

# CITY OF STAMFORD 19<sup>TH</sup> CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION FINANCE COMMITTEE

Shelley Michelson, Chair

Members

Susan Halpern

Steven Kolenberg

Alex Martinez

Clemon Williams

## MEETING REPORT

Wednesday, March 1, 2023

7:00 P.M.

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 P.M. In attendance were Commissioners Halpern, Martinez, Michelson, Williams and Lane. Also in attendance were Mike Briscoe, Vice Chair of the Golf Commission and Hidalgo Nagashima, Grounds Superintendent of the E. G. Brennan Golf Course.

A discussion was held about the accumulated capital needs of the golf course, including, but not limited to, repair of golf cart paths, fence repair and tree pruning. The Committee was told that City had approved funds previously for a new irrigation system. A capital request for \$500k was made for this fiscal year to invest in upgrades of the club house, among other required capital needs. The mowers are between 10 and 15 years old reportedly and will need replacement shortly. The golf course operates on a breakeven basis at 38,000 rounds and is rate sensitive since the Sterling course competes for golfers. The Golf Commission offers senior discounts. Zody's restaurant contributes \$86k annually to the Commission's budget.

A motion to approve the attached language in concept with some minor but necessary revisions regarding transferring annual lease payments from the Sterling course to the Brennan course was made by Commissioner Williams, seconded by Commissioner Halpern and approved unanimously. The Finance Committee hereby submits this language for the consideration of the Full Commission.

In consideration of Charge #79, Charter Section C8-30-7, a motion was made by Commissioner Williams, seconded by Commissioner Martinez, to approve Attorney Mednick's drafting of language for Action Item 0308-1 setting forth the Action of the Board of Representatives on Budget, Section C8-30-7, to allow the Board of Representatives to reverse a cut, in whole or in part, made by the Board of Finance. The motion was approved unanimously. With the Commission having approved the concept, the Finance Committee hereby submits this language for the consideration of the full Commission.

The Committee also recommends the following changes for consideration by the full Commission: In C6-10-2 **Fiscal Records**, substitute the word **shall**, for **may** in the first line. The motion to approve this change was made by Commissioner Halpern, seconded by Commissioner Williams and unanimously approved for consideration by the full Commission.

The Committee was furnished documents relating to municipal best practices in maintaining a rainy day fund and learned that, pursuant to Charter Section C8-30-3, Stamford's capping of such fund at "5% of the total amount of general fund expenditures in the prior fiscal year" does not conform to best practices. Such amount is generally in the 15% range. After further research into the reason for the cap, the Committee may propose to eliminate the cap.

Commissioner Michelson relayed a summary of her conversations with appropriate City and WPCA employees regarding the Tax for Sanitation (Charge #81 Charter Section 8-40-5) and reported that amendments are recommended for this section to clarify exactly when the sewerage of a property prompts collection by the City of the additional tax from the property's reassignment to a different taxing district. She will work with Attorney Mednick to gain the Committee's approval of newly-drafted language prior to its submission to the Commission for concurrence.

A motion was made to approve the draft minutes of the February 1 meeting by Commissioner Williams and seconded by Commissioner Martinez with unanimous approval. There being no other business, a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Commissioner Martinez and seconded by Commissioner Halpern. With unanimous consent, the meeting was adjourned at 8:32 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Commissioner Michelson

This meeting is available on [video](#)