus providing them with a 3% increase, as opposed to 6%.

On a motion by Mr. Freedman, which was seconded by Ms. Rinaldi, the Board agreed by vote of 4-2-0, with Messrs. Bosak & Mr. Gabriele dissenting, to make a **Budget Reduction** in the **Community Grants: Non-City Agencies: Ferguson Library Total** in the amount of **\$223,350**, thus providing them with a 3% increase, as opposed to 6%.

PARKING FUND

On a motion made by Mr. Freedman which was seconded by Mr. Louizos, the Board acted by unanimous vote to approve a cut in the **Parking Fund: Transportation, Traffic & Parking: Parking Total in the amount of \$25,000.**

RISK MANAGEMENT FUND

On a motion made by Mr. Freedman which was seconded by Ms. Rinaldi, the Board agreed to approve a **Budget Reduction** in the **Risk Management Fund: Insurance Premiums Total** in the amount of **\$100,000** by unanimous vote.

On a motion made by Mr. Bosak which was seconded by Mr. Louizos, the Board agreed to approve a **Budget Reduction** in the **Risk Management Fund: Payments-Retained Losses Total** in the amount of **\$53,000** by unanimous vote.

GENERAL FUND-OTHER

On a motion made by Mr. Williams which was seconded by Mr. Bosak, the Board agreed by unanimous vote to approve a **Budget Reduction** in the **General Fund: Employee Benefits: Active Medical & Life Account** in the amount of **\$200,000.**

On a motion made by Mr. Freedman which was seconded by Mr. Bosak, the Board agreed by unanimous vote to make a **Budget Reduction** in the General Fund Contribution to **CERF** in the amount of **\$623,535** due to the reduction estimate from the Actuarial Report.

On a motion made by Ms. Rinaldi which was seconded by Mr. Louizos, the Board agreed by unanimous vote to approve a **Budget Reduction** in the **General Fund: Other Salary: Seasonals Account** in the amount of **\$50,000.**

GRANTS FUND

On a motion made by Mr. Freedman which was seconded by Mr. Bosak, the Board agreed by unanimous vote to make a **Budget Reduction** in the **Grants Fund Contribution to CERF** in the amount of **\$68,945** due to the reduction estimate from the Actuarial Report.

WPCA BUDGET

On a motion made by Mr. Freedman which was seconded by Mr. Louizos, the Board agreed by unanimous vote to make a ***Recommendation*** to the **Board of Representatives that they cut the WPCA Contribution to CERF** in the amount of **\$111,613** due to the reduction estimate from the Actuarial Report.

On a motion by Mr. Gabriele, which was seconded by Mr. Bosak, the Board agreed by vote of 4-2-0, with Messrs. Freedman & Williams dissenting, to make a ***Recommendation*** to the **Board of Representatives** that they cut the **WPCA Total by \$250,000.**

CAPITAL BUDGET

On a motion by Mr. Bosak, which was seconded by Mr. Williams, the Board agreed by unanimous vote to cut the **Citywide Dredging Project**, in the amount of **\$400,000.**

On a motion by Mr. Freedman, which was seconded by Ms. Rinaldi, the Board agreed by unanimous vote to cut the **Marina Dock Upgrades Project** in the amount of **\$200K.**

On a motion by Mr. Bosak, which was seconded by Mr. Gabriele, the Board agreed by a vote of 4-2-0, with Messrs. Williams & Freedman dissenting, to cut the **SUT II Off Street Parking Project**, in the amount of **\$100K.**

On a motion by Ms. Rinaldi, which was seconded by Mr. Bosak, noting that this was not necessary to perform in this Fiscal Year, the Board agreed by unanimous vote, to cut the **Traffic Calming Implementation Project**, in the amount of **\$50,000.**

On a motion by Mr. Bosak, which was seconded by Mr. Gabriele, the Board agreed by a vote of 4-2-0, with Messrs. Freedman & Williams dissenting, to a **Budget Reduction** to the **Downtown & South End Implementation Study Project** in the amount of **\$150,000.**

On a motion by Mr. Louizos, which was seconded by Ms. Rinaldi, the Board agreed by a vote of 5-1-0, with Mr. Gabriele dissenting, to cut out the **Smith House: Upgrade & Reconfiguration of Windows to Energy Efficient & Safe Units Project** in the amount of **\$230,000.**

On a motion by Mr. Freedman, which was seconded by Ms. Rinaldi, the Board agreed by a vote of 5-1-0, with Mr. Gabriele dissenting, to cut the **Stamford Museum Multi-Use Building Construction Project** in the amount of **\$300,000.**

On a motion by Mr. Freedman, which was seconded by Mr. Bosak, the Board agreed by a vote of 4-1-1, with Mr. Gabriele dissenting and Mr. Louizos abstaining, to cut out the **Bartlett Arboretum Site & Infrastructure Improvements Project** in the amount of **\$60,000.**

On a motion by Mr. Bosak, which was seconded by Ms. Rinaldi, the Board agreed by a vote of 5-1-0, with Mr. Gabriele dissenting, to cut the **Board of Education: Stamford HS Code/Renovation Project** in the amount of **\$500,000.**

On a motion by Ms. Rinaldi, which was seconded by Mr. Bosak, the Board agreed by agreed by unanimous vote, to cut the **Citywide Vehicle Replacement & Upgrade Project: Government Center Message Boards for Individual Floors** in the amount of **\$30,000**.

On a motion by Mr. Freedman, which was seconded by Mr. Bosak, the Board agreed by agreed by unanimous vote, to cut the **Short Term Financing-BOE-Capital District –Wide Technology Equipment Project** in the amount of **\$100,000**.

Mr. Freedman made the point with the Member's endorsement, having made the above capital cuts, that he would be in favor of the Mayor re-purposing between \$1M-\$1.5M for street paving.


Lorraine C. Gilden

Lorraine C. Gilden
Clerk of the Board