

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT  
BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE  
REGULAR MEETING  
MAY 6, 2010**

**ATTENDANCE:** Robert Curwen, Chair; AmyMarie Vizzo-Paniccia,  
Lydia Martinez, Carlos Silva, Susan Brannelly,  
Angel dePara, Michelle Lyons

The meeting convened at 6:30 p.m.

The Committee drafted the following statement.

Good evening, Mr. Mayor, members of the Bridgeport City Council, citizens of our great City.

Today I stand before you, as the speaker for the Budgets and Appropriations Committee. Six weeks ago, we embarked on a theme of consolidating departments and a smaller government. "Do more with less", which would produce cost savings.

- Balancing this budget relies on union concessions. The Budget is relying on union concessions or give backs and we urge the Mayor, his administration, and the unions to find a way to bridge this budget gap.
- The City is anticipating the announcement from the State regarding the PILOT payments and other funding amounts.
- With that, in this budget, we have made changes, consolidating senior services under Recreation, thus maximizing the resources for our seniors.
- The health and medical benefits is an ever growing issue. Last year it was over \$92,000,000 and this year it is project to cost over \$100,000,000.
- We have reduced utility and facility costs regarding the Health Department building and McLevy Hall, recommending that these be closed, the department relocated and moving towards one central governmental center.
- Now is the time to enhance constituent services. The city will have to find creative ways of cost cutting. Taking the example of one stop permitting process that was incorporated between the Building Department, Engineering Department, Zoning Department and Fire Marshal's office, we now urge the City to apply this approach to the City Clerk, Town

Clerk, Registrar of Voters and the Legislative Office, or wherever similar services would enhance cost savings, or constituent services.

- This Committee and this Council have made investments in key department that will work thorough out the City to improve and strengthen the quality of our neighborhoods and the residents who live there.
- The Council realizes that with the cost cutting and consolidation measure of service effort changes, there is a very real and unfortunate potential for personnel cuts. While it pains us to think that someone may be negatively affected by these changes, we hope to avoid this at all costs.
- We encourage the administration to use modern technologies to improve the effective management. For example, the City Attorney's office has implemented a new program, Abacus, which has greatly enhanced the department. The introduction of the MUNIS system
- In the weeks and coming months, the Committee will continue to evaluate the various programs because in these economic times, it is incumbent on us to work on increasing efficiencies.
- Communication has been improving between the unions and the City.
- Monthly and quarterly reports
- Maximizing accessibility while decreasing expenses.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon L. Soltes  
Telesco Secretarial Services

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT  
BUDGET AND APPROPRIATION COMMITTEE  
REGULAR MEETING  
MARCH 8, 2010**

**ATTENDANCE:** Robert Curwen, Co-chair; Angel dePara, Co-chair; Carlos Silva, Lydia Martinez, Howard Austin, Susan Brannelly

**OTHERS:** Martin McCarthy, Council Member; Thomas McCarthy, Council Member; Andre Baker, Council Member; Nestor Nygo; Michael Feeney, Finance Director; Dawn Norton, Finance Department; AmyMarie Vizzio-Paniccia, Council Member; Robert Walsh, Council Member

**CALL TO ORDER**

Council Member dePara called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m. He then introduced those who were present.

**A briefing by the Administration on the status of the Current City Budget in preparation for the upcoming 2010-2011 budget process.**

Mr. Feeney explained that the City had implemented a new system for financials on July 1, 2009 and a new system for Human Resources on January 1, 2010. Currently the revenues are off by about 2.5 million. Mr. Feeney then distributed copies of the most recent financial report. He reviewed the projected revenues and the realized finances, which was under the projected figure. Up until last year, the City used the Governor's numbers and last year was the first time in many years that the projected numbers came in below the Governor's numbers.

He added that Vital Statistics had come in over budget because they aggressively pursued the new few schedule.

Council Member Walsh asked about the money from the Mashantucket Pequot fund. Mr. Feeney said that he believed that the State would reduce the amount of funds given to the municipalities across the board and anticipated that it would not be increased next year either.

Council Member Walsh asked about the fund balance. Mr. Feeney said that it would be possible to discuss it but that it would also be important to realize that some of the expenses had been reduced by the start of the payroll program.

Council Member Baker had several questions regarding Vital Statistics and the increase in revenues. Mr. Feeney said that Chase Bank was now totally vacated from the Annex and the plan was to move Vital Statistics to the Annex along with the remainder of the offices at Mclevy Hall.

Council Member Brannelly asked about the Mashantucket Pequot funds. Mr. Feeney said that the reduction in the funds was statewide.

Council Member Walsh asked for an update on CRRA, which is now known as Wheelabrator. Last year the thirty year lease expired and the burn plant is now on full tax status. There has been a problem regarding the payment of 6 million dollars which is accumulating interest. Mr. Feeney said that he was expecting to receive a payment from Wheelabrator, with all the appropriate fines and fees in the near future. If the payment does not come in, the City will notify them of intent to lien.

Council Member Curwen asked what the parcel was evaluated at. Mr. Feeney replied that it was appraised at \$258 million. Wheelabrator has filed an appeal. 90% of the value has been paid by Wheelabrator, as required by the law.

Council Member dePara asked about the tax exempt colleges and hospitals. Mr. Feeney reviewed the details of this with the Committee. The funding from the State is currently at 45% which has been continually decreasing from the original 70%.

The expenditures were the next item discussed. Mr. Feeney said that right now the City is on target in terms of bringing in tax revenue. There are some concerns about the arrears taxes, which would be about 1.7 million dollars. One large appeal from AT&T was decided in favor of AT&T. The arrears number will continue to decrease as the City sells off the tax delinquent properties. Motor vehicle tax notices have been mailed.

Fund 620 is a health insurance fund and it is on target as budget. This type of plan insulated the general fund from the increases and decreases of health insurance expenses.

Council Member Walsh asked about some of the figures on page 13. Mr. Feeney reviewed the numbers with the committee and said that he would review the figures

Council Member Walsh asked about Police and Fire overtime. Currently the Police overtime is on target, but the Fire Department is over by 2 million, which is related to minimum manning of shifts and trucks and other issues.

Council Member Curwen said that he had commended Chief Gaudett for being half a million dollars under budget in terms of overtime.

Council Member Curwen asked about the status of the taxes and the final number for last year's collection. Mr. Feeney said that currently, the current taxes are on target but the arrears is tending behind. Discussion followed about the collection percentage.

Council Member Martinez asked if it was too early to determine if there would be a freeze on taxes. The re-evaluation has gone into effect and the grand list has an 87 million increase for the fiscal year 10-11. The timing for the re-evaluation was very good. Council Member dePara asked for more details regarding this increase, which Mr. Feeney reviewed with him. All of the details will be in the full budget presentation.

Council Member Curwen thanked Mayor Finch for being aggressive in terms of foreclosures. Mr. Feeney said that the two organizations that are interested in delinquent liens. However they are not interested in brownfields. Mayor Finch has determined that the City will end up owning those brownfields. Council Member Curwen said that in 1906, Bridgeport was a major industrial city and now it has very large brownfields to rehabilitate.

Council Member Brannelly asked about the Police expenditures. Mr. Feeney reviewed the breakout of the figures. The new system allows the City to know how much is being spent on gas, petrol and other items at any given fire house, or school for greater transparency.

Council Member Baker asked why the CitiStat figure was so low. Mr. Nygo said that there were still some issues with the new payroll program and that these should be resolved soon. CitiStat is fully staffed and there is a new director.

Council Member Baker asked about Sikorsky Airport. Mr. Feeney said that there was a major project regarding the main administration building. He added that the acre and a half has been taken for the relocation of the road. Mr. Feeney said that currently one airport tenant left unexpectedly, which has resulted in an \$80,000 revenue shortfall.

Council Member Walsh asked about the ordinances regarding budget transfers. He said that he did not believe that the Council has seen a budget transfer in over 18 months. Mr. Feeney said that the City is only six months into the new budget year, so there would not be any budget transfers.

Council Member Curwen asked what the contingency account. Mr. Feeney said that he believed that the contingency funds hasn't been touched without Council approval. Council Member Curwen asked Mr. Feeney to find the source of the money for the lawsuit settlements and to provide the co-chairs with a balance of the outside legal fund from the City Attorney's office.

Council Member Walsh asked about the debt service on page 52. Mr. Feeney said that the debt service and pensions have been broken down into the respective departments to show where the debt amounts are incurred. The full debt service for the coming year will be 70 million and Mr. Feeney expects to fully expend all of the 70 million.

Council Member Baker asked where the funds for the payment of lawsuits. Mr. Feeney said that it should come out of the City Attorney's office. Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia said that a number of the settlements were from Worker's Compensation, so that the funds for the payment would come from Fund 62, the Worker's Comp account. Mr. Nygo said that the legal fees associated with the cases would most likely come out of the same fund.

*Council Member Silva left the meeting at 7:30 p.m.*

Council Member dePara asked about the payroll system and the Fire Department. Mr. Feeney explained that when the transition to the new system was made, the archived payroll records did not transfer. This means that currently there are 14 or so positions that are vacant in the Fire Department.

Council Member dePara asked if the expenses at the Fire Department could be reduced. Mr. Feeney explained that the Fire Department has a minimum manning component and that there is no Fire Department test on the horizon so that the positions that become vacant remain vacant.

Council Member Brannelly asked if there was someone who was looking at the overall picture for savings. Mr. Feeney said that there were a number of items that had been done to increase savings, including regionalization. In the past, bulk purchases have been made and centralization of services has resulted in major savings. The regionalization of the pharmacy program resulted in savings of a quarter of a million dollars. The dispatch office could give additional savings, along with the regionalization of the WPCA duties.

Council Member Curwen asked about the debt service and reminded everyone that the debt service was basically due to the construction of new schools. Currently, the debt service is about 70 million dollars a year.

Council Member Baker asked about CitiStat in terms of their effectiveness in reducing expenditures. Mr. Feeney said that he was not part of it, but that Mr. Sherwood or Mr. Nunn would be able to answer questions about it.

Council Member Baker asked about Fund balance increased by 125 thousand from 10.5 million to 10.6 million.

Mr. Feeney then recapped the information that the Council members had requested.

Council Member Brannelly asked for clarification regarding the new payroll system. Mr. Feeney said that it would be important to check to insure that all the figures were assigned to their proper categories. He said that he believed that the information will be presented in a clearer format and help with the analysis of the data. It will also help with managing and tracking the employees. Mr. Feeney said that the Mayor wants to move toward “green efficiencies”, such as electronic payments and the issuance of 1099 forms electronically. The new system will assist in this.

Council Member Curwen asked if the City’s administration was planning on announcing a deficit. Mr. Feeney said that there was a shortfall and a meeting was scheduled to discuss this and form a plan.

**ADJOURNMENT**

- \*\* COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY MOVED TO ADJOURN**
- \*\* COUNCIL MEMBER AUSTIN SECONDED.**
- \*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon L. Soltes  
Telesco Secretarial Services

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT  
JOINT BOE/BUDGET & APPROPRIATIONS  
SPECIAL MEETING  
MARCH 31, 2010**

**ATTENDANCE**

- Budget and Appropriations:** Robert Curwen, Chair; Angel dePara, Co-Chair; Susan Brannelly, and AmyMarie Vizzo-Paniccia, Carlos Silva
- Board of Education:** Barbara P. Bellinger, President; Leticia Colon, Vice President; Delores Fuller, Secretary; Maria Pereira, Bobby Simmons, Patrick Crossin, Sauda Efia Baraka; Dr. John Ramos, Superintendent of Schools
- City Council Members:** Mayor William Finch, Council President Thomas McCarthy, Council Member Robert Walsh, Council Member Michelle Lyons, Council Member Andre Baker, Council Member Lydia Martinez, Council Member Denise Taylor-Moye, Council Member Martin McCarthy
- State Delegation:** Rep. Auden Grogins, 125th Assembly District; Rep. Christopher Caruso, 126th Assembly District; Rep. Jack Hennessy, 127 Assembly District  
Rep. Joseph Clemmons; State Senator Anthony J. Musto 22nd Senate District

**CALL TO ORDER**

Council Member Curwen called the Budget and Appropriations meeting to order at 6:38 p.m. at the Bridgeport Aquaculture School. The members of the Board of Education, the Council and the State Delegation introduced themselves.

Mayor Finch said that this was a new venture because there has not been a meeting like this before and it was about the children, not unions and not politicians. The schools have many challenges. Two weeks ago, the Connecticut Justice lawsuit was awarded to the people because paying for schools from the property taxes with the median of 36,000 is unconstitutional. He went on to speak about the Race to the Top and other items. By working together, the District and the City can move forward. Funding for education will

be civil rights issue for the coming year, Mayor Finch said. Much discussion has occurred about the Capital plan, focused on fixing what already exists.

The Mayor then thanked the BOE members for their recent vote regarding the Discovery Magnet School. It will be important to work with Trumbull to move the high school through the Inland Wetlands and Planning and Zoning in Trumbull because the parcel is just over the line. He went on to stress that the curriculum will be top of the line and that it will benefit Bridgeport students greatly.

Mayor Finch said that he would like to amend his recommendation to the council and said that he would like to include 10 million dollars to build a new Harding High School on the site. The City only has 17 square miles of land. 12% of that land is polluted. State regulations could be cleaned to residential standards and have schools on them. It will be helpful to be able to increase the density and be able to go up five stories, rather than taking 20-30 acres. This will reduce the amount of land needed. Mayor Finch said that he had endorsed the recommendations for a number of schools.

Dr. Ramos said that he would facilitate the discussion. The purpose was to have a discussion regarding how the District and the City could specifically promote the welfare of the students. He stressed that it would be important to look forward and embrace common agendas. There were concerns about being on the same page regarding the capital projects.

Mayor Finch said that towns that do not need financial assistance to build new schools receive State financial aid and he felt that this was wrong.

Council President McCarthy said that he appreciated the invitation and had been on the Council for nine years. Everyone is a volunteer and Council President McCarthy said he appreciated the fact that the Board was talking with the Council rather than having a confrontation about the budget. The town of Greenwich and Fairfield are both larger than Bridgeport in terms of land coverage. The reality is that there has to be some recognition that the Bridgeport students are being left behind because the tax inequality.

There was a question by a Board member regarding Harding High School being built on the site. He asked about the deadline of June 1st and asked for clarification on the 10 million dollars for this project. Another Board member asked about an authorization of 79 million for a new Harding High School in 2003. The member reminded everyone that the funding went back to Hartford because a parcel could not be found. Concerns about whether or not the parcel would be large enough for the new school without short changing the students were discussed.

There was a question about 95 million in the Capital budget being set aside for property acquisition. It was pointed out that currently Harding has 400 more students than what it was originally planned to have. The new magnet school would have the capacity for 1,000 Bridgeport high school students. Discussion followed about the details of the student capacity for the schools and the Tier Two List with 26 projects. One member wished to know who determined which projects were approved. Council President McCarthy said that the Council has not formally received the Capital budget at this time, and that currently, the budget was the Mayor's recommendations. The Council may approve a list of projects, but then the Mayor is authorized to go out for bond market for the actual project funding.

*Council Member Marty McCarthy joined the meeting at 7:02 p.m.*

One Board member asked whether the Board had prioritized the projects before it went to the Mayor's office. The member went on to say that it would be important for the Board to do this so that the Mayor would know what was important to the Board before he makes recommendations. The BOE Chair agreed and said that this kind of dialogue was important, particularly in regard to Harding High School. It currently occupied 8.2 acres, but the State wants new school facilities to occupy 30-40 acres.

Rep. Grogins explained that right now in the legislation, most of the plans are being scaled back and that she and Rep. Caruso could sponsor legislation regarding this. Rep. Caruso said that he had been an advocate for a higher density for many years. He then said that he disagreed with the Mayor regarding the use of brownfields for schools. They should be used for increasing the tax rolls. He added that the old Barnum school had the third floor used for a gymnasium, which was an intense use of the land.

Rep. Caruso said that he had concerns about the several new schools, which were very large and harder to maintain. It is important to embrace common agendas but it is impossible to do until all the facts are on the table. The State is anteing up a lot of money for the education. He said that he was not convinced that money was the answer, since there were 18 schools with 70% of the total student bodies are failing. Bridgeport receives the largest portion of the UCE funding, but the schools are still failing. He said that there are issues that need be addressed by the Board and to have a round table discussion, it is important to really look at why the students are still failing.

Dr. Ramos said that the system that is built will yield the results projected. Dr. Ramos said that if people who have the means are sending their children to private schools where the class size is 6 or 7, it says something. Bridgeport and New Britain were always on the edge of the MERs. Discussions followed about the details of this. Rep. Caruso asked why the City was not receiving an accounting of how the funding is spent. He said that this begs the question as to what is happening with the school system. Dr. Ramos said

that as the No Child Left behind moves to 100%, then all the schools in the State will be failing. Rep. Caruso then listed two of the schools, Tisdale and Battalla, both of which are brand new. Dr. Ramos pointed out that the building was new, but it is what goes on in the building is what matters. Rep. Caruso said that the bottom line was that there were students that were failing. He said that in the business world, with an 18 school/70% failure rate, the CEO would be gone. He said that while everyone was supportive on building new school buildings, but the students are still failing. Rep. Caruso pointed out that the BOE had given back a large sum of money back to the City, which indicates that there is something wrong.

Rep. Caruso said that the larger question is that there are 70% of the students failing and that it is important not to be political. Dr. Ramos said that how the superintendent becomes the focus of the discussion was beyond him. He pointed out that there were signs around the room about the schools failing. Rep. Caruso said that he was upset that Bridgeport students were failing. He said that the operational audit needed to be done and the 18 schools need to be looked at for the reasons why the students are failing.

BOE Chairwoman Bellinger reminded everyone that the purpose of the meeting was to talk about helping the schools short term and long term. The Mayor is not going to be raising taxes, and there is a need for creative thinking to help the schools.

Council Member Curwen said that he would like to thank the Superintendent for calling the meeting because this was discussed more than two years ago. He said that he was glad that the Council and the District was at this junction now. He added that Rep. Caruso's concerns were being duly noted and that the Council members were also concerned. The brownfields don't generate taxes. While the State pays 75% of the school building costs, the 25% of the City's portion also has the debt service. Bridgeport is the hub of supplying most of the social services for the surrounding area. The Budget Committee funded the operational audit five years ago, but the BOE never followed through. Council Member Curwen said that everyone became involved in the boards and committees to make things better. One thing that hasn't worked is pitting the Board of Education against the City.

Board Member Crossin said that he had argued with Rep. Caruso before regarding this and senses Rep. Caruso's frustration. He added that Rep. Caruso had raised many good issues. Board Member Crossin said that he felt Rep. Caruso was giving his criticism as a friend and that it was clear that the Board had to be more transparent. Board Member Crossin said that the BOE tried to make the Council part of the budget process. The point is to get a dialog going and to get better understanding on both sides.

Council Member Baker thanked the BOE for talking about Harding High School improvements because it was in his district and needs it. He said that he receives phone

calls from constituents about the BOE and frequently can't give the information to his constituents. He said that it would be important to take the information back to the constituents to help them understand.

Council Member Baker said that he had served on the Budget committee and after looking at it over the years, there were many overlapping items. He said that he would like to see where the District has cut expenses to save money. Having an understanding of the direction that the District is going to move towards would be helpful.

One of the members of BOE said that there was a list of the top ten states that increased the funding. Connecticut was #3, but none of the schools made it into the top ten grouping. She said that she agreed that the next civil rights issue would be education. She added that she was discouraged in that the meeting had been cancelled because there were not enough items on the agenda.

Council President McCarthy said that he expected to be hearing about the third step on audit process. He said that the first step was to have the Council approved the separation of the City and the District financially. The City had to let go of the managements of the functioning of the BOE so that it could stand on its own. There was a commitment from everyone at the table to do this. The analysis found that the Board was woefully inadequate and this has been addressed. Steps 2 & 3 were to have the analysis, which President McCarthy said he thought of as the Gibson report. The report has not been released yet, but will be doing so in the near future. He did not know what was contained in the report yet. The Council has been supportive of the operational audit and the process is now 4/5th completed.

Council Member Taylor Moyer said that District has been failing for more reasons than just the BOE, but because of the previous school administration. Unless everyone gets involved, the District won't move forward. The responsibility for the education of Bridgeport students' is everyone's responsibility. It's important to have the teachers living in Bridgeport.

Board Member Pereira said that there had been a question about where the cuts were made. She then listed the fact that she was a parent for over 25 years and been on the Board. Some of the cuts have been in the music and arts, social workers, Shop, psychologists, middle school intramural physical education, which all happened at the building level. It is important to stop cutting at the building level. Testing – over the last five years, the scores have decreased. Bridgeport used to be ahead of Hartford and New Haven, but now is at the bottom of the list. Board Member Pereira said that she felt it is important to look closely at how the system is working. She said that the issues are already identified, but it is important to correct the problem. The District does not have to recreate the wheel.

Board Member Baraka said that a fiscal audit is different from an operational audit. She said that she felt that the District needs a forensic financial audit. She added that if the new magnet school had a top of the level curriculum, what it means to the rest of the schools.

Board Member Simmons said that he knew that the Board had gotten a \$250,000 dollar grant and did not know about any contribution from the business council. The BRBC came in and took over. He said that the BOE had asked for a financial audit rather than an operational audit. The Board has not had any control, the auditors come in independently. The Board has not been involved.

BOE Chairwoman Bellinger said that she had attended the BRBC meetings. Mr. Simmons said that he was speaking about the issue Rep. Caruso was referring to at another meeting.

Council Member Curwen said that the BRBC meeting was because the BRBC put up money for the MJLM report and interviews were conducted. He said that the audit was taken over by the BRBC.

Rep. Clemmons said that he was chairman of the Black and Hispanic Caucus for the State and a speaker was there to address the funding that the President had set aside for the Race to the Top. The superintendents have to apply to the State to receive the dollars. The most immediate schools that are failing under NCLB, the bottom 50, could receive up to 3 million dollars in the group. The Caucus has undertaken a campaign to address the under achievement in the State. There are 185 schools that are in need of improvement. The Caucus has initiated "Project Learn", which will target any school that failed for three consecutive years, and this will engage the parents to play a significant role in their children's education.

Dr. Ramos said that the first application for Race to the Top, the Superintendent had signed off, but the teachers' union did not. The application was accepted, but Connecticut did not receive any Race funding. The School Improvement grants are for Tier One schools. There are stipulations tied to them.

Dr. Ramos went on to explain that there are four different models that a District must choose from. These involve significant changes. One model calls for changing out the principal who has been in the building for two years, another model involves changing 50% of the staff in the school, another one has a private organization come in and take over the school and the fourth model involves closing the school.

Rep. Caruso said that this was one of the first times he can remember all the elected officials talking about the students in Bridgeport. He suggestion was to have two members of the Council, BOE and the delegation come together to keep the discussion about the basic information going. He said that it would be important to have members that don't always agree on the issues. Once the financial and operational audit is done, then the group can come back together and report to everyone.

*Rep. Caruso left the meeting at 8:10 p.m.*

In response to an earlier comment by Dr. Ramos that the meeting should not be political, Council Member Walsh said that he felt that it was naiveté to invite so many elected official into the same room and not expect it to become political. Cooperation has to take place 12 months of the years, not just the 6 weeks of the budget cycle. Regarding an audit for the BOE, Council Member Walsh said when he worked for Waldenbooks in Stamford, there was an audit done in a year, and six months later the first changes were underway. The alternative of dragging it out is harmful. He added that the constituents tell him the BOE administration is paid too much, and they bring back retired administrators who are paid incredible amounts as outside consultants.

Council Member Martinez said that the list of failing schools brought her back 8-10 years ago when there were 3 or 4 failing schools. She taught at one of the schools and the parents, students, teachers and the administrators all worked very hard to bring the school back up to the right level. The students can't leave their problems at home, they bring them with them to school. Money is needed for social workers to work with the students and the parents to resolve these issues.

Council Member Lyons said that she had gone to Washington, D.C. and had attended as many functions as possible to do with education. One of the issues of the NCLB is the constant testing of the students. The schools teach the students more how to test than teaching them. The students are suffering through all this political stuff and repeated testing. As soon as a child learns something, they turn around and now have to learn something new. The Bridgeport students have potential. The legislation has to be changed to allow the children to go back to the basics of teaching. She said that there are people who are looking at the constant testing because the students are failing because they are being tested too much.

Council Member Lyons thanked everyone for having the meeting because it is the first one in her six years on the Council. Getting frustrations out is normal, but it is important to have people bring solutions to the table. The reason that everyone is on the various boards is because people believed each person could make a change. Transparency needs to be on both sides so the truth can come out. Because of the animosity in the past, there hasn't been much progress in the past. She then asked that everyone support legislation

Board Member Pereira said that one recommendation was to change the laws regarding the excess funding at the end of the year. She added that until there was some kind of financial audit done, people will not feel comfortable with the discussion.

A member of the public said that there would be a new paper in Bridgeport called "The Independent" would be starting and that all the problems in Bridgeport would be discussed and potential solutions offered.

BOE Chairwoman Bellinger asked if there were additional comments. Rep. Clemmons said that he would like to mention the idea of tearing down G.E. and putting the Harding High there. Chairwoman Bellinger said that brownfields would be involved. Rep. Grogins said that the State Committee chairs have to raise the individual legislation and the deadline has passed for that because this term is a short term.

Council Member Curwen said that after 15 years on the Council, he felt that there had been a lot of friction and animosity between the BOE and the Council, possibly because the predecessor had a different vision. Council Member Curwen said that he did not think separation was the answer. It takes more than just the superintendent and the Board to raise the children. He felt that the demonstration at this meeting will most likely change the opinions of some of the council members.

A member of the public came forward and said that one level of government was missing and that was the Federal level. He then suggested once the Board has things straightened out, having the Congressional representatives present. He then reiterated that he had asked the Council and the Board would sending his step granddaughter home crying or happy. It's important to remember all the little students who are depending on the Board and the Council to take care of them. In closing, Dr. Ramos said that there had been notes that would be sent out and that the group of six should start some conversations in the near future.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER SILVA MOVED TO ADJOURN.**  
**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA SECONDED.**  
**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon L. Soltes  
Telesco Secretarial Services

City of Bridgeport  
Joint BOE/Budget & Appropriations  
Special Meeting  
March 31, 2010  
Page 8

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT  
BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS  
REGULAR MEETING  
APRIL 8, 2010**

**ATTENDANCE:** Robert Curwen, Chair; Lydia Martinez, Council President  
Thomas McCarthy, Howard Austin, AmyMarie Vizzo-Paniccia  
(6:40 p.m.)

**OTHERS:** Thomas Sherwood, OPM; Council Member Baker, David Dunn,  
Acting Personnel Director; Janet Finch, Grants; Bishop Walter  
Plummer, Deborah Belford, Kathy Klett, Lisa Kollman, Sandra  
Ferreira, Angela Hooks, Mary Otero. Richard Weiner, Benefits;  
Council Member Martin McCarthy, Council Member Andre  
Baker,

**CALL TO ORDER**

Council Member Curwen called the meeting to order at 6:07 pm. He then introduced all of the Committee members to those present.

**PERSONNEL DEPT**

Mr. Dunn, the Acting Personnel Director, introduced the following members of his staff to the Committee: Deborah Belford, Kathy Klett, Lisa Kollman, Sandra Ferreira, Angela Hooks, and Mary Otero. Mr. Dunn also said that the Vice Chairman of the Civil Service Commission was present, and introduced Bishop Walter Plummer. Council Member Curwen said that he was delighted that Bishop Plummer was present. Mr. Dunn then distributed a PowerPoint handout to everyone outlining the goals and accomplishments of the department.

Mr. Sherwood directed everyone's attention to page 82 and said that new MUNIS system had been implemented. The clerks have entered over 150,000 items to build the tables in the payroll. Mr. Sherwood said that everything was moving towards one Human Resources program, including the Board of Education. During the last quarter, the last component will be constructed. Everyone is involved now, including the Board of Education.

Now there is a lot of interaction between the departments and positions are migrating to where they belong. Physically, the payroll and the Board of Education will be up on the third floor. Mr. Sherwood then reviewed the role that Ms. Chris Dale, who was not able to attend the meeting, plays in terms of an overall payroll clerk. It is important to make

sure the employees are in the right places in terms of employment and that there is cooperative.

Mr. Dunn reminded everyone that the staff was present and happy to answer questions. He said that he was not addressing the Mayor's budget specifically, but the department did submit a budget increase of \$150,000 for hiring. The office clutter has been dealt with and the staff is happier and more efficient than it has been in many years.

Mr. Dunn then reviewed the department goals, which include completing the Police Officer Entry Level Examination and there will be a Firefighter Entry Level Exam in the future. He then reviewed the key points in the PowerPoint handout that he had distributed earlier with the Committee members. Mr. Dunn said that there has been some progress regarding the promotional examines for the Police and Fire departments. Mr. Dunn said that he would like to have a continuous process for police recruitment rather than have a massive testing situation every three or four years.

Having the offices all physically located on the same floor will be a major improvement.

*Council Member Martin McCarthy joined the meeting at 6:22 p.m.*

The seasonal employment recruitment has taken place. Litigation with the former Personnel Director was successfully resolved.

Mr. Dunn then reviewed the recent exams that had been administered and the upcoming competitive and noncompetitive tests for open positions.

Mr. Dunn then reviewed the results of the Police Exam application process as of April 7, 2010 with the Committee. The City can only charge for the written test. The CHIPS test is paid for by the employee. There is a possibility of potential revenue of \$93,323.75 for the City. Before anyone takes the police exam, there is a State screening that the applicants must pass before the written test is taken. This is not true of the firefighters.

Council Member Curwen asked if the applicant requests were being changed in the paper. He wondered why the African American recruitment is so low. Mr. Dunn said that he didn't know but the department has been to job fairs at various colleges and he did not believe the City lacked for their effort. A large ad was in the Connecticut Post last month, along with ads that have been on the radio and other venues. There is a Federal Court order that allows the City to recruit and hire without the "Rule of 1". This has acted as a barrier in the past. Now, the City does not have to worry about this. The written exam will be a Pass/Fail exam.

Ms. Kollman said that the City has contracted with a group called Ergonomics that uses a video assessment, which have been proven to be effective. Mr. Dunn reviewed the

various tests that the candidates will have to pass once the assessment phase is completed, such as a background check, a lie detector test and a personal interview.

*Council Member Martinez left the meeting at 6:35 p.m.*

Council Member Curwen asked if the extended hours included overtime. Mr. Dunn said that it did not.

Council Member Curwen then asked Bishop Plummer about his feelings regarding Civil Service and where the department is heading. Bishop Plummer said since Mr. Dunn has come into the office, there had been harmony in the office, the Commission has been enlightened and he felt that the performance of the office has been very thorough. Bishop Plummer said that he had some past experience with the Civil Service when he was involved in Affirmative Action and that he was pleased with the improvements.

*Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia joined the meeting at 6:40 p.m.*

Council Member Curwen asked if the process was good. Bishop Plummer said that he felt that the process was good and that the Commission wanted to know their role and what the parameters of their authority. While each of the Commissioners has personal areas that they would like to see improved in the City, everyone is cognizant of the problems. He said that personally, he felt that the City needed to have a better way to address the employee's complaints. He said that he was happy to see that women in the Police department have risen to top positions. However, he was not happy to know that the Guardians feel that they must be organized to have their needs communicated. He said that he would like to see a time when the groups felt that they were beyond that, but the group obviously feels it is still needed.

The conversation then moved to training for the Commission members. Bishop Plummer said that while the Commissioners work in the community, and they need to know what areas their authority covers. Mr. Dunn said that he felt that it would be possible to come up with a module for the various commissions. Council Member Curwen said that the need was clear for training. Council Member Curwen thanked Bishop Plummer for his work. Bishop Plummer asked if the Committee had looked at the sensitivity training at the Police Academy and the Fire Academy. He said that he had heard that it was not extensive enough. Council Member Curwen said that this had come up about seven years ago and both the police and firefighters had sensitivity training. Mr. Dunn said that this kind of training should be done every few years because things change and the training keeps it fresh.

Council Member Baker asked about the fees structure that was passed. He asked about a reduction of \$40,000. Mr. Sherwood then reviewed this with him. Council Member

Baker asked about the vacant position. Mr. Sherwood explained that this was the position that was reserved for Ms. Dale when she is transferred over.

Council Member Baker asked about the various cuts of qualified staff and then replacing that person with a warm body. Mr. Dunn said that part of it was the union practice of “bumping”. He said that he was not familiar with any position where a position opened up and later backfilled by a warm body. Discussion followed.

Mr. Dunn said that the City has about 18 different clerical titles in the model. It has affected the City negatively in the promotional tree because they can’t move certain employees through the system. Mr. Dunn said that in order to change the rules, the Commission has to vote on them first and then bring them to the Council.

Council Member Curwen asked about the upcoming fire department test. Mr. Dunn said that he would like to get through the police exam first and was looking towards having the fire department in the fall. Council Member Curwen asked if any Council Members had any additional questions for Mr. Dunn and his staff. Hearing none, he then thanked Mr. Dunn and his staff for their time.

### **BENEFITS AND GRANTS.**

Mr. Weiner and Ms. Finch came forward and greeted the Council members.

Mr. Sherwood said that the crux of the information for the department was on page i16, which is Internal Service Fund. He then said that there was barely any growth in health care because of the changes that have been made. Currently, there is just under \$100,000,000 in increases this year. Mr. Sherwood was expecting an increase about \$150,000,000. Mr. Sherwood then explained that the change was done by estimating what the premiums would be and the projections are done that.

Mr. Weiner explained that he looks at it from the viewpoint of “line of benefit” that is being delivered to the employee. The new vendor is working on duplicating the services that were provided by Health Net. He hoped that a contract would be presented to the Council soon. With the prescription plan, while the amount of prescriptions has increase the buying power has reduced the increase. Mr. Weiner said that he had been in benefits business for 20 years and has never seen the projections go down.

When asked about the health care reform, Mr. Weiner said that one issue that comes up is “early retirement benefits” because the government is worried that employers will let people go before retirement rather than pay the retirement medical. Mr. Sherwood said that people have been amazed at what the City has been able to negotiate and contain the growth of the medical expenses.

Mr. Weiner then reviewed the Medicare Advantage plan and why the City moved employees into the plan years ago. If the government makes other changes, the City may move the employees out of the plan. Mr. Sherwood said that he was worried about 2014 when the Medicare benefits are reduced. Previously the government would pay 75% of the medical and the City would do 25%, but this model is being changed.

However, Mr. Sherwood said that with the change in MUNIS, he has been able to insure that everyone pays their proportional share, particularly where the grants were involved or the Board of Education. There will be a meeting with CIGNA within in the next few days.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia asked if there had been any research through CCM and National League of Cities and other resources. Mr. Weiner said that Bridgeport is a member of the Connecticut Purchasing Coalition to leverage the purchasing power of 13 cities, rather than just Bridgeport. He gave a brief overview of the group and said that Bridgeport has a reputation of excellent cost controls. Mr. Sherwood said that CCM does not do much with health benefits. Mr. Weiner said that he would check the National League of Cities to see what they have to offer.

Ms. Finch said that she was just present to reiterate most of the things that Mr. Dunn had said. Previously, she used to have give tests, but now Mr. Dunn is doing that. She said that she has been working with Mr. Sherwood to insure that the tables are working properly. Ms. Finch said that both the BOE and the City combining best practices and it is working out very well. Mr. Sherwood said that having everyone working on the same system is very helpful because now everyone knows what to do and what to expect. He said that the next phase would be working on the post employment benefits.

Council President McCarthy pointed out that Ms. Finch was the hidden hero of the MUNIS system. When the new system kicked in on January, over 6,000 employees were processed and only one person had a problem. Ms. Finch said that one major asset was that all the fragmented information into one place so that the information is available to everyone and employees will not have to run from place to place over this. Ms. Finch said that the Direct Deposit has helped tremendously in terms of processing the payroll and the retirement checks.

Council Member Curwen asked Mr. Weiner about pensions for the Council Members. He pointed out that the State Delegation team now has a retirement plan available. Mr. Sherwood said that he felt that the City should allow the Council Members to have a pension. He pointed out that defined benefits programs are disappearing quickly, but said that he did not see a reason why the Council members could not have a pension plan available to them.

Council Member Curwen asked if there were any other questions from the Council Members present. There were none.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**\*\* COUNCIL PRESIDENT MCCARTHY MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER AUSTIN SECONDED.**

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Sharon L. Soltes  
Telesco Secretarial Services

April 9, 2010 Budget and Appropriations Meeting Cancelled without notification.

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT  
BUDGET AND APPROPRIATE COMMITTEE  
REGULAR MEETING  
APRIL 12, 2010**

**ATTENDANCE:** Angel dePara, Co-chair; Susan Brannelly, Lydia Martinez, Howard Austin, Sr.; AmyMarie Vizzo-Paniccia (6:12 p.m.)

**STAFF:** Thomas Sherwood, OPM; Michael Feeney, Art Lasky, Ben Barnes, Sandy Ayala, Registrar of Voters; Pat, Registrar of Voters Council Member Walsh (6:16 p.m.), Council Member Taylor-Moye (6:16 p.m.)

**CALL TO ORDER**

Council Member dePara called the meeting to order at 6:08 p.m. He then introduced the members of the Committee to those present.

**REGISTER OF VOTERS**

Mr. Sherwood directed everyone's attention to page 59 of the budget book. The budgets are basically the same and the only changes are the contractual salaries increases. Ms. Ayala explained that the budget concurs with the canvas and therefore the budget supplemental was finished after the budget book.

Council Member dePara asked Ms. Ayala to review what her department is mandated to do by the State. Ms. Ayala said now the Registrars Office performs many of the tasks that the Town Clerk used to handle. The Town Clerk continues to store the votes until the Registrar can pick them up.

*Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia joined the meeting at 6:12 p.m.*

Ms. Ayala said that in the packet of information, there is a list of items that the department maintains and is responsible for. There are 76,000 active voters and also about 35,000 people are inactive, but haven't been on inactive status for four years. After the fourth year, the Secretary of State purges them from the list. For 2006, the City has received a reimbursement from the Secretary of State, but those funds are not longer available. No one had any idea that all the machines could only be maintained by a certain company and this will cost \$200/per machine and this maintenance will need to be performed twice a year. There is enough funding in the budget to cover this.

*Council Members Walsh and Taylor-Moye joined the meeting at 6:16 p.m.*

Initially, when the new machines were provided by the State, the City received a total of 52 machines for the 26 precincts. One machine cannot handle all the ballots. Now the programming has to be divided into two batches and both machines have to be used. To comply with the law, the City had to lease two additional machines, at \$1,000 per machine. Now negotiations with LHS have been completed and the City has purchased the machines at \$3,500 per machine.

Council Member Walsh asked if the department had considered eliminating a precinct like to St. Paul's. Ms. Ayala said that Beardsley School did not meet the HAVA (Help America Voting Act) guidelines and that St. Paul's was the only venue. St. Paul's has rented out their facility, but there is a possibility that the Secretary of State may grant a waiver to use Beardsley School. Ms. Ayala said that this is short term and that once the redistricting is done; it may be possible to use the new schools. Council Member dePara said that he and Council Member Silva felt that it was important to have the voting places located in the precinct.

Council Member Brannelly asked about the \$25,000 for seasonal and temp employees and grants. Ms. Ayala reviewed the information listed on the second page of the handout. The funds cover the mechanics and machine testing, poll workers and the extra clerical help. Mr. Sherwood then reviewed the changes with Council Member Brannelly.

Council Member Silva also asked for clarification on whether the poll worker pay rate changes. Ms. Ayala explained that the rate doesn't change but there are some other changes because it depends on how many elections are held and the type of elections that are held. Some elections require a specific number of poll workers, regardless whether or not they are needed. Some of the elections are primaries and others are held when there are changes in legislative seats. Frequently, the poll workers are already trained and they come on later in the process.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia asked about what would happen if St. Paul's was not available. It was explained that it was important to stay within the boundaries of the precinct. As the time draws closer, the Council will be advised of any change in location. Council Member Martinez asked about building being leased. Ms. Ayala explained that the new pastor is not interested in leasing to the City. Council Member dePara said that both he and Council Member Silva were very grateful for all the interest in their precinct.

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER AUSTIN MOVED TO ENTER THE HAND OUT AS #1 UNDER REGISTRAR AS VOTERS.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA SECONDED.**

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**CITY ATTORNEY**

Mr. Sherwood directed everyone's attention to page 66 of the budget book. He said that there is no change in the staffing. In the Operating Expenses, Mr. Sherwood said that the health benefits decreased, but the overall expenses increased because of contractual obligations. Council Member Silva asked for clarification on vacancies. Mr. Sherwood said that there were two paralegals that were in the hiring process and were indicated on the last lines of Personnel on page 66.

Atty. Anastasi and Atty. Lasky came forward. Atty. Anastasi said that Atty. Lasky was the Deputy City Attorney and was prepared to discuss major pending litigation. The department provides legal services for the administration and provides services for both internal and external clients. He explained that the department does not totally control their workload, as they are subject to the courts and other entities. The department also performs collection work, such as back taxes for the WPCA, which was between \$700,000 and \$900,000. A major legal case is pending with Wheelabrator who has appealed their tax assessment.

Another area that the department works with is the quality of life issues, such as anti-blight efforts and condemnation. It is important to make certain that this is a revenue neutral effort. Also there has been a major effort to reduce the number of hours that the City uses an outside counsel. This would be found under the Legal Services account, which includes litigation service items like depositions, and other fees. The area where there has been the greatest reduction in outside legal counsel was where there was specialized expertise. Both Atty. Lasky and Bohannon were assigned to settle the outstanding cases. Most of them have been settled for less than the figures that were on the table. The areas that need outside expertise are the tax areas and the environmental law. The hourly rate is now down well below \$200.00/hour. There are only a handful of cases that are outside of the staff.

ABACUS software has been used in the department and allows the department to generate reports and has improved management in the office. It also allows the staff to indicate what stage a case is at currently, particularly if an attorney is out of the office. Atty. Lasky said that all the staff can access the files and this helps serve the end users who are the residents. The tracking ability helps, along with the monitoring of outside cases. This monitoring includes billing.

Atty. Lasky said that there are 29,000 files out at the office at any given time, many of them are foreclosures, some of Board of Education, and the remaining are police, fire or any other department that has requested legal counsel. Approximately 35 new files a week are opened. Most of the work is focused on labor issues, such as the Guardians. The outside counsels are used when there are conflicts of interest or areas of specialty law.

Council Member Brannelly asked what the historical number of cases for outside counsel. Atty. Lasky said that in the last year, ten or 15 had been taken back for inside counsel work. Council Member Brannelly asked about the decreases in the costs. Mr. Sherwood said that there was no way to manage and track the outside firm's work. One major case was the Police case, which was brought back in house and then settled. Mr. Sherwood then reviewed how the system now works and the analysis that is performed on all the cases.

Council Member Brannelly asked about the million dollars that was requested. Atty. Anastasi said that now the City was working closely with the Board of Education to reduce costs. The department is looking to insure that there is adequate labor counsel so that as much of that work can be brought in house as possible. Most of the Board's issues are labor orientated. Atty. Anastasi said that he wanted to be on the safe side in terms of budget, but didn't expect to get it. He added that there are a few cases that are coming down the pike that will require expertise and the expenses associated with the litigation, such as the Wheelabrator case. Council Member Brannelly asked if the Board of Education has their own legal counsel. Mr. Sherwood said that they do. He added that the dialog was ongoing with the Board of Education.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia asked about the courthouse parking garage and the ice skating rink and whether cases were settled. 98% of the settlement work for Wonderland is done, and Baldwin Park is in process. The State and the judges had to approve the proposed repairs before the RFPs could go out.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia thanked Atty. Lasky for joining the staff and running the department like a business. She said that the Council has been asking for accountability and someone to stop the hemorrhage of money.

Council Member Baker asked for a break down on Outside Legal Services and other services. He then asked about the new system and whether it would be able to generate a break down of what is being spent on each case. Atty. Anastasi said that there were regular reports that were generated that relate to outside legal counsel. Between Mr. Sherwood's office and the department, there should be a greater ability to provide the information to the Council Members as needed. Council Member Baker asked about if the staffing would be increased solely for the Board of Education and how this would be broken out in the budget. Atty. Anastasi said that the City already provides a significant amount of service to the BOE regarding personal injury, assaults and other issues. The BOE currently spends hundreds of thousands of dollars a year on labor issues. By having someone in house, there can be a partnership approach and hopefully a return on investment. The BOE is also trying to cut costs by working with Labor Relations.

Council Member dePara said that there had been a discussion about having regular updates on the status of the budget throughout the year. He then said that it might be

good to have an update on the major litigation cases and the outside cases in progress included.

Council Member dePara asked if the ABACUS software was proprietary. Atty. Lasky said that it was about a few thousand dollars a year.

Council Member Walsh said that the public perceives that the City is throwing money away on outside counsel. He added that in the past, Atty. Anastasi had said that he did not know where the flow of money was coming from or going to. Mr. Sherwood said that the new MUNIS system has better tracking and the legal services can be isolated for tracking. Council Member Walsh said that when cases come to Miscellaneous Matters, the settlement funds are not clearly identified. Mr. Sherwood said that the funds should come from Personal Settlements, unless it is Board of Education. Mr. Sherwood said that now the budget has a structured settlement plan. Council Member Walsh asked about a rumor that an employee was terminated with a six month severance package. Atty. Anastasi said that there was an employee that was resigning. Council Member Walsh asked if there is a policy regarding severance package reviewed by the Council. Atty. Anastasi said that most of the severance packages were not reviewed by the Council.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia said that she was glad to know that the Budget chairs will be having regular budget updates. She added that she hoped that the ABACUS system would have tracking for severance issues. Atty. Anastasi said that by working on the policies, it has become evident that purchasing and FOI requests do not have to be handled by the Legal Department. By designing good policies, the staff should be able to respond to the requests without legal involvement unless needed. He added that having the paralegals would be helpful with the Board of Education issues.

Council Member Martinez asked if there had been discussions about preventing some of the problems like potholes and other issues. Atty. Anastasi said that the new software should allow the department to identify and monitor the types of cases, such as fire trucks or snow plows hitting a parked car. It will allow the department to manage the services and also look at other departments that have issues, such as a particular police officer or DPW worker that repeatedly has cases.

Council Member Brannelly asked for a line by line review of the Settlements budget. Mr. Sherwood and Atty. Anastasi then did so. In the event that a judgment is handed down where the settlement exceeds the amount in City Attorney's budget, Mr. Sherwood said that he would then look to the individual department, such as the Police or Fire, for the funding and transfer it into the City Attorney's account. That way, it keeps all the payments within the City Attorney's. Council Member Baker asked whether it would be wise to have individual line items in the various departments. Mr. Sherwood said that this had been considered, but if there was a serious case where there was a budget of 1 million and the judgment or settlement came in at 1.5 million. Atty. Anastasi explained

that since there was no way to predict what or where the cases would happen, that would end up with fifteen or twenty line items that would have to be reconciled. Council Member Baker asked about if an employee repeatedly had motor vehicle accidents, it would put pressure on the department head to manage it more effectively. Atty. Anastasi said that with the new software, it is easier to analysis the data to determine where the problem areas are.

### **RECESS**

Council Member dePara declared a recess at 7:45 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 8:00 p.m.

*Council Member Taylor-Moye left the meeting at 8:00 p.m.*

City Attorney said that he wanted to say that it would be good to see the Council members more than once a year regarding budget issues. He then asked if there was anyone who had any further questions. Council Member Silva said that he had some questions regarding an upcoming case.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER SILVA MOVED TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS PENDING LITIGATION.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA SECONDED.**

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The Committee, Council Member Baker, Council Member Walsh, Mr. Feeney, Mr. Sherwood, Attorney Anastasi and Attorney Lasky entered into Executive Session to discuss pending litigation at 8:02 p.m.

*Council Member Baker left the meeting at 8:30 p.m.*

The Committee and Council Members reconvened into public session at 8:40 p.m.

There was a brief discussion about the Board of Education cases that the City Attorney's Office monitors and gives inputs on various cases.

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY MOVED TO ENTER THE COPIES OF THE 5 YEAR CAPITAL PLAN, BRIDGEPORT PUBLIC SCHOOLS PROPOSED CAPITAL BUDGET 2010-2011 INTO THE RECORD.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ SECONDED.**

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Mr. Ben Barnes, the Director of the Buildings and Operational Planning for the Bridgeport Board of Education came forward. He said that what he passed out was something that was voted on February 8, 2010.

Mr. Barnes said that when the Mayor's budget had originally been released, it did not include Harding High School in any of the projects, but the Mayor had decided to add Harding to the Capital projects because of the condition of the building. Mr. Barnes said that it is known that high school enrollment is declining. Council Member dePara asked about the fact he had been told that the high schools were overcrowded. Mr. Barnes said that this was so, particularly at Harding, but that with the new magnet school being built, there would be 1,000 seats for Bridgeport students. This would decrease the number of students at the other three high schools.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia asked if this was the building that would be in Trumbull and pointed out that Trumbull was opposed to the project. Mr. Barnes said that he was assuming that the building would be approved and built. Council Member Martinez said that she was told there would only be 400 seats for Bridgeport students. Mr. Barnes explained that there would only be one grade introduced at the new school per year.

Regarding Harding, with the new school coming on line, Harding does not need to be enlarged, so that it can be replaced on the site. This would reduce the cost tremendously and Harding could then be funded by local bonding. He then reviewed the timeline, which could result in occupancy in 2015 by the Bridgeport students. Council Member Martinez said that she had concerns about remediation and having the students in the facility. Mr. Barnes said that it was too early to discuss how this project would be done.

Council Member Walsh said that he figured that the Central and Harding would be 16 million on the Mayor's budget but there was a different number on the Board of Education document. Mr. Barnes then reviewed the figures with Council Member Walsh. Council Member Walsh asked about the difference in the figures between the Black Rock School addition and renovation as compared to the replacement of Harding High School, particularly since Black Rock's work was higher. Council Member Brannelly said that one issue at Black Rock was the fact that it would also include property acquirement and upgrading the old building, such as adding elevators. Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia said that at Harding, the City already owns the property. Council Member Silva said that Harding was the Health Magnet School, and asked if the Board had spoken to Bridgeport Hospital, which is now part of Yale about cooperative efforts. Mr. Barnes said that there have been some preliminary discussions, but that Bridgeport Hospital was already very tight on its site, also. He said that everyone is working on something that would benefit both the hospital and the high school.

Council Member dePara said that in the last few weeks, the Council Members have heard a great deal about the conditions at Harding. He then asked what the Public Facility

department was doing to improve the conditions at Harding. Mr. Barnes said that there were some projects underway right now, such as removing lockers that were destroyed, and a few other items since the school was on school break. Council Member dePara said that he heard several speakers on this, and would like to know what could be done for easy fixes. Mr. Barnes said that one issue was that without the Board and Administration taking any additional action, the Board would end up with an \$800,000 deficit. Currently, the administration is working on scrubbing the unused funds in the various accounts. Council Member dePara said that there were several items, such as the bathrooms and the water fountains, that were mentioned and he would like to know if these were being addressed. Mr. Barnes said that there was no questions about the issues at Harding, and he mentioned that one bathroom had been repainted and within about 60 days, the walls were covered with graffiti. He said that while everyone realizes that dealing with things like graffiti quickly was important, and the custodians were working to make it a clean place. Council Member Martinez said that the parents and the community were not going to let go of this issue quickly and the parents were becoming frustrated. Mr. Barnes said that he hoped that the Council would support the BOE in trying to get a new building for Harding and deal with the aging building in the meantime.

Council Member dePara said that there had been some changes in the budget meeting schedule and that a new budget meeting schedule would be presented soon. Council Member Silva said that with the Mayor adding the replacement of Harding, he would like to know what that would do to the debt service. Mr. Sherwood said that this still has to go to the State and receive approval. Once that happens, new projections can be done.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia said that she appreciated the information Mr. Barnes presented and it helps the Council Members explain these issues to the residents and parents.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA MOVED TO ADJOURN.  
\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ SECONDED.  
\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon L. Soltes  
Telesco Secretarial Services

City of Bridgeport  
Budget and Appropriate Committee  
Regular Meeting  
April 12, 2010  
Page 8

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT  
BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS  
REGULAR MEETING  
APRIL 14, 2010**

**ATTENDANCE:** Bob Curwen, Chair; Angel dePara, Co-chair; Carlos Silva, Lydia Martinez, AmyMarie Vizzo-Paniccia (6:15 p.m.); Susan Brannelly (6:45 p.m.)

**STAFF:** Thomas Sherwood, OPM; Michael Feeney, Finance Director;

**OTHERS:** Council Member Andre Baker, Dawn Norton, Comptroller; Adam Heller, ITS Director, Ann Kelly-Lenz, Tax Collector Elaine Covello, Tax Assessor; Bernd Tardy, Purchasing; Andy Nunn; CAO; Council Member Martin McCarthy; Council President Thomas McCarthy

**CALL TO ORDER**

Council Member Curwen called the meeting to order at 6:06 p.m. Council Member Curwen then introduced the other members of the Committee.

**FINANCE**

Mr. Sherwood directed everyone's attention to the appropriate pages in the budget book on pages 22 and 23. He then gave a quick overview and said that the only major change was \$2,000. Mr. Feeney said that there was a \$260,000 charge for the group that does all the auditing reports. He said that this was less than McGladry and Pullan. He said that he was pleased with the auditors. Mr. Feeney then reviewed the number of staff members and said that his department processes all the purchase orders for both the City and the Board of Education. Previously, the BOE used to fund two staff member, but they do not at this time. There is dialog underway with the BOE at this time. Mr. Sherwood said that while many of the tasks are now automated, there will always be a need to have a third party verify the purchase request for control purposes.

*Council President McCarthy and Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia joined the meeting at 6:15 p.m.*

The discussion then moved to the process of cutting a check and the internal controls. Council Member Curwen said that he was aware that there was a major move towards consolidation of services between the City and the Board of Education, but would like to know if it would be feasible to have more BOE staff working with the City. Mr. Sherwood said that he understood the Gibson report, but that it was important to realize

that there were changes underway in the District in their Human Resources and Payroll departments. Mr. Feeney said that he has fourteen people in the department, two of whom are focused on Board of Education work.

Council Member Baker asked about the computer program that works on payroll and asked for clarification on W-4s being processed. Mr. Sherwood said that the City is very close to having one system for both the City and the School Board. The Human Resources department deals with the changes for employees and the Payroll department just focuses on the payrolls. This is also true for the Accounts Payable processes. Mr. Sherwood said that the hope was that this would streamline the system and as the Gibson study recommendation are utilized, then staff can be re-assigned.

On page 26, there are no major changes, other than the associated costs for MERF and other programs like this. Council Member Curwen asked about the \$10,000 difference from last year to this year. Mr. Sherwood explained that this reflects the premium value for the staff changes.

Council Member Curwen asked Mr. Feeney about the department's goals. Mr. Feeney said that the department was working on paying vendors by EFT and also working on automatic direct deposit. The entire City is moving towards this and eventually, the paycheck stubs will be generated electronically. Mr. Sherwood said that next month, they will be starting "Employee Self Service" when the employee submits a valid email, which will allow the employee to view their statements, and make address changes.

Council Member dePara asked how much the City would save with the move to e-government in terms of cost of sorting, paper and ink. Mr. Sherwood said that he felt that the City would save on the high speed printers and other materials. Previously, the City was paying \$80.00/thousand for checks and right now every employee receives a pay stub on paper. Mr. Feeney said that the Board of Education is a major problem because approximately 50% of the teachers do not have direct payment. Mr. Sherwood said that he felt that they would come around, either via a union requirement and/or charging for the issuance of a check.

Council Member Baker asked about the figures on page 23. Mr. Sherwood reviewed the increases with the Committee. Council Member Baker asked why the amount of mailing costs decreased. Mr. Sherwood said that both in his department and Mr. Feeney's department, most of the documents are transferred electronically. Council Member Baker then asked about the travel expenses. Mr. Sherwood reviewed the items covered in this category.

Council Member Silva asked about the national health care program. Mr. Sherwood said that it was too early to tell how it would work out. Mr. Sherwood said that like when the

cities joined together for the prescription medication program, with all the allocation for prescription drugs being pooled together, the group had larger leverage.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia asked what kind of security was in place in terms of the banking information. Mr. Sherwood said that it up to the company to provide security. The direct deposit is already in place and the routing numbers have already been used with no problem.

Council Member Baker asked about the bond rating. Mr. Feeney said that the City now had an A- and the other one is a B. He added that Moody's was recalibrating their ratings for municipalities. It is expected that Moody's will be kinder towards the municipalities and stricter on private businesses. Mr. Sherwood pointed out that the State is driving the borrowing because the other sources have been blocked out.

Council Member Curwen asked about the pension plan funding. Mr. Sherwood indicated where this was. Currently, the City is contributing about 11 million dollars for police and fire. Mr. Feeney said that this is reflected in the actuary reports and the bonding agencies are aware of this.

Council Member dePara asked about the bond interest rate being at 4.5%. Mr. Feeney said that City had issued four different bonds with federal subsidies. Going forward, it will depend on whether there will be additional funds. He then reviewed the details of this and the impact of this in the future years.

*Council Member Martin McCarthy and Council Member Brannelly joined the meeting at 6:45 p.m.*

Council Member Baker asked about the resolution before the Council regarding tax resolution.

Council Member Curwen asked about the Print Shop. Mr. Feeney said that Mr. Palumbo was not able to be present at the meeting. Council Member Curwen asked about the amount of mailing. Mr. Sherwood said that with all the smaller departments, it is possible to use email. However, the cost of postage is increasing, so the decrease in actual postage is offset by the increase in postage. Currently, the decrease is actually acting as cost containment, but eventually, the costs will increase. Mr. Sherwood then reviewed the details of how some of the documents are being transmitted electronically. He pointed out that the departments don't need as many printers, copier and other machines because of networking. Mr. Sherwood said that it was not possible to change over immediately but as the contracts expire, the machines will be replaced with newer machines that perform many different functions.

Purchasing. Mr. Sherwood reviewed the details and explained that there was a Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia said that there were still departments that send items out via the mail. Mr. Sherwood explained that the City Clerks office needs to have some items postmarked by a certain time, so they will often go directly to the Post Office, but more and more of the mail is processed through the print shop.

Council Member Baker asked about tax bills. Currently, Mr. Sherwood said that it is subcontracted to a third party. Mr. Palumbo would like to bring it back in house. In the past two years, the bills have gone out on time. The first year, a tray of bills was lost and the company was responsible. Mr. Sherwood said that there was a very large liability in handling the bills. Council Member Baker asked if the residents could look up their bill online. Mr. Sherwood said that the residents can look up their bill and actually pay it on line.

Council Member Curwen asked what the Fund balance was. Mr. Feeney said that it was 10.7 million and previously had been 10.6 million. Council Member Baker asked what the Fund Balance goal was. Mr. Feeney said that the goal was 8% of the budget, which would translate to about 28 million. This means that 2.9 million should be contributed this year for the fund budget.

Council Member Curwen asked about page 32 and where the giveback and furloughs were indicated. Mr. Sherwood explained that it was reflected in last year's fiscal budget. Council Member Silva asked about the 3% increase. Mr. Sherwood said that the unions took two years of 0% increases and now the Police and Fire will be having a 3% raise.

**Purchasing** - Mr. Sherwood directed everyone's attention to page 38, which covers duplication of a few titles, which resulted in a \$20,000 overage. This has been corrected.

Council Member Curwen asked if there were any problems with computerized processes. Mr. Tardy explained that his department now was processing more P.Os because previously, departments that were able to process P.Os that were under \$1,000 just did them, but now all the P.Os come to Purchasing. Once the system settles, then modifications can be made.

Another issue is possibly issuing a controlled credit card called a P-card. These can be restricted in a variety of ways. This might be easier than processing a purchase order. Mr. Sherwood said that these were good for the trade workers who have to use pipe fittings rather than waiting for a P.O. for a half day.

Council Member Baker has several questions to do with Employee Costs, which Mr. Sherwood reviewed with him. He explained that items such as Uniform Allowance or Longevity were now broken down into the department that accrues it. This is part of the effort to have everything that is in a department in one cost center.

**Tax Collector** – Mr. Sherwood directed everyone to page 44 and explained that there was a decline in revenue on the Lafayette Building now that the Bank had moved out of the building. The last line of the Housing Authority budget shows the rental PILOT agreement. The Housing Authority issue is being legally researched at this time and there are restrictions on it. Mr. Sherwood said that it would be important to check to make sure the city is receiving its fair share in terms of Shelter Rent.

Council President McCarthy asked about the Library tax. A referendum was held to approve a 1 mill increase to maintain the public libraries. Mr. Sherwood said that there needed to be some research done as to how this affects the PILOT agreements.

Council President McCarthy asked about 3030 Park. Ms. Kelly-Lenz said that their PILOT just went into effect July 1, 2009. She said that she would check the agreement and get back to the Commissioners.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia asked about the lofts at 325 Lafayette and the PILOTS. Ms. Kelly-Lenz said that their PILOT was for eight years and it would start in 2012.

Council Member dePara asked about the Wheelabrator case. Mr. Feeney said that the case had just started and they had submitted an appeal.

Council Member Curwen said that he had heard comments from the public that while the lines might be long outside the Tax Collector's Office, but it moves quickly. Ms. Kelly-Lenz said that once the office had the tax software was purchased and installed, it made a very big difference in the Customer Service.

Council Member dePara asked what the City could do about vehicles that were in the City that had out of state plates. One of the problems is if the vehicle is parked in the driveway of a rental, the property owner is not the owner of the vehicles. There is nothing that the City could do. In Massachusetts, a person can register a car just by using a post office box. Council Member dePara asked if there was any way to create some legislation or ordinances. Ms. Kelly-Lenz said that in the Conference of Tax Collectors, the Maine and Massachusetts have been requested to attend and the other states are working with them. It was pointed out that in New Haven, the City went after the out of state vehicles and it was called profiling. Discussion followed about how to determine residency.

Council Member Baker asked how the Saturday tax collection went. Ms. Kelly-Lenz said that the first time, not enough people knew about it. However, the next time, there was a steady stream of people coming in. Also the staff was able to process the mail when there was a down time. There is a police officer present at all times, but sometimes

there are glitches during shift times. Ms. Kelly-Lenz said that people could also pay at People's Bank.

Council Member Baker asked about the Commodities budget line. Ms. Kelly-Lenz said that it was for key locksmiths and the fobs for the door security. The banking services is the lock box with the banks. Council Member Baker asked about the financial services. Ms. Kelly-Lenz reviewed the various companies, such as the company that handles delinquent car taxes and the DMV fees.

Council Member dePara asked what could help her better run the department. Ms. Kelly-Lenz said that she would like to have the job classifications changed so that if someone is out for lunch, someone else can fill in. Currently the job descriptions are so individual that this is not possible.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia asked about the drop box location. Ms. Kelly-Lenz said that she had been looking for a better location and when there is a line, staff will go up and down the line telling residents to go in the EXIT door to get access to the drop box.

Council Member Martinez asked about the payments dropped into the drop box not being stamped on the same day. Ms. Kelly-Lenz explained that at the end of the day, after everyone had left the office, either she or her assistant opens the drop box and stamps all the payments for that day.

**Tax Assessor** - Mr. Sherwood directed everyone's attention to page 50, on the Tax Assessor. He explained that the figures from the Pequot casino had been cut. Council President McCarthy said that there had just been a mitigation plan agreed on earlier in the day.

Council Member dePara mentioned that the City was losing 1.1 million to hospitals and State owned property. Mr. Sherwood that the State was reducing the amount it was giving back to the City.

Council Member Baker asked about the system for communicating with the public. Ms. Covello explained that the mortgage and tax payment records are Ms. Kelly-Lenz's department, but many people confuse this issue. Ms. Covello said that she can tell people what the taxes on the value of the property, but would not be able to tell them if any payment was ever made.

Council Member Curwen asked growth in the Grand List. Ms. Covello said that there had been a slight increase because it was a non-reval year. Council Member dePara asked where this growth was. Ms. Covello said that part of it was new construction. She said that she is going to court twice a week with appeals. She said that currently there are six clerks, four appraisers and two of them are always at the counter. The others are busy

with writing and filing federal reports. Before, there were 21 people in the office. Council Member Martinez asked if the clerks were bilingual. Ms. Covello said that the one person who was bilingual was promoted to an appraiser. Council Member Martinez said that there had been complaints about this. Ms.

**Treasury** - Page 56 – Mr. Sherwood said that there were only two people in the Treasury. The department is down \$27,000 and there were no other changes.

**OPM** – Mr. Sherwood said that there were no changes for the department other than the contractual increases. Council Member Curwen asked what the other Personal Services. Mr. Sherwood said that it was the longevity.

Council Member Curwen asked what the department goals were. Mr. Sherwood said that the budget book had been changed and this had resulted in two awards. He said that the department has worked on MUNIS for the last year and the new system was working well. Mr. Sherwood said that Parks and Recreation was tracking items such as what it really costs to maintain esplanades and other items such as street sweeping. The department started with 12 employees and now is down to 5.5. Currently, the project is focused on managing the grants and tracking the deadlines and management of the money on the grants.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia asked if the money was being tracked in terms of whether the funds were being used appropriately and whether or not the funds were returned to the State. Mr. Sherwood said that last year, the City had covered some of the grants because the State budget was approved late. Mr. Sherwood said that this year, he was not comfortable covering the grant employees. He gave the example of the WIC program, which has 27 employees. If the grant funding does not come on time, then the program will go dark. This raises the issue of administrative restart and also whether or not the City pays the unemployment for these employees.

Council Member Martinez said that many of the poor people have jobs through these grants. She asked if there was any way to set aside funding for these programs. Mr. Sherwood said that it was controlled by the State.

**CAO** – pg 112-117. Mr. Sherwood said that the CAO's department also included the cost for the minutes and other work for the Ethics Commission. There are changes in Mr. Nunn's accounts. There isn't that much Operational line. The biggest expense is the memberships in CCM in LMC. The Special Projects area is the City Stat program.

Council Member Baker asked about City Stat funding. Mr. Nunn explained that last year, it had been set apart, but the Council had put the budget back into the CAO department.

Council Member Baker asked about how the City Stat system was working. Mr. Nunn said that the Cue Alert has been very helpful. Mr. Nunn said that it helps in terms of tracking issues, like potholes. It is helpful to spot trends and also identify which employees are really on top of things. He added that various department heads were in meetings to discuss issues, like the reclassification of the jobs in the Tax Collector's office. Other items like recycling have been tracked, problems identified and solutions proposed. Since then, the garbage tipping fees have dropped because the recycling is taking hold.

Council Member Baker asked what changes were made with the personnel. Mr. Sherwood said that it had not changed. Council Member Baker said that last year, it was lower. Mr. Sherwood explained that when the Council put City Stat in the CAO's budget, it shifted four positions into his department.

Council Member Baker asked about take home vehicles. Mayor Finch has committed to reducing the take home vehicles to the Mayor, Police Chief and Fire Chief. However, there are other issues, such as K9 units, where the dog has his boundaries in that vehicle. There are also vehicles such as the on call fire marshal or the on call deputy fire chief, where it is not really a "take home vehicle", but a working vehicle.

Council Member Brannelly asked how she could learn more about City Stat system. Mr. Nunn said that it can already be done online. Council President McCarthy said that there were two Cue Alert training sessions that were scheduled and cancelled because he was the only one who replied. Mr. Nunn said that he would be happy to have a group come in for training on the system. All requests through Tom White is funneled through Cue Alert.

Council Member Silva said that he would like to see some of the reports that could be generated, particularly with the departments like Public Works. Mr. Nunn said that it would be able to review what has been done. Mr. Sherwood said that Ms. Kelly-Lenz has a seasonal worker who spends all day copying the voice mails into City Stat so that there would be a record of them. Council President McCarthy said that he would be asking Jody to call each Council Member to schedule training on City Stat.

**ITS** – pg 120 – Mr. Sherwood said that there were no personnel changes, but there was a budget decrease due to computer services. Mr. Sherwood said that MUNIS was a very large undertaking. Council Member Curwen asked about the affiliated position and job change. This is a union job. Council Member dePara asked what a data architect does. Mr. Heller said that the architect was responsible for designing a system including back up, retrievable, usable and available. There are certifications from Microsoft and continuing education credits associated with the position. The employee is responsible for all the data in the City. Council President McCarthy pointed out that the Federal

Government had told the City what the salary would be and in the overall scheme, it is a very low salary. Mr. Heller said that his department was coming out of the Dark Ages.

Mr. Sherwood said that he would like Mr. Heller to review what his department does. Council Member Baker asked about decrease in one line item. In 09, the hardware costs and the software costs were combined and this year, the two items were in separate lines.

Council Member Baker asked about the new website and whether the Board of Education was linked. Mr. Heller said that they were linked. Council Member Baker had several detailed questions about the system, the website and other issues.

Council Member dePara asked Mr. Heller to give a quick overview of the department. Mr. Heller said that every goal is to save money. He said that the City upgraded to Exchange 2007, which is the email program. With the MUNIS, there is a program called Blades in the Sand, the storage is being shifted to available storage rather than stressing one storage mainframe. The City is working on switching to Voice Over IP, the lower the phone costs. When people changed offices before, the phone company had to come in and rewire the system. Now, with Voice over IP, it is just a matter of unplugging a phone and plugging it in at the new office. Old monitors are being replaced with flat panel monitors, which use less energy.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia thanked Mr. Heller for the help the staff with a storage box. She then asked about the reception for the BlackBerries in the Annex. Mr. Heller said that Verizon was working on it and that the 700-800 mzh band formerly used by TV was now being deregulated.

**Revenues** – pg 367 – Mr. Sherwood then directed everyone to the School debt service and explained that it was a diminishing lines. Debt is decreasing due to the actions taken by Mr. Feeney. There will be a three million dollars saving by extending the debt service schedule. States such as Maine, Connecticut, Virginia and other municipalities are doing this. Mr. Sherwood said that the time is prime and in two years, the situation could change. This would drop the debt service from 72 million to about 70, but that the City would be paying more in the long term. Mr. Sherwood said that there was an increase of 5 million in the pensions. This is why the current union negotiations are so important. By having new employees have different benefits, like a 401k. Mr. Feeney said that even the State of Connecticut is having difficult time also. Discussion about how the MERF funds could be increased followed.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia asked about the new employees' pensions. Mr. Feeney said that the City was looking into various strategies, such as 401K or MERF funding. Mr. Sherwood said that if the City could keep the health care down to under 5% growth, next year the employees contributions would go up to 18%, 20% the year after and finally

25%. Mr. Feeney said that the focus was closing the very large gap between what the City pays and the employees pay.

Council Member Curwen had a question about Other Financing uses on page 371. Mr. Sherwood said that this was the contingency line and the 4 million was for the cuts. He explained that it couldn't be assigned to a department because no one knows where the funds will be coming from. If the budget is not cut, then there will be a deficit budget, which will result in layoffs. Mr. Sherwood reviewed the timeline of the various events and the actions that would result.

Council Member Curwen asked about the Libraries on page 376. Mr. Sherwood then said that when the mill rate is known, the budget for the library would be determine. It will not be part of the General Fund because it is dependant on the mill rate. The Library is structured like the Board of Education. Other than the bills for the Klein utilities, all the other costs are from the tax. Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia had several questions about the liability of various library buildings, which Mr. Sherwood answered. Council Member Curwen asked about debt service. Mr. Sherwood said that they were already transferred over. Any new debt would be structured so that the Library would pay the City back with interest.

Council Member Martinez asked if the City had more funds available, whether it could give the Library the funds rather than add an mill to the taxes. Mr. Sherwood said that the City no longer has any control over the funding. If the economy changes, the City could conceivably reduce the taxes by 1 mill but that would be balanced out by the library tax.

Council Member dePara asked about the funding on page 373 for the Klein and for the Barnum Museum. Mr. Sherwood then reviewed the details for this.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY SECONDED.**

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon L. Soltes  
Telesco Secretarial Services

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT  
BUDGET & APPROPRIATIONS  
REGULAR MEETING  
APRIL 15, 2010**

**ATTENDANCE:** Angel dePara, Chair; Howard Austin, Carlos Silva,  
Lydia Martinez, AmyMarie Vizzo-Paniccia

**STAFF:** Michael Feeney, Finance Director

**OTHERS:** Don Eversley, OPED Director; Ed Lavernoich, OPED Deputy  
Director; William Minor, Land Use/Construction Review Director;  
Michael Nidoh, Planning; Council Member Andre Baker (7:00  
p.m.)

**CALL TO ORDER**

Council Member dePara called the meeting to order at 6:22 p.m. He introduced the members of the Committee to those present.

**OPED – ALL DIVISIONS**

Mr. Feeney directed everyone's attention to page 257. Revenues stayed the same, except for the J.P. Morgan Chase rent income. The Mayor will be reducing the administrative staff from two staff members to 1.5 staff. Mr. Eversley explained that one position was a job shift for Mr. Coleman.

Mr. Eversley said that there have been some savings by achieving more efficiency. The new analysis position was hired to generate revenue and that position has been cut. One technical architectural positions will be particular useful with the larger construction projects coming up on the calendar. The new staff member is bilingual and brings a great deal to the department. Mr. Eversley said that the budget has remained flat, but that his department is holding its own. Steel Point and the Seaview project are moving ahead.

Mr. Eversley then referred to a handout and explained that this is what the department is using to market the City. It is important not only to attract new businesses, but also assist the existing businesses. Over the last few years, the City has attracted a number of businesses that employ over 100 people each.

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA MOVED TO ENTER THE  
DOCUMENT TITLED CITY OF BRIDGEPORT CORPORATE LOCATION  
OPPORTUNITY DATED APRIL 15, 2010 AS THE OPED EXHIBIT #1.  
\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER SILVA SECONDED.**

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Mr. Eversley said that the City has been able to market some attractive parcels and the next parcel scheduled for bids is the Black Rock Bank and Trust building.

In the anti-blight and urban restoration division, there have been a number of demolitions, including a demolition earlier in the week. Between OPED and Facilities, there is a project to have it as an active parking resource to generate revenue for the City. This will allow for more on street parking. City employees will be encouraged to park in the lot to allow short term shoppers to utilize the street parking. Later this property will be marketed as a parcel.

There will be an aggressive demolition program planned for the summer. Some of the perennial eyesores will be removed. Mr. Feeney said that there was a request for 6 million in the Capital plan for demolitions.

The Neighborhood Revitalization Program is moving forward and is under the NSP (Neighborhood Stabilization Program). There is some acquisitions, rehabilitation and demolition ongoing, but there are two levels of government over the municipality, which slows things down. This program is for matching qualified buyers with foreclosed homes from the bank. Then the City works with the new home owner regarding rehabilitation in order to stop the number of vacant homes from dragging neighborhoods down.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia asked about the part time employee who was paid out of the City Stat program. Mr. Lavernoch explained that the position was just moved from one department to another.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia asked about the various parcels that were City owned and demolished. Mr. Eversley said that the City had owned certain parcels for many years. These have become eyesores, but until the right public or private project comes along, it is better to have an open parcel of land than a parcel with a run down structure on it. In the case of the parcel where the recent demolition was done will be an active parking lot and generate some revenue until a developer comes forward with a viable project.

Regarding other private properties, Mr. Eversley then reviewed the process for condemnation and demolition with the Committee members. When this process is completed, a demolition lien is on the property and the City will be paid back when a new owner takes possession. All demolitions that are on City owned parcels do not have a lien on them.

Once a parcel becomes active, it becomes more attractive to potential developers, even if it is a parking lot.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia asked about the small pocket parks that had been cleaned up. She asked if they have marketed any of these properties. Council Member dePara said that the upcoming ECDCE meeting would have a number of these parcels on the agenda. Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia asked about the larger parcels that were “parks”. Mr. Eversley said that not everything that looks like a park is actually a park. Once the City cleans up a parcel, people see the open space and think that it is a park. Designated park areas are actually under Mr. Carroll’s jurisdiction for Parks and Recreation. However the stand alone parcels can be put out for auction. Some times when there are oddly configured slivers all over the City, the abutters are not interested in purchasing them because they are currently using them but not paying taxes on them.

Council Member Martinez said that she was thinking about Friendship Park and mentioned that the school children use that open parcel. Council Member dePara pointed out that there are safe guards in the process and the parcels are not just sold out from under the children.

Council Member Martinez asked about the USP and the restoration funding of 5 million dollars. Mr. Eversley said that this was created about a year or so ago. These are houses that are foreclosed and the properties are rehabilitated. Then the houses are matched with appropriate buyers. The banks and the city work together on this. Six months ago, the program started and is now gaining traction. Council Member Martinez asked how the community would know about these houses. Mr. Eversley reviewed the process and said that the first set of houses were about ready to be placed with realtors. Nearly 100 homeowners have been identified and attended a Federally approved home ownership program. Council Member dePara said that this was part of a TARP grant and gave a brief overview of the program. He added that the focus was on the most vulnerable areas where there were the most homes at risk of foreclosure.

Council Member Martinez asked Mr. Coble if she could be notified before a demolition takes place so that the Council Members would be aware of what is going on and can tell the neighbors.

Council Member Martinez then expressed concerns about whether or not some of the NRZs are fading away. Discussion about the issues involve with the NRZs then followed. Mr. Eversley pointed out that the NRZ model was great, but there is no funding to actually implement the various projects. Mr. Eversley said that with a parcel like the Black Rock Bank and Trust, when the RFPs went out, the requests from the NRZ was included in the write up.

Council Member dePara asked about some of the various line items on page 263, which Mr. Lavernoich and Mr. Feeney reviewed with them. Mr. Feeney reminded everyone that now all the departments now have a debt service line item. Council Member dePara

asked about the Advertising line item. Mr. Lavernoich said that much of that was public notices for Planning and Zoning, Inland Wetlands, property sales and other similar newspaper notices.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia asked about the Advertising line item. Mr. Feeney reviewed this with her. The salaries are reflected on page 258. Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia asked what the total cost for Advertising. The LUCR, The Land Use Construction Review ads in the paper costs a chunk of change.

Council Member Silva asked about a theater that had been vacant for a period. Mr. Eversley said that this was a perennial problem and that there has been a steady stream of calls from developers to walk through the theater. A call came in recently from a group that actually renovates theaters of this type, but without a major influx of funding from a City or State, or private corporation, it will be difficult to market.

Council Member Silva asked about Pleasure Beach. Mr. Eversley said that his department has not been asked to become involved in Pleasure Beach.

Council Member Baker asked about the revenue for 1057 Connecticut Avenue. Mr. Lavernoich said that this was part of the former American Fabrics factory sale and the amount of money was held in escrow until the sale closed.

On page 258, Council Member Baker asked about the 10 million projected for 2011. Mr. Feeney said that this was the debt service. This figure is contractual. Council Member dePara asked about the break out for that number. Mr. Feeney said that he would have the break out of that number.

**Planning** - Mr. Nidoh came forward and said he would be brief. This budget starts on page 256. Mr. Nidoh said that last year, the goals were to adopt a New Master Plan, a Storm Water Plan and finish up on the Norwalk electrical line.

He said that the department continues to assist the various departments but that the council decided last year to move the GIS staff member was moved over to the ITS department. Because of this, there has not been a new layer since the position was transferred by the Council to ITS.

Mr. Nidoh said that the Steel Point project is moving, but it requires a lot of work. There are other projects on the event horizon. He added that the number of projects appears to have increased since last year. The department also works with the City Attorney's Office in terms of mapping and aerial views. Mr. Nidoh then gave a quick overview of items that would be on the website, including the Master Plan. The map is in the process of being put up.

Council Member dePara asked if there was anything that the department needed. Mr. Nidoh said that he would love to have his GIS staff member back because the department provides the research for the various layers, such as police, fire and other utilities. Currently there is about 10 to 15 million dollars of data in the program. A lot of man hours have been devoted to this project and the time is inefficiently used because the other staff members are not trained.

**Zoning** – Mr. Eversley said that Mr. Buckley was not able to be present. Mr. Minor said that LUCR functions as the entry point for the Planning and Zoning application, Land Use and Inland Wetland reviews. He said that the department tries to give the developer an overview of the process so that the developer understands what is expected of him. ‘A major portion of time is devoted to training. The better the staff and the commissioners are trained, the better the service will be. He gave an example of the Stratfield Historical Commission, which was not able to meet due to lack of quorum. If an application is filed and is not reviewed in 65 days, it is automatically approved. Historic District #1 is down to three members and will be facing the same issues.

To make the office more user friendly, the documents are now available on the website. Part of the education is making sure the Commissions are up to speed on the law, so they are aware of what is going on currently. The department is in the process of amended the Inland Wetlands regulations, which is required by law.

Mr. Minor then reviewed the situation regarding permitting tracking program that the department would have been implementing. However, the department ran out of money for this and Mr. Minor has been working with Mr. Nunn on this. The department must inform the Municipal software of how the department functions. The company would “enhance” the software. During this process, information that was transmitted was lost by the company, and there were other problems with the validation process.

Council Member Baker asked about if this was a priority. Mr. Eversley said that this project had started before he joined the office. He said that this type of program would cost a significant amount of money, but has the potential for streamlining the work for the City. This could result in needing less man power or having the staff use their time more efficiently. On the West Coast, there are cities that have everything online and the applicant only has to go downtown for meetings. Mr. Eversley said that he hoped to see the department generating revenue and would like some of that revenue to go back to the department.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia asked about the lack of Commissioners and suggested that the vacancies be posted on the website page. Mr. Minor said that in the past, the City has run an ad in the Legal Notices. Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia said that there were other vacancies and that this needed to be addressed.

Council Member Austin asked about the vacancies on the Commissions. Mr. Minor said that currently, Historic District #1 has five vacancies.

Council Member Martinez asked how many people were in the department. Mr. Minor said that there were three people in his department. Mr. Minor said that he is in charge for the regulations, so he is the person in charge. Council Member Martinez asked about one-stop-shopping for permits and the cost associated with this. Council Member dePara gave a quick overview of how the system currently works and the amount of running around that an applicant has to do.

Council Member Baker asked Mr. Feeney who decides which program a department can purchase. Council Member Baker asked how he could break this out. Mr. Feeney said that in the entire administration OPED was the one department where the various departments were clumped together. Mr. Minor's department is three people and Mr. Nidoh had four or five people. Mr. Eversley said that to some extent, he makes the final decision on a number of items, but there are times when the Council makes decisions, like adding new positions.

*Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia left the meeting at 7:50 p.m.*

**Neighborhood Revitalization and Anti-Blight** – Page 277. Mr. Coble came forward and said that previously much of the funding came from CDBG, but now additional funding would help the NRZs complete the projects. There are three staff members, covering the anti-blight, demolition, and NRZs. Mr. Coble said that his office is very busy.

One of the items for the NRZs is signage. The funding has been in place for many of the neighborhoods, some of the money was awarded through CDBG. For the areas that were not under CDBG funding, the money will come from the Capital fund. Hopefully, the pilot projects will begin this summer. These will supplement and compliment the façade initiative. This directly relates to the business community. Each neighborhood has its own color, its own design and identity.

Implementation of the City surveillance system came out of the NRZs and now there are 13 vendors interested in the project. He said that he felt that these cameras could produce revenue. Another project is the “adopt a trash can” program. These should be in every part of the City. There are 10 cans in the West End, some in the Hollow, some in the East End and other spots. There has not been one complaint.

Access to the waterfront is important, Mr. Coble said. There have been difficult issues with some of the occupants of waterfront property in terms of oil leaks and unfriendliness. Mr. Coleman and Mr. Eversley have been working with the property

owners on these issues. Mr. Coble said that a pilot would be created to get residents to the waterfront in the near future.

Regarding anti-blight, there is more than anyone can shake a stick at. When one building comes down, there's another fire two blocks away. Every time one owner rehabilitates a building, someone else lets a building run down. This is the segue way into the Condemnation Board.

When asked what Mr. Coble needs to move these programs forward, Mr. Coble said that he could use a project manager. There are an enormous number of projects on the calendar. Mr. Coble said that he and Mr. Eversley had leaned on a particular owner about a building and started working on condemnation, which resulted in the property owner coming in to pay over \$30,000 in back taxes.

Mr. Coble then outlined some of the steps that are necessary to have his department more efficiently.

**The Building Department** – Page 284. Mr. Feeney said that the staffing remains the same and changed very little. Mr. Paajanen came forward and said that the primary focus is building permits and construction. The department also inspects for unsafe buildings. Because of the backlog of old permits, once work is completed, the inspections have to be done and the permittees neglect to do that. Since the department is a paper department, it does not have the staff to review to review all these. There are permits for electrical, heating and air conditions, and plumbing. Even with the level of foreclosure, the permit level has not dropped. Owners are purchasing foreclosed properties and find vandalism, or need to renovate or replace furnaces, plumbing or other things. The last school project is now under construction and there will not be any more additional revenue from that.

Council Member dePara asked about some of the line items on 287. Mr. Paajanen said that his department is about to go into the July raises and three staff members were about to have pay step increases. Council Member dePara asked about a line item on page 284. Mr. Paajanen said that the department was filling a position.

Council Member Silva asked if the permit costs were comparable to other municipalities. Mr. Paajanen said the Bridgeport fee schedule was comparable to Hartford and New Haven.

Council Member dePara asked what would help the department. Mr. Paajanen said that having the permit software Mr. Minor mentioned would help because currently everything is done on paper.

**Zoning Board of Appeals** - Page 290 – Mr. Minor said that the Board meets regularly and considers waiver applications for those residents who can not met the zoning

regulations.

Council Member dePara said that he wanted to commend Mr. Minor for taking the time to train the Board members for ZBA and P&Z because it makes for better dynamics in the neighborhoods.

Council Member Silva asked about revenues generated from the ZBA. Mr. Minor said that the application fees are the only thing that generate revenues. If an application requests a deferment, there is a charge. This is done to offset the administrative costs of the legal notice and other things. Mr. Minor said that the fee schedule was created by staff and approved by the Council. Council Member Silva said that he would like to see the fee become a deterrent, the developers would stop deferring from month to month. Mr. Minor said that the department would have to review it. The base fee is about \$250 dollars, and there is a technology fee of \$10. The State fee is \$60.00, which goes to the State. The deferment fee is about \$250.

Planning and Zoning – Mr. Minor said that this is the principal land use board. Mr. Nidoh talked about the Master Plan and the Zoning staff was heavily involved in the rewriting of the Master Plan. One of the item in the new regulations has changed things and there are more “as of right” situations, which results in fewer cases going to the Planning and Zoning Board. Now there is a staff member who reviews the applications and writes a summary. While the P&Z application may decrease, but ZBA should remain steady. There is one Zoning officer and two inspectors. Mr. Buckley has been trying to get a clerical to handle the ZBA because the workload is too much for one person. Zoning inspection involves in actually going into the field. The inspectors also respond to complaints and process it. If an inspector finds a violation, they will issue an order to comply, which could include going to court. Mr. Minor said that right now, the department is working at peak efficiency.

Council Member Silva asked how many complaints have been received. Mr. Minor said that the information was on page 295.

Council Member Silva said that he hears reports from constituents about two family homes turning into three family homes or basement apartments that are created. Council Member Silva said that he would like to see a Zoning Enforcement Officer drive around looking for problems. Mr. Minor said that he thought that this was something that the City should be doing, but that the City Attorney’s Office had advised against doing this because it would have been selective enforcement. Council Member Martinez pointed out that some people end up renting a room so they can pay their taxes.

Mr. Eversley said that he felt that there would be an increase in zoning enforcement because the new staff members are younger and very mobile.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER SILVA MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER AUSTIN SECONDED.**

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon L. Soltes  
Telesco Secretarial Services

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT  
BUDGET & APPROPRIATION  
REGULAR MEETING  
APRIL 16, 2010**

**ATTENDANCE:** Robert Curwen, Chair; Angel dePara, Co-chair;  
AmyMarie Vizzo-Paniccia, Carlos Silva, Susan Brannelly,

**STAFF:** Thomas Sherwood, OPM

**OTHERS:** Council Member Andre Baker, Council President Thomas Soltes  
McCarthy, Fire Chief Brian Rooney, Deputy Chief Robert  
Petricelli

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Curwen called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Mr. Sherwood said that there had been a question about what the PILOT payment for 3030 Park. He then gave a copy of the breakout to Council Member Curwen for inclusion in the record.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT**

Page 140 – Mr. Sherwood said that there had been an increase in revenue. With MUNIS, it is easier to track the staffing and attendance between the various houses. Mr. Sherwood said that the staffing is broken out by Engine Company. There are minimum manning requirements for the various engines and ladder trucks. The personnel numbers are on page 142. Mr. Sherwood then gave a quick overview of how MUNIS can help with tracking supplies, which allows the administration to make more accurate projections. Mr. Sherwood said that there were no assumptions regarding additional positions and that this would be considered after the union negotiations are concluded. Mr. Sherwood said that there was an additional \$950,000 in overtime for the department.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia asked whether or not the program takes into account vacant positions. Mr. Sherwood said that the numbers that are in MUNIS program are directly connected to current employees, so items like the uniform allowance are for active employees.

Council Member Curwen asked about the number of firefighters who could retire. Chief Rooney said that he thought it was about 24 or so. Mr. Sherwood then reviewed the retiree's benefits and reminded everyone that the retired firefighters benefits fluctuates because it is tied directly to the benefits of the current contract.

Chief Rooney then asked Mr. Sherwood about the EOC staff members and why Fire was still paying the EOC overtime. Mr. Sherwood explained that when the EOC was established, no one knew how much the overtime would be. Therefore, it was left in the Fire Department budget until everyone had an idea of how much money would be involved. Chief Rooney had several details questions about the transferring of funding over to the full EOC budget. Mr. Sherwood said that the Fire budget should have grown despite the transfer of the OT funding to the EOC budget. Mr. Sherwood then gave a brief overview of the transfer of the budget funding and the reasons behind the move. One key factor is turn over, but Mr. Sherwood said that he hoped that now that the staff was working only 8 hours shift.

Chief Rooney thanked everyone for their time. He said that from what he had seen, the Mayor's budget was fair. However, he said that he would like to see the overtime budget reduced. Chief Rooney said that the City would have to pay 27% towards benefits. If 15 firefighters were hired, it would cost about 1 million dollars, which would allow the City to cut \$600,000 in overtime. Council Member Curwen asked how long the training would take. Chief Rooney said that it would take about 14 weeks. Council Member Curwen asked if Chief Rooney had figures on this. Chief Rooney pointed out that when there were no extra people on staff, there would always be temporary vacancies since someone will always be out ill, someone else will be on vacation, someone else will have funeral leave, and there will be other reasons other firefighters will be out, which ends up driving the overtime.

Mr. Sherwood said that there were a number of issues that needed to be resolved and the union negotiations were underway. He then reviewed some of the options and details that were involved.

Council President McCarthy asked if the department was up to full staffing. Chief Rooney said that currently, the department was understaffed by about 3 men. He repeated that if 15 firefighters were hired, it would save the City over half a million.

Council Member Brannelly asked for clarification on the staffing issues. Discussion then followed about the vacancies and where they are. Deputy Chief Petricelli explained that the minimum staffing per truck is 4, but historically, the staffing is 5 or 6 men per truck, because they know they won't have a full complement. It is healthy for the department to have the full coverage. Mr. Sherwood said that he hoped that the final union contract would allow this.

Council President McCarthy then asked if there was a minimum manning vacancies with the actual dollar amounts report. Discussion followed about how this should be done.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia asked if there was an underlying issue regarding staffing since Council President McCarthy asked about the staffing twice. Council President McCarthy said that he was trying to determine if it was a minimum manning issue or if there were other issues involved. Mr. Sherwood said that with the unlimited sick time, it was hurting the staffing because with a defined sick leave of 10 days, followed by short term and long term disability, the Chief would have the ability hire a body to fill the staffing hole.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia asked if there was a Federal grant to hire firefighters like there was for the police officers. Chief Rooney explained that there were two issues, and one was that it takes about five to seven months to recruit, test and train, but the grant timeline is too tight. The second problem is that the Federal grants require volunteer firefighters, but that is against union contracts. Chief Rooney said that it was important to talk to the Congressional delegation about this. Mr. Sherwood said that the City had been asked to write down why they were not applying. Chief Rooney said that another quick issue was that some of the grants required 20% matching funds which smaller towns can't afford and large cities simply don't have the money.

Chief Rooney said that the Department is discussing a lease/purchase where the Department would order the trucks and then start paying a year after delivery on a debt schedule for 10 years.

Chief Rooney said that there had been a floor cave-in at 711 and some of the State Delegations had gotten some funding for this. There are some extra funds left and that will be used for another floor that is buckling at another station and to replace a roof that is leaking badly over at Engine 12.

Chief Rooney said that Domino's Pizza was going to print pizza boxes with the number to receive a free smoke alarm. There will also be a separate offer for those who have a working smoke alarm to have their pizza delivered by firefighters on a fire truck. If they show the firefighters a working smoke alarm, they will get the pizza for free.

Chief Rooney said that the department has been working on reducing the sick leave and it is now down to about 7 firefighters a day. Also the firefighters have been touring the new EOC center.

Contract talks have started and the ones that Chief Rooney attended, he felt that the City was very laid back because this one was sick and that one couldn't make it.

Council Member Curwen said that he would support having a small training class.

Council Member Silva said that he remembered when the City had 13 houses and now they are down to 8. The manning number for the houses was 65 but now it is 61. Mr.

Sherwood then reviewed the details of the manning and the fact that the former Civil Service process took years.

Council Member Silva asked how the department was doing with grants. Chief Rooney said that the department was doing well and that they had been awarded new outerwear equipment, exercise equipment, Scott air packs, exhaust fans and thermal imaging.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia asked if there could be some Public information done before the pizza delivery program. Chief Rooney explained that it would be a spare engine that was not in use and would be manned by volunteers who are not on duty. Deputy Chief Petricelli said that the newspapers would be advised in advance of these facts.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia asked if the fire hydrants were too low, some were missing caps or the lug nuts. She said that the ones at Captain's Cove and one at the Zoo. Deputy Chief Petricelli said that he had the inspector check these because the central pipe has to be 15" from ground level for code. All of the hydrants are in compliance.

Chief Rooney explained that there were two different types of threads on the hydrants. One type is the Bridgeport City thread, which is unique to the City and does not fit on any other type of hose and the second kind is called a National Standard thread, which has become uniform throughout the State. Now the City is working on replacing the threads with National Standard threads. In other cities the Water companies own the fire hydrants, but in Bridgeport the City owns the fire hydrants. Therefore, the City is responsible for replacing the fire hydrants.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia said that there was a hydrant on Fairfield Avenue with a fence around it. There is a gate in front of it, but Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia said that she was concerned that it would take time to get the key. Deputy Chief Petricelli said that all the trucks have bolt cutters and it would only take five seconds to cut the chain.

Council Member dePara then asked about the figures on page 149 for Expenses. He asked what "stand by pay". Deputy Chief Petricelli said that there was a deputy chief, a fire inspector, and a shop mechanic on call. These staff member are expected to respond if there is a fire, and they receive a daily amount for this duty.

Fire Watch is when the Fire Marshal or Inspector on site at the fireworks, the Arenas, other large events. This is a State law and the City is reimbursed for the amount from the venues. Council Member Curwen asked what governed the surcharge for the police. Chief Rooney said that the Arena and other venues are struggling. Mr. Sherwood said that the police have a bigger volume of required staffing on roadwork. He said that he didn't think it would be that much.

Council Member dePara asked what “fire unassigned” covered. Mr. Sherwood said that this was more of the administrative component, like the fire marshals and deputy chiefs. Chief Rooney said that there were about 50 people in this category, like the safety officer. Those on Standby pay who do not go out are paid the daily amount, but if they respond to a call, they have a minimum of four hours overtime. Sometimes, if there is a flat tire or the truck or siren will not work the fire fighters will switch trucks.

Council Member Silva asked about billing the insurance companies on car accidents when the jaws of life are used. Mr. Sherwood said that it was on the Revenue page under time charges. Council Member Silva asked if it was working. Chief Rooney said that at first it was hard, but now it is working better.

Council Member Curwen asked if when the fire inspectors do inspections, they issue a fine for violations. Chief Rooney said that they do, but they are careful because the owners of the multi-families are financially stretched and it would put another burden on them. Now the owners of multifamily residences are required to have fire resistant doors and it is a strain on the owners to make these upgrades. So the department works with the owners to have them replace the doors over time.

Council Member Curwen said that he would like to see the City charge for outside municipalities. He then said there are volunteer companies that don’t go after the grants because they know they can rely on Bridgeport. Chief Rooney said that when he first came on, there were more houses and the Department rarely needed mutual assistance. However, the Department rarely needs to render aid to the surrounding towns that have volunteer fire departments. He added that Fairfield has covered Bridgeport a number of times and would like to see that situation continue with the current arrangement.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia asked how much Sacred Heart was costing the City and how many times the City responded to calls at the University housing. She said that Sacred Heart was looking to purchase more property across Park Avenue. Some of the apartments have six or eight student per bedroom. Mr. Sherwood said that he would check this out. There was also a brief discussion about false alarm charges. Council Member Curwen asked for a list of incidents at Sacred Heart.

Council Member dePara asked about page 141, and certain line items on that page. Mr. Sherwood said that last year, in the old system, all the houses were in one lump sum, but now MUNIS has them broken out, which is why there is a decrease from one year to this year.

Council Member dePara then asked about the computer software and services. This is the maintenance agreement for the dispatch and the global system. The department will

be installing a new program called FireHouse, which will track incident reports, attendance and few other items.

Council Member dePara asked about the EOC personnel and why the OT was in Fire Department. Mr. Sherwood reviewed this and explained that the staff shifted but the overtime was not known at the time. Rather than guess at the amount, the staff decided to leave the funding where it was until there was more information. Council Member Curwen asked if there was a line item for the EOC overtime. Mr. Sherwood said that it was on page 160.

Chief Rooney said that he was pleased with how inquisitive everyone was. Council Member Curwen said that he would make copies of the information. Mr. Sherwood suggested having a week snapshot of the staffing during different times of the year.

Council Member Silva said that he wanted to ride with a house one night. Chief Rooney said that he would set this up at Council Member Silva's convenience.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia asked about the first responders for medical. Chief Rooney said that he would gather the information and write it up for her.

Council Member Curwen asked what would help raise revenue. Chief Rooney said that he was looking at various contract issues.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

- \*\* COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY MOVED TO ADJOURN.**
- \*\* COUNCIL MEMBER DEPARA SECONDED.**
- \*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon L. Soltes  
Telesco Secretarial Services

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT  
BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS  
REGULAR MEETING  
APRIL 17, 2010**

**ATTENDANCE:** Angel dePara, Chair; Robert Curwen, Lydia Martinez,  
Howard Austin

**STAFF:** Thomas Sherwood, OPM

**CALL TO ORDER**

Council Member dePara called the meeting to order at 9:37 p.m.

**CAPITAL OVERVIEW**

Mr. Sherwood said that the BOE would be doing their numbers later and that Mr. Barnes had come to the Budget and Appropriations Committee to give an overview of the schools. Mr. Sherwood said that the Mayor had decided to add Harding High School for renovations and Mr. Barnes was trying to calculate the costs associated with this new proposal.

Mr. Sherwood said that regarding the sewer separation program and that \$400,000 for WPCA and there will be outside matching funds, which may be for Federal funding. He said that this will free up 2 million dollars and said that there had been some suggestions that it would be moved to paving.

The figures that Mr. Feeney had submitted on Friday will help adjust the schedule.

Council Member Curwen asked Mr. Sherwood to secure a document from the WPCA regarding the breakdown of their bonding projects and their financial history. The Council authorized \$900,000 a number of years ago and Council Member Curwen said that the Council had not received any report on what happened with the funds. Discussion followed.

Council Member Martinez asked if there could be done with the rates rising every year. Mr. Sherwood reviewed the history of this and said that the City had brought the collections in house and this changed things. Mr. Sherwood explained that the WPCA does not have the ability to bond on its own, it must be done by the City. Council Member Curwen explained that matching funds would not result in lower water rates because the Federal money would be for replacing failing infrastructure. There are areas in the City where the sewer system takes both sewer and storm water, which results in flooding because the pipes are too small to handle the amount of water involved.

Council Member Austin said that a constituent had called and told him that her WPCA bill was higher than her water bill.

Council Member dePara asked about the NRZs and the breakout of the projects. Mr. Sherwood reviewed this with them.

Regarding the Public Facilities fleet, this was for the dump fleet. Mr. Sherwood said that these were the dump trucks that are aging. He said that the replacement program that Mr. Estrada had started was helping enormously in terms of keeping good stock on the road.

The discussion then moved to the upcoming departmental moves from McLevy Hall into different locations, such as moving Vital Statistics to the Annex.

Regarding the Energy Conservation, Mr. Sherwood said that this was the switch from the regular bulbs to CLFs and other cost saving measures. There will also be a Toters program for recycling. Council Member Curwen said that the amount of his own recycling had increase enormously. Mr. Sherwood said that this was why they wanted to increase the size of the recycling bin to accommodate all the recycling and to reduce the amount of garbage tipping fees.

The Parks Maintenance Equipment costs are for the rolling stock for beach cleaning.

Council Member Martinez asked about the Library Computers. Mr. Sherwood said that there was nothing in the line item account, but that a five year Capital plan is needed anyway.

IT is working to update the phone systems. Previously, if an office was relocated, the phone company would have to come in and switch the lines, which cost a lot of money. Now the IT Department is working on changing the phones to Voice over IP, which will eliminate the need for the phone company to move lines.

Council Member Curwen asked Mr. Sherwood about the discussion regarding the computer software for Land Use/Construction Review. Mr. Sherwood said that the project was originally managed by Ms. Hadley and that each department had tried to tweak the program to be specific to their department.

*Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia joined the meeting at 10:00 a.m.*

Mr. Sherwood said that ultimately, IT would be in charge of the project with the help from the City Attorney's Office.

Council Member Martinez asked about the status of the Parks and said that there were repairs that needed to be made in the fields. Mr. Sherwood said that the boom in soccer meant that the City just didn't have enough soccer fields. Mr. Sherwood suggested that Council Member Martinez bring this up next Friday with Mr. Carroll and give him specific details.

Council Member Austin asked about the Harding School improvement project. Mr. Sherwood said that previously there had been problems with getting the State to move on bonding school projects and then the City would present plans, but never could find the property. With Harding, there is a proposal to build a new school on the sports field and then make the old school the sports fields. Mr. Sherwood reminded everyone that the fastest track that the City could do would be five years. He added that because of the Health Care Magnet component, there could be a possibility of having a greater percentage

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia asked about the increased numbers of seasonal workers for Parks and Recreation. Mr. Sherwood reviewed this.

When asked about the Pleasure Beach accessibility, Mr. Sherwood said that he had heard they were going to have water taxis and that the beach would be open this year. Council Member Curwen said that it was a City Park, not just a district park. He added that the problem with replacing the bridge was because the center span of the bridge is historic. Mr. Sherwood said that the Coast Guard was also involved. It is a very difficult current area at that particular point.

Council Member Curwen said that he wanted to know about the HVAC replacement in the BOE budget. Mr. Sherwood said that in order to do an improvement, it would be a dual fuel unit. He explained that the Board usually does projects in blocks and then things would be ignored for a long time. Right now, Harding is their priority. Council Member Curwen said that there had been problems when the Council put a particular school project in the budget and then the Board decided to do another project. Council Member Curwen suggested that everyone look at the Gibson report. Mr. Sherwood agreed and said that there needs to be a discussion about this.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia said that she had heard that people were upset regarding the library tax and how it would affect their taxes. Mr. Sherwood said that it would show separately on the property taxes and car taxes. Discussion followed.

Mr. Sherwood said that the coming week would be a full week. He added that many of the departments are worried about grant funding. He said that the Health clinics are well run and he never heard any complaints. He then highlighted several budget areas for the Committee to consider.

He reminded everyone that the Police Union was the largest bargaining unit in the City budget. Chief Gaudett has worked to reign in the overtime and has reorganized the department. Council Member Martinez asked about a police substation on the East End. Mr. Sherwood said that this has been discussed last week and that the project was moving forward.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia asked about the police staffing issues. Mr. Sherwood gave an overview of the situation and reminded everyone that Fire and Police were a total of 700 members. Discussion followed.

*Mr. Sherwood left the meeting at 10:40 a.m.*

Council Member Austin asked about the loss of information by the computer company regarding the permitting software for the Building, Zoning, Fire Marshal and other departments. Council Member dePara explained that Mr. Sherwood had indicated that this would be handled by the IT department with support of the City Attorney's Office.

Regarding the vacancies on the Commissions, Council Member dePara said that it would be important to have the vacancies published so that people will know.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia said that regarding the IT department, the overall presentation of the actual area needed to be spruced up. She said that there needed to be more updates on the various projects. Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia said that she would like to see the OPED staff member trained in GIS transferred back to OPED.

Council Member Austin said that because of the economic crisis, he would like to attest to the fact that frankly there is no funding to be had. Simply having the funding to allocate to the departments would be a success. Trying to limit the taxes would be a priority.

Council Member Martinez said that if there was a project or program underway and the project was stalled, like the GIS staff member, it would be important finish up the project. Council Member dePara commented about the fact that Mr. Heller joined the department after the transfer of the staff member was made.

Council Member Martinez said that there had been a problem with the Tax Collector not having a bi-lingual staff member while the Tax Assessor's Office had a number of them. There was a brief discussion regarding this.

Council Member Curwen said that regarding the permitting software program, the administration should have been on top of that, but the Council is in the position of being reactive rather than pro-active. He added that Mr. Sherwood had said that this issue

would be dealt with. Council Member Curwen said that he had some ideas about mitigating the budget gap.

Council Member Curwen said that with the capital plan, it was important to get away from the generic topics. He pointed out that there was blight removal and demolition clean up. This was six million dollars, but did not specify which houses, so someone could vote for this thinking it was on the East End, and never have any structures demolitions in that area. There is a request for 6 million dollars for paving, but no list of streets. To be conscientious, having the details is important. Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia suggested that the Public Facilities be contacted in advance for detailed presentations. Council Member Curwen said that he would be doing this.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia asked about the recycling Toter program. Council Member dePara said that it would be for recycling and that it would reduce the amount of the garbage.

Council Member Martinez asked about the details of the Parks and Recreation and said that she would like to take this information to her constituents.

Council Member Austin asked about the efficiencies. A discussion about the Capital budget items followed and which these hadn't been discussed. Council Member dePara said that this was the topic of the meeting that had been cancelled.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia said that it would be important to realize that this was a business. Council Member Curwen said that he had spoken to the City Clerk about consolidating some of the tasks between the Legislative Office the City Clerk's. Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia said that it would be important to discuss the other departments. Council Member Curwen said that he had other ideas about consolidation to run the City as a business.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia said that there was an issue about the Freeman Homes and that she had been told that there was not supposed to be any involvement by the City. Now that has been changed. Discussion followed.

*Council Member Brannelly joined the meeting at 11:20 a.m.*

Council Member Martinez said that she had some concerns about the Senior Center. Council Member Curwen said that his proposal about moving the Senior had been discussed and it was acceptable to the staff.

Regarding the Legislative Office, Council Member Martinez said that she would like to see consolidation with the City Clerk's Office. Council Member Curwen said that it would be discussed.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia said that she had wanted the Senior Center under one roof. She said that the City had a building that would be perfect and this would have the added benefit of not having the City pay rent and utilities on other facilities.

Council Member dePara gave a brief overview on the preceding discussions for Council Member Brannelly.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia said that she would not be able to attend on April 21st due to a conflict.

Council Member Curwen asked if it would be possible to have next Saturday's meeting to the University of the Bridgeport conference room. This was agreeable to all. Council Member Curwen said that he would let everyone know if this was possible.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY SECONDED.**

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon L. Soltes  
Telesco Secretarial Services

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT  
BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS  
REGULAR MEETING  
APRIL 21, 2010**

- ATTENDANCE:** Robert Curwen, Chair; Susan Brannelly, Lydia Martinez, Carlos Silva, Angel dePara (6:22 p.m.)
- STAFF:** Thomas Sherwood, OPM; Andy Nunn, CAO, Dawn Norton, Comptroller;
- OTHERS:** Council Member Baker; Pat McCoy, Assistant Registrar, Vital Statistics, Rose Hoyt, Patty Ulatowski, Iris Molina, Veronica Ortiz Phil Quinn, Michael Freddino, Tamara Root, Valeria Sorrentino, Audrey Gains, Health Department; Council Member Warren Blunt, Tammy Papa, Lighthouse Program

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Curwen called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m.

**HEALTH DEPARTMENT –**

**Vital Statistics.** Page 306 – Ms. McCoy, from Vital Records and Ms. Ulatowski, from Archives, came forward. Mr. Sherwood said that they had won the gold star for organization. They have generated the most growth of all the departments.

Ms. Ulatowski said that she had good news and that the budget revenue was at 107%. She said that this was most likely to the implementation of the MUNIS systems. Mr. Feeney asked Ms. Ulatowski to train staff on MUNIS.

*Council Member dePara joined the meeting at 6:22 p.m.*

Ms. McCoy said that Bridgeport could generate more revenue by charging for genealogical searches. There are also other items that the City could charge but the department doesn't have staffing to do so.

Ms. McCoy said that there is no room at the present site to conduct genealogical searches. There is no programmer to do the billing to the other towns. There aren't that many people in the department, so the staff can't go to the bank unless everyone is present. The vacant staff position needs to be restored and the employees need to be 35 hours rather than 32 hours. Ms. McCoy asked for the cut position to be restored. Mr. Sherwood said that he felt that having the extra staff member would be profitable.

Council Member Curwen asked about the amount of revenue taken in. Ms. Ulatowski gave the figure. Council Member Curwen asked if there was another staff to write the programmer for the billing, if the department would be able to bill the other towns. Mr. Sherwood said that ideally, the department needs the two staff members to do both the programming and the genealogical searches. When Council Member Curwen said there might be consolidations in IT and this could mean there would be more staff available, Mr. Sherwood pointed out that if it were the Board of Education IT consolidation Council Member Curwen was referring to, that would take time because the BOE has a separate operation.

Ms. McCoy said that while the genealogy research is a money maker, it is a labor intensive, but the Vital Check program would be more important for the department overall. Mr. Nunn pointed out that MUNIS could do the billing. Discussion about the floaters then followed. Mr. Nunn said that this could be looked at. Mr. Sherwood said that MUNIS could do the billing, someone in the department would have to be committed to enter the data and run it on a daily basis.

Council Member Curwen stated that Vital Statistics would be moving to the Annex. Council Member Silva asked if there would be enough room for the genealogy research in the Annex. Mr. Sherwood said that there would be plenty of room.

Council Member Brannelly asked about the charges from the other towns. Ms. McCoy said that those are town copies. If a resident gets married in Fairfield, then Fairfield send a copy of the marriage certificate to the city with a bill. Bridgeport has hospitals, so many of the births and deaths of area residents occur here. Council Member Brannelly asked about the fees and how much business this generates. Ms. McCoy explained that there are often large checks from funeral directors because they typically need anywhere from five to ten copies of a death certificate. Out of state inquires have also increased because the State of Florida now requires birth certificates for drivers licenses or for passengers going on cruises.

Council Member Baker asked if a new staff member would allow them to be open five days a week. Mr. Sherwood explained that being in the Annex may change things because of the added security. The question was raised about having the hours are changed to 35 hours a week from 32.5 hours. Mr. Sherwood then pointed out that this was only 5 ½ hours a day. Council Member Baker said that this was a revenue generating department. Once the move is made, the Chase building has security and this would change the situation. Council Member Baker said that this should be a high priority for Mr. Nunn.

Council Member Curwen asked if there was an ordinance on the books. Ms. McCoy said that it was a State Statute. Mr. Nunn was informed that by not billing, the department was violating the law.

Council Member Martinez asked if there was qualification. Ms. McCoy said that this was a Civil Service position and required testing. Mr. Nunn said that the department had been given a cash register.

Mr. Sherwood then introduced Mr. Quinn as the new Health Department Director

**Aging Department** – Mr. Sherwood said that last year, the City filed a small chores grant request one day late, so the State government gave the City nothing, but the City kept the program afloat by providing the funding. The amount of funding for driving the veterans has been drastically reduced.

Ms. Hoyt came forward and that the City was able to renew the two grants. There has been no increase in the budget, but the department does apply for CDBG funding. Parks and Recreations helps by providing pool chemicals. Ms. Hoyt then listed a number of services and resources that the department offers the seniors.

Mr. Sherwood said that in the last few years the Recreation and Parks seasonals have been helping out with the Seniors.

Council Member Baker asked if the department received funds from the CDBG funds. Mr. Sherwood said it was \$34,000. Council Member Baker asked about some of the line items. Mr. Sherwood reviewed the various figures with the Committee.

Ms. Hoyt mentioned that there were three Senior Centers. Council Member Curwen asked how it was working out with Parks and Recreation. Ms. Hoyt said that it was working out extremely well.

Council Member Brannelly asked about the Chore program. The program employs a handy man who does simple chores like changing storm windows and screens, dealing with leaky faucets and other small tasks. Last year, the program was run with extra general grant funding. While it is a small amount of money, it provides major assistance for those who can't lift an air conditioner into the window.

Council Member Baker asked about grant and city funding in the budget. He wished to know where the \$30,000 in funding was used. Ms. Hoyt said that it was mostly part time staff, like receptionists, food pantry workers, and drivers. Council Member Baker asked for a break out of all the funding sources.

Council Member Brannelly asked if there were Federal funding for meals. Now the SWEROC organization is administrating it. The Salvation Army used to do it previously. Ms. Sorrentino said that the Salvation Army opted out but Lindley caterers still provide the food.

**Communicable Diseases** – pg. 310 – Mr. Sherwood said that the budget for the overall year was down. This is the silver star department. Mr. Sherwood said that there was only one clinic in the City. It is a key fixture for the East Side Community.

Ms. Michelle said that the department handles communicable disease, such as TB. There were four active TB cases in Bridgeport and one case was identified at Fairfield University. Mr. Sherwood stated that no birds or mosquitoes have been driven to Hartford for testing.

There will be a traveling Vaccine Clinic next year. This will be a revenue generator. There are free vaccines provided by the Children's Vaccines program. There is a nurse that would be coming on in afternoons. The city is licensed to administer the yellow fever vaccine. Mr. Sherwood said that it would be important to work with the various hospitals and that this would allow the health care providers to provide better medical services for the residents.

Council Member Martinez said that when she was a teacher, many of the students didn't have money for medications and that the Clinic provided for these students. Council Member Martinez asked if the Clinic would like to move from 752 East Main Street. Mr. Sherwood said that he would like to see the Clinic join up with another Social Service site in the East End.

Council Member Curwen asked how much of the first floor of the building is occupied. Mr. Quinn said that it was approximately 60% occupied. Ms. Sorrentino said that there were four floors, but the fourth floor was now basically storage. Once Housing and another department move from the third floor will only have four employees working on it.

Council Member Baker said that he was happy to hear that the department was able to provide services for the residents. Regarding the Refugee Clinic, Ms. Michelle said that it had been closed about a year ago. The problem was paying for the translator and the patients are routinely sent to the Community Health Care Centers. When a new patient comes into the CHCC, a complete physical is performed along with the collection of information, so it was a duplication of services.

**Environmental Health** - Page 316 – Council Member Blunt came forward. Council Member Baker pointed out that there was a misprint in the budget book regarding the

information for this page. The revenues have been sustained. Tomorrow night Mr. Sherwood would have corrected pages. Staffing numbers haven't changed.

Council Member Blunt said that it was approximately \$290,000 and that there were some ideas about increasing the revenues. One possibility is charging for re-inspections. There is always re-enforcement, but the focus will be preventive education. He then gave an overview of the FOR concept, which outlines how food should be handled. The same idea can be used for landlord/tenant problems. The department is working towards forming an alliance with the young barbers in order to cut down on illegal barbershops.

Last year, there was only \$12,000 for computer services. This year, the funding was cut to \$6,000. There is a contract pending with a software company for environmental software. Both Norwalk and Hartford have the program. Council Member Curwen asked why the budget was cut on for the computer services. Mr. Sherwood explained how the budget cuts were done and said that the money could be restored so the momentum won't be stalled in this area.

Council Member Silva asked why the staffing was being cut in areas where the departments have generated revenue. Mr. Sherwood reviewed the hiring practices and what the requirements were for Registered Sanitarians. Council Member Silva asked why it was so difficult to keep on top of the barbershops. Council Member Blunt explained that any complaint that involves children, food or sewage gets immediately priority and attention. After that the food service establishments and other services. Council Member Blunt stated that if he had two MRS. inspectors, his department would generate half a million dollars.

Council Member Silva asked why Environmental was not working with the police. Council Member Blunt said that they did go with the police on special inspections, but that in the case of illegal barbershops, the people would elude them.

Council Member Baker asked about the figures on page 319, which Mr. Sherwood reviewed with him. Council Member Baker asked about the overtime. Council Member Blunt said that when the police call, his staff responds regardless of the time. They also cover carnivals, and respond to fires when relocations are necessary.

Council Member Baker asked about the "paging". He asked for clarification. Mr. Sherwood said that now the City has a contract with Verizon, which should change the category for this.

Council Member Baker asked Council Member Blunt about the fees for liquor licensing. Council Member Blunt said that a liquor store would be a once a year inspection. He added that they sell food items such as juices, bottled water, and soda.

Council Member Brannelly asked about the salary cuts. Mr. Sherwood said that the members of the bargaining units and other employees are in the step grid. If a senior member at the top of the step grid retires, the new employees will be brought in at Step 1. Council Member Brannelly asked about 20% salary increase for two employees. Mr. Sherwood reviewed this.

**Housing Code** – page 320 – The Block Grant funding will continue for Housing, but four employees are moving into the General Funding budget. There are too many ordinances, statutory regulations not to have this department. A discussion followed about Ms. Root and the allocation of funding for her position.

Council Member Baker asked if the Block Grants were moving away from Housing Codes. Mr. Sherwood said that HUD was looking for a more proactive model rather than reactive. By hiring Registered Sanitarians when positions become vacant, that would be help because of the power of the State statutes behind the sanitarians. Blight only covers the outside, but the R.S.s have access to both the outside and the inside. Council Member Blunt said that in order to become more active the program would be something like Healthy Homes. Work on revenue sharing has begun. Mr. Sherwood said that blight is being linked to the housing. The Anti-blight office initiates the case calls and often Housing or Environmental follows up.

Mr. Freddino explained that Ms. McCoy in Vital Statistics was a member of NAGE and that he was the vice president of the union. Mr. Freddino said that it was permissible to have them work 35 or 40 hours with the appropriate salary increases.

Council Member dePara said that the re-inspections would only be for the locations that had failed an inspection.

**Lead** – pg 328 - Ms. Gains came forward. Mr. Sherwood said that it was a major block grant and had a major impact on the community. Ms. Gains said that there had been a slight decrease in the budget. The x-ray machines need to be maintained and there are five in the City. Any cuts would mean that one or two of the machines would not be able to be operated. The maintenance fees for the five machines is \$200. If the funding is restored, all five machines were would be in use. If the funding is cut, she will continue to work in a reduced capacity.

Council Member Martinez asked how much money the department received in grants. Ms. Gains said that it was about \$420,000. There are

**Human Services** – pg 334. This is a coordination of all the resources. Ms. Sorrentino said that per the charter, Human Services is the umbrella department for the Veterans, Youth Services, and others. Since moving to the Health Department five years ago, the department assists with the grants applications. Ms. Sorrentino then distributed a list of

all the grants that the Health Department manages. The grant funding is coming in for the programs, but the department is not receiving staffing to run the program. They manage. Mr. Sherwood said that these grants on the list are the ones that are being monitored because whoever the new governor is, changes in grant funding will have an impact in Bridgeport. He said that come next January, these grants may not be there anymore. Ms. Sorrentino said that there are Federal grants out there and that the City has applied for. Mr. Sherwood said that there had been a number of grants where the confirmation of the funding did not come for a number of months. Mr. Sherwood said that last year, the City covered those months, but won't be able to do that this year.

*Council Member Brannelly left the meeting at 8:10 p.m.*

Council Member Curwen asked about the personnel salaries. Mr. Sherwood and Ms. Sorrentino then reviewed the positions and salaries associated with them.

Council Member Baker asked whether the City could be more proactive. Mr. Sherwood said that this would be hard because some of the grants are directed specifically at the Health Department.

Ms. Sorrentino said that Ms. Bruno saw the need for the food pantry because she was giving out more food vouchers and that brought in more veterans. There were additional cuts in the seniors and veterans and the staff had gone out and found volunteers to help meet the need. The discussion then moved to the possibility of a dispatcher from a grant application

**Lighthouse** – Ms. Papa came forward. Mr. Sherwood said that the problems with the Board of Education has been worked out. She just returned from Washington, D.C. and a meetin with the CT delegation. The three representatives will be requesting \$500,000 for the program. She said that Council President McCarthy had accompanied her and that Bridgeport is known across the nation as being a trend setter in terms of after school programs. Ms. Papa said that she had been asked to testify in front of the Senate Committee, but someone else was asked to testify instead. She said that she hoped that the funding would be available to close her funding gap. If there is a deficient, some measures will have to be taken, such as not opening Black Rock School or other classes cut. Parent revenues are down and one G.E. executive said that he would put in for a grant for \$10,000 and that he would be willing to help Ms. Papa with learning the process for fund raising in the corporate world. Ms. Papa said that there is a substantial amount of funding from the 21st Century fund.

Council Member Curwen asked about the program supervisor. Mr. Sherwood said that the grant funding for this position had stopped this year and now it was in the General Fund.

Council Member Baker asked about revenues. Ms. Papa said that any funds collected from the parents have to be use in the current year when there are State and Federal funds involved. Ms. Papa then gave a quick overview of the marketing strategy.

Council Member Martinez asked about the hiring of students. Ms. Papa said that there has not been a firm commitment from the State. Council Member Martinez asked for notification if a commitment comes through.

**Social Services** – Page 362 – There is a change in the number of employees, an increase in the staff positions of one. The position is a transfer pending the grant funding. Ms. Ortiz and Ms. Iris said that accountability is a priority. There are clients who live in Bridgeport and the department provides services through almost every single department that spoke earlier. Ms. Molina said that there are a lot of residents with disabilities out there and this population is not being served. The department is a crisis intervention department. The staff performs services that are not covered by the grant funding. The number of clients have increased, but the staff has not. There is a lot of face to face contact. Many times the clients are referred to an agency but the agency might not see them right away, but these clients need help immediately.

Other agencies see the department as a resource and work with them. Ms. Molina said that her department has been awarded two grants having to do with green environment.

Ms. Ortiz said that historically, the department has been grant funded. This population is the most vulnerable population. Ms. Ortiz writes many of the grants and the department was recently audited. She said that she was disappointed that the Central Grants department was not as supportive as they might be. Ms. Ortiz then gave an example of how she had recently written a grant application but it was not submitted because OPM had not approved of the amount for the department. Ms. Molina said that the department doesn't generate much revenue but the return is actually quality of life.

Council Member Curwen asked about how much funds come in via grants. Ms. Ortiz said that it was about \$800,000, but that an application for a 4 million dollars grant was being submitted.

The discussion then moved towards the request for 100% of the supervisor and another position. One grant came through that was unexpected and therefore the request was only \$25,700 plus the \$43,067. Council Member Curwen said that he had seen this department grow from almost being closed to what it is today. He added that he knew how much the department did.

Council Member dePara asked about the details of the budget, which Mr. Sherwood reviewed with the Committee.

Council Member Martinez asked for a break down of how the grant funding was distributed.

Council Member Baker asked about relocating of several departments into the Annex.

Ms. Molina said that it was important to know that since the budget was written a new grant and one had been awarded. Mr. Sherwood said that the OPM had always said that he could not make a fiscal decision in under five days. Mr. Quinn said that that this was an internal matter and he would work on it.

Mr. Quinn said that he had arrived two months ago and found a great department with dedicated staff. Mr. Quinn then distributed a flow chart of the various departments in the Health Department. He said that the staff is very issue orientated and ready to respond. The Mayor has a vision and is backed up by dedicated staff.

Mr. Quinn then distributed a vision statement to the Committee members. He then reviewed the key points of a Health Equity Alliance initiative. Health Departments look at disparities, but this would move the disparities beyond just talking about them. This would work on issues like food supplies, housing, economic and social relationships, transportation, education and health care. By fairly distributing the resources to the residents, this will support the outcome for all people.

Mr. Quinn said that every meeting he attends, the members are fully engaged. He said that at a recent meeting at a toxic brown field, the neighbors were not treated like the enemy. They were treated like partners. Getting people engaged and having people as a part of a collaborative is a step forward. Last year, Whole Ways gave vouchers to WIC recipients for organic food. The food sold out in three hours. Things like this will help the quality of life in Bridgeport.

Council Member Curwen said that it was pleasant to hear someone who had a vision and this was refreshing. He said that he hoped that others in the State sees the services that Bridgeport provides to its residents and the residents in the surrounding communities.

Council Member dePara asked how much the previous Health Director was paid. Mr. Sherwood reviewed the figures with him.

Council Member Baker said that he wished Council Member Curwen had heard Dr. Evans' vision, and was happy to hear Mr. Quinn's vision. Council Member Baker then asked about the grassroots efforts. Mr. Quinn said that hearing the needs of the community through the grassroots is important. He added that the role of the faith-based organizations will be critical. It is important to acknowledge and include the all the grassroots efforts.

Mr. Sherwood said that when there are things like the H1N1 pandemic, the process needed to be analyzed for a number of reasons after the entire scare was over.

Council Member Martinez asked Mr. Quinn about his qualifications. Mr. Quinn explained that his Masters was in Public Health. Council Member Martinez said that she was very willing to work with Mr. Quinn.

Council Member Curwen said that there had been a request to add the Mayor to the meeting on Wednesday the 28th. The Legislative Services will be on Friday the 30th. It was determined to do Labor that night also.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER DEPARA MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER SILVA SECONDED.**

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 9:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon L. Soltes  
Telesco Secretarial Services

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT  
BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS  
REGULAR MEETING  
APRIL 22, 2010**

**ATTENDANCE:** Angel dePara, Chair; Bob Curwen, Co-chair; AmyMarie Vizzo-Paniccia, Carlos Silva, Lydia Martinez; Susan Brannelly (6:11 p.m.)

**STAFF:** Thomas Sherwood (6:15 p.m.); Michael Feeney (6:17 p.m.)

**OTHERS:** Police Chief Gaudett, Bridgeport Police; John Cueto, Bridgeport Police, Council Member Andre Baker; Council President Thomas McCarthy

**CALL TO ORDER**

Council Member dePara called the meeting to order at 6:09 p.m.

**BRIDGEPORT POLICE DEPARTMENT**

Council Member dePara directed everyone's attention to page 129. Chief Gaudett greeted everyone. He said that he and Sgt. Cueto had been through the Mayor's budget and noted the cuts. He said that the numbers that were offered by the Mayor were workable. There will be some new officer hires funded from the Recovery Act.

*Council Member Brannelly joined the meeting at 6:11 p.m.*

Sgt. Cueto then reviewed the finances with the Committee. Sgt. Cueto said that the most important thing was that the personnel had dropped from 448 to 405. In order to receive the Federal dollars, the department would have to backfill a number of positions. The Federal government has released the constraints on the money. It is hoped that in September 2010, a new class will start, but they will not be fully trained until 2011. Sgt. Cueto then said by 2011, the department will be under 400. He added that in 2008, the first batch of 25 year veterans could retire and that was a class of 70.

*Mr. Sherwood joined the meeting at 6:15 p.m.*

Alongside the issue of decreasing staff, the amount of overtime will increase. When the department was working with 448,

Sgt. Cueto explained that the G.S. Scott lease property costs \$25,000 and the department is currently behind in payment. Mr. Sherwood said that he would take care of this.

*Mr. Feeney joined the meeting at 6:17 p.m.*

Chief Gaudett said that this year is the final year for the Chargers' warranty. There are also new vehicles that will be delivered. Chief Gaudett said that one of the officers had been in an accident and he was convinced that the vehicle saved the officer's life because it was well built.

Council Member Baker asked about having two classes back to back and then ending up in the same situation when there is suddenly a large block of officers retiring at one time. Chief Gaudett said that the department is working with the Civil Service on this and the City is working on keeping a steady stream of candidates available.

Council Member Silva asked about the auto parts on page 38. Sgt. Cueto said that the Crown Victorias are still on the road. There is a plan to have the Chargers on the street for 8 hours with 16 hours off. Only one vehicle has been lost, through an accident and this will be replaced through grant funding. Chief Gaudett said that the new Chargers would have a sub woofer in the siren because the siren is funneled so tightly that people can't hear it unless they are almost directly in front of it. He added that the department now charges for having a car at a construction site.

Council Member Martinez asked about the civilian employees. Chief Gaudett said that the positions that can be filled by civilians will be filled by civilians, such as the records room, and clerical.

Council Member Silva asked if there had been an increase in revenue. Chief Gaudett said that the revenues had remained steady. He added that he would like to have the department move towards paperless filing and transmitting reports to people via email. Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia expressed concerns about the legality of transmitting a document as a PDF file.

The outside overtime has remained steady. The department will start adding the surcharge for the vehicles that are assigned to construction sites. Also a new telephone system has been added which allows the newly booked suspect to make a phone call from the holding cell. Revenue has been created from the booting of vehicles. Sgt. Cueto said that when an officer issues a citation, the money goes to the State for the Academy, but the City had its own academy.

Sgt. Cueto said that he has some recommendations on increasing the alarm fee, which were then discussed.

Following this, the discussion then moved to the officers who will be hired by grant funding. It is a four year program, which will provide the three years of salary and then the officers will be moved to the general fund.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia asked about the grant funding and why it was tracked separately. Mr. Sherwood said that by having the grant funded officers in a separate budget so the Federal government can see all the costs associated. Mr. Sherwood said that the Federal government requires the cities to have a base number of employees and maintain that while adding the grant funded officers.

Council Member Silva asked about the dog pound. Mr. Sherwood said that there was a position in the budget for a kennel assistant. Council Member Silva said that he thought the building might be too big and wondered if there was a way to generate revenue. Sgt. Cueto said that participation with a legitimate 501c3 organization would funnel the raised funds back to the kennel.

Council Member Martinez asked about adopting the animals from the pound. Sgt. Cueto reviewed the details of adoption regulations, such as neutering and spading.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia asked if the hours could be staggered so that there would be someone there at night. Mr. Sherwood said that right now, staffing was an issue and when Mr. Gonzalez was feeding or watering the animals, the kennel was closed.

Chief Gaudett said that the parking violations will most likely remain the same unless the regulations change.

Mr. Sherwood pointed out that the Police Department was no longer responsible for the civilian component overtime.

Chief Gaudett and Sgt. Cueto then reviewed the service indicators. There has been a slight decrease in the number of service calls. The number of violent crimes has remained the same, but properties crimes have declined. Arrests have remained about the same, also. They proceeded to review the remaining figures with the Committee.

Council Member dePara asked about a recent study by the Police Executive Research Fund (PERF). Chief Gaudett then gave an overview of the process and the results of the report.

*Chief Gaudett then distributed copies of the chart that showed the reorganization of the department.*

Council Member Curwen asked about if there had been a cell phone policy for the officers who are en route or stationed at a location. Council Member Curwen then made a suggestion on how this would be handled. Chief Gaudett said that there is a policy and that in the short term he would look into the officer's using the cell phones at job sites. He added that currently, there are discussions about communications devices that may be developed that officers would have that would be an official device like the badge, taser and gun. Sgt. Cueto pointed out that there is a law that allows police officers to use cell phones while driving, but that the public is unaware of this.

Council Member Brannelly asked about the take home vehicles. She asked if there were ways to monitor the patrol vehicles. She gave an example of seeing Bridgeport Police vehicles in Monroe. Chief Gaudett said that when the department finds out about issues like this, the supervisor is notified. When the new CAD system is up and running, all the on duty cars will be on a map because they have AVL (automatic vehicle location). Once the system is up and running, dispatch can route a call to the nearest vehicle.

*Mr. Sherwood left the meeting at 7:15 p.m.*

Council Member dePara asked about the various orders and goals. Chief Gaudett said that the department has been reorganized, and that now that the "rule of one" has been lifted, the Chief will receive a list of qualified candidate to choose the candidate for hire.

Sgt. Cueto then gave a overview of the equipment acquired through Asset Forfeiture that needs housing and to support the daily functions of Narcotics and Vice. Council Member dePara asked what the department would need to address this issue. Sgt. Cueto then said that having a building that could store this equipment and one is under consideration.

Chief Gaudett said that the department was looking for a gun range. The former range in the basement of 300 Congress Street, but this has been closed because of lead concerns. Currently, the City has use of the Monroe outdoor range. He added that this could be one of the reasons Bridgeport Police vehicles were seen in Monroe. If another parcel in Bridgeport is not found, then the effort may be forced to go regional. Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia asked if the department has discussed this with the Fire Department. The possibility of having a burn tower and shooting range would be helpful

A discussion about potential locations for storage of equipment followed along with a recap of the asset forfeiture funding and the regulations associated with those funding.

Council Member dePara asked about the exchange of vehicles from the Traffic Division. Sgt. Cueto said that the Traffic Department currently the department has Crown Vics, but they will be getting Chargers.

Chief Gaudett thanked the Committee for their time and consideration.

**ADJOURNMENT**

- \*\* COUNCIL MEMBER CURWEN MOVED TO ADJOURN.**
- \*\* COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA SECONDED.**
- \*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 7:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon L. Soltes  
Telesco Secretarial Services

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT  
BUDGET & APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE  
REGULAR MEETING  
APRIL 23, 2010**

**ATTENDANCE:** Robert Curwen, Chair; Angel dePara, Susan Brannelly, AmyMarie Vizzo-Paniccia, Lydia Martinez, Council President Thomas McCarthy; Carlos Silva (6:25 p.m.)

**STAFF:** Thomas Sherwood, OPM

**OTHERS:** Charles Carroll, Public Facilities; Paul Catino, Public Facilities

**CALL TO ORDER**

Council Member Curwen called the meeting to order at 6:20 p.m.

Council President McCarthy then said that Deputy Chief Petrucelli had brought over three copies of the information break out that the Committee had requested on Thursday night. The information packets were 100+ pages, so to conserve paper, only three copies were made. This included a complete roster of firefighters, a list of all the response calls to Sacred Heart residences, including the false alarms. The remainder of the report was a staffing report from a number of random weeks.

*Council Member Silva joined the meeting at 6:25 p.m.*

Council Member Brannelly asked about the information regarding Sacred Heart's properties being tax exempt. Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia said that if the Diocese owns the property, it is tax exempt.

**PUBLIC FACILITIES**

Mr. Sherwood gave an overview of the budget. He said that some revenues were down because the price of scrap metal was currently down.

Council Member Curwen thanked Mr. Carroll for providing the pizza. Mr. Carroll thanked Council Member Curwen for reminding him. Mr. Carroll said that everyone is aware of the economy and everyone in the department has worked towards doing more with less. Mr. Catino has done a wonderful job of keeping the budgets in line. Mr. Carroll said that last year, the department was given less than the previous year and then this request is for less than the current year.

Council President McCarthy said that he had heard some comments regarding the fact that Mr. Carroll is the Director of Public Facilities and the Director of Parks and Recreations for one salary. Council President McCarthy said that Mr. Carroll was saving the City at least \$100,000 a year by doing this. Mr. Carroll commented that he does not read the newspaper, the blogs or listen to rumors. One thing about his dual job is that he knows that every day he can do something positive for someone.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia thanked Mr. Carroll for his work.

Mr. Carroll said that the Toters had been distributed citywide and it was making a difference because dry garbage weighs less than wet garbage. Bridgeport is the only member of SWEROC whose recycling numbers have increased rather than decreased in the last year.

Mr. Sherwood said that it was very refreshing to receive a budget asking for less money rather than more. Mr. Carroll then reviewed figures for the budget. He pointed out that the City has taken the condominium garbage in house and saved the City a minimum of \$450,000 by doing this. There have been some problems, but it is smoothing out.

Mr. Carroll said that the recycling program was not an added expense, it was just added into the routes. The more recycling that come in, the more money the City saves. Recycling and sanitation are two largest sections in the budget.

The safety program is working out well Mr. Carroll said. There are fewer workers out on sick leave or worker's comp.

Council Member Curwen asked how the recycling program was working in the schools. Mr. Sherwood said that while the City had started this effort years ago, the City has no way to enforce it. Mr. Carroll said that Mr. Barnes and Mr. Garcia were in favor of this program and that this was the beginning of a cooperative effort. Council Member Curwen pointed out that the Board of Education could be saving money by recycling. Mr. Carroll said that the City side was willing and able to help. Mr. Catino said that now they will have the expense hits their budget directly.

On page 170, the figures for Municipal Garage were reviewed. The Bargaining unit will get a raise. The mechanics have to come in early and they often stay late. The overtime budget has been adjusted to compensate for this. Mr. Carroll said that Mr. Bobby Kennedy was not present at the meeting due to a death in his family.

Mr. Carroll offered to have any Council Member come for a tour of the new garage. The building is being rehabilitated for the Public Facilities to move in. He also spoke about moving the Health Department out of the building they are in, because it is the biggest energy eater that the City owns.

Mr. Carroll said that Mr. Andy Kennedy was still working at the garage at Asylum Avenue and he hoped to move Mr. Kennedy to the new garage once the rehabilitation is complete.

The discussion then moved to consolidation of the City staff and City equipment. Council Member Curwen said that he would like a breakdown of what the City buildings cost the City. He said that the City was also looking at the leased buildings and considering how to bring the various city agencies out of leased properties. The discussion then moved to possibly using the old Waltersville school. Mr. Carroll said that the building was over 100 years old and the heating costs were phenomenal. Council Member Martinez said that she would want to have the Clinic stay on the East Side, along with the Social Services.

Council Member Curwen asked about the vacant lot next to Housatonic. Mr. Carroll said that there was remediation going on in the building and once that is done, a portion of the items that are being temporarily stored there will be moved back into the buildings. After that, the lot will be cleaned up.

Mr. Sherwood then directed everyone's attention to page 178. There is a line with \$32,000 increase for seasonals. This is a program for some students from Bullard Haven to accompany various Public Facility staff members and learn about their jobs.

The utility details on page 179 represents a large portion of data gathered by the Public Facility staff. Mr. Catino reviewed the details and explained that decreased usage helped to keeping the increasing rates flat.

Mr. Catino said that in FY-07-08, the City spent 2 million on street lights alone. Consumption is down and this translates to \$2,189,000 in savings. When UI changed the bulbs, it saved the City a lot of money. The City also pays UI even if the lights are out or if they are missing. Mr. Catino encouraged everyone present that if a street light is out, call it in and keep calling it in until it is back on. Mr. Sherwood said that he was supposed to receive an overlay for the location of the lights on GPS from UI, but that did not happen yet. A discussion then followed about possibly having some of the lights off in areas where there is overlap.

Mr. Catino then reviewed the average rate of kilowatt hour of the building to the average rate of kilowatt hour for street lights. 20% of all of UI's street lights are located in Bridgeport. Mr. Sherwood said that the day is going come when Bridgeport has to renegotiate the waste plant and the hydroplant but UI charges the City top dollar.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia said that the deco lights are on all the time in certain times. Mr. Catino noted this. Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia said that there were some

deco lights that had been taken out by cars and there were cones over the bolts sticking out of the pavement. Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia said that there were trees stumps Main and Capital that needed to be removed. Mr. Carroll noted this.

Mr. Sherwood said that by using the boiler change out, the gas prices may increase, the City is still saving money.

Council Member Brannelly asked if the deco lights were included in the overall lighting. Mr. Catino said that the deco lights cost about \$100,000 a year as opposed to 2 million for the overall street lighting. Council Member Brannelly asked if there were ways to bypass every other deco light.

Council Member Brannelly asked whether there was an ordinance in terms of how far apart the poles are. Mr. Carroll said that people expected the street lights to light up the sidewalks and people's yards, but they are designed to light up the streets.

Council Member dePara asked if the new LEDs will illuminate the same area. Mr. Carroll said that it was a little less, but most people would not be able to tell the difference.

Mr. Sherwood said that through the HVAC work, the cost of running the buildings with the gas utilities has helped to curb the costs.

Mr. Catino said that the same kind of savings in the power is also evident in the fire hydrants. Mr. Sherwood said that no other municipality pays for the hydrants. The water company charges the City based on "ability". Council Member Brannelly asked if there were meters on the pipes. Mr. Sherwood said that the bill was not based on usage, but on potential ability of capacity. Mr. Catino said that this bill is 85% of cost of the water for the entire City. A lengthy discussion followed about the details of this issue.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia said that the water company is the source of the replacement parts.

Council Member Curwen asked if it would be worthwhile for the City to make a public statement to cut the water bill in half to bring people to the table. Mr. Carroll said that there needed to be research on this issue. Discussion followed.

Council Member dePara asked about a Library line item on page 181. Mr. Sherwood explained that this was only for the ICMA membership. The Library is not in the City budget anymore.

Mr. Sherwood then directed everyone's attention to page 190, covering roadways. No staffing changes. Mr. Carroll said that last year, some of the Parks Department staff had been assigned to getting the leaves up off the streets before the snow came down. Cold

patch does not last that long and once the asphalt plant opened, there were six trucks out patching potholes with both Parks and Public Facilities.

Council Member Silva asked if there was a way to secure the cold patch by pounding it down a bit more. Mr. Carroll said that he would work on this. The discussion then moved to the situations when the utilities make cuts and don't properly repair it. Council Member Curwen said that in the Capital Plan has been increased because the way that the City has not been doing the repaving properly. The City is expecting some Stimulus funding. Capitol Avenue will be fully reconstructed. However, Main Street was not approved because there is going to be sewer separation work done.

Mr. Sherwood suggested that the Council look at the ordinances regarding when the companies do not properly replace the asphalt following a repair.

Council Member dePara asked for the cost of snowplowing. Mr. Catino said that it was close to half a million dollars for supplies (salt, sand and hot and cold patch). A year ago, the winter was very difficult but the City was able to restock the supplies. During the year, the tipping fees dropped and the savings were reallocated to restock the sand and salt.

Council President McCarthy announced that the Monroe First Selectman just passed away. *Council President McCarthy left the meeting at 8:25 p.m.*

Mr. Carroll said that the City had purchased brine for the snow removal. There is also a treated salt that bounces less and works better. Although it costs more, if the City uses 25% less, there are savings. The City used much less sand, which reduces the amount of clean up in the spring.

Regarding sanitation, the staff is slightly down. Mr. Sherwood then said that the biggest savings is the tipping fees. The Toter program has reduced the injuries to the workers.

Council Member Curwen asked about single stream recycling. Mr. Carroll said that the City is moving towards this. It means that all the recycling can go into one bin. A recycling bank allows a local business to issue coupons to those who recycle. If the City does decide to participate, it will be important to make sure that the City gets the bigger share of the profits on this. Mr. Sherwood said that no one knew that CRRA was going to move so fast on the single stream recycling. And the City is working on being ready for single stream recycling. Mr. Catino then gave an overview of the single stream recycling program and pointed out that it will save the City money. Once the single stream recycling is implemented, then the recycling bank can be created.

Council Member dePara asked if it was worth to bond for recycling Toters. Mr. Sherwood said that the new Toters were in the Capital Budget.

Council Member dePara asked about the tipping fees for CRRA. At the peak, the rate was \$86.00 per ton. By taking the water out of the garbage and the recycling efforts, the tonnage has dropped. Last year, there was only 4.1 million in tipping fees and next year it is expected that the tipping fee will continue to drop to around 3.8 million.

Council Member Curwen then asked Mr. Carroll to explain his vision. Mr. Carroll said that the fleet is old and some trucks date back to the 70's. The Nutrition Center purchased one new truck a year and retired the oldest. Mr. Carroll then reminded everyone about the rotation that the police department is using. There are at least five trucks that need to come off the road. It is time to make an investment in the fleet and update it. The Department needs to have a plan for replacement. After the initial investment, it is not a major portion of the \$250,000,000 budget. Council Member Curwen said that if the City is able to go out to bond, he said that he felt it would be good to bond for \$200,000 for a new truck and establish a committed line item.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia asked about a cell phone policy for truck drivers. Mr. Carroll replied that the State already has a law saying that drivers cannot talk on the phone while driving. Mr. Carroll said that if a driver is seen talking on the phone while driving, he would like to have the truck number.

A brief discussion followed about people who take the Toters away and leave them at Stop N Shop. Some residents fill them up with recyclable cans, and wheel them to the store to redeem the cans. Once the Toters are empty, the residents leave them there. Stop N Shop now notifies Public Facilities when this happens. Because the Toters are numbered, the City can return them to the owner.

The discussion then moved to the fact that the Housing Authority does not participate in the Toters program.

The Committee then moved to the Transfer Station on page 206. This is focused on the facility itself. Council Member Curwen asked if the Transfer Station has a computer to track how many times individuals use the Transfer Station. The cost of the disposal is 1.5 million a year. Discussion followed on how the usage might be tracked.

Council Member Martinez asked about the income from scrap metal. Mr. Sherwood said that it was about \$175,000 because the price of scrap was down. The discussion then moved to paying for the disposal of certain items that require recovery.

Mr. Catino said that Waterbury sends out a set of tickets for each household and once those tickets are used up, the residents have to pay for the use of the bulk transfer station.

Council Member dePara said that he does use the dump. He said that he does not want to see people limited in terms access. Mr. Carroll said that he'd rather have the people use the bulk transfer station rather than have them dump outside the area.

Council Member Curwen said that the people who own 30 or 40 properties should pay for the trash to be hauled away. Council Member Martinez said that in her area, there are people who don't have a truck, so they will pay a neighbor to haul the items to the dump. Council Member Brannelly said that when the landlord has a tenant come in, there is a deposit with the rent. She said that the security deposit was against damage in the apartment when the tenant leaves. She went on to say that there are people who are making money on hauling the garbage.

**Fairchild Wheeler Golf Course** – page 212. Mr. Carroll said that the revenue numbers were up (pg. 213, and 232) It is possible to trace the increase over the last four years. There are many reasons for this, one of which is the management efforts and the irrigation system. The investment has proved worthwhile. The Pro Shop is now in private hands. The First Tee program has done well, along with the driving range. The operation is going smoothly. It is a customer orientated business and the customers are increasing. In a few years, eventually there will need to be a new cart barn and the carts should be replaced with electric carts.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia asked if the City was being compensated with the restaurant and the bar. A brief discussion about the overall situation followed. Council Member Brannelly asked if there was a figure for the revenue. Mr. Carroll said that he could do a break out on this. The discussion then moved to potential improvements. The First Tee program is great for the Bridgeport students. It has been a good success story.

The discussion then moved to lighting in the parking lot at the golf course. Mr. Carroll said that he would look into this.

Council Member Martinez asked what the full expenses of the golf course. Mr. Sherwood reviewed the figures with her. The golf course generated \$400,000 in revenues.

Mr. Sherwood then directed everyone's attention to page 221 that outlines the budget for the Zoo. Even though the City has lost the subsidy, the City has never backed off the City's commitment to the Zoo.

**Recreation** – Council Member Curwen asked about the idea of possibly moving the seniors into a new facility. Mr. Carroll said that he does not have a problem with this and his department enjoys working with the seniors. Mr. Carroll said that the Recreation program should be about all the residents, not just the children.

The city now trains their own life guards for the beaches and the parks.

Council Member dePara asked about the seasonal employees. Mr. Carroll explained that the life guards are the biggest expense. The city also covers the pools in addition to the parks. Currently there are 38 life guards. These are all part time employees and there is no way to predict how many will be needed.

Council Member Martinez asked about the charge for the sports teams and where the figures for that were located. Mr. Carroll told her what page and line item the numbers had in the budget book.

On page 232, Mr. Carroll reviewed the details of the various programs and gave the Committee an update on the work done in the various parks and the repairs following the storm.

Mr. Carroll thanked the Committee for the seasonal funding because that is what makes the programs work.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia asked about the bathrooms that the City was going to build. Mr. Carroll said that originally, there had been an idea of having pre-fabs done, but after one was installed, it became apparent that it was cheaper to do it inhouse.

Council Member Brannelly asked about the park stickers and the line items associated with them. Mr. Carroll reviewed the information with her. Mr. Carroll said that a break out of the day passes, out of state residents, regular stickers and the other categories, could be done. Mr. Catino pointed out that the non-resident passes have the potential of bringing in a lot of money. The bulk of the revenue is from day passes. He added that Mr. Carroll had worked very hard to upgrade the security at the parks checkpoints. This has improved the parks.

Council Member Martinez had a question about having food concessions in the parks. Mr. Carroll said that there is one business that had bid on the concession for Beardsley and Seaside. A discussion followed about the details.

Mr. Sherwood said that the Airport was down slightly on revenues because of the construction underway. Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia said that the bust of Igor Sikorsky was loaned to Stratford. She asked if there was a paper trail. Mr. Carroll said that he would look into this.

Mr. Sherwood then directed everyone's attention to Engineering on page 286. Mr. Sherwood said that there were no major changes. The new City Engineer is working out well.

Mr. Sherwood said that with the Harbor, the City only pays for the Harbor Master.

Council Member Curwen thanked Mr. Carroll and Mr. Catino for all their work on these reports. Mr. Carroll said that there is a weekly budget meeting and this allows the department to notice changes early on.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia asked about the status of the MadVacs. Mr. Carroll said that they are all old and that some new motors have been found. There are probably about four MadVacs in service right now.

Council Member Curwen said that it was great to see that the Utilities Manager was working out. Mr. Carroll said that the employee isn't just focused on utilities, but helps out in other areas.

Mr. Catino said that Mr. John Cotell was able to lock in some very significant savings on fuel for the City.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER DEPARA SECONDED.**

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 10:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon L. Soltes  
Telesco Secretarial Services

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT  
BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE  
REGULAR MEETING  
APRIL 24, 2010**

**ATTENDANCE:** Robert Curwen, Chair; Susan Brannelly; Carlos Silva,  
Lydia Martinez, AmyMarie Vizzo-Paniccia

**STAFF:** Michael Feeney, Director of Finance;

**OTHERS:** Council Member Evette Brantley

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Curwen called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Council Member Curwen said that he wanted to start working on the reconciliation and possible cost reductions.

**Comptroller's Office** – Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia asked if there was a way to consolidate the Finance Department and Comptroller into one office. Mr. Feeney said that all the tasks that could be combined have been. Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia asked if there could be fewer bodies. Mr. Feeney said that there were 18.5 staff members and that six of them are devoted to Accounts Payable. Currently, the City cuts the checks for the Board of Education, also. Mr. Feeney said that it is important to keep the Comptroller's functions involving requisitions separate from Accounts Payable as a check and balance system. Mr. Feeney said that the City was moving towards paperless and direct deposit as much as possible. Four unions have already moved over to the direct deposit system. This reduces the workload on the print shop and the mailing costs.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia said that she would like to have the Council Members notified when the contracts are coming up for negotiations, so that the Council Members can be informed before the Contracts Committee has to approve the new union contracts.

Council Member Silva asked about the contractual negotiations. He pointed out that at Budget time, the Committee is often stymied because some of the issues are contractual and the Council Members are not aware of this. Council Member Curwen said that in the past he had sat down with the Mayor to discuss the potential direction of negotiations. No member of the Council can sit in on the negotiations because it is a conflict of interest since the Council approves the contracts. However, there is some communication in advance. Mr. Feeney said that it would be important to sit down with the administration for a briefing. Discussion followed.

Council Member Martinez said that she would like to see the City generate more revenues. The discussion moved back to the issue of the use of the bulk waste transfer station by non residents.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia said that the residents are pointed out to her that there are lay offs and then rehiring or having new hires brought on. She said that the taxpayers think that the Council does not know what is going on.

**Printing** – Council Member Curwen asked about the postage machines. Mr. Feeney reviewed this with her.

Council Member Martinez asked about charging the departments who use the Printing Department. Council Member Curwen said that a major portion of the work is for the Board of Education. Mr. Feeney said that this printing was being done at cost and charged back to the Board.

Council Member Curwen asked if there would be any savings on the postage. Mr. Feeney said that each employee's checks are delivered to their departments. The biggest postage bill is the tax assessments and bills. Mr. Feeney said that there are statutory requirements regarding these.

**Purchasing Department** - Mr. Feeney said that the City was working on implementing P-cards. Mr. Feeney then reviewed the details of the process. Council Member Curwen asked about the P-cards for Council Members. Mr. Feeney said that limits can be put on categories, but that receipts would still be needed for checks and balances. Discussion about the details of the uses for this card followed. The discussion then moved to the fact that Bridgeport is the only municipality that pays taxes on the stipends.

*Council Member Brantley left the meeting at 11:00 a.m.*

Council Member Curwen said that a discretionary funding account was being discussed for the various districts. There was a brief discussion about the process for requesting donations for district organizations by their representatives.

**Tax Collector's Office** – Council Member Silva said that he had concerns about the number of out of state cars in Bridgeport. There were concerns about the legalities involved. Council Member Curwen then said that he would look into this.

**Tax Assessor's Office** – No discussion.

**Treasury Office** – Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia said that the new Treasurer was hired and he had not been introduced to anyone.

**Registrar of Voters** – Council Member Silva said that he would like to combine the Town Clerk and the Registrar of Voters offices. The Registrars will be moving over to the Annex. Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia said that while it was nice that the office was moving, the problem of parking remained. It was pointed out that there would have to be two vaults, one for Vital Records and one for the Registrar of Voters.

**City Clerk's Office** – Council Member Curwen said that there was a discussion of moving the Legislative Office under the supervision of the City Clerk. He then reviewed the benefits and potential problems associated with this. He reminded everyone that according to the Charter, the City Clerk works for the Council, not the Mayor. Discussion followed.

**City Attorney's Office** – Council Member Silva said that he would like to see the two vacant positions unfunded or have some explanation of this. Council Member Brannelly said that she thought the positions were for two paralegals. Council Member Curwen said that he would look into this.

**Archives and Records** – No changes.

**Civil Services** – The department would like to add forty police officers rather than the twenty that have allocated funding. Council Member Curwen said that this would not cost the City extra funds because the candidates pay for the test and the first 20 officers are paid for by stimulus funds. However, the additional officers would have to be part of the budget. In the next few years, the Police Department will lose a number of officers and the larger class will help with replacement costs.

Council Member Curwen said that if the City hired in January, that the City would only have six months of the additional twenty salaries. Currently the department is short 59 officers and there are between 10 to 12 retirements a year. Council Member Martinez said that the Federal requirements dictate that the new officers not supplant the number of the officers in place when the application is filed.

Council Member Curwen said that he would like to see Grants, Benefits and Civil Services consolidated. The Grants, which is different from Central Grants, work on the benefits for the City employees who receive salaries from grant funding. Discussion followed.

**Pensions and Benefits** - No discussion.

**Town Clerk** – Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia had several questions about this.

**OPM** – No changes.

**CAO** – Council Member Curwen said that there had been significant discussions previously about CityStat and the staffing required to keep the program moving forward. Discussion followed.

**ITS** – Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia suggested that the GIS staff member be moved back to ITS. Council Member Curwen suggested Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia speak with Council President McCarthy. Council Member Curwen said that conversations are underway about the possibility of combining the BOE ITS department with the City ITS department. Discussion followed.

**Police Department** – Council Member Curwen said that there was a COPS grant for twenty new hires. Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia said that the records room needs attention. Mr. Feeney said that the department had lost a number of typists and that now officers were manning the records. Mr. Feeney said that there was a major effort to go electronic. He added that if there was a clerical job, he did not want a uniform filling the position.

**Fire Department** – Council Member Curwen asked if there needed to be an ordinance for the false alarms for Sacred Heart.

Council Member Curwen asked if there was any information that the Council Members wanted from the staff. Council Member Silva asked for information about Public Facilities, which spends the largest amount of the budget, asked for a reduction in the budget.

*Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia left the meeting at 12:20 p.m.*

Council Member Curwen then suggested that the Council Members consider mothballing the Public Health building because it costs the City major dollars. He suggested that the employees be moved temporarily until a better location can be found.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER SILVA MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY SECONDED.**

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 12:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon L. Soltes  
Telesco Secretarial Services

City of Bridgeport  
Budget and Appropriations Committee  
Regular Meeting  
April 24, 2010  
Page 4



**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT  
BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS  
REGULAR MEETING  
APRIL 27, 2010**

**ATTENDANCE:** Robert Curwen, Chair; Angel dePara, Co-chair; Carlos Silva, AmyMarie Vizzo-Paniccia; Susan Brannelly

**OTHERS:** Council President Thomas McCarthy; Martin McCarthy; Barbara Bellinger, BOE Chair; Maria Pereira, BOE; Bob Simmons, BOE; Sauda Efia Baraka, BOE; Delores Fuller, BOE; Pat Crossin, BOE; Dr. John Ramos, Superintendent of Schools, Ben Barnes, BPS; John DeBenato, BPS

**CALL TO ORDER**

Council Member dePara called the meeting to order at 6:14 p.m.

**BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Mr. Sherwood directed everyone's attention to page 381. Mr. Sherwood said that now the City was under minimum budget requirements, which is not related to expenses. Mr. Sherwood said that last year, the budget had Federal Stimulus funding, which is treated as a grant. Therefore the budget is being reduced on both sides to reflect the change of category to grant funding.

Dr. Ramos then greeted everyone and introduced everyone. He said that the budget submitted was for more than what the Mayor's suggested budget.

Mr. Barnes then gave a PowerPoint presentation overview of the budget. He reviewed the categories required by the State Department of Education. There are some reductions, mostly because of vacant positions. There has been a reorganization in the Central Office, along with other steps taken. Mr. Barnes then reviewed two pie charts showing the source of funding and another one that outlines the expenditures. The City tax dollars accounts for approximately 26% of the total funds, with ECS providing 72% and additional grants the remaining 2%. Instruction accounts for 72% of the budget, Support services 20%, Administration (BOE and Superintendent only) 1% and Pupil Services 7%.

There has been a cap on ECS funding for the last two years and no overall increase for the District since July 1, 2008. There are increasing costs in health care and special education. However, there is the possibility of a reduction in State aid.

The 2010-2011 budget is a reduced services budget. There are some additional funds for teachers and paraprofessionals to meet the special education demands. This is less than sending the special education students out of district for services. There have also been increases in costs relating to High School accreditation and additional funds for the annual replacement for textbook and supplies.

Mr. Barnes then reviewed the reductions in transportation, Central Office and miscellaneous reductions. The student enrollment has decreased since 2005. In view of this, Mr. Barnes then reviewed the increases since 2005 to the projected 2010-2011.

He explained that "Fixed Costs" is defined as costs that the Board has no control over, such as Special Education tuition, utilities, and transportation. In 2005, only 90.3% of the budget was for the fixed costs; in 2009-2010, the Fixed Costs rose to 95.5%. The proposed budget for 2010-2011 will hopefully have 91.4% in Fixed Costs. Mr. Barnes said that it is clear that the district must take dramatic action to reduce the Fixed Costs, since that only leave 4.5% of budget for building maintenance, and other items not covered by the Fixed Costs.

*Dr. Ramos then distributed copies of a Bridgeport Board of Education Budget Reduction Strategies to the Council members.*

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER SILVA MOVED TO ADD THE FOLLOWING THREE ITEMS TO THE RECORD:**

**EXHIBIT #1 - BOARD OF EDUCATION REDUCTION STRATEGIES,**

**EXHIBIT #2 - POWERPOINT RECOMMENDED BUDGET**

**PRESENTATION; AND**

**EXHIBIT #3 - BOE LETTER TO THE COUNCIL.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER CURWEN SECONDED.**

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Dr. Ramos gave a brief overview of proposed reductions. He added that if the nutrition program was expanded to all the schools, there would be more Federal reimbursements. Dr. Ramos said that when the Council Members attended a budget meeting at the School of Aquaculture, Council Member Baker had asked for a list of specific cuts and this list was an attempt to satisfy his request.

Dr. Ramos said that last year, the District had requested give-backs from the Teachers Union and the Administrators, but that was not possible.

Dr. Ramos said that there had been questions about the ARRA funds, which are intended to assist in accelerating the improvement and add value to the schools. There has been a movement across the nation to use the funding to save money and maintain the status

quo. However, the ARRA funding will be ending next year, so they will only buy one year of funding.

Depending on the final budget figure, Dr. Ramos said that there were three potential areas of additional cuts. With 99% of the budget allocated for personnel, there is very little room to move without cutting personnel. Unfortunately, some of them are radical and focused on trying to make the bottom line work. One potential cut was delaying the opening of the Discovery Magnet school until September 2011.

Dr. Ramos said that over the years, the students have paid for the fact that the City has not been able to fund the schools in the manner that they would like to have done.

Council President McCarthy then asked about the funding and whether or not it included Federal funding. Mr. Barnes explained that with the Federal Grants often span a number of years and have tight controls in regards to what they can be used for. Council Member McCarthy said that the ECS funding is from the State. Dr. Ramos agreed and said that the reason it was included in the funding chart was because it was part of the Operating Budget. Council President asked what the impact of the Federal Government grants would have on the chart. Mr. Barnes said that if those figures were included, it would increase the District spending from \$215 to \$240 per year. Dr. Ramos said that there was a misconception that the District spends the funds without thought, but this was not so. Each year, the District works to move positions from the Operations budget to the Grant funding.

A Bridgeport Public School employee then said that it was important to remember that the Federal and State grants were not reflected in the chart because it was very clear that the grant funding can not be used to supplant but to supplement the programs. She added that the District grant funding was becoming strained. Council President McCarthy asked for a break out of the grant funding and how they are disbursed. Dr. Ramos said that it would be easy to provide a general picture of the overall grants, but that each grant is specific and has different applications. Council President McCarthy asked for a break out of the grant funding and how they are disbursed. Dr. Ramos then said that he would provide the information that he could and would work with Mr. Sherwood on this.

*Council Member Baker joined the group at 7:00 p.m.*

Mr. John DeBenato said that he had been able to do this with the IDEAL grant.

Council President McCarthy then had some detailed questions regarding the Board of Education Budget Reduction Strategies. Dr. Ramos then confirmed that the \$4,374,771 had already been removed from the budget.

Council Member dePara asked whether the Federal grant funding was included on the pie chart. Mr. Barnes said that he would expect the Federal funding would be included under Instruction. Discussion about the figures followed.

Council Member Curwen said that he felt the pie charts were skewed because the amount they were based on was not included. Mr. Barnes said that the charts were based on funding requested by the Board. Council Member Curwen then asked about Federal Stimulus funding, which Dr. Ramos reviewed with him.

Council Member Curwen said that the enrollment had declined by 3,000 students over the years. He added that the City of Bridgeport had three years of steady decreased budgets and would be facing another reduced budget this year.

Council Member Curwen said that he felt that the chart was skewed because of the definition of "Administration", which he felt should include principals.

Dr. Ramos said that regarding the grants issue, it was important to remember that the grants were never intended to bail out the Operating Budget. He said that the grant funding was not being spent in any way that would non productive. Dr. Ramos said that adding the grants funding to the Operation Fund would inflate the Operating Budget.

Regarding the budget pie charts are organized according to the way that the budget is set up. Therefore the principals are in the instruction portion. He added that if a comparison of the personnel was done between Hartford and Bridgeport, Bridgeport would be understaffed. Another whispered comment is that the District is top heavy with administration. He said that the administrators are stretched and the span of control is too wide and too large to manage well.

One issue that is a concern is that the money will follow the child when the Magnet School opens. Dr. Ramos said that the way that the State is handling this is reflected in how the State is handling the "Race to the Top" program. Council Member Curwen said that it seems to him that the Charter Schools siphon off the cream of the crop, and therefore the funding will stay with the District because it is ECS funding.

Mr. Sherwood requested everyone to turn to page 382. He said that this page lists all the principals and assistant principals by school. MUNIS also allows the data to be organized according to all the staff assigned to each school.

Council Member Curwen said that he believed it was a new day and age for the District and the Council. He said that for the last seven or fifteen years, there has been a separation of entities, which has cost the District more funding. The City has resources where they should be sharing. He then pointed out that the City had made nearly three million dollars on recycling this year. Council Member Curwen then listed a number of

areas of concerns. He then urged the District to work closely with the Mayor and the Council.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia said that she thought the breakfast program was in all the schools. Dr. Ramos said that currently the program was in certain schools that volunteered to pilot it, but now all the schools would be doing it. There is new packaging so that the students may be able to eat in the classroom.

Ms. O'Malley came forwards and said that about one third of the children received the breakfast, but 95% of the students are in the lunch program. The staff is already in place and the only increase the District would see would be in food costs, not in the labor side. Currently 95% of the funding for the food is from the Federal government. Mr. Sherwood said that this was outlined in budget book.

Council Member Brannelly asked about the 1.8 million in the unallocated reductions noted in the PowerPoint presentation. Mr. Barnes then referred everyone to the line item budget, which was attached to the letter from the Superintendent. He then reviewed the various line items, such as pre-purchasing commodities, the Central Office reorganization, and other items listed there with the Committee members. He cautioned everyone that the number for the pre-buying was a projected number.

Council Member Brannelly asked about the 2009-2010 budget when a budget surplus was discovered. Mr. Barnes said that some departments in the District were not able to spend their funding; there was some pre-purchases and the District ended up with a surplus, which was rolled into the fund balance. He added that currently, there is 10 million dollars that are encumbered, by commitments to vendors, or planned purchases. At the end of the year, these funds will be carefully reviewed to insure that there are the appropriate controls in place.

Council Member Brannelly asked where the budgeting for the Central Office was located. Mr. Barnes directed everyone's attention to page 18 in the line item budget. He explained that there were a number of categories, such as Transportation and Central Kitchen, which were part of the Central Office on the following pages. Council Member Brannelly then asked for a report on the "Central Office" costs.

Council Member Martin McCarthy pointed out that Black Rock School did not have a principal noted. Mr. Barnes said that there were a number of positions that were incorrectly coded when the transfer to MUNIS happened. These items are being corrected. The staff member is in the budget, but not under the category where he or she should be.

Council Member Martinez asked how many teachers might be cut if the budget needs to be reconciled. Dr. Ramos said that there are contracts that dictate the class sizes. It

would depend on the money available, but the District can not violate the class size. Council Member Martinez asked about furloughs and said that while she is not in favor of having the students being out of school, it would save money. Dr. Ramos said that last year, many staff members did take furloughs, but shutting the district down would take the cooperation of the unions.

Council Member Martinez said that parents had sued the Hartford School district (Sheff vs. O'Neill) and that it was the same situation as the one in Bridgeport. Dr. Ramos asked Mr. McQuillan about this. There was also a Cejeff case when students who are not only eligible for an equal education but an adequate one. If Bridgeport filed a suit similar to Sheff vs. O'Neill, it could help the District, but it would take years.

Council Member Martinez said that she would be willing to help with parents and helping with them.

Council Member Curwen asked if it was possible to start charging a minimal cost for Adult Education. Dr. Ramos pointed out that it was not legally possible. It was also pointed out the classes generates income for the District. Mr. Crossin asked if a blanket contract for copiers had been considered by City.

Council Member Curwen asked if the District has set up a fund for lawsuit settlements. He pointed out that the settlement for a recent case cost everyone in the City.

Council Member Curwen then asked if there had been any utility audits. Mr. Sherwood then reviewed some of the things that the City had been doing. Dr. Ramos said that there had been some upgrades to save energy. Mr. Barnes pointed out that the District operates 40 buildings. The new school buildings have helped and the District is looking into reducing the computer operating costs.

Council Member Curwen asked about the Workmen's Compensation. It was explained that there was an interruption in the program and that there would be another effort towards this.

Council Member Curwen suggested that the District look at its fleet and possibly reducing the amount of vehicles and fuel used.

Council Member dePara asked about the principals being in the Instruction portion of the pie chart. Dr. Ramos explained that they monitor instruction. Council Member dePara then asked if it would be possible to get a chart with the principals in a separate section. Dr. Ramos said that this could be done.

Council Member Curwen said that the Committee was committed to helping the District to find cost savings measures and would not mind meeting on a regular basis.

Council Member dePara asked about how the administration felt about the recommendations made by the Gibson report. Dr. Ramos said that much of what was suggested was something that the District had been either considering or working on. The administration will scrutinize these closely and implement what they can.

*Council President McCarthy left the meeting at 8:00 p.m.*

Other aspects will take longer because it will take some cooperation by the union.

Dr. Ramos said that on behalf the elected Board members and the staff, they appreciate the efforts greatly. He said that the days of yelling at one another should be in the past. Mr. Booker said at a breakfast earlier in the day, that if the egos can be put aside, then the City can end up being stronger. He said that he hoped that this would be

Council Member dePara asked about the ARRA grant funding. Dr. Ramos said that this was 7 million dollars in total and that it was spread out over two years. Dr. Ramos said that the District had tried to add value last year. Lisa then gave a brief overview of the various programs like a Power School student enrollment system. Approximately 2.5 million was spent and the balance of the funding is available for the District.

Council Member dePara asked about the Purchasing processes and if there are RFQs or RFPs being done. Mr. Sherwood said that there had been discussions about having a warehouse with paper products or other common products, like cleaning supplies in conjunction with the City.

Dr. Ramos then reviewed the list of the requested budget breakouts. Mr. Barnes said that they would try to have it prepared for Friday.

Council Member Curwen said that there would be a public hearing in two days on the full budget including the District.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER CURWEN MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA SECONDED.**

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon L. Soltes  
Telesco Secretarial Services

City of Bridgeport  
Budget and Appropriations  
Regular Meeting  
April 27, 2010  
Page 7

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT  
BUDGET & APPROPRIATIONS  
REGULAR MEETING  
APRIL 28, 2010**

**ATTENDANCE:** Robert Curwen, Chair; Angel dePara, Co-chair; Lydia Martinez, Susan Brannelly; Carlos Silva

**STAFF:** Thomas Sherwood, OPM, Michael Feeney

**OTHERS:** Fleeta Hudson, City Clerk; Council Member Martin McCarthy,  
Alba Rodriguez; Council Member Andre Baker, Frances Wilson, Alma Maya; Assistant City Clerk; Ron Preston, Adam Wood, Andy Nunn, Ann Murray,

**CALL TO ORDER**

Council Member Curwen called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

**MAYOR'S OFFICE**

Mr. Sherwood directed everyone's attention to page 2. He gave a brief overview of the staffing in Mayor's Office.

Mr. Wood said that the Mayor's priorities are focused on having the City be a greener city and keeping control on the spending. Promoting public safety is also important.

Council Member Baker asked about the increases in the salaries and pointed out that there were cuts in other departments. Mr. Wood said that there were no layoffs in the current budget or the upcoming budgets. As part of the bargaining units agreement, there were no increases. Mr. Sherwood said that the increases are contractual increases. If there are concessions given by the unions, this will reduce the overall spending in order to have a final figure to project the number. If no concessions are given, the funding will have to be paid out. The non-union members of staff in the Mayor's Office follow the BCSA union contract. Last year, the staff in the Mayor's Office took furloughs, as did many of the other unions.

Council Member Baker asked what positions were in the union. Mr. Wood listed which the union positions.

Council Member Baker asked about the health care increase and the pension increase. The health care costs have increased across the board, Mr. Sherwood explained and the State increased the pensions by 2%.

Council Member Brannelly asked about one position that was appeared to be a Mayoral aide. Mr. Wood explained that the position was actually in CityStat in the CAO's office.

Council Member Martinez asked about the various positions in the Mayor's Office. Mr. Sherwood and Mr. Wood reviewed all the various titles.

### **CITY CLERK**

Mr. Sherwood said that the budget was on page 61. Ms. Hudson said that Ms. Wilson was the new Assistance City Clerk. Ms. Murray, who retired recently, was present to assist with questions regarding the budget.

Ms. Wilson explained that the office was asking for a new time stamp, a new City Seal and a Typist 3 positions. The two stamps are 15 years old, in need of repair with parts that are no longer available.

City Clerk Hudson said that the records that the office maintains are permanent and need to be properly processed. Council Member dePara said that he had been in the office and seen the City Clerk trying to repair the time stamp with a great deal of difficulty.

Council Member Brannelly asked about the Typist 3 positions. Ms. Murray said that one of the Typists 3 positions was filled and funded, and the second position had been unfunded last year. She explained that floaters had been sent up, but they did not have the necessary qualification for the position.

Council Member dePara then reviewed the Personnel lines as to their funding and vacancy. Mr. Sherwood then gave the overview of details. Ms. Murray will be training Ms. Wilson on a part time basis regarding the State and Federal mandates for FOI, claims against the City; processing

records. Council Member dePara asked for a list of the various tasks for the Committee. Ms. Murray said that she would compile one for him.

Council Member Brannelly expressed concern about filling Ms. Wilson's vacant position. Her position is currently being filled by a Clerical Assistant that transferred from Public Facilities.

Council Member dePara asked about the benefits for the part time training position. Mr. Sherwood said that the benefits were from the retirement.

Council Member Martinez asked about the replacement of Clerical Assistance with a Typist 3. Mr. Sherwood said that this would have to be handled by Civil Service and would be dictated by how the funding was allocated.

Council Member Martinez asked the fact that the BOE had brought in formerly retired administrators as consultants and that the City had objected to this practice. Mr. Sherwood said that there was a difference in that the BOE retirees came back for long term positions, while this position is short term.

Council Member Baker asked about the details of the Typist 3 positions, which Mr. Sherwood reviewed.

Council Member Silva asked about the transfer of the Clerical Assistant to City Clerk's. Mr. Sherwood said that last year Budget Committee had authorized the transfer of the Clerical Assistant.

*Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia joined the meeting at 6:47 p.m.*

### **TOWN CLERK**

Mr. Sherwood said that page 98 has the budget for the Town Clerk.

Ms. Maya said that she would like to warn everyone that Ms. Rodriguez was considering retiring and that she may need to return for elections since the rest of the staff is not up to speed on election law.

Ms. Rodriguez reviewed changes in the revenues, including the conveyance taxes, and registrations. There will be increases in Vital

Records, because the State is raising the fees. In November, all the new election laws will be taking effect.

Regarding the attendance at conferences, the office only has funding to attend one of the conference, rather than the two conferences.

A request for the toner for printer was reduced by the budgets. The budget for Legal Notices was reduced, and the Legal Notices are required by law. The election equipment needs to be maintained. All of the job responsibilities in the office are mandated by State Statute.

Council Member Silva asked about the location of the conferences that the staff is required to attend. Ms. Rodriguez said that they were in state.

Council Member Silva asked whether there is a safe. Ms. Rodriguez said that there was a fire proof file cabinet.

When asked about the job classifications, it was said that the job classifications were out moded and does not work for the office.

Town Clerk's, City Clerk's and Registrar of Voters are all governed by State Statutes.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia asked about the mandatory conferences budget line reductions. Mr. Sherwood said that the reason that there were cuts, was because the Mayor had directed that all zero expended lines be reduced by 25%. One problem is that the bill for a line item might not arrive until March 10th. Other lines that had some expenditures were reduced by 10%. The department does have the ability to transfer funds between accounts.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia asked about Policy and Procedures manual for the department. Ms. Rodriguez said that one of the staff members is working on creating one. When Ms. Rodriguez joined the department had 13 employees, now it is down to three.

Council Member McCarthy asked about holding employees accountable. Ms. Maya said that the Department was working on it and a time clock will be employed. Supervisors need to be given the authority by department heads.

Council Member dePara asked about some of the line items on page 100. Ms. Rodriguez explained that everything, such as the scanning that is done with high speed connection for the Internet. The discussion then moved back to the issuance of hunting and fishing licenses, which the Town Clerk's no longer will be doing.

Council Member Martinez about the revenue of 1.5 million. Ms. Rodriguez confirmed this. Mr. Sherwood said that the State was considering increasing the State's portion of the fees. Some of the increases in fees will go to the City.

Council Member Martinez asked Ms. Maya if the department had a candidate to replace Ms. Rodriguez if she retires.

Council Member Curwen asked about the increases in the fees for Vital Statistics. Ms. Maya directed everyone's attention to the various fees that would be increasing.

A discussion then followed about the hunting and fishing licenses and how many the City issued.

Council Member dePara asked about the conveyance tax. Mr. Sherwood reviewed this with the Committee. Ms. Rodriguez pointed out that the State now had a vacant property fee regarding foreclosed properties.

Council Member Baker asked about the liquor permit fees. Ms. Rodriguez said that the revenue remains in the City. Council Member Baker asked about Mr. Blunt's inspection. Mr. Sherwood said that this was because it was food.

### **RECESS**

The meeting recessed at 7:26 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 7:30 p.m.

### **FINANCE DEPARTMENT**

Mr. Feeney said that he was present to have the Committee's approval of Tax Anticipation Note (TAN). He handed out a Cash Flow Forecast. This is done on a routine basis. The weak cash flow time is from November to February. This has been done for the last five years.

Mr. Feeney introduced Mr. Ron Preston was appointed by the Mayor as the Treasurer for the City of Bridgeport.

Council Member dePara asked if Mr. Feeney had the resolution referred to the Council. Mr. Feeney made copies for the Committee members.

Council Member Curwen asked what the interest rates would be. Mr. Feeney explained that he would be breaking the \$95,000,000 into two issuances, one in June and another in November. He pointed out that the amounts would be based on trends and history.

Council Member Brannelly asked about liability of Pullman and Connelly, the bond counsel, if the City was found to be out of compliance. Mr. Feeney said that if it was the bond counsel's error, the liability would be on them.

Council Member Baker asked about the payment schedules. Mr. Feeney reviewed this with him. Council Member Baker asked where this would be reflected in the Budget book. Mr. Feeney said that it would in the Other Financials around page 360. Council Member Baker asked what the fees were for Pullman and Connelly. Mr. Feeney said that he could have this information ready for the Committee on Friday.

Council Member Martinez asked if there were plans to continue with Pullman and Connelly.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia asked if the hours worked could be included with report. Mr. Feeney said that the Finance Department does not actually track the number of hours being paid for. Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia said that she would just like to have a list of the services provided.

Council Member Brannelly asked about the fact that the City was actually spending \$1,500 a day for the TANS. Mr. Feeney agreed. He pointed out that there is no Fund Balance to draw down. The ECS money arrives late in the year. However, the payroll of 19 million a month and the vendor bills of approximately 2 million dollars a week must be paid on a regular basis.

Council Member Silva asked about whether or not the bond counsel was local or statewide. Mr. Feeney said that there was an RFP and the firm is local.

Council Member Martinez asked to see the trend of bonding. Mr. Feeney said that this would be available in the Capital.

Council Member Baker asked about expenses, which Mr. Feeney quoted to him. Council Member Baker asked if Purchasing had tried to negotiate longer terms with the businesses, such as a 45 day window. Mr. Feeney said that this had been done in the past, but that there had been a lot of complaints, so it was moved back to 30 days. The largest vendor is United Illuminated.

Council Member dePara asked why the City wants one issuance of TAN. Mr. Feeney said that he was only asking for authorization for the TAN. The actual draw down and issuance of bonds will be done in two stages. Council Member dePara asked why Mr. Feeney wasn't doing a smaller amount, and coming back to the Council for a second amount. Mr. Feeney said that it was a matter of timing because it has to go to Committee, and then to the Council.

Council Member dePara asked the repayment schedules. Mr. Feeney said that this was a tax anticipating note, which determines when the repayment is due. Since this is a tax note, it would be due a week after the taxes were due.

Council Member Curwen said that he would like to see it clarified in the resolution so that in the event of a catastrophic event, there would be documentation that there was going to be two issuances of the bond. Mr. Feeney said that this was written in this manner to have flexibility with the cash flow and timing.

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER SILVA MOVED TO APPROVE THE ISSUANCE OF TANS AS OUTLINED IN THE RESOLUTION FROM THE FINANCE OFFICE.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY SECONDED.**

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

### ADJOURNMENT

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY MOVED TO ADJOURN.  
\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA SECONDED.  
\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 8:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Sharon L. Soltes  
Telesco Secretarial Services

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT  
BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS  
REGULAR MEETING  
APRIL 29, 2010**

**ATTENDANCE:** Angel dePara, Chair; Robert Curwen, Co-chair;  
Carlos Silva, AmyMarie Vizzo-Paniccia, Susan  
Brannelly, Lydia Martinez

**OTHERS:** Council Member Robert Walsh; Dr. John Ramon,  
Superintendent of Schools, Mary Pat Healy,  
Laura Olick, Barbara Bellinger, BPS BOE Chair

**CALL TO ORDER**

Council Member dePara called the meeting to order at 6:25 p.m. Council Member dePara introduced the members of the Committee.

**PUBLIC HEARING ON THE GENERAL FUND**

Superintendent John Ramos came forward and greeted the Committee on behalf of the Board and himself. He said that he wanted to acknowledge the new spirit of cooperation between the City government and the District. The information that was requested on Tuesday night would be delivered to Council Member Curwen on Friday.

Ms. Mary Pat Healy came forward and said that the Bridgeport Child Advocacy Coalition appreciates to give input on the Mayor's budget. She said that the Coalition realizes that these were difficult financial times. She urged the City and the District to work together to prevent any harm to the Bridgeport students. The proposed budget does not have an increase and this means that there will be deep cuts in the District. Ms. Healy said that the cost savings outlined in the Gibson report may take some time. She urged the District to take immediate steps to save as much as possible because the current budget does not take inflation into account. Parents realize that the City does not have many funds. She also commented that it was difficult to find out about the meeting as it was not posted on the City website.

Ms. Laura Olick came forward and said that education was important to Bridgeport. She said that this was important to give the Bridgeport students the best. She said that there were many people who were working on

Ms. Barbara Bellinger, the Bridgeport BOE Chair, came forward and said that people who are involved with the process knows how difficult it is to make room for additional items. She said that she felt very encouraged with the cooperation between the City and

the District. She said that she was hoping that the City and the District could work together to make the dollars go as far as possible. She then thanked everyone for their hard work.

Council Member dePara asked if there was any one who wished to address the Committee. No one came forward.

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER CURWEN MOVED TO CLOSE THE PUBLIC HEARING ON THE GENERAL FUND.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ SECONDED.**

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The public hearing was closed at 6:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Sharon L. Soltes  
Telesco Secretarial Services

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT  
BUDGET & APPROPRIATIONS  
REGULAR MEETING  
APRIL 30, 2010**

**ATTENDANCE:** Robert Curwen, Chair; Angel dePara, Carlos Silva  
AmyMarie Vizzo-Paniccia; Susan Brannelly (6:12 p.m.);  
Lydia Martinez (6:30 p.m.)

**STAFF:** Thomas Sherwood, OPM

**OTHERS:** Alanna Kabel, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer;  
Kelly McDermott, Dawn Szabo; Larry Osborn, Labor;  
Tom White, Legislative Office; Council Member Andre  
Baker (6:19 p.m.)

**CALL TO ORDER**

Council Member Curwen called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m.

**CENTRAL GRANTS & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

Ms. Kabel distributed a document titled “Central Grants and Community Development Budget Hearing Information Packet”

Mr. Sherwood then directed everyone to page 10, and said there was no change in staffing. The Two departments of Central Grants and Community Development have been combined. Ms. Kabel reviewed the history of the department. She explained that all those who are filing for a grant now submit the paperwork to the Department. The department now works with OPM and evaluates each grant in terms of Return on Investment.

Mr. Sherwood explained that the grant world is changing and the City expects to have to compete more and more in the coming years for smaller and smaller funding amounts.

*Council Member Brannelly joined the meeting at 6:12 p.m.*

The number of applications for funding that have submitted has increased, currently there are 48 grants that have been sent out and 17 have been denied. Ms. Kabel gave an overview of the various grants.

Ms. Szabo then gave an overview of the upcoming TIGER grant application. Ms. Kabel said that the department was trying to forecast the potential cuts for some of the grant programs.

Ms. McDermott pointed out the work flow chart in the packet and reviewed the details with the Committee.

*Council Member Baker joined the meeting at 6:19 p.m.*

### **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

Ms. McDermott then pointed out that there were 82 awards to organizations this year as compared to last year, which was 62. There were a number of new applications this year for the CDBG funding.

A number of changes were made this year in order to make the office more efficient. She listed the new changes, such as updating the applications. Also there are now follow up phone calls for the applicants. Regarding the best practices, the department is looking at modifying the systems internally to support the various sub recipients. HUD is now expecting more information from the City.

Mr. Sherwood explained that now the recipients are being told that they must have the funds spent within the year. The funding that has not been expended is now reassigned. Previously, the recipients would stockpile surplus funds for another project.

Council Member Silva asked how many of the six employees in Central Grants can write grants. Ms. Kabel said that five of the six employees can write grants. Council Member Silva asked about the handling of the grant applications. Ms. Kabel reviewed the process. Mr. Sherwood said that there had been a practice of modifying the budget without Central Grant's office knowledge. That has stopped and all modifications have to have Mr. Sherwood's and Ms. Kabel's signatures on the form. A discussion followed about the requirements of the Federal grants and how they are handled. Ms. Kabel said that if the grant will not negatively impact the City, it is considered. Currently, the city has \$56,600,000 pending.

*Council Member Martinez joined the meeting at 6:30 p.m.*

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia asked about the job title of CAO for Community Development. Mr. Sherwood reviewed the details. Ms. Kabel then reviewed the percentages of the key grants that were for administrative costs. Mr. Sherwood reviewed the staffing costs and pointed out that there were splits in terms of personnel because some staff members work across the board.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia asked how many CDBG applications were approved. Currently, there were 120 applications and 82 applications received funding.

Council Member dePara asked about potential reductions in line items. The discussion then moved to the travel expenses and reimbursements. Ms. Kabel said that it would be helpful to have more funding for travel, but they would be able to manage with the allocated amount. CDBG funding can be used as matching funds and the department has worked on using non-cash matching.

Council Member dePara asked how many people were dedicated grant writers. Ms. Kabel said that there were two, plus a vacancy. Ms. Kabel said that one thing that the department would like would be having a community grant writer to assist the various community groups and organizations. This position would be funded by grant funds.

Council Member Brannelly asked about the details of the staffing for grant writing. Ms. Kabel said that the department only had one grant writer for half of the year. Mr. Sherwood then explained that one of the positions had only been funded for a half year. This year, the position is funded for a 12 month period.

### **LABOR**

Mr. Sherwood reviewed the department information in the budget book. Mr. Osborn came forward and greeted the Committee. Mr. Sherwood pointed out that Mr. Osborn has no real way to predict the outcome of the contract negotiations underway.

There are eight tentative agreements in place. The health benefits are not included in the agreements. The main focus in Labor is on health care.

Currently there are three contract managers in the office. Mr. Osborn reviewed the positions and pointed out that the office was currently down in terms of staff.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia asked about the retirement benefits for new employees of 25 years of service. Mr. Sherwood and Mr. Osborn reviewed the details of this.

Council Member Martinez asked if there were other cities that had similar plans. Mr. Osborn said that he didn't know of any other cities that did, but had received calls from other municipalities about Bridgeport's tentative agreements.

Mr. Sherwood reminded everyone that there were increases in various salaries because of the previous agreements when there were no raises. Mr. Sherwood reviewed that several of the increases in salary were almost totally offset by the increase in the health care costs. Council Member Silva asked about the Mayor's 25% cut. Mr. Sherwood said that the 25% cut could be from operations or from personnel.

Council Member Silva asked for a breakdown of all the unaffiliated staff members.

Council Member Silva asked whether there could be further consolidation in the Labor and Human Resources. Discussion followed this and the consideration of post employment benefits.

Council Member Brannelly asked if there was a forecasted date when the changes may be implemented. Mr. Sherwood said that there were a number of factors in play and that there were new policies and procedures that would be enacted on July 1st, 2010. There were some changes that were being considered but had never been done before.

Council Member Brannelly asked for a simple breakdown of the unions and what they represent. Mr. Osborn then noted this down.

Council Member Brannelly asked if the forecasting was done in terms of what was expected in terms of reductions. Discussion followed.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER DE PARA MOVED TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS NEGOTIATIONS**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY SECONDED.**

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The Committee, Council Member Baker and Mr. Osborn entered into Executive Session to discuss negotiations at 7:26 p.m. The Committee returned to public session at 7:55 p.m.

Council Member dePara asked about the vacancy in the Senior Labor Relations. Mr. Osborn then reviewed his duties regarding the police and fire contracts and also overseeing the office.

### **LEGISLATIVE OFFICE**

Mr. Sherwood directed everyone's attention to page 102 in the budget book. Mr. White said that he submitted the same figures from last year. He said that he had asked for input from the Council but never received any information. Mr. White said that he felt that the big picture needs to be look at and that there was a need for Human Resource Management. He pointed out that the Executive Summary could be done almost immediately.

*Council Member Silva left the meeting at 8:00 p.m.*

Council Member Curwen asked about the lack of coordination and cooperation between the City Clerk's Office and the Legislative Office.

Council Member Curwen said that there was a problem with the Legal services budget being combined with other items. Mr. Sherwood said that he would adjust this.

Council Member Baker asked about the defunding of the vacant position and that in the last year, the office seemed to be ineffective not because of Mr. White but because the communication problems between the offices. Discussion followed.

Mr. White said that in the last month alone, he has had interaction with approximately 95% of the Council. Council Member Baker then asked about how this could be rectified. Discussion followed.

Mr. White said that he felt that there was a need for an unbiased, fresh look at the situation from a third party. Council Member Martinez said that when she was on the Council before, there was no one to help her, so that she really appreciated Mr. White.

Council Member dePara said that over the years, he has worked with Mr. White on various different projects and that he has been helpful. It is important as Council Members to be a separate check as the legislative branch, from the administration. He said that there was definitely more potential issues. Discussion about the details of the job then followed.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ SECONDED.**

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon L. Soltes  
Telesco Secretarial Services

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT  
BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS  
REGULAR MEETING  
MAY 1, 2010**

**ATTENDANCE:** Robert Curwen, Chair; Angel dePara; Lydia Martinez,  
Howard Austin, AmyMarie Vizzo-Paniccia,  
Susan Brannelly, Carlos Silva (10:25 a.m.)

**STAFF:** Thomas Sherwood, OPM; Michael Feeney

**OTHER:** Council Member Martin McCarthy

**CALL TO ORDER**

Council Member Curwen called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

**CAPITAL OVERVIEW**

Mr. Sherwood reminded everyone that the Capital Plan needed to be voted on a week before the Operating Budget.

Mr. Sherwood then distributed copies of the O&G regarding the School Construction Funding for Harding High School and a list of project priorities for the NRZ.

Mr. Sherwood suggested that the Committee consider having the students working on painting the deco lamp posts when the heads are replaced. He added that a minority contractor was selected. Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia asked if they would be prepping. Mr. Sherwood said that the same minority contractors will be painting Kennedy stadium. Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia asked that the stadium be sand blasted first and have the vents in the bathrooms fixed so that ventilation no longer allows mold to grow.

Mr. Sherwood then reviewed the Public Facilities Equipment request for new vehicles. He said that the City had not followed through on purchasing new vehicles for Public Facilities. Council Member Curwen said that he would like to see Public Facility have the vehicles replaced on a regular basis. Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia then asked about the details of the accounting practices for this, which Mr. Sherwood reviewed with her.

Regarding the Board of Education, Mr. Sherwood wanted to know if that the Committee wanted to add Harding into the budget. Council Member Brannelly said that there had been a perception out on the street regarding Black Rock School versus Harding High

School. She reviewed the project and said that the Black Rock School had a diverse population that basically the majority of the students walked to school. Black Rock is currently K-6, but the parents want to have the school go up to K-8 and do that, the City's portion of the school expansion would be 4 million. The Black Rock School never intended to be in competition with Harding, was never in competition with Harding and fully recognizes that Harding needs major work.

*Council Member Silva joined the meeting at 10:25 a.m.*

Mr. Sherwood then explained that the projected costs of the Harding were needed for the State application and for LOCEP funding, but it was recognized that there may be changes such as having site reviews, architectural review and possibly land acquisition. Mr. Sherwood said that it wasn't possible to build the high school on the athletic fields and then demo the old school, but that the BOE was considering options.

The Committee then reviewed the Five Year Capital Plan line by line. Mr. Sherwood said that he would like to change the line Item for HVAC to HVAC/Facility Improvements. This would allow the students to work with the City employees to repair the deco lamps and to paint the poles.

A discussion followed regarding the Freeman Homes and the other NRZ requests. Council Member Curwen asked about the Housing component in the NRZ request. Mr. Sherwood said that it was to allow the City to possibly have access to HUD funding. A discussion then followed about scattered housing and other NRZ programs.

The discussion then moved to Public Facility Capital funding. Council Member Martinez then asked how the roads for paving were selected. Mr. Sherwood explained that there was a software program that grades the roads and rates them in order of need. However, there is the ability to move a particular street to the head of the list if needed.

Council Member Martinez then asked about the WPCA funding. Mr. Sherwood explained that the WPCA does not have the ability to borrow funds or bond.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia then asked about the security improvement at City Hall and the Annex. Mr. Sherwood explained that there had been some implements started.

Pleasure Beach Accessibility was discussed that. Mr. Sherwood then reviewed the history of the bridge replacement efforts. Council Member Austin asked about getting to the beach. Council Member McCarthy said that they would have water taxis. Mr. Sherwood said that the buildings would have to be cleaned up and inspected before it could be opened.

Council Member Curwen said that there had been many discussions about merging services with the Board of Education. One issue that the City would be working with them on was IT, so that both the City and the District could convert to Voice over IP. Mr. Sherwood then said that on the regular phone bills there was a line item that pays for the school phone conversion.

Council Member dePara then pointed out that the demolition list Remington Arms was on the list, which is a seriously contaminated site. He had serious concerns about the costs of the demolitions. Council Member Martinez said that she felt that the Council Members should be informed about the events in their neighborhood in advance.

Council Member McCarthy asked if the City could demo private property. Mr. Sherwood said no. Council Member McCarthy asked if it was being done by the city staff. Mr. Sherwood said that the contractors bid on the jobs.

The discussion then moved to the fact that this was a plan and that the borrowing had not been done at this time. The final line by line review then took place.

### **RECESS**

Council Member Curwen declared a five minute recess at 11:50 a.m. and the meeting reconvened at 12:00 p.m.

### **OPERATING BUDGET**

**Mayor's Office** – No changes.

**Central Grants** - Council Member Martinez said that she felt the office should communicate with the community more.

**Comptroller's Office** – No changes.

**Print Shop** - No changes.

**Purchasing** – No changes.

**Tax Collector** - Council Member Martinez said that the Tax Collector needs a position to be reclassified.

**Tax Assessor** – Council Member dePara reported that the Sacred Heart University dorms were tax exempt.

**Treasury** – No changes.

**Registrar of Voters** - No changes.

**City Clerk/Town Clerk** – Council Member Silva said that he felt that the City Clerk and the Town Clerk, the Legislative Office and the Register of Voters should be combined. Council Member Martinez asked about the training of the new Acting City Clerk. Discussion followed about the details of the budgeting in this department.

### **CAPITAL OVERVIEW Cont'd**

The discussion then moved to the final changes for amended copy of the Capital Plan.

*Council Member McCarthy left the meeting at 12:20 p.m.*

### **OPERATING BUDGET Cont'd**

**City Clerk/Town Clerk** Cont'd – Concerns were expressed about further clarification on the issues.

**City Attorney's Office** – Council Member Curwen said that the cost of the outside counsel had been reduced significantly.

### **CAPITAL OVERVIEW Cont'd**

The discussion then moved to the final changes for amended copy of the Capital Plan.

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER AUSTIN MOVED TO APPROVE THE CAPITAL PLAN AS AMENDED.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER SILVA SECONDED.**

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED WITH SIX IN FAVOR (SILVA, AUSTIN, MARTINEZ, DE PARA, BRANNELLY AND CURWEN) AND ONE OPPOSED (VIZZO-PANICCIA).**

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia then stated that there were a few line items that she objected to in the Capital budget and since the Committee had decided not to vote line by line, she would have to vote against the Capital budget.

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER SILVA MOVED TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION OF THE GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS AS AMENDED.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY SECONDED.**

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED WITH SIX IN FAVOR (SILVA, AUSTIN, MARTINEZ, DE PARA, BRANNELLY AND CURWEN) AND ONE OPPOSED (VIZZO-PANICCIA).**

*Council Member Austin left the meeting at 12:45 p.m.*

Mr. Sherwood then reviewed the information regarding unaffiliated employees that he had been requested at the last meeting. Mr. Sherwood said there was no one in the State of Connecticut has the type of health care concessions that Bridgeport has gotten.

**Archives** – No change.

**Civil Service** – Council Member Silva said that he felt that Civil Service, Labor Relations and Human Resources should be combined. Council Member Martinez said that she had experienced difficulties with some of the employees in the Mayor's Office.

**Grants Personnel** – No change.

**Labor Relations** – No change.

**Pension and Benefits** – No change.

**Town Clerk** – Consolidation with City Clerk. A brief discussion followed regarding the transferring of funds.

**Legislative Office** – A discussion about the possibility of combining the Legislative Office with the City Clerk followed. It was stated that decisions should not be made on personality issues, but on a professional business issue. It was also pointed out that it was a personnel issue. Everyone was then reminded that the Legislative Assistant takes direction from the Council, not the Mayor or the City Clerk. It was suggested leaving the Administrative Assistance position in but to only budget a six month salary. Discussion then followed.

**OPM** – Council Member Martinez asked about a position. Mr. Sherwood explained that the position she was asking about was in another department

**CAO** – Council Member Curwen said he did not want to bring in personalities. Council Member Brannelly agreed and said that she believed that the investment that has been made needs one more year. Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia pointed out that it takes five years for a business to stabilize.

The discussion about a recent shift of an employee from one department to another then followed. Council Member Brannelly said that it would be helpful for the Council Members to receive the emails regarding this.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia asked about the details regarding the Central Grants deputy chief position, which Mr. Sherwood reviewed with the Committee members.

**ITS** – No changes.

**Small Minority Businesses** – No charges.

**Police Department** – No charges.

**Fire Department** – No charges.

**Public Safety & Communications** - No charges. Council Member dePara asked about the change in the overtime amounts. Mr. Sherwood then reviewed the details of the staffing and the job requirements

**Weights and Measures** – No charges.

**Public Facilities** – Council Member Curwen said that the trucks were covered. He then said that he would like to have the Health Department building closed down. The building is only at 40% occupancy. The discussion then moved to whether the Board of Education was going to move to the Annex and the possibility of moving the Health Department into City Hall.

**Municipal Garage** - No changes.

**Roadway** – No changes.

**Sanitation** – No changes.

**Transfer Station** – Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia asked if there were one or two employees at the transfer station. Mr. Sherwood said that it was one employee with either a seasonal employee or Public Facility staff member who is assigned when the traffic is heavy.

**Golf Course** – No change.

**Zoo** – No change.

**Parks & Recreation** – Council Member Curwen said that there was a suggestion to move the three Senior Centers to the Annex. The Eastside Center is covered by grant funding. The City is obligated by a lease to remain at that location.

Council Member Martinez asked about the revenue regarding the team who are being charged to use the fields. Mr. Sherwood said that he would look into this.

**Airport** – No change

**Engineering** – No change.

**Harbor Manager** – No change.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ SECONDED.**

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon L. Soltes  
Telesco Secretarial Service

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT  
BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS  
REGULAR MEETING  
MAY 4, 2010**

**ATTENDANCE:** Robert Curwen, Chair; Angel dePara, Co-Chair; AmyMarie Vizzo-Paniccia, Lydia Martinez, Carlos Silva (6:28 p.m.), Susan Brannelly (6:38 p.m.),

**OTHER:** Council Member Andre Baker; Council Member Robert Walsh; Council Member Martin McCarthy, Council Member Michelle Lyons, Council Member A, Ayala,

**CALL TO ORDER**

Council Member dePara called the meeting to order at 6:12 p.m. Council Member dePara said that the Committee would start working on the review with OPED.

Mr. Sherwood had been asked by a number of people about having another Assistant Animal Control Officer to help with the overtime, and reduce the overtime. He reported this would cost \$33,715 for the additional staff.

Council Member Curwen said that there had been questions about why there was a drop in the revenues from the CityStat staff. He received an email that informed him that when the second position was cut, there was no staff member who was available to go out and find the unlicensed dogs. This resulted in a drop of \$100,000 revenue. Mr. Sherwood suggested that the goal be set at being revenue neutral for the salary. Discussion followed about the details.

**OPED**

The committee then turned to page 258 which outlines OPED. Mr. Sherwood said that he would like to move Ms. Saltero from Social Services into the Blight. This will be a transfer of \$48,991 from one department to the new one. Mr. Sherwood said that he would check on the benefits.

Council Member Walsh said that he had recommended that \$250,000 be cut from OPED last year because nothing has been happening in the City and now a year later, there was still nothing happening.

Council Member dePara said that he would like an overview of the various projects and the result of the consolidation. Mr. Sherwood said that he did not believe that the smaller projects were moving ahead, but he couldn't speak to larger projects like Steel Point.

Council Member Curwen said he was not at the meeting when OPED came before the Committee. Mr. Sherwood said that issues like blight happen Citywide.

*Council Member Silva joined the meeting at 6:28 p.m.*

Mr. Sherwood pointed out that Federal funding could not be used in all census tracts of the City, but that more forward progress was being made.

Council Member Martinez said that there were quite a few dollars being allocated to the blight program, which is seriously needed. She suggested that it would be good to improve the communications between the Blight and Redevelopment areas and the community.

Council Member Curwen asked Council Member Walsh about his recommendations from last year. Council Member Walsh said that he would get this information for Council Member Curwen.

Mr. Sherwood cautioned every one that when the new governor comes into office, Mr. Sherwood was expecting some serious reductions in the overall state budget. He added that deep State budget reductions would impact this department, along with other areas.

The discussion then moved to creating a Council emailing list because currently there is not one. Using Reverse9-1-1 could also be done.

Council Member Baker said that he was not pleased with the presentation from OPED and mentioned that the revenues dropped. Mr. Sherwood explained that the reason the revenue had been reduced because Chase Bank moved out of the Annex. The discussion then moved toward working on having the department doing more with less. Mr. Sherwood agreed and said that he would like to see a more detailed list of the department's accomplishments, like the number of properties closed on or new businesses opened.

*Council Member Brannelly joined the meeting at 6:38 p.m.*

Mr. Sherwood said that their growth was in the debt. In June, there will be a completed parking garage and the State will be turning over \$298,000 after the title for the parking garage is turned in. This will be revenue for the City.

Council Member Baker asked what kind of revenues were coming in from Steel Point. Mr. Sherwood said that there were revenues in the permit area.

Council Member Silva asked about the debt service and if a list could be given as to how much the City pays and when those payments are made. Mr. Sherwood gave an

overview of the practice. Council Member Silva asked how many payments were applied to the principal. Mr. Sherwood said that the City makes two interest payments and one payment against the principal.

*Council Members Michelle Lyons and Andres Ayala joined the meeting at 6:45 p.m.*

The city does not prepay any of the payments, but does have an option to renegotiate the bond if the finances are favorable. The discussion then moved to the possibility of building a parking garage to generate revenue. Council Member McCarthy said that it would cost about \$25,000 per parking space. Council Member dePara said that when the Master Plan was done, it was discovered that there were more than 11,000 parking spaces that were paid parking.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia said that she had brought this up but was told that the downtown land was too valuable to use as a parking garage. The discussion then moved to the issues involving the leaking parking garage, which has now been straightened out. RFPs have been issued for the repairs.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia pointed out that there were a number of issues coming up on Public Safety and the Terrace issue. She said that she did not believe that the City would be reimbursed for this.

On page 284, Mr. Sherwood reviewed the Building Department. Council Member Curwen said that he had been visiting the department regularly and there have been major changes in the department. Mr. Sherwood said that Mr. Paajanen had gone through Civil Service and Labor to get staff that could all work the counter as needed. It is working out well.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia then asked about a change of \$12,000 in one of the salaries. Mr. Sherwood reviewed this issue. Discussion then followed.

Council Member Martinez said that she wanted to know about the computer program. Mr. Sherwood said that it was part of the “one stop shopping” and that the company would be required to provide the program.

Regarding the Zoning Board of Appeals, Council Member Silva asked about if the fees could be charged when applicants defer their cases. Council Member Silva that at the last meeting, there were seven cases that were deferred. Council Member dePara asked if this could be followed up with the City Attorney. Council Member Curwen pointed out that the ZBA members on the Board have not been on the case from the beginning, they could not vote.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia said that when there are Zoning changes on the plans, then the developers have to change the plan.

Council Member Walsh said that he had concerns about applications when the request was to “legalize” illegal apartments. He said that he felt that the Tax Assessor should issue a letter stating that the taxes has been collected over the years.

### **RECESS**

Council Member dePara declared a recess at 7:10 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 7:20 p.m.

### **OPED Cont'd**

The Committee then looked at page 294 for the Zoning Commission. Council Member Silva asked if there were any vacant positions. Mr. Sherwood reviewed the details for the department.

### **HEALTH ADMINISTRATION**

Council Member Curwen said that the building where the Health Department is located is currently only 40% occupied. There are plans to transfer a number of the staff to the Annex, which will reduce the occupancy percentage even more. It costs \$194,000 for utilities for a year. Social Services, the Veteran’s program and the Clinic would be moved to another location and the building closed.

Mr. Sherwood said that one issue that had to be answered would be whether or not the School District was moving to the Annex or not. He added that the State was changing the WIC program and had it out for an RFP, and that there were other changes expected in the Health Start program that the State may make in the next month. He suggested reducing the utilities by \$75,000 for electricity, but not to touch the water or gas. Council Member Silva had some questions about the details of this, which Mr. Sherwood answered. Council Member Lyon asked how the potential move was being planned. She asked about how this would work with the Gibson report.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia said that this had been discussed over the years.

*Council Member Baker left the meeting at 7:35 p.m.*

She said that it would be important to be sure before moving the department, to know what the Health Department would require. Mr. Sherwood said that it would be possible to close a floor and turn off the electricity.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia said that she did not see the revenues. Mr. Sherwood then explained where the revenues were located and said that the revenue would be in the clinics and a lot of that was grant funding.

### **VITAL STATISTICS**

Council Member dePara said that the State was increasing the fees. Council Member Silva said that he would like to combine Vital Statistics, Town Clerk and the Register of Voters

Council Member McCarthy asked who was still based in McLevy Hall. Mr. Sherwood said that it was Vital Statistics and a few others departments. Discussion then followed regarding the Clerk/Typist 1. Council Member Curwen said that there were some positions in Vital that needed to be 35.5 hours from 32.5. Mr. Sherwood said that there were some unions that said they worked “City Hall hours” with an hour lunch break and two 15 minutes breaks. The discussion then moved to the issues in the Tax Collectors Office and the same job titles for working the counter.

### **HEALTH CLINIC**

Mr. Sherwood said that the clinic was small but provides wonderful services to the neighborhood. It also provides physicals for the firefighters. This is a cost savings.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL DEPARTMENT**

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia asked about the phrase “cut and paste” method used to create the budget book. Mr. Sherwood said that he opens the source documents and cut and pastes the information into the budget book. The 500 page document is made fresh every year with current information.

### **HOUSING CODE**

Mr. Sherwood said that this was a major increase and that it was governed by State and Federal requirements. Mr. Sherwood said that this department would be moving to the Annex.

### **LEAD PREVENTION**

The discussion moved to the issues around the recalibrated of the x-ray machines. Mr. Sherwood then reviewed the details of the grant funding and how the funding was being handled. Council Member Curwen asked for a break down on a certain line item for maintenance of the x-ray machines.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia asked about the grant supervision. Mr. Sherwood said that all grants were brought through Central Grants and OPM. He said that his department monitors the use. Mr. Sherwood said that he was well aware of the fact that Ms. Gains uses the x-ray machine.

### **HUMAN SERVICES**

This account partially pays for the staff at the East side Clinic. Council Member Curwen asked for a salary for a certain employee. Mr. Sherwood said that this employee's salary was paid by two different grants. This employee stated that she supervises a number of departments. Mr. Sherwood said that he would generate a report on this.

Council Member McCarthy asked what happened if the grants end, what happens to the employee. Mr. Sherwood said that the City had a long standing policy that when grant funding runs out the employee goes home.

The discussion then moved back to the financial oversight of the grant funding. Mr. Sherwood then reviewed the details of the Per Capita funding. Council Member Curwen said that he would like this employee be moved to Central Grants because of the number of grants managed. Discussion followed about the management issues.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia asked if the employee was transferred, whether title and the salary would follow. Mr. Sherwood said that it would be important to ask for "consolidation" of the grants.

### **DISABILITIES**

The budget covers the supplies that are needed for the reports. There are no personnel in the department.

### **DEPARTMENT OF AGING**

Council Member Curwen said that he would like to move this department under Parks and Recreation. Mr. Sherwood said that over the last few years, there had been a good match between the seniors and the Parks and Recreation. Previously, Dr. Evans said that the Health Department didn't fall under her purview. Mr. Sherwood said that he would move the budget to Parks and Recreation if that was what the Committee wished. Discussion followed.

### **VETERAN'S AFFAIR**

No change.

### **LIGHTHOUSE PROGRAM**

No change.

**SOCIAL SERVICES**

Mr. Sherwood reminded everyone that Relocation Coordinator would be moved from this department and will be transferred to OPED when the amended copy is produced. Once again, Mr. Sherwood expressed his concerns about the State funding of grants and the timeliness of the contract being awarded.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia said that she would like to have the Board of Education send the information that had been requested for tomorrow evening.

**ADJOURNMENT**

- \*\* COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY MOVED TO ADJOURN.**
- \*\* COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA SECONDED.**
- \*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Sharon L. Soltes  
Telesco Secretarial Services

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT  
BUDGET AND APPROPRIATION  
REGULAR MEETING  
MAY 5, 2010**

**ATTENDANCE:** Robert Curwen, Susan Brannelly, Carlos Silva,  
Lydia, Martinez, AmyMarie Vizzo-Paniccia

**STAFF:** Thomas Sherwood, Michael Feeney

**OTHERS:** Marty McCarthy, Robert Walsh

**CALL TO ORDER**

Council Member Curwen called the meeting to order at 6:20 p.m.

**BUDGET REVIEW**

Mr. Sherwood then distributed a copy of a document titled “General Fund Budget Amendment Resolution - Legislative Intent Revenue Increase” to everyone.

Mr. Sherwood then reviewed the figures for the Typist 1 and for another grant funded position. Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia asked if there was a book with all the grant funded positions. Mr. Sherwood said that there was an account with special revenue funding, but it was not part of the general fund. Council Member Curwen asked who set the salaries for the Social Work Department head and the other grant funded positions. Mr. Sherwood said that the positions that were being discussed were all members of the unions. Council Member Curwen said that he would like all the grant employees to have a listing in the book so that would be transparency. A discussion followed about how the grant funding was handled.

*Council Member Baker left at 6:45 p.m.*

Mr. Sherwood said that there would be five separate votes, the first of which is the vote on the increases. The discussion then moved to the library tax line, which Mr. Sherwood explained.

Council Member Walsh asked about the increase of machinery and equipment followed by a decrease. Mr. Sherwood said that the legislature had changed the law. Council Member Sherwood then asked about the hospitals and the tax collections. Mr. Sherwood and Mr. Feeney reviewed this. Mr. Sherwood pointed out that the Department of Aging would be seen in the General Fund Increases (56-09c) because it was being moved from the Health Department to Parks and Recreation.

*Council Member dePara joined the meeting at 7:03 p.m.*

He added that there would be a decrease for this department under the General Fund Appropriations Decreases (56-09d) because it was moving from Health Center.

The discussion then moved to the inclusion of the ballot language in section 56-09-e. It was decided to have two additional votes to include the library changes because the voter mandate.

*Council Member Lyons joined the meeting at 7:20 p.m.*

Mr. Sherwood then pointed out that the last two years the budget had been balanced and had decreased the overall budget. The conversation then moved to when the vote would be taken and what statements would be made when the budget was released.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia then asked about the Bluefish stadium. Mr. Sherwood said that all the rent and parking is paid in full.

Council Member dePara asked about the revenues from Environmental Health. He said that there were a number of accounts where the revenue was low.

Council Member Lyons said that she concurred with Council Member dePara and that there had been complaints about the inspections not being made. She then asked for a recap for the library referendum.

*Council Member Walsh left the meeting at 7:42 p.m.*

### **RECESS**

Council Member Curwen called a recess at 7:42 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 8:15 p.m.

### **BUDGET OVERVIEW Cont'd**

Council Member Curwen then read the following into the record:

#### **GENERAL FUND INCREASES.**

**Pursuant to the City Charter, the City Council shall have the power to increase any item in said budget or add new items to said budget only on a two thirds (2/3) affirmative vote of the entire membership of the council.**

**56-09a – Budget and Appropriations Committee Vote of General Fund Revenue Increases**

**That there may be adjustments to the Mayor’s Proposed budget for general fund purposes as detailed by the City Council’s Budget & Appropriations Committee.**

<b>ORG APPROP</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>MAYOR PROPOSED</b>	<b>COUNCIL ADOPTED</b>	<b>CHANGE</b>
<b><u>REVENUES</u></b>				
01250000 41512	RECLAIMED DOG	1,700	35,415	33,715
01250000 41650	PARKING VIOLATIONS	1,200,000	1,350,000	150,000
01350000 41675	BALLFIELD RENTAL	4,500	12,000	7,500
01450000 41641	PARKING REVENUES	280,000	778,000	498,000
<b>TOTAL REVENUE INCREASES</b>		<b>\$1,486,200</b>	<b>\$2,175,415</b>	<b>\$689,215</b>

**LEGISLATIVE INTENT REVENUE INCREASES**

01250000 41512 The legislative intent is to recognize potential revenues through the inclusion of additional staff.

01250000 41650 The legislative intent is to recognize increased revenue due to changes in the outstanding parking violation collections.

01350000 41675 The legislative intent is to recognize increased revenue from the team fees for leagues.

01450000 41641 The legislative intent is to collect revenues by transferring the area garage to the state.

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER SILVA MOVED THE FOLLOWING ITEM:**

**56-09a – Budget and Appropriations Committee Vote of General Fund Revenue Increases**

**That there may be adjustments to the Mayor’s Proposed budget for general fund purposes as detailed by the City Council’s Budget & Appropriations Committee.**

<b>ORG APPROP</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>MAYOR PROPOSED</b>	<b>COUNCIL ADOPTED</b>	<b>CHANGE</b>
<b><u>REVENUES</u></b>				
01250000 41512	RECLAIMED DOG	1,700	35,415	33,715
01250000 41650	PARKING VIOLATIONS	1,200,000	1,350,000	150,000
01350000 41675	BALLFIELD RENTAL	4,500	12,000	7,500

01450000 41641	PARKING REVENUES	280,000	778,000	498,000
	<b>TOTAL REVENUE INCREASES</b>	<b>\$1,486,200</b>	<b>\$2,175,415</b>	<b>\$689,215</b>

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ SECONDED.**  
**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Council Member Curwen then read the following into the record:

**GENERAL FUND DECREASES**

Pursuant to the City Charter, the City Council Budget & Appropriations Committee reports its changes to the Council as a whole in the form of budget amendment resolution. The City Council has the power to reduce or delete any item in the budget recommended by the Mayor by a majority vote of the council members present and voting.

**56-09b – Budget & Appropriations Committee Vote of General Fund Revenue Decreases**

That there may be adjustments to the Mayor’s Recommended Budget for general fund purposes as detailed by the City Council’s Budget & Appropriations Committee.

ORG APPROP	DESCRIPTION	MAYOR PROPOSED	COUNCIL ADOPTED	CHANGE
	<b><u>REVENUES</u></b>			
01040000 41693	Current Taxes: Real Estate	260,449,145	259,827,614	-621,521
	<b>Total Revenue Decreases</b>	<b>\$260,449,145</b>	<b>\$259,827,614</b>	<b>-\$621,521</b>

**LEGISLATIVE INTENT REVENUE DECREASES**

01040000 41693 The legislative intent of reducing this revenue item is to recognize the actions to net appropriations decreases and net revenue increases.

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY MOVED THE FOLLOWING ITEM:**

**56-09b – Budget & Appropriations Committee Vote of General Fund Revenue Decreases**

That there may be adjustments to the Mayor’s Recommended Budget for general fund purposes as detailed by the City Council’s Budget & Appropriations Committee.

ORG APPROP	DESCRIPTION	MAYOR PROPOSED	COUNCIL ADOPTED	CHANGE
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**REVENUES**

01040000 41693	Current Taxes: Real Estate	260,449,145	259,827,614	-621,521
	<b>Total Revenue Decreases</b>	<b>\$260,449,145</b>	<b>\$259,827,614</b>	<b>-\$621,521</b>

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER SILVA SECONDED.**

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Council Member Curwen read the following into the record:

**56-09c – Budget & Appropriations Committee Vote of General Fund Appropriation Increases**

**That there may be adjustments to the Mayor’s Proposed budget for general fund purposes as detailed by the City Council’s Budget & Appropriations Committee.**

<b>ORG APPROP</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>MAYOR PROPOSED</b>	<b>COUNCIL ADOPTED</b>	<b>CHANGE</b>
<b><u>APPROPRIATIONS</u></b>				
01055000 4055EX	City Clerk Operational Expenses	24,610	27,010	2,400
01095000 6095SS	Legislative Services Special. Services	41,186	107,436	66,250
01258000 1250PS	Police Department Personal Services	2,783,163	2,816,878	33,715
01450000 1450PS	OPEd Personal Services	1,312,541	1,361,532	48,991
01450000 3450FB	OPEd Fringe Benefits	312,442	323,244	10,802
01552000 1552PS	Vital Statistics Personal Services	164,104	193,056	28,952
01552000 3552FB	Vital Statistics Fringe Benefits	38,365	47,042	8,677
01558000 6558SS	Lead Program Special Services	4,500	7,200	2,700
01351000 2577PS	Aging Personal Services		218,959	218,959
01351000 2577TPS	Aging Other Personal Services		43,799	43,799
01351000 3577FB	Aging Fringe Benefits		90,124	90,124
01351000 4577EX	Aging Operational Expenses		2,553	2,553
01351000 6351SS	Aging Special Services		3,980	3,980
	<b>Total Appropriations Increases</b>	<b>\$4,680,911</b>	<b>\$5,242,813</b>	<b>\$561,902</b>

**LEGISLATIVE INTENT APPROPRIATION INCREASES**

01055000 4055EX The legislative intent is to increase equipment to replace the City Seal and Time Stamp machines.

01095000 6095SS The legislative intent is to provide an increase for Council auditing and professional services.

01258000 1250PS The legislative intent is to provide appropriate increase for one Assistant Animal Control Officer.

01450000 1450PS, 3450FB The legislative intent is to increase the personnel budget to moved the Relocation Coordinator and all applicable benefits from the social service budget.

01552000 1552PS, 3552FB The legislative intent is to add a Typist one position to Vital Statistics

01558000 6558SS The legislative intent is to increase special services so that the Lead program staff can calibrate equipment.

01351000 2577PS ,2577TPS, 3577FB, 4577EX , 6351SS The legislative intent is to unfund the Department on Aging in Health & Social Services account and combine as program with recreation in the Parks & Recreation budget.

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ MOVED THE FOLLOWING ITEM:**

**56-09c – Budget & Appropriations Committee Vote of General Fund Appropriation Increases**

**That there may be adjustments to the Mayor’s Proposed budget for general fund purposes as detailed by the City Council’s Budget & Appropriations Committee.**

ORG APPROP	DESCRIPTION	MAYOR PROPOSED	COUNCIL ADOPTED	CHANGE
<b><u>APPROPRIATIONS</u></b>				
01055000 4055EX	City Clerk Operational Expenses	24,610	27,010	2,400
01095000 6095SS	Legislative Services Special. Services	41,186	107,436	66,250
01258000 1250PS	Police Department Personal Services	2,783,163	2,816,878	33,715
01450000 1450PS	OPED Personal Services	1,312,541	1,361,532	48,991
01450000 3450FB	OPED Fringe Benefits	312,442	323,244	10,802
01552000 1552PS	Vital Statistics Personal Services	164,104	193,056	28,952
01552000 3552FB	Vital Statistics Fringe Benefits	38,365	47,042	8,677
01558000 6558SS	Lead Program Special Services	4,500	7,200	2,700
01351000 2577PS	Aging Personal Services		218,959	218,959
01351000 2577TPS	Aging Other Personal Services		43,799	43,799
01351000 3577FB	Aging Fringe Benefits		90,124	90,124
01351000 4577EX	Aging Operational Expenses		2,553	2,553
01351000 6351SS	Aging Special Services		3,980	3,980
<b>Total Appropriations Increases</b>		<b>\$4,680,911</b>	<b>\$5,242,813</b>	<b>\$561,902</b>

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY SECONDED.  
\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Council Member Curwen read the following into the record:

**56-09d – Budget & Appropriations Committee Vote of General Fund Appropriation Increases**

**That there may be adjustments to the Mayor’s Proposed budget for general fund purposes as detailed by the City Council’s Budget & Appropriations Committee.**

<b>ORG APPROP</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>MAYOR PROPOSED</b>	<b>COUNCIL ADOPTED</b>	<b>CHANGE</b>
<b><u>APPROPRIATIONS</u></b>				
01310000 431EX	Maintenance Operational Expense	\$4,355,000	\$4,280,00	-\$75,000
01577000 1577PS	Aging Personal Service	\$218,959		-\$218,959
01577000 257TPS	Aging Other Personal Services	\$43,799		-\$43,799
01577000 3577FB	Aging Fringe Benefits	\$90,124		-\$90,124
01577000 4577EX	Aging Operational Expense	\$2,553		-\$2,553
01577000 6577SS	Aging Special Services	\$3,980		-\$3,980
01585000 1585PS	Social Services Personal Services	\$110,714	\$61,723	-\$48,991
01585000 3585FB	Social Service Fringe Benefits	\$26,846	\$16,044	-\$10,802
	Total Appropriations Decreases	\$4,851,975	\$4,357,757	-\$494,208

**LEGISLATIVE INTENT APPROPRIATION DECREASES**

01310000 431EX The legislative intent is to reduce electricity expense with the desire for the administration to relocate all divisions of the Health & Social Services Department out of 752 East Main Street.

01577000 1577PS, 257TPS, 3577FB, 4577EX, 6577SS The legislative intent is to unfund the Department on Aging in the Health & Social Services account and combine the program with recreation in the Parks & Recreation budget. This is a new organization in Parks and Rec.

01585000 1585PS, 3585FB The legislative intent is to decrease the personnel budget to move the Relocation Coordinator and all applicable benefits from the social service budget to OPED.

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER SILVA MOVED THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:**

**56-09d – Budget & Appropriations Committee Vote of General Fund Appropriation Increases**

**That there may be adjustments to the Mayor’s Proposed budget for general fund purposes as detailed by the City Council’s Budget & Appropriations Committee.**

ORG APPROP	DESCRIPTION	MAYOR PROPOSED	COUNCIL ADOPTED	CHANGE
<b><u>APPROPRIATIONS</u></b>				
01310000	431EX Maintenance Operational Expense	\$4,355,000	\$4,280,00	-\$75,000
01577000	1577PS Aging Personal Service	\$218,959		-\$218,959
01577000	257TPS Aging Other Personal Services	\$43,799		-\$43,799
01577000	3577FB Aging Fringe Benefits	\$90,124		-\$90,124
01577000	4577EX Aging Operational Expense	\$2,553		-\$2,553
01577000	6577SS Aging Special Services	\$3,980		-\$3,980
01585000	1585PS Social Services Personal Services	\$110,714	\$61,723	-\$48,991
01585000	3585FB Social Service Fringe Benefits	\$26,846	\$16,044	-\$10,802
	Total Appropriations Decreases	\$4,851,975	\$4,357,757	-\$494,208

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA SECONDED.**  
**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Council Member Curwen read the following into the record:

**56-09e – BAC Vote of REFERENDUM MANDATED LIBRARY TAX REVENUE**

**That there may be adjustments to the Mayor’s Proposed budget for general fund purposes as detailed by the City Council’s Budget & Appropriations Committee.**

ORG APPROP	DESCRIPTION	MAYOR PROPOSED	COUNCIL ADOPTED	CHANGE
<b><u>REVENUES</u></b>				
01040000	41694 One Mil Library Tax		6,723,003	6,723,003
	<b>LIBRARY MANDATED REVENUE INCREASE</b>		<b>\$6,723,003</b>	<b>\$6,723,003</b>

**VOTER REFERENDUM MANDATE**

01040000 41694 This increase revenue is to recognize as mandated by the result of a referendum ballot passed in the November 2009 election. The ballot question mandates that a one mil tax be levied to establish and maintain a free public library and reading room. This amount could not be determined until the budget is adopted and value of one mil determined.

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY MOVED THE FOLLOWING ITEM:**

**56-09e – BAC Vote of REFERENDUM MANDATED LIBRARY TAX REVENUE**

**That there may be adjustments to the Mayor's Proposed budget for general fund purposes as detailed by the City Council's Budget & Appropriations Committee.**

ORG APPROP	DESCRIPTION	MAYOR PROPOSED	COUNCIL ADOPTED	CHANGE
<u>REVENUES</u>				
01040000 41694	One Mil Library Tax		6,723,003	6,723,003
	<b>LIBRARY MANDATED REVENUE INCREASE</b>		<b>\$6,723,003</b>	<b>\$6,723,003</b>

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA SECONDED.  
 \*\* THE MOTION PASSED WITH FOUR IN FAVOR (CURWEN, BRANNELLY, MARTINEZ AND VIZZO-PANICCIA) AND ONE AGAINST (SILVA).**

Council Member Curwen read the following into the record:

**56-09f – BAC Vote of REFERENDUM MANDATED LIBRARY TAX APPROPRIATION**

**That there may be adjustments to the Mayor's Proposed budget for general fund purposes as detailed by the City Council's Budget & Appropriations Committee.**

ORG APPROP	DESCRIPTION	MAYOR PROPOSED	COUNCIL ADOPTED	CHANGE
<u>APPROPRIATIONS</u>				
01700000 6700SS	Library Special Services		6,723,003	6,723,003
	<b>LIBRARY MANDATED APPROPRIATED INCREASE</b>		<b>\$6,723,003</b>	<b>\$6,723,003</b>

**VOTER REFERENDUM MANDATE**

01700000 6700SS Per the November 2009 voter referendum mandate, one mil is levied and provided to the Libraries. The appropriation will be place in the Other Services line until a formal line item budget is delivered to the Director of Policy and Management by the Library Board.

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY MOVED THE FOLLOWING ITEM:**

**56-09f – BAC Vote of REFERENDUM MANDATED LIBRARY TAX APPROPRIATION**

**That there may be adjustments to the Mayor's Proposed budget for general fund purposes as detailed by the City Council's Budget & Appropriations Committee.**

ORG APPROP	DESCRIPTION	MAYOR PROPOSED	COUNCIL ADOPTED	CHANGE
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**APPROPRIATIONS**

01700000 6700SS Library Special Services			6,723,003	6,723,003
<b>LIBRARY MANDATED APPROPRIATED INCREASE</b>			<b>\$6,723,003</b>	<b>\$6,723,003</b>

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA SECONDED.**  
**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Council Member Curwen read the following into the record:

**59-09g – Budget & Appropriations Committee Vote of General Fund Budget**

**OVERALL TOTAL**

DESCRIPTION	MAYOR PROPOSED	COUNCIL ADOPTED INCREASES	COUNCIL ADOPTED DECREASES	COUNCIL ADOPTED BUDGET
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**REVENUES**

ALL OTHER GENERAL FUND	\$4,62,580,618	\$689,215	\$621,521	\$462,648,312
ONE MIL LIBRARY TAX		6,723,003		\$6,723,003
<b>TOTAL COUNCIL ADOPTED REVENUES</b>				<b>\$469,371,315</b>

**APPROPRIATIONS**

ALL OTHER GENERAL FUND	\$4,62,580,618	\$689,215	\$621,521	\$462,648,312
ONE MIL LIBRARY TAX		6,723,003		\$6,723,003
<b>TOTAL COUNCIL ADOPTED APPROPRIATIONS</b>				<b>\$469,371,315</b>

<b>NET BUDGET SURPLUS/ (SHORTAGE)</b>		127,313	127,313	
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**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY MOVED THE FOLLOWING ITEM:**

**59-09g – Budget & Appropriations Committee Vote of General Fund Budget**

**OVERALL TOTAL**

DESCRIPTION	MAYOR PROPOSED	COUNCIL ADOPTED INCREASES	COUNCIL ADOPTED DECREASES	COUNCIL ADOPTED BUDGET
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**REVENUES**

ALL OTHER GENERAL FUND	\$4,62,580,618	\$689,215	\$621,521	\$462,648,312
ONE MIL LIBRARY TAX		<u>6,723,003</u>		<u>\$6,723,003</u>

**TOTAL COUNCIL ADOPTED REVENUES** **\$469,371,315**

**APPROPRIATIONS**

ALL OTHER GENERAL FUND	\$4,62,580,618	\$689,215	\$621,521	\$462,648,312
ONE MIL LIBRARY TAX		<u>6,723,003</u>		<u>\$6,723,003</u>

**TOTAL COUNCIL ADOPTED APPROPRIATIONS** **\$469,371,315**

**NET BUDGET SURPLUS/ (SHORTAGE)** 127,313 127,313

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER SILVA SECONDED.**  
**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**ADJOURNMENT**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER SILVA MOVED TO ADJOURN.**  
**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER DEPARA SECONDED.**  
**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Sharon L. Soltes  
Telesco Secretarial Services

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT  
BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS  
SPECIAL MEETING  
JUNE 2, 2010**

**ATTENDANCE:** Angel dePara, Chair, Robert Curwen, Carlos Silva, Susan Brannelly, AmyMarie Vizzo-Paniccia (6:12 p.m.); Lydia Martinez (6:15 p.m.)

**OTHERS:** Finance Director Michael Feeney; Atty. John Stafstrom, Bond Counsel; Council Member Martin McCarthy

**CALL TO ORDER**

Council Member dePara called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m. A quorum was present.

**Approval of Committee Minutes of March 31, 2010 (Special Meeting); April 8, 2010; April 12, 2010; April 14, 2010; April 15, 2010; April 16, 2010; April 17, 2010; April 21, 2010; April 22, 2010; April 23, 2010; April 24, 2010; April 27, 2010; April 28, 2010; April 29, 2010; April 30, 2010; May 1, 2010; May 4, 2010; May 5, 2010; May 6, 2010.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER CURWEN MOVED TO CONSOLIDATE THE FOLLOWING LIST OF MINUTES FOR APPROVAL:**

**MARCH 31, 2010 (SPECIAL MEETING); APRIL 8, 2010; APRIL 12, 2010; APRIL 14, 2010; APRIL 15, 2010; APRIL 16, 2010; APRIL 17, 2010; APRIL 21, 2010; APRIL 22, 2010; APRIL 23, 2010; APRIL 24, 2010; APRIL 27, 2010; APRIL 28, 2010; APRIL 29, 2010; APRIL 30, 2010; MAY 1, 2010; MAY 4, 2010; MAY 5, 2010; MAY 6, 2010**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER SILVA SECONDED.**

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**64-09 Approval of General Obligation Bonds to Refund Certain General Obligation Bonds.**

*Council Members Vizzo-Paniccia & M. McCarthy joined the meeting at 6:12 p.m.*

Mr. Feeney and Atty. Stafstrom, Bond Counsel were present to answer any questions from the

Committee. Mr. Feeney said that this refund had been included in the budget. He then gave an overview of the refund sheet with all the figures. This is a restructuring of the payments.

*Council Member Lydia Martinez joined the meeting at 6:15 p.m.*

Mr. Stafstrom pointed out that State Law allows the refunding or restructuring of debt for two reasons, one of which is restructuring for cash flow. He reminded everyone that the City had borrowed a significant amount of bonding from the 90's, and in the past few years, the Council has been much more cautious about taking on additional debt or bonding out. There will be a bond issue later this year and this will be added in.

Council Member DePara asked how this would impact this coming year's budget. Mr. Feeney said that it had been built in to the budget already. The numbers have not changed. Mr. Stafstrom said that the only way that the numbers might change would be if the interest rates. The best thing to do is to allow the Finance Director to have the flexibility if the interest rates are lower than expected. That would result in more savings for the City. If additional bond amounts were included, that would allow more savings for the City. Mr. Stafstrom said that historically, this is one of the lowest rates known in many years.

Council Member Curwen asked if there were any items left out there from the old bonds. Mr. Stafstrom said that Mr. Feeney had requested the financial advisors for guidance and then the underwriters came up with additional savings. Some of the refunding items include 2006 bonds and if the market remains favorable, some of the 2009 bonds.

Council Member Curwen asked if there was any way to tap into some of the stimulus funding to reduce the debt service. Mr. Feeney said that those were really for new debt. Mr. Stafstrom said that there were numerous tax exempt bonds, but the Federal government is backing recovery zone bonds, which actually have lower interest rates and tax credits.

Council Member Curwen asked if the market has been coming back. New money projects and funding are recovering, Land based projects are recovering at a slower rate.

Council Member Curwen asked what would happen if the City went out to bond another 20 million dollars with the current bond rating. Mr. Stafstrom said that most of the projects were for schools, paving and infrastructure. He added that the City had finished off paying some of

the bonds. Having the State reimburse a lot of the money for the schools is a major asset. The City's fund balance is low and needs to be rebuilt. Council Member Curwen said that the City had some issues with Pension A. On the investor's side, the market is still very choppy.

The ticking time bomb for all Connecticut municipalities are the defined benefits plan. These agreements were done years ago and the municipalities are struggling to pay the benefits. Mr. Stafstrom said that some cities have started with 401K rather than a defined benefits plan.

Council Member Brannelly said that she wanted to review the facts to insure that she understood. The City would be restructuring 6.9 million dollars. Mr. Feeney outlined the payments if the City did nothing and continued to make the regular payments. He added that by not refinancing the bonds, the City would have an additional 3 million dollar gap in the budget, since the restructuring was factored into the budget. Discussion followed.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia asked about a recent CCM bond article. A brief discussion followed.

Council Member dePara asked Mr. Feeney to provide the Committee and the Council an update regarding the restructuring of the debt. Mr. Feeney said that he would.

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER CURWEN MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 64-09 APPROVAL OF GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS TO REFUND CERTAIN GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA SECONDED.**

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Council Member dePara requested that the item be placed on the consent calendar.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER SILVA MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY SECONDED.**

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Sharon L. Soltes

Telesco Secretarial Services