

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS
SPECIAL MEETING
APRIL 5, 2011**

ATTENDANCE: Robert Curwen, Chair; Angel dePara, Co-Chair; Council President Thomas McCarthy, Lydia Martinez, AmyMarie Vizzo-Paniccia, (6:30 p.m.); Susan Brannelly (6:40 p.m.)

OTHERS: Thomas Sherwood, Andy Nunn, Dawn Norton, Finance Director; Council Member Martin McCarthy; Council Member Robert Walsh, Council Member Andre Baker, Council Member Michelle Lyons, Council Member Evette Brantley

CALL TO ORDER

Council Member Curwen called the meeting to order at 6:11 p.m.

REVENUE OVERVIEW

Mr. Sherwood said that this would be an overview and there would be a discussion about the scheduling of and the formats for the various departments. Mr. Sherwood then directed everyone's attention to the Budget book and explained how the budget information was laid out. He said that he would be reporting where the City lost funding and how the budget was affected.

Colleges and hospital have been funded by the State through a pool of PILOT funding. He said that New Haven has increased their assessments by 19% while Bridgeport did a number of major improvements and only had a 9% increase. Mr. Sherwood said that if there was a State assessor who determines the value of the colleges and hospitals rather than having the towns evaluate the worth, the distribution might be fairer.

Council President McCarthy asked Mr. Sherwood if he knew when the Governor's budget would be presented. Mr. Sherwood said that he did not know. He then listed several different items where the State budget would seriously affect the City's budget, such as school transportation. Another area that is being monitored is the conveyance tax, which may become permanent at the current level. Mr. Sherwood then reviewed the details regarding the revenues from the parking garage, which has been transferred to the State.

Mr. Sherwood then gave a brief overview on the tax overview. A 97.3% collection rate is anticipated and the tax numbers will be done by the end of the month. These figures should be available by the 21st for the Committee. Mr. Sherwood said that there had been a major increase in the collections for motor vehicles. He listed a number of revenue sources that were holding steady.

Council President McCarthy asked about the recent newspaper article about a Bridgeport high school. Mr. Sherwood said that permits would have to be issued for this project and it was not included in the budget book.

Mr. Sherwood reminded everyone that last year, the State had cut the funding for Bearsley Park. He said that he would like to see it moved out of Tourism so that some of the funding could be restored.

Mr. DePara asked about the status of the casino money. Mr. Sherwood directed everyone to page 48 and indicated where that information was included.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia joined the meeting at 6:30 p.m.

He said that the City had lost money in the current fiscal year.

Council Member Curwen asked where the decreased revenues were in the document. Mr. Sherwood said that the locations varied and listed several items. Pg 48 has the colleges and hospitals; pg 42 has the PILOT figures; school transportation is on pg. 371, but it is combined in the Special Education. He reminded everyone that the City would like a direct School Transportation grant. On page 357, the figures shows the drop in State school construction funding. The Manufacturer's Inventory Grant is in the Tax Assessor Office. On page 18, there is an increase in the Comptroller's Office for the retail sales tax. He reminded everyone that the Trumbull shopping mall is one block over the City line, so there is an effort to have the sales tax made regional. This is also an issue in Farmington, and Milford. OPED is located on page 270 to find the half a million reduction in parking revenues from the parking garage. On page 291 is the breakout on the revenues.

Mr. Sherwood said that the City had only suffered about \$700,000 revenue loss,

He directed people to pages i16-i17, which has the top groupings. Then the budget is broken out by the type of expense, including education, health costs, outside firms and other items. Mr. Curwen asked for a break out on Special Services. Mr. Sherwood said that he thought it was mostly in Special education. He said that he would break it out as City and BOE.

Mr. Sherwood then said the next item was in the personnel. He then reviewed the two increases in personnel, which were the Veteran's Administrator and the Director of Social Services, These positions have been moved from the Grants funding into the General Fund.

Council member Brannelly joined the meeting at 6:40 p.m.

Council Member Curwen asked what the assumptions in the budget, such as the fringe benefits and health costs. Mr. Sherwood said that each department has a true cost center, and reviewed

the numbers for a department like the Police Department, where the true cost of running the department is not immediately obvious. The Mayor had directed Mr. Sherwood to review all the department budgets and indicate which departments had not spent more than 50% of their budget after eight and a half months into the fiscal year. Those budgets were reduced and the funds were transferred into the contingency fund. Council Member Brannelly asked if there were account codes that would indicate which line items were operating budget. Mr. Sherwood then directed everyone to page 135 and reviewed which line items were operating budgets.

Council Member Walsh had some questions about the contingency account. Mr. Sherwood reviewed the details. Council Member Curwen asked how the BOE numbers were included when the BOE had not finalized their budget yet. Mr. Sherwood directed everyone to pg 373. The State has decreed that the school must receive the same level of funding as they did last year. He then reviewed the figures with the Committee and explained that the District has not given the City any information. Therefore, they have been leveled budgets.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia asked about the Discovery Magnet. Mr. Sherwood said that he had never received any information. Council Member Curwen said that he was on the School Committee and gave a very brief overview.

Mr. Sherwood said that the Co-chairs had sent a letter to the BOE requesting the information on the various topics for the budget meeting. He said that this had been done for each of the departments and the letter requested that the departments prepare to give overviews on topics based on last year's questions. Mr. Curwen said that there had been a number of justifiable questions about the actual costs and why the numbers are the way they are. This is called the actuaries. Mr. Curwen said that if there were any questions or requests for information or documentation, this should be submitted to the Committee. Mr. Sherwood said that he would be following up with each department once the letters have gone out.

Council Member Martinez asked for information on Social Services and Veteran's Affairs.

Council Member Baker asked how the budget would be adjusted. He said that he had not seen any adjustments. Council Member Curwen said that during the Council meetings, there were often line items that had been defunded and were up for approval. Council Member Curwen said that the City Attorney had requested a change of date.

Mr. Sherwood then stated that a number of vendors would be present to speak to the Committee about the costs of services. He listed the various service providers, such as Anthem, and CIGNA, which the City uses to provide health benefits.

Mr. Sherwood then asked if there were any questions for the Police, Fire and IT, along with the Library and the Social Services. Council Member Martinez asked about the status of the East Side Library and East End Library, along with a distribution of the officers around town. Council Member Baker asked about the fund balance. Mr. Sherwood said that when the lease comes to

the Council, that will be the financial driver. Council Member Martinez asked about the library staffing plan, location and times. There was also a question about the mobile library.

Council Member dePara asked about reaching out to CCM for best practices. Mr. Sherwood explained that in the State has two choices. In 2000, Mayor Ganim decided to bond for the pensions. Previously, the City would pay the amount needed as needed. Following the market crash, the interest rates crashed. Now municipalities need to have State OPM approval for this type of plan.

Mr. Sherwood reminded everyone that the pensions and the health care costs drives the budget. He then reviewed the details of MERF and how that affects the budget.

Council Member Vizzo Paniccia said that she would like to see the proper training for the EOC and better communication skills for the operators.

Council Member dePara thanked Council Member Vizzo Paniccia for this comment because he would like to see the average response time for police and fire. Council Member Curwen asked about student enrollment for the last five years. Council Member Martinez asked about the disparity in the school spending. Mr. Sherwood said that some of the smaller schools have the special needs or security. The older facilities have challenges in heating, light and fuel consumption. Council Member Curwen said that he had concerns about the amount of debt service and the fact that the City needs to build new schools. Council Member Vizzo Paniccia asked about the interchanging of personnel and coverage. Council Member Martinez asked about the shifting of personnel from one facility to another. McLevy is almost cleared out. It is still uncertain whether the BOE would be moving from Lyon Terrace.

Council Member Brannelly asked whether the 10-12 goals were cut and paste. Mr. Sherwood said that the items in bold in Public Facility are new items.

Council Member Vizzo Paniccia asked about the new parking meters. She said that the parking meters need to be calibrated. Mr. Sherwood said that those are maintained by Public Works.

Council Member Brannelly asked about the issue of accountability in regarding Vital Statistics. She wanted to know about the revenue procedure.

Council Member Curwen said that he had requested an update on the projects that were underway in the City. Mr. Sherwood said that the Department was in the process of building the calendar.

Council Member Brannelly asked for organizational charts for each department.

ADJOURNMENT

- ** Council Member BRANNELLY MOVED TO ADJOURN.
- ** Council Member VIZZO PANICCIA SECONDED.
- ** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS
SPECIAL MEETING
APRIL 6, 2011**

ATTENDANCE: Robert Curwen, Chair; Angel dePara, Susan Brannelly, AmyMarie Vizzo-Paniccia, Lydia Martinez (6:46 p.m.)

OTHERS: Thomas Sherwood, OPM; Dawn Norton, Acting Finance Director, Council Member Martin McCarthy, Andre Baker, Michelle Lyons, Council President Thomas McCarthy

CALL TO ORDER

Council Member dePara called the meeting to order at 6:36 P.M.

Budget Overview - Expenditure/Capital Discussion

Mr. Sherwood said that preparations are underway regarding the request for the appropriations types and splitting them into the two categories of City and BOE. The letters to the departments will be hand delivered to the department heads tomorrow.

There were three items on Public Safety that involve have matching funds. Mr. Sherwood said that this could result in some modifications in the Capital Plan. He then reviewed the key points from the previous meeting. The Fire Department contract was settled on Monday, so this has been included in the budget.

Mr. Sherwood asked if there were any questions about the revenue portion that was reviewed the previous evening. Council Member Curwen asked about the \$800,000 savings in the debt service. Mr. Sherwood explained that there had been a restructuring of the debt, last year it saved the City 1 million and this year it saved \$800,000.

Council Member Brannelly asked about the reductions of the operating funds for the various departments. Mr. Sherwood reviewed this with her and explained that it was not done with capital projects.

Mr. Sherwood said that the Mayor had reminded both the Fire Department and the Police Department to trim their overtime, since they have the full complement of staff. Council Member Brannelly asked where the Police Department overtime would be located in the budget. Mr. Sherwood directed her to page 134. He added that the departmental organizational charts are in the process of being created.

Council Member Martinez joined the meeting at 6:46 p.m.

Council Member Baker asked about the information on i16. Mr. Sherwood reviewed this information which is for the entire City and explained that this information was being broken into two categories, the City and the BOE. He then directed everyone to page i-18.

The discussion then moved to the Capital Plan.

Mr. Sherwood said that the handout contained the Mayor's Plan and a summarized Capital Plan. He explained that the Board of Education had not submitted their budget in time for the Mayor's deadline for the Capital Plan. Therefore, it is not included.

Mr. Sherwood said that it appeared that the Steele Point project was ready to move forward and that the Bloom Brothers Oystering site was ready for remediation. The yacht club will be moving out.

He said that the roadway paving culvert and intersection project was completed. The authorization for the sidewalk repairs is done.

Mr. Sherwood said that the City was ready to do single stream recycling, which would allow the residents just to put everything in one container. He reminded that everyone that this would significantly reduce the tipping fees. Council President McCarthy asked if the use of the Toters had reduced injuries. Mr. Sherwood said that it had. The program has been a success on the East Side.

Council Member Brannelly asked for a quick review of the spreadsheets. Mr. Sherwood said that in order to access Federal grants, the City must have a five-year plan. Council Member Brannelly asked if there was a sheet available that would be tracking the projects. Mr. Sherwood said that this would be covered in OPED meeting.

He added that the deco street lights were being updated to LEDs through a pilot lights program. This will also involve a significant rebate for each lighting head, which will allow the replacements to roll forward.

Council Member Baker asked about recycling. Mr. Sherwood said that it would cost about 6-8 million to build a single stream recycling facility. He said that the city will need to get a collaboration of towns to work with Bridgeport on this.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia asked about the replacement of the deco lamp poles that have been damaged. She said that it was a risk. She said that she would like to see an itemized list of the buildings to be demoed, and the bids that were used to compile the total. Mr. Sherwood said that he would forward this information to her.

She also asked for more information on the Senior Center. Mr. Sherwood said that the Senior Center number was a placeholder right now as the plans were not finalized.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia said that she would like to see some of the block grant funding come to the North End. Mr. Sherwood said that the block grants were limited to certain areas by the Federal government.

Council Member Curwen asked for additional information about beautification projects. He pointed out that the North End had some work done as a gateway to the City a few years earlier. Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia said that the work was done but it was not done correctly and there were cost overruns.

Council Member Curwen asked about funding for the schools. Mr. Sherwood explained that there was some funding from the construction of the schools, but that until the State completes the audits, the extra funding cannot be touched. Currently, the State has a waiting list of over a year for the audits and the schools were completed two years ago.

Council Member Curwen asked about looking at the single stream recycling for the smaller businesses like the mom and pop stores. Mr. Sherwood said that this was under consideration because it would reduce the tipping fees. However, the city does not have the recycled project moved to a stage where this would be possible. He reminded everyone that when the city signed on with CRRA in the 80's, there was no recycling, so the tonnage commitment was thought to remain steady. However, when mandatory 25% recycling came, it affected the tonnage. He said that the more that the city could control the commercial recycling, the better it would be for the city. Currently, the commercial businesses frequently use private haulers and the City has no control over where the haulers tip the load.

Council Member dePara asked Mr. Sherwood to bring some follow up on the expenditures he had requested in an email. Mr. Sherwood said that he was working on these figures.

Mr. Sherwood then explained that a truck hit the backstop at the Bluefish Stadium and bent the poles. This will be covered by the company's insurance, but the City may have to front the money because the baseball season is about to open.

Council President McCarthy then asked about the BOE bus issue. Mr. Sherwood said that the reason it was included in the budget was because it involved debt service.

Council President McCarthy said he would like to second Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia's comment about replacing the damaged deco light poles.

Council President McCarthy reminded everyone that last year, the BOE said that they would have a full fledged recycling program in the school and this has not happened. Council Member Lyons said that she would verify that the District did not have a recycling program running. This

will be one of the points of discussion with them when they present their budget to the Committee.

Council Member Lyons asked about a detailed financial break out for Steele Point. Mr. Sherwood said that he believed that the City had received a green light on the project and the 11 million was ready to go.

Mr. Sherwood then explained that the State had changed the way that it was reimbursing the municipalities for school construction. It will be important to maintain the 80/20 split for the construction of new schools.

Council Member Martinez asked about the tracking of projects, particularly with groups that request funding and then don't do the project. Mr. Sherwood said that he would giving out a full break down of the project status, both past and present.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia said that she had been on the Allocation Committee for the schools and once the grant funding was awarded, she had to go back and follow up on the project. If there was funding left over after the completion of the project, the funding should go back to the awarding agencies. Council Member Curwen said that the City now takes the funding and moves it to a "reprogramming" account. He reminded everyone that this was just a five year capital plan and that the Mayor has the final say.

Mr. Sherwood said that when the District lists of break out of projects is available, everyone will be able to see what is going on. Council Member dePara said that frequently the Council Members are unaware of the projects going on in their District. Mr. Sherwood suggested that perhaps it would be good to schedule a meeting with the Mayor once or twice a year for discussion about the proposed projects for the various District with the Council. Council Member Lyons said that it would be nice to know what was going on in other districts so that everyone could support one another. It will be important to work together as a team. Mr. Sherwood said that the project listing would be done as a calendar.

Council Member dePara said that there were some requests on the Capital Plan and asked for details. Mr. Sherwood then reviewed the details on the EOC, the new Fire Apparatus, the sewer separation project and the IT request. More information will be forthcoming.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia suggested that a letter go to all utilities to require full restoration of the roadway following a cut in the paving. She said that there were areas where the paving was left in disrepair. Council Member Lyons said that the Public Safety Committee had this discussion about this. Mr. Sherwood added that there was a problem with the utilities marking the street, the sidewalks, and the granite curbing with permanent paint.

Council Member dePara said that there was going to be a problem when the BOE presents their budget, since it hasn't been submitted. Mr. Sherwood said that he would make the request and

would hand deliver the letter to the BOE, but could not guarantee whether they would follow it or not.

ADJOURNMENT

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

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

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 7:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Service

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
BUDGET AND APPROPRIATION
SPECIAL MEETING
APRIL 11, 2011**

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

STAFF: Thomas Sherwood, OPM; Dawn Norton, Acting Finance Director

OTHERS: Council Member Martin McCarthy; Council President Thomas McCarthy; Council Member Andre Baker, Fleeta Hudson, City Clerk; Frances Wilson, Assistant City Clerk; Linda Grace, Republican Registrar of Voters; Santa Ayala, Democratic Registrar of Voters, Alma L Maya, Town Clerk; Christina Resto, Assistant Town Clerk

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Curwen called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. He introduced the members of the Committee to those present.

REGISTRARS OF VOTERS

Mr. Sherwood said that he would be changing the pages in the Budget book to reflect that Ms. Grace was now the new Republican Registrar of Voters. He then directed everyone's attention to page 60.

He added that the State has originally said the State would be purchasing the votes but that this had been changed. This may mean that the City will be purchasing the ballots, but it is unclear at this time.

Ms. Ayala had a question about the part time temp and seasonal earned. Mr. Sherwood explained that the Mayor had moved the full request for \$121, 960.00 into the budget.

Ms. Ayala then gave the full presentation that was in her handout. She said that she would like to clarify the fact that the budget was for the general office and the general elections. If there were a primary, the appropriate Registrar would be responsible to manage it.

Ms. Ayala said that she would strongly recommend that the City not wait on the State for funding for the various supplies. She added that the line item that contained the Part time Temp and Seasonal line item includes the police officers that assist with elections. Due to the timing of

the elections, it requires paying the officers time and a half. Previously, there had been negotiations on this, but this is no longer the case.

Ms. Ayala then reviewed each of the line items, such as Medicare, and the city owned vehicle, which is used to transport the equipment during an election.

Ms. Ayala said that previously, there had not been enough poll workers and that resulted in not having enough staff to answer requests from poll workers at the sites. She said that there was an IBS system, which the State had selected for use by the handicapped voters. Due to the length of time this system requires for one voter to use, a new system is being created. When the new system is available, the office will need to purchase the updated system.

The full time Earned Pay covers the two registrars, two deputies and a clerk.

Ms. Ayala then reviewed the items in the Other Services and said that there was a need to certify new moderators. She also reviewed the details involved with canvassing the voters, postal service permit and the poll ballots. She said that there would be two full primaries and a general election that would require enough ballots for approximately 65% of the registered voters, plus 27 additional ballots for equipment testing purposes. She reminded everyone that during the last four years, the State had been picking up the cost for the new equipment, but that will not be the case from now on.

Ms. Grace said that while she was new to the department, the bulk of the cost was devoted to the ballots and working directly with public on election issues.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia asked if the Citywide Mail/Phone Canvas would include postcards to the residents telling them where they should be voting. Ms. Ayala explained that a State election district could easily be different from the local election district. She added that last year, the office had utilized the Internet and a website to tell the voters where they would be voting.

Council Member Brannelly asked what the price was per ballot. Ms. Ayala said that ballots could be as low as .38¢ for ballots. This is dependant on the number of candidates and the number of districts involved. A Council race, which involves 10 different races with different candidates, and also the sample ballots that are displayed in both English and Spanish in each polling places, would cost \$1.25 per ballot.

Council Member Brannelly asked about the upcoming primaries. Ms. Ayala reviewed the upcoming races and some of the variables that would be considered.

Council Member Brannelly asked Mr. Sherwood about the Mayor's Recommendations Budget. Mr. Sherwood said that he would be reviewing the payroll figures and the figures for having the State pay for the ballots.

Council Member Brannelly asked about the details regarding the IBS system. Ms. Ayala said that she would have preferred a touch-tone system, but the Secretary of State makes the decision. Now that there have been concerns about the system from all over the State, the system is being changed. The City did not pay for these machines and office was receiving reimbursements for the machines, which was returned to the General Fund.

Council Member Brannelly said that the Committee had spent a lot of time considering the process for the elections. She said that while this was not an operational meeting, she had concerns about the lack of training for the poll workers, which was an issue throughout the City. Ms. Ayala said that her department had responded to the Committee by requesting that the names and addresses of the registered voters and details of the difficulties encountered. She said that her office had only received five complaints from the public. Ms. Ayala then reviewed the process for selecting poll workers and often they are still interviewing the workers after the deadline for the training. Recruiting for at least 10 new moderators is underway. Ms. Grace said that at the last special election, the poll workers that were used were fully training.

Council Member McCarthy asked if the City had assigned vehicles to the election. Ms. Ayala said that the City assigned two Public Facilities vehicles to the Registrars for the eight weeks. Council Member McCarthy asked about the Connecticut Post subscriptions, which is used to update the voter lists by the obituaries. The clerk also visits Vital Statistics once a month to verify the names of those who died.

Council Member Martinez asked about the Moderators qualification. Ms. Ayala reviewed that with her.

Council Member Walsh then asked about the use of the City vehicle and the charges associated. Mr. Sherwood said that this line item would likely disappear next year.

Council Member Walsh asked if the Mayor's Budget was insufficient for the City's ballot needs. Mr. Sherwood said that it was and that the funds would be examined to adjust this to cover the lack of State funding.

Council Member Silva left the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

Chairman Curwen asked if the redistricting had been considered in the calculations. Ms. Ayala said that the Council had authorized the redistricting but that it was the Registrar of Voters that would be assigning the voting locations. Council President McCarthy said that he had heard about this and had spoken to the consultants about this because it would happen in 2012 for the Town Council'

Ms. Grace said that it became evident that the City had not been connected to the State's DSL line and now that they were, it would save \$10,000 a year.

Chairman Curwen said that he had an issue and it comes up during the primaries. He said that he has requested documentation that has come on a disk and that he can't open it up on his account. Mr. Sherwood said that there should be a step between, so that ITS would convert the file for Chairman Curwen.

CITY CLERK

Mr. Sherwood directed everyone to page 62. The budget decreased because there is fewer full time staff. He said that the March report had reduced the budgets by 25%.

Ms. Hudson said that her department could not keep up with the public's demand in the office. She added that on the Personnel summary there was a position that had been removed. This position was a mini-computer operator. Mr. Sherwood said that the position had been turned into two part time positions. Ms. Hudson said that it is important to communication with her before this type of change is made. Mr. Sherwood said that the department had lost one position during the NAGE layoffs.

Ms. Wilson asked about the Assistant Special Project position. Mr. Sherwood reviewed the fact that the Grants/Personnel was just a hiring mechanism and not a funding source.

Council Member Brannelly said that she had asked for a departmental organizational chart. Mr. Sherwood said that it was being worked on.

Ms. Hudson said that she noticed that the travel services had been taken out along with the membership account. She added this had also been removed without her knowledge. She said that previously, this had not been discussed with her.

Council President McCarthy then reminded everyone that this was the first opportunity that the Committee had to work on the budget. Ms. Wilson said that the line item for the recertification had been cut and that she was short \$105.00. She added that the advertising budget and another one had been reduced. She said that the stenographer account had been reduced, but that it would reduce the committee meeting minutes. Ms. Wilson said that right now there was about \$39,000 but there were still budget hearings to conduct. Council President said that it was probably time for the Council to review the account and determine if the service is doing what is needed.

Ms. Wilson then suggested that the agendas be sent electronically to the Council Members. Council Member Martinez said that the City Clerk previously had brought copies of the agenda to the meetings and that she preferred this over having them mailed. Council President McCarthy said that he would be speaking to the Council members about this.

Council President McCarthy asked why the department was not using the postage meter. Mr. Sherwood said that there were only two meters, one in the Annex and at City Hall, but the

second mail run is done at 3:30 p.m. Chairman Curwen asked why the Council members couldn't manage to observe the deadline. Mr. Sherwood said that the postage also included FedEx. Council Member Brannelly asked about the cost of the postage on a meter.

Ms. Wilson said that the office furniture had been deteriorating for the last 15 years. She said that she was concerned about the workman's comp with the furniture in such a poor condition. There was a brief discussion about getting some furniture from Public Facilities. Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia said that she would like to see some Plexiglas or glass put on the tables in the Wheeler Rooms.

Ms. Hudson said that in the listing of positions for the City Clerk's positions, that there were a few positions that had been removed. She said that it was part of the City Charter. Council Member Curwen said that he would look into this.

TOWN CLERK

Mr. Sherwood directed everyone's attention to page 96 for the Town Clerk's budget and then reviewed the details of the finances.

Ms. Maya said that the office had been renovated. She said that previously there was a lot of old paper and that people were being affected. She added that the department was working on automating everything that can be. Eventually, this will be computerized. One goal will be to have the Land Records available on line. This will be done through a company called ACS and copies will cost \$2.00. One dollar will go to ACS and one to the City.

The amended schedule of closing the service counter on Fridays and closing during lunch breaks has been a result of the short staffing.

Ms. Maya said that there are two conferences per year with a mandatory attendance at one per year. With the short staffing, it had been difficult. Ms. Alba has been out ill and Ms. Resto has been able to pick up Ms. Alba's duties.

Ms. Maya said that she had concerns with the reduction in terms of supplies. With the move to computerized information, Ms. Maya said that the department prints the books in the vault for the land records. Ms. Maya said that the new program would allow the department to print maps or any portion of them. This will require toner and paper.

Ms. Maya said that her department would be looking at an automated absentee ballot system. This would be connected to the State DSL line

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia asked who ACS was. Ms. Resto said that they were now part of Xerox, but it is a company that indexes the land records. Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia asked how many staff would be needed to provide counter service. Ms. Maya said that the

counter service requires two people. Currently, there is a part time assistant and a full time volunteer along with a floater. Once the automation is fully implemented, probably the department will need one new position.

Council Member Brannelly asked about the computers. Ms. Maya said that they couldn't log in and out of MUNIS. Mr. Sherwood said that ITS was working on this and there were also computers backordered by Dell.

Council Member dePara asked about cross training. Ms. Ms. Maya gave an overview of how this was being handled.

Chairman Curwen asked about the \$55,000 for the ballots. Mr. Sherwood said that he would not count on that State funding because it was in the side committee rather than the State Finance Committee. He added that he agreed with Ms. Ayala about planning to purchase the ballots from the City budget.

Council Member Brannelly asked about the BOE budget. Mr. Sherwood said that the BOE was in the process of voting on their budget.

ADJOURNMENT

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

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 8:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS
SPECIAL MEETING
APRIL 13, 2011**

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

STAFF: Tom Sherwood, OPM; Dawn Norton, Acting Finance Director

OTHERS: Bpt. School Superintendent John Ramos; Dr. Dan Cook, Bpt Public
Schools Interim Finance Director; Council Member Martin McCarthy,
Council Member Baker, Council Member Evette Brantley; BOE Vice
President Leticia Colon; BOE Treasurer Thomas Mulligan, BOE Member
Maria Pereira; Robert Henry, Associate Superintendent; John DiDonato,
Assistant Superintendent for Youth Development; Elizabeth Mauer,
Budget & Financial Reporting Manager; Ms. Lisa Jones, Director of
Grants; Delores Fuller, BOE Secretary

CALL TO ORDER

Council Member dePara called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. He introduced the members of the Committee that were present. He said that Council President McCarthy was home sick and that Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia was not able to attend. Dr. Ramos introduced the member of the Board and the staff that were present.

BOARD OF EDUCATION - CAPITAL BUDGET

Mr. Sherwood said that the Mayor's Recommended Budget financial was on page 371. He said that the budget was the same as last year because no request was received by the Mayor's Office. He said due to this, there would need to be major reconciliation. Mr. Sherwood then reviewed the actual of \$44,172,448 for the health care with the Committee, which is in the ECS document. He then indicated where this figure was located in the Budget items

Superintendent Ramos then addressed the Committee regarding the budget. He said that the Board acknowledges the state wide financial situation but that the District has needs. Budget requirements are \$232,000,000.

Dr. Dan Cook, Interim Director of Finance then came forward and said that the Capital Plan was divided into three sections, replacement of computers; replacement of Capital Equipment and finally the Renovations and additions to the schools for a grand total of \$12,886,164.

Dr. Cook then reviewed the number of computers that are seven years or older. He then said that the playground equipment at one of the schools is unsafe and needs to be removed this spring.

After Dr. Cook concluded his review of the Capital request, Council Member dePara asked Mr. Sherwood about the State funding

Mr. Jorge Garcia, the Facility Manager the spoke about future plans. The concept is to merge Park City and Skane in an effort to have the best facility possible. The site of Park City had been discussed as an alternative for the magnet high school. Council Member Curwen had several questions regarding how the figure was arrived at. Mr. Garcia said that he was given the figures.

Council Member Brantley then pointed out that the educational Committee had just met to request \$300,000 for replacing Bassick roof a few minutes early. She wondered why this was also on the agenda. Council Member Curwen said that he thought that this amount would require bonding and that the current reimbursement rate of 80/20 rather than anticipated future rate of 65/35. Council Member Brannelly asked for clarification on the process, which Mr. Garcia and Mr. Sherwood provided. Council Member Brannelly then asked about the recently completed school projects. Mr. Sherwood said that the reimbursement rate was 80/20. Council Member Martinez asked about the bonding issue. Mr. Sherwood then explained that in order to apply, the District needs to have the approval of the Council.

Council Member Curwen asked about the Bassick roof. Mr. Garcia explained that there were two buildings and that one of the buildings had been done six years ago.

Council Member dePara asked what stage the renovation projects were. Mr. Garcia then said that the funding was for architects and plans. Council Member Martinez asked about the Harding project. Mr. Garcia said that the committee have been considering locations. Superintendent Ramos said that the most viable plan was to put a new building on the football field and establish an athletic complex where the old building was.

Council Member Brantley asked what the plans were for Dunbar. Superintendent Ramos said that it was being considered and the committee is discussing renovations. Mr. Garcia said that it was a Level B project and that if the other projects go through, then it will be on the table.

Council Member Brannelly pointed out that the Sonitrol proposals were two years old and had questions about the cost. Dr. Cook said that with the new technology and the dropping prices, he felt the figures were fairly solid. He added that he would check with Sonitrol to confirm.

Council Member Curwen asked why the Board had not received this request last year. He was told that it was intended to get the items through grant funding.

Council Member dePara asked how many of the computers would be going directly into the classroom. Dr. Ramos said that he believed at least 80% would be in the classrooms. Dr. Cook said that he would verify this. Dr. Ramos said that 100% of the computers that were purchased with the funding would go into the classroom.

Council Member dePara asked why the budget was late in arriving. Dr. Ramos said that he had not been given a timeline to adhere to. He added that he had spoken to the Mayor about this and that it had been agreed to move forward. Mr. Sherwood said that the City does believe that it had given the District enough time. Dr. Ramos said that while it would be a lengthy discussion, other issues need to be discussed. Mr. Sherwood then said that the announcements about the dates of budget deadlines were set by the Charter. While the dates change, it is always fixed as the second Tuesday of May for the final vote, etc. Dr. Ramos said that his staff would argue that they were not adequately informed and did not have enough time to prepare.

FISCAL YEAR 2011-2012 BUDGET

Mr. Sherwood gave a very briefly overview of the Mayor's Recommended Budget. Dr. Ramos said that he had submitted a budget that focused on District needs rather than financial reality. He said that this would make the community aware of the situation and help people understand why the cuts have to be made. Mr. Sherwood said that the District request was for \$192,418,968 and that with the ARRA money, it raises the totally budget to \$215,800,000.

Dr. Ramos said that in order to maintain continuous services, there are several variables that have to be accounted for. He added that there was ARRA funding that came through the State, but a second amount ARRA funding of 6 million, which was used to pay for teachers. This was done with the knowledge that on June 30, 2011, that funding would disappear.

Dr. Ramos then said that there were contractual obligations, and some teachers and administrators had taken 0 increases. Other unions had taken 0 in the past years and are now due increases. Also, there are contractual obligations concerning advanced degrees. MERF and Medicare, along with Social Security have both increased.

Mr. John DiDonato, Assistant Superintendent for Youth Development, explained that Out of District (OOD) placement has to do with students who are identified as disabled. Mr. DiDonato then gave the details of the reimbursement

Ms. Liz Mauer, Budget manager, explained that last year's budget for OOD tuition was capped at about 20% by the State. For next year, the State made the same assumption. There is an increase because it is a projection based on a three year's prior experience. Last year the projection was lowered and this became a deficit. Council Member Brantley asked if the District was following through on the student's placements. Mr. DiDonato said that often the court

makes a decision for out of district such as a foster child, then the child goes to the local school. The State court is also involved.

Dr. Cook and Ms. Mauer then addressed the issue of overtime. Dr. Cook said that this involved after school events and custodial issues. Dr. Cook said that this was being monitored closely and that the costs were being charged back. Ms. Mauer said that the District was down 12 custodians and that the part time custodians were not being replaced.

Council Member Curwen asked if the overtime charges of \$698,000,000 was contractual. Ms. Mauer said that this includes football games, basketball games and other sports events. Ms. Mauer said that there were times that no reimbursements were given, such as events like Lighthouse or evening recreation. Dr Cook said that he was in the process of contacting the various department about this issue and working out the issue. There was also an agreement between the Lighthouse program and the District that the Lighthouse would not pay for the first 10 years. This is being evaluated.

Council Member Martinez asked where the reimbursement amounts went. Ms. Mauer said that it went back into the overtime fund. When asked if she knew how much that was, Ms. Mauer said that she did not know.

Council Member Brantley asked about the third party use and the insurance. Mr. Garcia replied that in order to use the facility, they must be insured for 1 million dollars in order to use the building. Council Member Brantley then said that when the police are at an event, when the mounted police are there it is very intimidating.

Council Member Brannelly then asked for clarification about how the budget spreadsheets were laid out. Ms. Mauer reviewed this with her. Dr. Ramos said that there were some accounts that were under budget because of last year's reconciliation. He reminded the Committee that once the contractual wages, insurance, special education and other fixed costs, there was only 1% of the budget was left for the remaining services. He then said that other districts take the difference between a senior retiring teacher and the new hire is considered an accrual, which is set aside. Then these funds are expended when something unexpected happens like 12 snowstorms or a tornado drives up the overtime.

Dr. Ramos then continued highlighting the big ticket items. He then clarified that Transportation had increased by \$2,860,000. Currently, the contract is in the second year of a three year contract, which started off with a 0% increase for the first year. There was a 6% increase in the second year. Discussion about how the contract was developed followed. Dr. Cook reminded everyone that there would be an increase in transportation costs next year because of the opening of the magnet high school.

Council Member McCarthy asked if there were multiple bidders on the transportation contract. He was told that there were at least five bidders and that for the first year, the company picked up the fuel costs and provided new buses.

Council Member Martinez asked how the out of district magnet students were transported. Mr. Henry told her that Bridgeport would pay, but the District would be reimbursed by the State. Bridgeport students will be reimbursed at one third rate.

Council Member Curwen asked Mr. Henry why the old transportation contact had been extended. Mr. Henry said that this was a new company and that the new company had just started last year. Ms. Mauer explained that the City is not subject to the excise tax, so the District purchases the gas and credits are issued to the District. This then becomes a basic wash.

Council Member Curwen then said one reason the transportation the costs is up because with the school renovations in progress, the students are being ferried to UB as swing space. Mr. Henry added that the District owns their Special Educational fleet of 16 vehicles. The cost of those buses is borne by the District.

Council Member dePara said that one recommendation of the Gibson report was to streamline the bus routes. Mr. Henry said that this year, there had been no net savings, but believes that there would savings next year for the Transfinder program. Mr. Henry said that the project started too late to fully implement the program since it was purchased in the spring of 2010. Now, with Head Start, the program will be piloted and then move to full implementation.

Council Member Brannelly asked about the gasoline line item. Ms. Mauer explained what the number reflected.

Council Member dePara asked about the Transfinder project again. Mr. Henry explained that Gibson was working with the district to implement the program. He said that it may be possible to have it fully implemented by this time next year.

The discussion then moved to the costs Health Benefits and the Internal Service Fund at \$6,564,258. Mr. Sherwood indicated this information could be found on page i14. He said that the biggest difference was the switch in the co-pays. Dr. Ramos said that originally there were plans to have a meeting with City representatives, the BOE and the insurance. Mr. Sherwood said that the ordinance needs to be changed because the insurer cannot project the costs that earlier. He then said that he would recommend that it be changed to no later March 15th. He added that the information on the rates were in MUNIS for reference. He said that there were two options, one was to fund to the amount or withdraw from the Service Fund completely. Dr. Ramos said that was why there was a difference in the figures. Dr. Ramos said that this refers back to the problem that there was no meeting between City and the District. He said that he hoped the meeting would not dissolve into a side tracked issue. Mr. Sherwood said that all the

City needs to know is how much money was going to be transferred into the Internal Service Fund. It also needs to be in compliance with the State requirements. Dr. Ramos then reiterated the history of how the Internal Service Fund was created and the original intent. Mr. Sherwood then gave a brief overview of how the projections were arrived at. Council Member dePara asked who developed the figures. Dr. Cook explained that the figure was a placeholder. Dr. Cook said that he had projected a 10% increase and the figure that was provided by the insurance carrier. He said that if he had to guess, he would probably go closer to Mr. Sherwood's figure, but that there had been no meeting. Mr. Sherwood said the request for the meeting was made on Friday, after the Mayor's budget had been created. Mr. Mulligan said that it would be important to have a meeting between the City and the District to talk about these issues.

Council Member dePara said that he would like to address the fact that Dr. Ramos said that the 3 million dollars for the Internal Service Fund would either go to the fund or to the classroom. Dr. Ramos disagreed and said that he meant the overall budget.

Council Member Curwen said that health care is a major issue for the entire nation. He added that the Budget and Appropriations would be meeting with the insurance carriers on April 26th at 6:00 p.m. and invited Dr. Ramos to be in attendance.

Council Member Curwen then pointed out there were a number of FT staff positions and that the actual positions exceeded the number budgeted. Dr. Ramos said that each item would have to be explained individually. Ms. Mauer said that one item was that the State mandated in school suspension and this was why there a difference from 23 budgeted positions to 35 positions.

Ms. Lisa Jones, Director of Grants, explained that there were some positions that were grant funded, but recently these salaries are 50% grant and 50% general salary, which accounts for the difference between the 51 positions and the 71 actual salaries for the Pre-K - K teachers. Ms. Mauer said that some of the teachers move around and that someone who was teaching kindergarten one year, could be teaching first grade next year. Dr. Ramos said that this year in an attempt to be more accurate, all the Pre-K - K teachers were represented, but that last year, there were 71 Pre-K teachers. He added that there was a major shift because of the Discovery School and many of the staff wanted to teach there.

Council Member dePara asked about the funding sources for the PreK - K teachers. Ms. Jones and Ms. Mauer said that there were two funding sources. Mr. Sherwood then said that this was part of the mitigation plan that had been requested by the Committee. Council Member dePara then reviewed the various information requests that the Committee had sent. He added that the idea was to get a more pro-active approach. The discussion then returned to the actual figures. Dr. Ramos said that what the District could have shown the FTE actual as it was because the money only speaks to the 51 teachers. He explained that the District had added the additional 20 teachers so the Committee could see the number of employees. Ms. Jones said that with the new MUNIS system, the teachers are now paid 50% from the grants and 50% from the regular

funding. Dr. Ramos said that because the State only requires half day kindergarten, then the grant only pays for half. As the money became tighter and tighter, certain items had to be pushed into grants.

Ms. Jones then distributed copies of the Bridgeport Public School SY 2010-2011 Grant Program information sheet. Council Member McCarthy said he agreed with Dr. Ramos about the necessity of grant funding. He added that since the Board was the largest part of the budget and having the full budget presented at this meeting, he felt insulted about this. He said that he felt that it would have been best if this had been presented in advance. He added that he did not know if his daughter would be going to Black Rock School or even if Black Rock School would be opened next year. Dr. Ramos said that the BOE cares very much about all the students. Dr. Ramos said that he was attempting to delineate the difference in the funding sources.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER Curwen MOVED TO ENTER THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS AS EXHIBITS:**

A – BRIDGEPORT PUBLIC SCHOOLS LINE ITEM BUDGET;

B – BRIDGEPORT PUBLIC SCHOOLS CAPITAL BUDGET REQUEST FOR 2011-2012 BOARD OF EDUCATION ADOPTED ON 3/14/2011.

C – BRIDGEPORT PUBLIC SCHOOLS SY 2010-2011 GRANTS PROGRAM.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Dr. Ramos then reviewed the information on the Grant Funding. He added that the District had received an Educations Job Fund grant of 9 million. He explained that this had been granted with the stipulation that it be spent this year and next year. Dr. Ramos indicated where this was represented in the budget. He added that the funding allowed the District to hire 5 APs, some library aides, and some math assistants with the understanding that this would be a one year position. Unfortunately, it is likely that the District will have to use more of the Education Jobs Funding than anticipated.

Dr. Cook then distributed copies of the 2010-2011 Deficit Mitigation Plan.

****COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY MOVED TO ENTER 2010- 2011 DEFICIT MITIGATION PLAN AS EXHIBIT D.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER CURWEN SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Dr. Ramos then reviewed the items listed on the plan. He said that every dollar used from the Educational Jobs Funding was that much less for next year.

Council Member Curwen asked how many jobs were covered by the ARRA funding. Ms. Mauer referred the Committee to the budget documentation. Mr. Sherwood pointed out that two years ago, the State used the Federal dollars instead of State dollars for the ECS program. Council Member Curwen asked how the District absorbed the positions before the ARRA. Dr. Ramos said that each year, the budget becomes tighter and tighter, so the grant funding was used to supplement positions and now the funding is evaporating.

Mr. Sherwood said that the State Legislation was not going to happen until after the tax bills were out and the SY 2011-2012 year was ready to start.

Council Member dePara said that he did not see the cost cutting plans in the deficit plan. Dr. Cook said that he is examining all the accounts for encumbered funds. Mr. Sherwood said that the encumbered funds were designated funding for a particular item. Once the Purchase Order is cut, but the item has not been shipped, there is the possibility of canceling the order. Each item has to be individually reviewed to see if canceling the item was feasible. Dr. Cook then gave an example of how this would be done. Discussion followed.

Council Member dePara asked if there was a Purchasing policy to insure that the request was the highest and best use of the limited education funds.

Council Member Curwen cautioned Dr. Ramos and Dr. Cook about not taking the supplies from the students. Dr. Cook said that his litmus test was "Will it hurt the students?" Council Member Curwen said that he had offered the services of Mr. Sherwood for financial assistance in the past.

Council Member Brannelly said that she would like to know what will happen next year. Dr. Cook said that next year, the District will have to come up with 17 million dollars to cover the hole. The District has already come up with 3 million dollars, but still has 14 million dollars. He pointed out that no one has said that City was not supporting the Board. Mr. Sherwood pointed out that the City is working on legislation to increase the MERF contribution, which has not been changed since the 1950's.

Council Member dePara said that he would like to see some recycling programs, some conservation, and some streamlining of the administration. Dr. Ramos said everything was on the table. He added that the issues about 948 Main Street was under discussion and no discussion has been held about building closures. He added there might be penalties because the enrollment at Tisdale and Barnum, which would encourage closing other schools.

Dr. Ramos said that 1 million dollars has been included to cover reduced grant funding. Dr. Ramos said that he was counting on the fact that next year, the government grants will be less. He said that there was 1.5 million for text books, supplies and everything else in the budget.

There are two basic items that are new in the budget.

****COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY MOVED TO ENTER ADDITIONAL NEW POSITIONS THAT HAVE BEEN REQUESTED FOR 2011-2012 OPERATING BUDGET AS EXHIBIT E.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER CURWEN SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Dr. Ramos then reviewed the two district wide teachers that would have to be added next year. These items were already included in the budget. The next ten positions would be for the Discovery School, and Dr. Ramos noted that there would be some reimbursement for the positions. The next five positions would be for expanding the autistic program, which would create the capacity for service rather than moving them out of district, which is three times the cost. He said that the District should be servicing the students themselves. The tuition costs for out of district costs would balloon unless the District provides the service.

Council Member Martinez asked if these positions were all new hires. Dr. Ramos confirmed this.

Council Member Brannelly asked where the students would go. She was told that there were already about 120 students in the program and 41 out of district. The new special education teachers would just bring the District to the point of providing service to the children already in need.

Council Member Martinez asked if there were any insurance funds that would cover the cost for the Special education. Ms. Mauer explained that the Out of District line included the revenues from Medicaid and insurance reimbursements. Discussion then followed. When asked who oversees the delivery of services and insures that the maximum reimbursements were being done, the Committee was told that there are two account specialist in the Special Education Department who do this. The department has been audited and it was announced that District was operating at maximum efficient

Council Member Brannelly asked about the recycling program and pointed out that what doesn't go into the bins, the schools and City pays for in tipping fees.

****COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY MOVED TO ENTER RECYCLING PROGRAM WITH THE BOE AND THE CITY OF BRIDGEPORT AS EXHIBIT F.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER CURWEN SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Mr. Garcia said that the process had been started at the beginning of the school year. The District has entered into a pilot program with the EPA at Johnson and Marin. There may be an opportunity to expand the program. Recycling has been tried before and just dissipated, so by tying it to the educational piece, there is a better chance for it to succeed. Council Member dePara said that he had heard that between Johnson and Marin, they had recycled 2,000 lbs of cardboard in two months. There are 33 more schools in the City.

Council Member Martinez said that Marin was in her district and that many of the residents didn't know how to recycle. Now the kids are teaching their parents.

Council Member McCarthy said that the previous programs had failed and that to him, was unacceptable. Mr. Garcia said that the schools are now using the three "P"s approach: people, process and plan.

Council Member Curwen asked Mr. Sherwood how much money was saved by recycling last year. Mr. Sherwood said that it really was cost avoidance. But now the staff is learning how to do this and the cost is going down. Council Member Curwen said that by emphasizing paper, it could actually produce revenue.

Council Member Curwen added that the City had actually saved money in electrical costs and utility costs. Mr. Sherwood said that disposing of computer monitors is very costly. Dr. Ramos said that a few of the schools had received checks for changing over the lighting. Mr. Garcia said that it would be helpful to have a funding source to switch out the lighting. Right now, it is done on an as needed basis. Mr. Sherwood then explained that the Public Facility had come up with a six year plan with a set amount. He then said that this could be discussed further.

Council Member Curwen asked about textbooks costs. Council Member Martinez asked about bringing more computers into the classroom. She asked about bringing more computers into the classrooms. Dr. Ramos said that a lot of text books come with CDs attached. As the District becomes more comfortable with the technology in the homes, the District can move towards computer use. Dr. Ramos said that the world language program had been discontinued in 2004 for the elementary schools and there is the potential of bringing that back to the elementary schools through the technology.

Dr. Cook then distributed a document titled Bridgeport Public School 5 year enrollment History projected for 2011-2012

****COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY MOVED TO ENTER BRIDGEPORT PUBLIC SCHOOL 5 YEAR ENROLLMENT HISTORY PROJECTED FOR 2011-2012 AS EXHIBIT G.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ SECONDED.**
**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Council Member Curwen asked about the drop in enrollment. Dr. Ramos said that he was hearing rumors about Notre Dame closing and that this would affect the District. Council Member Curwen asked if this would include the tuition students. Dr. Ramos said that it did not. Council Member Brannelly asked for drop out and graduation data. Dr. Ramos said that he would get that information to the Council Members.

Council Member Curwen said that he would like to thank Dr. Ramos for providing all the documentation that the Committee asked for. He added he hoped that Dr. Cook would be present on the 26th to hopefully reduce the costs for the District. Dr. Cook said that he hoped to meet with Mr. Sherwood before the 26th.

Council Member Martinez said that as a former teacher, she appreciated the work that Dr. Ramos, the staff and everyone else does in the school.

Council Member McCarthy said that while there were many exchanges tonight, everyone was on the same team and he thanked Dr. Ramos.

Council Member dePara then asked about the worker's comp. Dr. Cook said that that before the former facility manager left, a program had been started and that this would have to be started up again. By having the safety committees meet once a month at the schools helps.

Dr. Cook then distributed copies of the Bridgeport Public School New School Enrollment.

****COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY MOVED TO ENTER BRIDGEPORT PUBLIC SCHOOL NEW SCHOOL ENROLLMENT AS EXHIBIT H.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER CURWEN SECONDED.**
**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Council Member dePara said that there was a discrepancy between the expected enrollment and the actual enrollment. Dr. Ramos said that the State could penalize the City for the decrease, at approximately 3.5 million for each school. This could involve closing other schools, transferring students or redistricting. Council Member Curwen said that there had been discussions about this and it was currently in the auditor's hands.

Council Member Brannelly asked how long the enrollment window was. Mr. Henry said that it needed to be on the opening of the school, but the audit continues for five years.

Mr. Sherwood left the meeting at 10:21 p.m.

Council Member dePara and Dr. Ramos then recapped key points of the Operating Budget, Capital Budget, Deficit Information, Grant Funding, New School Enrollment, New Positions, Recycling program and Enrollment History and the materials requested.

ADJOURNMENT

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

**** COUNCIL MEMBER CURWEN SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 10:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE
SPECIAL MEETING
APRIL 14, 2011**

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

STAFF: Thomas Sherwood, OPM; Dawn Norton, Acting Finance Director

OTHERS: Council Member Martin McCarthy; Don Eversley, OPED Director; Ed Lavernoich, OPED; Andrew Nunn, Mayor's Office; Council Member Robert Walsh; Council President Thomas McCarthy

CALL TO ORDER

Co-chair Curwen called the meeting to order at 6:20 p.m. He then introduced the members of the Committee.

OPED

Mr. Sherwood gave a brief overview of the information on pg. 270 in the budget binder.

Mr. Eversley then distributed some information to the Committee.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY MOVED TO ENTER THE FOLLOWING ITEMS AS EXHIBITS:**

**EXHIBIT A - SEAVIEW ;
EXHIBIT B - EAST BRIDGEPORT DEVELOPMENT CORRIDOR; AND
EXHIBIT C - DEMOLITION ORDER –**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ SECONDED.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Mr. Eversley said that in terms of new projects, there were a number of exciting projects on the horizon. He then gave a brief overview of the transit orientated projects that were occurring in the area. Mayor Finch will be in New York City tomorrow for this new initiative. Bridgeport will be proposing a second Bridgeport train station. Congress announced the Tiger program was in place after the budget deliberations. This means that Steel Point can move forward. He said that the next stage was for hard infrastructure at Steel Point.

He then said that the Bijou Square project was completed and that it was almost completely rented. Gault moved most of their Westport operations to Seaview Avenue. P.C. Richards has completed the renovation of their site. Samsung Associates, is a building material recapture facility. They own property on Davenport Avenue in the East End, behind the Tisdale School. Because of the number of East End concerns, they have been relocated to a larger, more appropriate parcel.

Downtown continues to grow as a retail community and another 64 apartments will be available in the near future.

Council Member McCarthy asked about the taxing for P.C. Richards, and Gault. He asked about the Samsung development. Mr. Eversley reviewed that and explained that Samsung had not started operating.

Council Member Martinez asked about the train station for Barnum Avenue. Mr. Eversley said that the Federal government would be supplying a portion of the funding for the studies of the transportation orientated projects. He said that given the size of Bridgeport, that it would be important to have more than one station.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia asked if there was anyone else was working on the remaining portions of Bridgeport. Mr. Eversley said that there was a PowerPoint program that outlined this subject. Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia said that she was looking for real projects and amounts that have been spent. Mr. Eversley said that this was covered in the presentation.

Mr. Eversley said that Steel Point continues to move forward. The timeline will be critical because the retail tenants want firm commitments. The State Traffic Commission has given their approval and signed off on the application.

Council Member dePara and Council President McCarthy joined the meeting at 6:45 p.m.

There are at least seven known brown fields within the Steel Point peninsula itself. There have been several conversations about remediation. There is also TIF financing. Council Member Curwen had some questions about the TIF process. Mr. Eversley said that the fact that there is a grant for this is very important, but it is not known yet as to how much remediation will be required. The federal dollars will reduce the amount because of the Tiger 2 grant for the Federal highway funding and the parcel is adjacent to the Interstate.

The next step following the infrastructure breaking ground in late 2011, early 2012. The RFP will be going out for heavy construction as soon as the final drawings are completed. Mr. Eversley said that he expected to be in a bidding position within the next three months. Atty. Lavernoch said that there is no way to control the length of time that the DOT takes to give approval.

Council Member Walsh pointed out that when the City approved the LDA, the Tiger 2 funding was not even on the horizon. He said that he believed the developer had missed several deadlines. Atty. Lavernoich said that to the best of his knowledge the developer had not missed a deadline and that the June ground breaking was scheduled. Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia said that she had heard different times and that she would like a bullet time line for the project.

Mr. Eversley then gave an overview of Conover Development, Seaview Project on Seaview Avenue. There is a signed agreement between the Port Authority and the developer. There are brown fields and sub surface issues. He added that because the parcel is located on the water, which involved several department of the DEP and the proximity of the highway, involved by several departments of the DOT. The key for the Seaview development is the supermarket. There is a prime candidate. The anchor retail is key to moving forward.

Mr. Eversley said that he anticipated a major announcement about Steel Point in the near future. Council Member Walsh said that he did not believe that the upcoming retailer show in Las Vegas would net any interested parties.

Regarding the Seaview development, Mr. Nunn commented that the LDA was actually approved by the Port Authority because they own the land.

Mr. Eversley then spoke about the East Bridgeport Development Corridor and said that it was a tremendous opportunity for the City to grow. Lake Success has several more years of remediation to complete before anything can be done. However, the 77 acres of General Electric is moving forward. The early studies for dismantling of the building has started. Mr. Eversley said that the goal was to have the projects work together in synergy rather than in isolation.

Mr. Eversley said that there was a great meeting early in the day with a parks consultant about Pleasure Beach.

Council Member Curwen said that sixteen years ago, they started remediation on Lake Success and it was still going on. Mr. Eversley said that the parcel is privately owned by DuPont and that the lower portion of the parcel is now clean. The company is working on locating all the live ordnance on the parcel.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia asked what agreement was in place for G.E. She added that the sidewalk area in front of the site needed repair. Mr. Eversley said that the parcel was private property and the work on the parcel was being supervised by the Federal government and other regulatory agencies. The building will be de-constructed, in order to recycle as much as they can. The State Department of Health is very involved in demolitions like this.

Mr. Eversley then discussed the Demolition Order Status Report. Mr. Eversley said that his department's role was to work with the NRZs in terms of their projects.

Council Member Martinez said that it would be important to let the Council Members know when project is about commence so that the Council Members can let their constituents know. Mr. Eversley pointed out that most of the projects on the list came from the NRZs. Council Member Martinez said that it would be important to let the Council Members have input.

Mr. Eversley said that the projects on the list is the first draft of the demolition projects. The Anti-blight Committee, and the Attorney's Office along with the OPED do the heavy lifting on this type of project. There are many legal hoops and sometimes it takes years to remove a dangerous or blighted structures. There are also difficulties in tracking down the owners of a parcel and this requires another layer of legal notification.

Council Member dePara asked where the tax bills go. Mr. Eversley said that sometimes the owner is deceased, other times the bill goes to a post office box, and still other times, the bill is delivered to the derelict address. If the City ends up demolishing someone else's property and then a lien is place on the property for the cost of demolition. Occasionally, the owner comes in and demolishes the building themselves or in the best case, redevelops it.

Council Member dePara asked what happens after the demo. Mr. Eversley said that often the parcels go to auction. The build able lots are good assets for the City.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia asked about the vacant parcels that have been used by the residents as pocket parks. Mr. Eversley said that those parcels were not legal parks. Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia said that these parks need be brought back into tax rolls. Mr. Nunn said that he needed to know the location of the parks to check into them. Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia said that she would get those addresses for him.

Council Member Martinez said that there was a parcel on the list that had been there for years and needed to be demolished. It is owned by the City. Mr. Eversley said that there were some other issues. Council Member Martinez said that she had concerns about the Boston Avenue parcel. Mr. Eversley said that the parcel was privately owned.

Council Member Curwen asked about where the demolition funding was coming from. Mr. Sherwood said that the funding is being requested.

Mr. Eversley said that when this process started, the more presentable parcels went first. The parcels that remain are ones that are irregular. The old Waltersville School has an RFP out. The Black Rock bank just had two serious inquires.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia asked why the old Davidson building was not cleaned out and secured before the problem that came up last month. Atty. Lavernoich said that the building had been repeatedly secured and most of the furnishing had been removed. Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia said that she had concerns about the firefighters and police officers who might have to go in there for some reason.

Mr. Eversley said that his department was very encouraged with the recent developments and that as growth continues, then the irregular parcels will go. He added that there were certain parcels were kept vacant because of a big project that was anticipated.

Council Member dePara said that there were some concerns about a current trend of selling the property to a developer and leasing it out or putting the parcels in a trust and being bonded for funds up front to deal with the finances. He said that there were consultants who were more familiar with this type of thing and would be better qualified to answer this.

Council Member Walsh asked about some conversations regarding the Post Office vacating their parcel downtown. Atty. Lavernoich gave a brief update on this.

Council Member McCarthy asked about an recent RFP response about hiring a commercial broker to market certain parcels that are available. . Atty. Lavernoich said that he expected to bring a resolution to the Council soon.

Council Member McCarthy asked about the former phone company. Mr. Eversley said that when he has checked on it, the price has been unrealistically high. This is one of about a dozen properties around town that are owned by out of state corporations, who are paying the taxes.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia asked whether the City leaves the door open for those interested parties when properties are being evaluated. Atty. Lavernoich said that his department had directed several people who had inquired about vacant properties to the appropriate parties.

Council Member Walsh said that there were problems about Zoning Enforcement. He said that there was a parcel where there were commercial vehicles parked after 5 p.m. He said that there had been positions had been approved in the past for off hours inspections. Mr. Eversley said that he was glad that Council Member Walsh used the Queue Alert for this. Mr. Eversley said that he would be glad to follow up on this. Council Member Curwen said that there was someone in his neighborhood who was repairing his car in his yard and another neighbor has a sailboat that in the backyard that was quite large. Mr. Eversley made a note of this.

Council Member McCarthy said that as a business owner trying to re-open a business, he would never do it again. It has been a nightmare. Mr. Eversley said that he would like to hear more about this in detail later.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia said that she felt that there should be staggered shifts. Council President McCarthy said that there were labor issues and employment, but it was essential to move this forward. Mr. Sherwood said that FMLA regulations often complicated the situation. Some contracts have a no subcontracting clause. Discussion followed.

Council Member Martinez left the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia asked whether the City allowed to stretch out their retirements by announcing they were retiring in a few weeks. Mr. Sherwood said that because of the staffing issues, when someone files the retirement, it is more beneficial for the City to pay them for the outstanding vacation and sick time in a lump sum payment.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia asked about getting information on this issue. Mr. Sherwood said that previously the issues were workmen's comp, but now the major focus was on FMLA.

Mr. Eversley said that building permits were running about one million to one million six. If the City is allowed to move the City line to include the Magnet school, it would be a cost avoidance of at least a million dollars.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia then asked about the Remgrit and what would be done with the shot tower. Atty. Lavernoich said that the shot tower was on the portion of the property that was not owned by the City.

Mr. Sherwood said that the Building Department was bringing in revenue for the City. Mr. Sherwood will look into demo permits.

Council Member Curwen asked about the Land Use Director. Mr. Sherwood said that work has been done on reorganizing the position. Once the regulatory information is solidified, it will be present to the Council.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia asked about the grant funding. Mr. Sherwood said that he couldn't put it in the General Fund. He said that he would have the full document on Grant night.

Council Member Brannelly asked about the Table of Organizations for the Department. Mr. Sherwood said that the deadline is Friday, so they will be available soon.

Atty. Lavernoich indicated that there were two errors on page 227. There had been some verbatim transcription that has been required for court cases and the fund over because of these. The advertising services request was for \$20,000 and it was cut to \$10,000. The account is used for legal ads, meeting notifications and other associated required posting.

Council President McCarthy said that if there were public notices about the various historical committees and these should be done electronically.

Council Member dePara asked what the more realistic amount for the advertising services. Atty. Lavernoich said that the request for \$20,000 should be adequate.

Council Member McCarthy asked about the food service line. Mr. Eversley said that it was for lunch meetings for NRZs or visiting groups.

Council Member dePara asked about a hardware line item on page 275. Atty. Lavernoich said that it was for locks on properties that are seized by the City or secured by the City.

ADJOURNMENT

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

**** COUNCIL MEMBER DEPARA 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
SPECIAL MEETING
APRIL 16, 2011**

ATTENDANCE: Robert Curwen, Chair; Susan Brannelly, Lydia Martinez; Council President Thomas McCarthy (10:15 a.m.); Angel dePara (10:20 a.m.)

STAFF: Tom Sherwood, OPM; Dawn Norton, Acting Finance Director

OTHERS: Council Member Martin McCarthy; Police Chief Gaudett, Sgt. Cueto; Fire Chief Brian Rooney; DC Petrucelli; Scott Appleby, Dorie Page, EOC; Debra Deida, EOC; Rebecca Lopez, EOC; Adam Heller, ITS

CALL TO ORDER

CM Curwen called the meeting to order at 9:50 a.m.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Mr. Sherwood then directed everyone to page 125. He then reviewed the figures for the Mayor's Recommended Budget. The detailed line items were on pp. 134-135. The principal spending comes out of the Administration line. Due to careful management of overtime, the budget has been reduced by 1.7 million dollars. Mr. Sherwood said that there was nothing in the Capital budget.

Chief Gaudett greeted the Committee members. He said that he had received an email that requested three items. He then distributed copies of the Department Organizational Chart; an Allocation Plan.

Chief Gaudett said that he would like to review the Allocation Plan. He said that there were four fewer police officer in the office; Community Officers has been reduced by five officers. The remaining five SRO officers now are assigned to multiple schools. The change from officers to civilians related several officers for patrol. Detectives is fully staffed. Marine Division has been reduced by one for Patrol. An officer on extended leave returned to Vice and one officer was transferred out.

The highlight in the Patrol Unit has been increased by filling all the Sgt positions for the shift. The SET team has become part of patrol and has been successful. There are now 24 officers in this division, which is a power shift, who are assigned to a particular geographic area from 7 p.m. until 3 a.m. A fleet of nine vehicles has been purchased with JAG funding. This has increased vehicle accountability. Three police vehicles have been lost in the last four years, all

of them at night at intersections with State ordered flashing lights. The insurance will be paying for the replacement.

Mr. Sherwood said that the change on the vehicles management policy has resulted in a number of benefits such as reduced gas usage and better maintenance.

Chief Gaudett then reviewed the remaining shifts in personnel in the various departments with the Committee. He explained that the Traffic Department has created a new shift that covers from 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

There are two detective vacancies and at least four more are anticipated. There is a vacancy at Sergeant level also.

Council President McCarthy joined the meeting at 10:15 a.m. A quorum was now present.

Chief Gaudett said that 80% of the Command Staff could retire at any time. He said that he did not anticipate this happening because of the economic situation, but it was possible. The discussion then moved to the department candidates and the testing process. Another class of recruits will be needed before the grant is over. Chief Gaudett then distributed copies of a letter dated April 14, 2011 from Lt. L. Blackwell to Chief Gaudett regarding the Police Recruit Classes.

Council member dePara joined the meeting at 10:20 a.m.

CM Curwen asked Mr. Sherwood for a break down for the costs of a recruit class. Mr. Sherwood estimated that it would cost about \$4,000 per student.

CM McCarthy asked about lateral transfers. Chief Gaudett reviewed the process.

CM McCarthy asked whether the officers have access to the ordinance book. Chief Gaudett said that there are copies of the book in the department, and when he has questions about ordinances, he checks the website. He pointed out that the issue is not enforcement, but the City's ability to collect.

CM Martinez left the meeting at 10:25 a.m.

CM ADP then commented that when he has done ride alongs, the officers do have the blue books and other documentation to check.

Chief Gaudett said that regarding the overtime, the department has been working on reducing overtime, primarily through the shift in the personnel. Sick time remains a problem. Chief Gaudett then said that the department was working on automated software that would manage schedules and includes sick time, vacations, days off and other items. It interfaces with MUNIS.

Chief Gaudett said that he personally reviews every overtime time sheet.

CM Curwen complimented Chief Gaudett on the professional demeanor, the cost savings and the contract negotiations. CM Curwen said that he still had concerns about officers using cell phones while on shift.

CM Curwen said that CM Brantley had concerns about using the horses at sporting events because they were intimidating to the public. CM ADP said that when he's done ride alongs, he did not see this. Sgt. Cueto said that he would like to speak to CM Brantley and show her the box of knives and weapons that were removed from the site prior to the events.

Mr. Sherwood commented that BOE was talking about how they have to pay the department for the police were frequently at the high schools. Switching the SROs to the Police Department was a very positive move. Chief Gaudett said that a significant portion of the department was involved with school dismissal. There are also major traffic issues in the morning at Reed School.

CP McCarthy said that seeing how much the PD was interacting with the schools, he suggested that the security guards be moved from the BOE to the department. CP McCarthy pointed out that the head of school security makes more than Chief Gaudett. Mr. Sherwood said that if the transfer happened, it would reduce costs for the BOE and provide better service. CM ADP said that when an incident occurs, the police have to handle the issue anyway. He felt that the PD could be more effective in handling this

****COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY MOVED TO INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING ITEMS AS EXHIBITS:**

**EXHIBIT A- BRIDGEPORT POLICE OPERATIONAL TABLE OF ORGANIZATION;
EXHIBIT B - ALLOCATION PLAN - 2011, DATED OCTOBER 18, 2010; AND
EXHIBIT C - BRIDGEPORT POLICE RECRUIT CLASS COMMENCEMENT LETTER**

DATED APRIL 14, 2011

**** COUNCIL MEMBER DE PARA SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

CM ADP asked about the number of pit bulls that he has seen on East Side. He asked about the licensing procedure. Chief Gaudett said that the Animal Shelter is filled with pit bulls. The residents end up not being able to afford the license, the health care and/or food. They abandon them and the dogs end up in the shelters, ultimately to be euthanized. Chief Gaudett said that he felt that Officer Gonzalez was the best animal control shelter the City had. The discussion then moved to the details about expanding the animal shelters and the funding associated with it.

CM Curwen asked about the regionalization. Sgt. Cueto said that the neighboring towns don't want to be involved with the pit bulls. The staff does not want to euthanize every animal that comes through the door, but that has resulted in the veterinary services has increased. Chief Gaudett said that the intent was to request an increase to \$80,000 for the vet services, but it was improperly entered. The actual request is to add \$80,000 to the current \$60,000.

The discussion then moved to the parking meters. Chief Gaudett said that the Department no longer has anything to do with the parking meters. The discussion then moved back to the parking violation collection company.

CM ADP asked about the goals for 2011-2012, particularly some of the restructuring of the command chain. Chief Gaudett then gave a brief overview of the Police Executive Directive Forum study in 2009 recommended that the department have area commanders in order to give more continuity of command. From a Community Policing, the area commander is responsible for the area on a continual basis. The area commanders will be in one room and the Property now has an annex at the Animal Shelter. The OSHA violations in the Property locations are being addressed, and then Property will be moved back into the space. The area commanders will be in the current Property location.

Chief Gaudett said that one of the items on his five year plan was a new police department. Mr. Sherwood suggested that the City consider looking at a regional facility involving the State and the Federal officers. Chief Gaudett said that he would be willing to consider this.

Mr. Sherwood asked Chief Gaudett what the command structure would be for the BOE security department. Chief Gaudett gave a brief overview of how this would be structured.

CM Brannelly asked about the animal shelter and the standards that are used. Chief Gaudett that there were protocols in place but was not familiar enough with them to an overview. He said that euthanizing was the last step.

CM McCarthy said that he had concerns about keeping the Council Members in the loop. He gave some examples of the various rumors about crimes, which concerns him as a business owner. CP McCarthy said that if there is a series of burglaries going on, letting the Council Members know can give their constituents a heads up.

Mr. Sherwood asked about the utilization of GPS in the police vehicles. Chief Gaudett said that the police vehicles have computers and modems that send information to the Department CAD. At this time, it is not being monitored, but the program should be operational by the end of the year.

CM McCarthy asked about the Special Master line. Mr. Sherwood said that it would be sunseting, but the amount needed to be in there.

CM McCarthy asked about the towing list. Mr. Sherwood said that it would be beneficial for the City to do its own towing. Chief Gaudett said that if the City had its own impound yard, there would be a change in the rules. CM Brannelly said that it sounded like it would be a strong revenue generator.

CM McCarthy asked about the allocation. Chief Gaudett said that they were based on seniority and union contracts.

RECESS

Council Member Curwen announced a recess at 11:28 a.m. The meeting reconvened at 11:35 a.m.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Mr. Sherwood announced that the budget figures could be found on page 142 of the binder.

Chief Rooney came forward and said that there were a few increases in the budget, including the lease purchase agreement for the fire truck. He introduced Deputy Chief Petrucelli and Scott Appleby. He then reviewed page 142. Chief Rooney said that the department was in desperate need of two engines. The lease/purchase for the second engine means that the department pays \$47,000 for the lease payment for the next nine years. With the payments spread out, it means the equipment is there. CM Curwen said that he felt it was better to put it in the Capital. Mr. Sherwood said that he would rather bond for it. D.C Petrucelli said that is the first time the department is paying the lease/purchase agreement from their budget. Usually, it came from capital. There is a request for two additional trucks.

Mr. Sherwood then reviewed the Mayor's Recommended Budget and said that the department has reduced overtime by half a million. He added that all of the provisions of the contract have been added into the budget. Some work remains to be done to move the fire fighters into MERF, but that is actually a function of the State, not the City. Mr. Sherwood then reviewed the information on pp. 146-147. There is a minimum manning component for each of the shift. There is no change in personnel.

CM McCarthy asked about the benefits for people who retire out. MERF pays 13.5% while the City would be required to pay 25% off the base. MERF is managed by the State of Commission. This will mean that the State of Connecticut determines disability, not the City. The Plan B pensioners funding will remain with the City. Discussion followed.

Non-contractual overtime is being monitored very carefully. When the EOC opened, there were five lieutenants that were shifted about and repositioned into positions where overtime was

common. Mr. Sherwood said that having the bigger pool, increases will be spread over a larger group of people. He said he disagreed with the 5% employee contribution.

Council President McCarthy left at 11:55 a.m.

Chief Rooney said that he would like to speak briefly about gasoline and diesel fuel on page 151. At the beginning of the fiscal year, the price of a gallon of fuel was \$2.29, but now it is over \$4.00 a gallon. Last year, the department requested \$70,000 and the request \$80,000.

CM McCarthy asked about the telephone services. Chief Rooney said the \$65,000 would be for all the phone lines, both landlines and cell phones.

CM McCarthy asked about the tire line item. DC Petrucelli said that the department uses the item on a regular and that one engine tire can cost \$1,000. They are replaced as needed. Mr. Sherwood said that the disposal cost is costing the City. CM McCarthy asked about how the Purchasing Department. Chief Rooney said the department adheres to the City standards and bid schedule. Mr. Sherwood said that the specs for the fire equipment are very detailed.

CM McCarthy asked about memberships. DC Petrucelli said that the various officers are required to belong to certain organizations.

CM Curwen asked about the debt service, which Mr. Sherwood reviewed.

Mr. Appleby reviewed the budget increases for his department. He explained that the increases were due to the cost of purchasing the equipment, contracts and Reverse 911. He also pointed out that the Homeland Security funding now goes to the region rather than the City.

Council Member Brannelly asked about the construction service. Deputy Chief Petrucelli explained that this line item was for repairing fire hydrants. Unlike most municipalities, Bridgeport owns all the fire hydrants. In other places, town water companies own the hydrants and maintain them. Bridgeport looked into this, but the proposed fees for having the water company take over the responsibility were extremely high. Mr. Sherwood then reminded everyone that the water companies calculate the capacity rate by the diameter of the pipe, not the actual amount of water in the pipe.

Council Member dePara asked about the maintenance of the fire hydrants and the regulation of the height of the hydrants. Chief Rooney reviewed the details of this. Discussion followed about the hydrant line item. Chief Rooney said that he thought the department would be okay with the allocated amount.

The discussion then moved to Vehicle Maintenance. Mr. Sherwood reviewed the figures and said that if the allocated amount was not enough, then the department could come back to the Council for more funding. Deputy Chief Petrucelli said that the department works on

refurbishing the vehicles and uses them as spare vehicles when one of the principal vehicles goes out for repair.

Council Member McCarthy asked about the disposition of the old fire trucks and who decided where the vehicles went. Chief Rooney replied that the Mayor made the decision as to where the trucks were going.

Council Member Curwen asked about the Fire Department Table of Organization. Mr. Sherwood said that the Department had turned in the diagram and it was with the other departments. He then emailed a copy of the diagram to Council Member Brannelly's Blackberry.

Chief Rooney then reviewed the staffing levels and pointed out that he cannot exceed 65 fire fighters on duty at any given time, but cannot have less than 61 without paying overtime. He said that he is hoping to staff to the full 65 compliment.

A recent recruitment drive yielded over 1,500 applicants, 400 of which were from Bridgeport. Mayor Finch has extended the application period for the CPAD exam. Kosoff, Kosoff and Beers are offering scholarships for the exam costs. Chief Rooney said that he was hoping for 12-16 candidates for the department. Council Member McCarthy expressed concerns about the testing resulting in lawsuits.

Council Member Curwen said that he would like the record to reflect that no hard copies of the Organization Chart had been provided.

Mr. Sherwood said that the Safe Sleep program funding was nearing an end. Council Member McCarthy said that perhaps some of the Bridgeport companies could help keep the program going. Chief Rooney said that the department is constantly applying for grants.

Council Member dePara commented that after seeing the devastation in Japan, he would like to know what the EOC is doing to plan for this type of situation. Mr. Appleby said that the City is required to have an administrative plan for all emergencies, and added that last year, there were 15 major events in the City. He then briefly reviewed the plan and added that when the tornado hit Bridgeport, the EOC went into action and it worked well. Mr. Appleby also said that Bridgeport is part of Region 1 and that there is a Region 1 Planning Team that includes the surrounding towns. He said that some of the things that are discussed are situations like Katrina and Japan to evaluate lessons learned. There is also a State Regional Plan that includes New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, and Pennsylvania.

Council Member dePara asked about training. Chief Rooney said that there had been training, and it had taken place in the University of Bridgeport Bernhart Center. He added that that there was an upcoming drill in Long Island Sound scheduled. Recent training in Texas about this type of situation stressed collaboration. Council Member dePara asked Mr. Appleby to email the

details of this plan to the Council. Mr. Appleby said that he would email copies of the READY BRIDGEPORT plan. One aspect is recruiting 10% of the volunteers for training.

Council Member Curwen said that it would be good for the Council Members to do a presentation about this to their neighborhoods. Mr. Appleby agreed and said that there was a specific plan. Council Member Curwen then volunteered his own District for a pilot program. Mr. Sherwood suggested that the second Monday meeting for the Budget and Appropriations Committee be used to meet with department for updates. Discussion followed.

Council Member Brannelly asked about the Safe Sleep program. Chief Rooney explained how the funding was distributed. He added that the Federal government selects a particular program for offering grant funding for a limited period of time and then they turn their attention elsewhere. Mr. Sherwood suggested that perhaps giving tax credits for working smoke alarms would be a solution. He said that getting the program institutionalized would be important. Council Member McCarthy asked if individuals could donate directly to the Safe Sleep program. Chief Rooney said yes.

Council Member Curwen commended Chief Rooney for doing this year in and year out. Chief Rooney said that he appreciated the Council Members because he knows they are volunteers.

Council Member Curwen asked what the percentage was of firefighters that could retire next year. Chief Rooney said that approximately 40% of the force could retire, but he did not expect this to happen due to the economy.

Mr. Sherwood asked why the department does not have a list of candidates for hiring. Deputy Chief Petrucelli explained that the department loses approximately 10 employees a year and if the Civil Service department does not administer the exam for four or five years, the vacancies build up.

RECESS

Council Member Curwen then announced a recess at 12:47 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 1:00 p.m.

EOC

The discussion then moved to the Emergency Operations Center (EOC). Mr. Sherwood introduced Ms. Price and said that the department had been independent for slightly less than a year. He added that the budget was very solid, but there was a need to increase the heating gas for the building. Ms. Price then introduced her two co-workers, Deborah Deida and Rebecca Lopez. Ms. Price indicated that there were 25 copies of an information packet titled "City of Bridgeport Safety Communications Presentation to the Budget and Appropriations Committee, April 16, 2011", which Ms. Deida then distributed to the Council Members present. The remaining packets will be placed in the Council mailboxes.

Ms. Price explained that an error had been made when the figures had been entered for the heating gas for utilities. The department was requesting a \$3,000 increase from \$13,000 to \$16,000, but the budget reflected that their request was for only \$3,000. The building is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. Mr. Sherwood reminded everyone that in the past, the department was included in the Public Facility's budget, but now the department was independent. Ms. Price added that she was working to keep the budget to the bare bones.

Council Member dePara said that he had been on numerous ride along calls with the police and that the 9-1-1 dispatch operators response time for Priority One calls could be lengthy. Ms. Price explained that sometimes there is a lack of officers immediately available to take the call. She added that also when the consolidation happened, there was some resistance from officers in the field. Now that the Center had been in existence for almost a year, it is smoothing out and there is better communication. Ms. Deida suggested that the Council Members come to the Center for a visit. Council Member dePara said that it was important to know about issues in order to keep his constituents informed.

Council Member Curwen said that he had often heard complaints about the courtesy of the dispatchers. Ms. Price said that the nature of the call may require that the dispatcher be firm with the caller, especially if there has been a shooting and people are screaming. Training is underway to increase the professionalism of the department. She added that it is also important to remember that dispatch is short 10 people and that this means the dispatchers are working long hours. She is working on rectifying this situation. Mr. Sherwood commented that when Dispatch was in City Hall there was minimal supervision and the department always had a high turn over. He added that there were negotiations with the union regarding the job description because the test is a typing test, which has not changed in many years. Discussion followed.

Ms. Lopez then reviewed the various utility line items with the Committee. Council Member Brannelly said that she was co-chair of the Public Safety Committee and felt that this information was important to Public Safety. Ms. Price said that monthly meetings would be nice.

The discussion then moved to regionalization. Ms. Price said that the ultimate goal was to have staff that was EMR certified. However, in order to do this, it is important to have all the staff positions filled. Then the staff can be fully trained and then the department will be able to consider to regionalization.

Recently, the State authorized a study on regionalization. They are currently trying to encourage municipalities to join in and when the study is complete, it will be submitted to the State.

Mr. Sherwood pointed out that towns and cities do not want to relinquish local control. He added that there would be issues regarding liability and union contracts.

Council Member Brannelly asked how many positions were vacant. Ms. Price said that there were 10. Council Member Brannelly then asked when the center opened. Ms. Price said that the center took over the police calls on April 22, 2010 and added in the fire calls on April 29th. Council Member Brannelly said that she would have expected there were some glitches in the beginning, but now that things have been in process, that things were smoothing out. Ms. Price said that this was so.

Council Member dePara said that the utility costs had increased significantly. Mr. Sherwood pointed out that this was still the first year of operation and that neither the City nor the department had a base line to go by. He added that it was a stand alone facility and that the utility costs would be monitored.

The discussion then moved to staffing needs and Personnel.

Council Member dePara said that another Council Member had requested to know about the postage costs. Ms. Price said that it went through the mail room. Ms. Lopez pointed out that the department did not have a postage account until the start of the summer. When asked what kind of mail was being sent out, Ms. Price responded that it was NCIC mailings, tow notices, and training classes that were being offered.

Council Member Brannelly wished to know how much money was from the State and if the amount would increase with training and staff. Mr. Sherwood said that it was approximately \$30,000 for six months and that it would be approximately \$60,000 per year. He added that he was considering using it for the debt service on the building.

Ms. Price commented that when a medical call comes in, it is immediately forwarded to AMR. The City has a five year contract with them to handle all these calls and dispatch ambulances as needed.

Council Member Curwen thanked Ms. Price and her co-workers for their presentation.

Information Technology Services

Mr. Sherwood directed everyone's attention to page 118 in the budget book. He stated that there had been some slight increases due to contractual changes and licensing contracts.

Mr. Heller came forward and greeted the Council Members. He said that he was responsible for maintaining services, access and computers. The MUNIS system is working well. Some servers need to be upgraded. New cabling has been installed in the Annex for VoIP and wireless access. Currently, work is being done on City Hall for this. Then Police and Fire will be brought on line.

Mr. Sherwood said that there had been some questions about wireless capacity. Mr. Heller said that previously, the access was done with stand alone units and there were two in City Hall. AT&T is the contractor for the configuration.

Council Member Curwen asked why the access controllers are not working. Mr. Heller replied that that the network architect has moved out of state. Council Member dePara asked what the salary for the position was. Mr. Heller said that it was \$66,000, but that the City was asking for server experience. The VoIP certification is separate. The City also has WAN (Wide Area Network) and is currently talking to AT&T about LAN (Local Area Network). It could cost \$200,000 a year for pro active LAN and WAN management. Discussion followed.

Mr. Sherwood pointed out that this particular position was a classified job and that there would have to be negotiations with the unions and discussions with Civil Service about the exam because the technology is changing so quickly. A discussion followed about utilizing an outside vendor for this type of service.

Council Member Curwen asked about the Council Members' computers. Mr. Heller replied that they were difficult to maintain because of the wide variety of sites that were visited and some of the nefarious programs that had embedded themselves on the computers.

Council Member dePara asked about VoIP. Mr. Heller said that the Police and Fire were already cabled for this. The Annex and City Hall took longer because of the age of the building. The discussion then moved to the installation schedule. The cost savings have not yet been realized, but City Hall currently has 17 separate phone systems, which has been reduced from the original 23. Phone costs have been reduced as a result of this work. Mr. Heller was asked how much it would cost to recable the Health Department. He said that he thought it would be upward of a half million.

Regarding the telephone services, all City issued cell phones are now under the supervision of IT except for police and fire.

Mr. Heller went on to say that the Data Center needs to be updated because it is located below ground and there are water pipes in the ceiling. As the older, obsolete equipment is being removed, the footprint for the department is being reduced.

Council Member Brannelly asked about the support specialist. Mr. Heller then reviewed the details and pointed out that with only two techs, he is very limited.

Council Member Curwen asked if there were any additional questions. There were none. He thanked Mr. Heller.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS
SPECIAL MEETING
APRIL 20, 2011**

ATTENDANCE: Robert Curwen, Co-chair; Angel dePara, Co-chair; AmyMarie Vizzo-Paniccia; Susan Brannelly, Council President Thomas McCarthy

STAFF: Thomas Sherwood, OPM; Dawn Norton, Interim Finance Director

OTHERS: Council Member Martin McCarthy; Council Member Andre Baker; Charles Carroll, Public Facilities Director, Paul Catino, Robert Kennedy, Public Facilities Deputy Director; John Cotrell, John Riccio, Sikorsky Airport; Ted Graybarz

CALL TO ORDER

Council Member dePara called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m. He said that the topic was Public Facilities and then proceeded to introduce all the Committee member and Council Members present.

Mr. Sherwood then said that more information about the State Budget and that work is going on about the retail sales tax sharing program.

Mr. Sherwood said that on Saturday, the Capital Budget was almost ready for Saturday's vote along with a list of items

He also reported that a discussion with Brian Mahoney of the State Department of Education occurred. Mr. Sherwood said that without the State input, it would require the City to fund the BOE at 215 rather than 198.

Two more table organization requests have been made.

AIRPORT

Mr. Sherwood said that the Airport was working on a break even proposal. Any profit from the airport will be taxable. The appropriate financial reports were on page 254 of the Budget Book.

Mr. John Riccio, the Airport manager, said that he was okay with the Mayor's recommendation. He added that with the economy as it is, people aren't flying and when

they aren't flying, they are not using fuel. There are also fewer planes hangered at the airport. One proposal has been to tax aircraft. Over the last five or six years, the airport has gone from having 5 or 6 jets to over 30. If the tax is enacted, the jets will move to Massachusetts, where there is no tax. The airport gets 2 ½% on the repairs on planes housed at the airport.

Mr. Riccio said that he underestimated the cost of utilities last year, due to the fact that the terminal was demolished two years ago. Mr. Sherwood said that this was noted and that the utilities that were in the Mayor's Recommended Budget would cover the adjusted costs.

Council Member dePara asked about the increase in one line item. Mr. Riccio explained that there was a water main break in the previous year, which has been repaired, but the bills arrived in this fiscal year.

Council Member Brannelly asked for more details about the water main break. Mr. Riccio explained that it broke on airport property, it was repaired, only to break again. The pipe was cast iron and about 40 years old, so the decision was made to totally replace the pipe.

Council Member Curwen asked about the details of the operations cost. Mr. Riccio said that the airport now is picking up the aircraft that are coming in on VFR and landing after hours. AV fuel is around \$6.50 a gallon, which is decreasing the number of flights at this time.

Council Member Curwen asked Mr. Riccio if he was working with Mr. Appleby in terms of security. Mr. Riccio said that he was.

Council Member Baker asked about an increase on the annual base rent. Mr. Riccio then reviewed the figures with him. Council Member Baker asked if there had been any brain storming about increasing revenue. Mr. Riccio said that right now there was not much that could be done because if the fees are raised, there would be a further decrease in usage.

Council Member Baker asked about the expansion of the runway. Mr. Riccio said that the airport was about to submit an application to the DEP. The airport will not start construction this fiscal year or probably not next year either because of the involvement of both inland wetlands and tidal wetlands. Council Member Baker asked if there were matching grants. Mr. Riccio said that there were matching grants involved.

Council Member Brannelly asked about the decreased use of the airport. She then asked about the use of the buildings and generating revenue. Mr. Riccio said that one building used to house some obsolete equipment. Since then, that building has been rented and

the ground lease is currently being worked out in the legal department. There is also a second parcel that is separated by a waterway from the main airport parcel and an RFP is out on that.

Council Member Martinez asked what the access road would do. Mr. Riccio said that it improves the safety of the airport and said that it had almost been 17 years since the fatal crash at the airport. The discussion then moved to the new types of jets that are not able to use the airport.

Council Member dePara asked if there was anything that the Committee could do to help the airport. Mr. Riccio said that there wasn't anything at this point. He added that he was hoping that the two contracts in Legal could be closed this calendar year.

MAINTENANCE

Mr. Robert Kennedy, the Deputy Director of Public Facilities, reported that they had started out spring cleaning. He then said that if everyone uses the alternate side of the street parking is for both street maintenance and street sweeping. The spring street sweeping started in the North End. Mr. Carroll then distributed copies of the Maintenance Schedule for the City of Bridgeport. Mr. Kennedy then explained that the Mad Vacs are being prepared for the clean up. He indicated that the yellow highlighted streets are main arteries, which will be done in the early hours of the morning. Downtown from Park Avenue to Water Street is swept every Monday and Friday.

Pothole repair is underway. The crews are working as quickly as possible to repair them. The asphalt plant has opened and hot patch is being used on the holes. 998 Queue Alert reports have been closed out. Over 4,000 potholes have been repaired to date. Some of the problems are actually utility cuts, and the companies are being contacted about that.

Council Member Brannelly asked about those people who put leaves out to the curb late and they were not picked up. Mr. Kennedy said that if they are not bagged, it would be important to call Roadways with the location. If they are bagged, then they can be picked up with the recycling. Problems with utility cuts need to be called in to Mr. Holloway. Mr. Kennedy reminded everyone that some of the roads are State Roads.

Council Member Baker asked about the increase in seasonals. Mr. Sherwood then explained that there had been a rate change for the hourly workers. Mr. Catino then explained that the department keeps seasonals year round, but fewer in the winter. Mr. Kennedy said that as the money comes in, the department increases up to the full compliment for peak summer. The experienced seasonals who can drive snowplows are kept on during the winter.

Council Member Baker asked about the replacement of signage. Mr. Kennedy said that Lines and Signs is contained within Roadway. Mr. Kennedy explained the difference between the various Maintainer levels. Council Member Baker asked about the traffic foreman. Mr. Kennedy reviewed that position's responsibility.

Council Member Baker then asked Mr. Sherwood about a recent budget transfer. Mr. Sherwood said that the transfer was from utilities into Roadway because of the hard winter. It is not reflected in the number in the budget. Discussion followed about the details of this. In terms of supplies like sand, salt and hot patch, it is critical to stay ahead of the curve. It is vital not to cut this budget line.

Council Member Brannelly said that she would like to thank Mr. Kennedy and his department for all the work that they do, which directly relate to the quality of life. Mr. Sherwood said that there was an app in development that would be allow residents to use their smart phones to photograph a pothole and email it directly to Roadways.

Council Member Curwen said that there was a newly paved road in his district and someone had cut into it, which has created a huge divot. Mr. Kennedy said that it would be necessary to call Mr. Holloway and check the permit to determine which utility was responsible.

Council President McCarthy said that he would like to echo Council Member Brannelly's compliments for Roadway. He added that the crews and the unions worked hard during the frequent snowstorms.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia said that the sweeper had done Goldenrod and done both sides, but there were cars on the street, so it was not done properly. Mr. Kennedy said that it should have been done again the following day.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia asked about the process for the hot patch repair. Mr. Kennedy reviewed the process. Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia asked about the seam cracks that happen in the roads. Council Member dePara asked where the crack sealing was accounted for. Mr. Cotell and Mr. Kennedy explained that it was in paving unless it was a Capital project.

Council Member Baker asked about imposing fees on the utilities for cutting into the roads and not repairing. Mr. Sherwood then reviewed the Permitting Department's procedure for dealing with this. Mr. Carroll said that sometimes there are multiple utilities using the same cut, which makes it difficult to require them to repair it. He said that enforcing this with the utilities was critical. Mr. Carroll said that when the City knows that they will be repaving the road, they will work out an agreement where either the utility or the City will pay for the entire repaving.

Mr. Sherwood said that he had concerns about the illegal street graffiti done by the utilities, particularly the granite curbing and brick sidewalks.

Council Member Curwen asked whether Mr. Kennedy had found Thorpe Street. Mr. Carroll said that it had been patched within an hour of the call.

Council Member Curwen asked how the department was managing being 11 people short. Mr. Carroll said that it simply takes longer to get things done. Ultimately, he would like to have more staff and remembers when the Parks Department had twice the amount of staff they currently do. The Parks and Roadways are depending on seasonals. Mr. Sherwood said that the positions had been preserved so that the current employees and seasonals weren't burned out. The funding is also the part that helped pay the seasonals.

Council Member Curwen asked where the outside contractors' fees were covered. Mr. Sherwood indicated the line item. Mr. Carroll said that with the hard winter and the additional factor that the roofs that had to be cleared, the City needed the outside contractors. He added that the sanitation had been cancelled in order to keep the snowplows moving. The staff couldn't work more than 12 hours after the first few days simply for safety reasons. Mr. Catino then reviewed the details for the Committee.

Council Member McCarthy said that if he had a list of the cuts in his district, he would be happy to visit the sites and photograph them. Council Member Baker, Council Member dePara and Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia also offered to take a list.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia asked about having the mad vacs following the mowers to sweep up the clippings.

She added that there were numerous trees that needed to be cut back from the utility wires and nearby buildings. Council Member Baker said that he had called Mr. Carroll about this and the response had been prompt. Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia said that she would email Mr. Carroll. It was commented that Mr. Carroll had once emailed Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia back at 2:30 a.m. about one issue.

Mr. Carroll said that one issue that needed to be addressed was about paper streets. It would be good to put the property back on the tax rolls. Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia said that Atty. Pacacha was working on this in the Legal Department and Atty. Liskov was working on selling this to abutting property owners. Council President McCarthy suggested that this be submitted to Public Safety for the Committee to consider. Council Member Baker asked about some of the streets that are not paved. Mr. Kennedy said that it is not wide enough for City standards.

Council Member Martinez said that behind St. Mary's Church on Pembroke, there was a large parcel and there had been a number of questions from local residents. Mr. Carroll said that these need to be identified through the Tax Assessor's Office to determine ownership.

Mr. Sherwood said that all the data on utilities was on page 185. Mr. Sherwood said that there had been a major savings in the City and Maintained costs. Mr. Catino then directed everyone's attention to pg. 185, which had the principle costs. The street light expense had peaked in 2008 and then decreased, so that there were about \$400,000 in cost reductions from changing the light bulbs out. He then reviewed the fact that the top five buildings cost less than the street lights. Over the past two years, the costs have decreased because of conservation for the top five buildings. He said that he believe that the City was headed towards 4.1 million this year. If the requirements had remained flat over the last three years, the City would have spent 2 million dollars more in utility costs.

Mr. Sherwood said that the City now has a better relationship with the utilities than ever before. U.I. is working on LED technology and this is helping the City.

Mr. Catino then reviewed the details regarding the street lights. There was only one complaint when the street lights were changed over and that was easily remedied. By changing out the street lights that were more than 50 feet from an intersection, most of the lights. There are 11,700 street lights in Bridgeport and they are not metered. It is based calculation, not on actual usage. UI has a number to call when a light is out or flickering.

Council Member Curwen reminded everyone that the Committee had pursued the changing over the light bulbs in the street lights. He said that Mr. Catino had done a wonderful job in following through. Council Member Curwen said that team work accomplishes a great deal.

Council Member Martinez said that the residents have noticed the changes and have been impressed with speed that the lights have been repaired.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia asked about the deco lights that were out. The street lights are not metered, but the deco lights have meters. When the LED change over comes to the deco lights, it will decrease the cost further.

Council Member Brannelly asked about the Board of Education utilities cost. Mr. Catino reminded everyone that there were some brand new schools and that the older buildings version of air condition were open windows. The new buildings are LEEDS certified buildings, but they also have computers and air exchange rates. Mr. Graybarz added that the State requirements for student space has increased and that the buildings are utilized year round.

Council Member Curwen asked about the phone boxes. Mr. Catino said that the abutting property owners have a right to object to the placement. AT&T was originally sending letters to property owners that inferred that they already had State approval for the location of the boxes. Since then, a court decision in favor of the property owners has been handed down and property owners can have the boxes moved to another location.

Council Member Curwen said that he had made a suggestion about decommissioning some street lights where there were deco lights were already installed. Mr. Cotrell said that the deco lights really light the sidewalks while the street lights are focused on the actual roadway. Mr. Sherwood commented that there were liability issues. He added that the new LEDs may change how many lights were needed. Discussion followed.

Council Member dePara said that he would like to discuss the BOE buildings a bit more. Mr. Graybarz said that the BOE had started working with Energy Star on the energy reduction. He said that the CT Clean Energy Fund had just awarded grants for two school buildings for solar energy panels.

Council Member dePara asked about how much the schools had embraced the conservation program. Mr. Catino said that last year, the BOE had availed themselves of some of the grant funding for this. He then gave an outline of the various measures that they had taken.

Mr. Catino said that with the Mayor's initiative, by moving some people into the Annex, it has also reduced utility costs. Mr. Carroll said that right now, several of the firehouses are having their boilers replaced and HVAC systems replaced. Mr. Sherwood said that the commitment by the Council to the flexibility of moving the departments, it helps the department manage the energy costs.

Council Member Brannelly asked about the goal regarding fire hydrants. Mr. Cantrell then reviewed the figures and pointed out that the fire hydrants capacity costs more than the providing the water for the City's building, the airport and the golf course. Mr. Sherwood said that this was a pet peeve of his. However, the City has no control over the cost. Discussion followed.

Council Member McCarthy asked if there were any insurance breaks for this. Mr. Carroll said that the City is largely self-insured. Council Member McCarthy asked if the Steel Point would be independent and handled by Aquarion. Mr. Carroll said that Aquarion only would do an all or nothing package.

Council Member Martinez asked about the regulations. She was told that it was regulated by the State DPUC. Mr. Sherwood said that utilities are major lobbyists and that it needs to be done on a State wide basis. Mr. Carroll said that this was why it was

brought up last year and again this year. Council Member Curwen asked John and Paul to sit with him to craft potential State legislation.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia said that with the hard winter, she had concerns about the hydrants being buried by the snow plows. She suggested that the some kind of markers be placed on the markers. Mr. Sherwood said that Chief Rooney was working on a grant to put the markers on fire hydrants. Mr. Carroll said that the department doesn't have the capacity to dig them out and needs the residents assisting with this. Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia said that when the plows pack the ice and snow, it is almost impossible to dig the hydrants out.

****COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY MOVE TO SUBMIT THE
MAINTENANCE SCHEDULE FOR THE CITY OF BRIDGEPORT AS EXHIBIT
A.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Mr. Sherwood then directed everyone's attention to page 203, which covers tipping fees and recycling.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia left the meeting at 8:20 p.m.

Mr. Catino said that the tonnage had decreased over the past few years and reviewed the details with the Committee. The schools tonnage has remained fairly constant. Mr. Catino then reviewed the tipping fees, which are similar to last year, but significantly lower than in 2007 and 2008. Once again, in the most recent years, the City was able to net 2 million in cost avoidance. Mr. Catino then distributed copies of a document titled Public Facilities Department Notes for Budget and Appropriations Committee – April 20, 2011

Council Member Curwen asked what kind of cost reductions are expected when the single stream recycling starts. Mr. Catino said that with single stream, the roll out container will take all the plastics #1-7, aseptic cartons, cardboard, aluminum, junk mail, and old budgets. Potentially it will make the City money. Mr. Sherwood said that this would change the playing field, but the City had to avoid making tonnage commitments.

Council Member Curwen asked if the transfer station could be opened up for surrounding communities. Mr. Sherwood said that he thought that most of the individuals would not be interested, but the corporations, which are usually handled by the private haulers, would be worthwhile. The discussion then moved to the savings that were created by taking over the condominiums. Mr. Carroll said that once the single stream recycling is in place, then consideration can be given to bringing in the corporations.

Council Member Curwen asked about the tree removals by a private contractors who either chip the branches for mulch and split the larger pieces for firewood. Mr. Carroll said that there had been very few bidders for handling the downed trees. He added that the current contractor had given the city more mulch recently.

Council Member dePara asked about the type of pick up trucks for single stream. Mr. Catino said that the more automation used, it eliminates injuries.

Council President McCarthy reminded everyone that when the Toters initiative was introduced, there was a hitch when the oil prices skyrocketed. Mr. Carroll said that this concern had been acknowledged, and that he would have more information when the bid comes in. He added that the sanitation routes were plotted by tonnage and that he expected that there would be a reduction in the garbage routes.

Council Member McCarthy asked about CRRA. Mr. Cotrell reviewed them and explained that Wheelabrator was the local entity. Council Member McCarthy asked about the taxes on Wheelabrator. Mr. Sherwood said that the company was paying 90% as required by law until the law suit is settled.

Council Member McCarthy asked about the mulch operation. Mr. Carroll explained that an independent operator runs the mulching site at Seaside Park and makes money off the mulch. He has been willing to work with the City in terms of providing mulch and other benefits to the City.

Council Member Brannelly said that there was a customer service question about having a way of marking the last car in line at the transfer station.

Council Member Martinez asked about the tree removal and the mulching site. Mr. Carroll explained that the City vehicles can take wood in for free, but residents have to pay. However Bridgeport residents can take their tree branches and tree pieces to the transfer station for free and the City will collect them there to transport to the mulching site.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY MOVED TO ENTER PUBLIC FACILITIES DEPARTMENT NOTES FOR BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE – APRIL 20, 2011 AS EXHIBIT B**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Mr. Catino then reviewed the figures on the SWEROC chart in the Public Facilities Department Notes for Budget and Appropriations Committee – April 20, 2011. He added that the tonnage is decreasing because there are fewer newspapers, magazines, plastic and other items in the stream. One reason that some residents don't recycle is because the

container is deemed to be “contaminated”, which may mean that someone did not bundle up the cardboard in the bin. When they get to single stream, many of those problems will go away. Mr. Catino said that it was clear that the City was increasing their recycling and that is important.

Mr. Graybarz said that Council Member Martinez’s district had worked on recycling by using a recycling bank where coupons were distributed. Mr. Sherwood said that it costs about \$140,000 to continue the recycling bank program. He added that he had not included this in the budget because it was expected that the single stream recycling would be started by the fall. Council Member Martinez said that the residents need to be educated and felt that it would be important to continue the recycling. The school needs to be more involved. Discussion then followed up about the marketing effort and associated costs.

Council Member McCarthy commented that this starts with the kids. He added that the BOE was not supporting recycling. Discussion followed.

Mr. Sherwood said that the Parking Calibration information that had been requested was included on the Public Facilities Department Notes for Budget and Appropriations Committee. Mr. Sherwood said that were numbers on each one of the parking meter heads and that if there is a problem, the number should be noted and sent to Queue Alert.

Mr. Carroll then reviewed the information about the Worker’s Comp in the document. The numbers on worker’s comp has dropped to one or two, with sanitation being the leader. They were previously the leaders in workers comp.

Mr. Catino commented that the Transitional Work Program (TWP) had reduced the number of workers comp.

Council Member McCarthy asked about City employees taking breaks. He said that while he sees them working hard, others will drive by and see them on break. Mr. Cotrell commented that four of the Parks workers had been honored by the Red Cross for their actions when they came upon a young man who was trapped under a car. The employees picked the vehicle up so that the victim could be safely removed from underneath it.

Mr. Carroll then reviewed the how the vehicle fleet was going. Last year seven vehicles were retrofitted, and three trucks are on order. Fortunately, the retrofitted vehicles were in good shape for the winter. One of the older sweepers will be moved to Parks and will also be assigned to follow the mowers when the esplanades are done.

Council Member Curwen asked Mr. Sherwood to review the Capital questions. Mr. Sherwood listed off the various draft items that were currently on the list. Council

Member Curwen asked about the arches at Seaside. Mr. Carroll said that it would be have to be work done in the future.

Council Member McCarthy asked Mr. Carroll for a ball park figure on the Mad Vacs. Mr. Catino said that it would be around \$30,000. The ones that have cabs on them cost more. Council Member McCarthy said that the area on Fairfield Avenue was constantly littered and was wondering about getting a privately owned one.

Council Member Curwen commented that he appreciated the department supervisors, which he had worked with for six weeks. Mr. Carroll said that he appreciated Council Member Curwen's help while a staff member was out. He said that he was a team effort and there was a good relationship with other departments.

Mr. Carroll said that as they move the staff for consolidation, the new locations were much better for the staff.

Council Member Brannelly asked about the Department of Aging and asked for an update. She said that last year, the committee felt it was an underserved population. Mr. Carroll replied that he was looking to consolidation so that all the services could be offered under one roof. He spoke about the cost of Dial-A-Ride and said that it might be cheaper for the City to own a second bus. Mr. Carroll said that there have been a number of discussions about this.

Recreation is now working on running different programs for the seniors, such as line dancing or meals. He said that goal was providing service for more people. It will take time to get the programs up and running.

Council Member Brannelly said that she had a tour of the Eisenhower facility. She said that she was very pleased and the facility was very clean.

Council Member Brannelly said that she did not see the expense for the food. Mr. Carroll said that was mostly grant funding.

Council Member Martinez asked if there were any line items for seniors for trips. Mr. Sherwood said that there was a small amount in Recreation. Mr. Carroll said that recently a group had been into New York to see "Jersey Boys".

Council Member dePara said that there were a multitude of departments under Public Facilities. He asked about the state of the economy, whether the department had enough funding for diesel and gas. Mr. Carroll said that, like everyone else, he was guessing at the price. He hoped that he would not have to come back in a few months to request more funding. Whenever the department can conserve, they do. He reminded everyone that with the tidal storms and the tornado plus the numerous winter storms this past year,

the budget was still basically within bounds. The department used brine on the road last year and that reduced costs. Mr. Catino said that the number that the department had requested had been proposed by the Mayor. When the figures were submitted, it was January and the fuel prices have risen since then.

Mr. Carroll thanked everyone for their time and said that the department had worked very hard to conserve. He said that when the department comes with a transfer request, it is because they need something important. He said that he works well with the Mayor's Office and the various departments.

Council Member dePara said that he felt that with this year that the City has had and the numerous incidents that the City had never experience before, the department had handled the various emergencies with class.

Everyone thanked Mr. Carroll for providing the pizza and soda.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting adjourned at 10:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS
SPECIAL MEETING
APRIL 21, 2011**

ATTENDANCE: Robert Curwen, Co-Chair; AmyMarie Vizzo-Paniccia;
Susan Brannelly, Lydia Martinez; Angel dePara (6:31 p.m.)

OTHERS: Thomas P. Dawidowicz, Segal; Andrew Nunn, CAO; Council Member
Martin McCarthy; Council Member Robert Walsh, John Stastrom, Bond
Counsel; Anne Kelly-Lentz, Tax Collector; Council Member Andre Baker

CALL TO ORDER

Council Member Curwen called to order the meeting at 6:17 p.m. Council Member Curwen then introduced the members of the Committee to those present.

PENSION

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY MOVED TO INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING
DOCUMENTS AS FINANCIAL EXHIBITS (F-A; F-B, ETC.)**

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT SAFETY PLAN A ACTUARIAL VALUATION AND REVIEW
AS OF JULY 1, 2010 AS EXHIBIT F-A;**

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT PLAN B (POLICE) VALUATION AND REVIEW AS OF JULY
1, 2010 AS EXHIBIT F-B;**

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT PLAN B (FIRE) VALUATION AND REVIEW AS OF JULY 1,
2010 AS EXHIBIT F-C; AND**

F- D- PUBLIC SAFETY PLAN A.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Ms. Norton then introduced Mr. Dawidowicz of the Segal Company, who has been the actuary for the City since 1995. He said that there were some key items in the pension and the retirement. He said that he analyzes the plan and projects when people will retire and what the City may have to pay out. One key assumption is the investment assumption. He said that the idea was to help determine how much money to put away today in order to have enough money in the future.

He reviewed the fact that the Plan A for Police and Fire was closed in 1984 and that the Police and Fire now have new plans.

Council Member dePara joined the meeting at 6:31 p.m.

Mr. Dawidowicz then reviewed the basic terms and cautioned everyone not to be too alarmed by short term volatility because the main focus is long term. Council Member Curwen asked why five year was being used to project the volatility. Mr. Dawidowicz reviewed the process and explained that the goal is to smooth the range out over a period of time, but added that it was important not to go beyond five years in terms of assets volatility. He gave an example of the year there was a negative 17% loss followed the next year by a gain of 15%. This allows for more stable budget planning. Shortfalls are paid for over a number of years.

Mr. Dawidowicz then directed everyone's attention back to the Public Safety Plan A. He explained that the downturn in 2008 affected everyone and that it would take about five years and would reflect a shortfall in the pension. The City is required to maintain a 78% target, which is required by statute. The shortfall is a result of the lower investment returns. This is not uncommon around the State. One of the biggest concerns is whether it is reasonable to expect 8% long term on investments. The 8% assumption is used to measure the liabilities. The 8% investment returns is expected to pay off the liabilities. However, this no longer a hard and fast assumption. The law has changed in terms of corporations, and they are no longer allowed to use this type of program, but now must use corporate bonds for funding. This had placed many of them in a distressed state.

Council Member Curwen asked about other municipalities that Mr. Dawidowicz handled. Mr. Dawidowicz then reviewed some of the other municipalities where they are only funded to 25%. Council Member Curwen asked where Bridgeport was in terms of the overall scheme. Mr. Dawidowicz said that Bridgeport had been doing well, but the economic downturn had hurt the City. Council Member Curwen asked if the City was on track for recouping some of the losses. Mr. Dawidowicz said that during the downturn in the economy, that loss was against the principal and the market needs to stay positive for two or three years to replace the principal. However, Plan A is a closed group and virtually all the enrollees are retired. This may require a cash contribution for the short term because right now, there is only about five years of benefit payments in the Plan. This gives it a much shorter time horizon, even though it may run for another 20 years. Investments returns will not provide enough for the full length of the program. It will be important to keep on top of the cash flow needs.

Mr. Dawidowicz then reviewed the information on page iv of the City of Bridgeport Public Safety Plan A. He then said that it would be important to discuss this with the investment advisors. Council Member Curwen pointed out that there were a number of variables in the formula. Mr. Dawidowicz agreed, but cautioned that there would need to be a cash infusion. The cost of the retirement plan is the sum total of the benefits paid out, not what the actuary projects. There are some dollars coming in from employees, but the bulk of the funding will be

from City contributions and investment returns. The plan does have survivor benefits, where when the employee dies, the surviving spouse can receive 50% of the benefits for life.

Council Member dePara asked about revenue streams. Mr. Dawidowicz said that it was employee contributions, employer contributions and investment returns.

Council Member Walsh asked what the common answer would be for a resident who was a retired City employee. It was pointed out that the plan was created as a combination of State law and City ordinance. Therefore, the retirees in this plan are not at any risk of losing their benefits, but the funding may have to come from City funding rather than the pension funding. Mr. Dawidowicz said that the City had bonded for this plan, so most other municipalities do not have this situation. Mr. Stastrom replied that what the City did in 1999, was to quantify what the expected return was for the plan. The City did not fund 100% of the pension fund with the expectation that the investment returns would make up the difference. Now there is debt service component, which the City is paying, but not the pension benefits. There are five or six other municipalities in the State that have also bonded. Mr. Stastrom pointed out that in 2000, the Dow had dropped from 6,000 to 1,000. There were two other drops and the Plans assets have been significantly impacted. When the City went to bond, the State approved all of the projections. Discussion then moved to the current request to wait on paying the \$19 million into the plan. This is being discussed by the State Legislature and meetings have been held with the State OPM, the State Treasurer, and others. Mr. Stastrom pointed out that last year's returns were higher than the State's. To extend the life of the Plan will require some significant investment, but it is necessary to discuss this with the State. The bonds end in 2029, but restructuring the bonds would extend the plan to 2024 or 2025. If the pensions funds run out, the City would be responsible for the debt service, and paying the pension benefits out of the general funds.

Council Member Walsh asked who was responsible for formulating this plan. Mr. Stastrom then reviewed how the trustees, Mayor, the City Treasurer and one other City Official, made the decision. The management of the funds have always been done by a professional investment firm, which is currently Merrell Lynch. Mr. Stastrom then gave a brief overview of the process including the monthly reviews, and reports that the trustees receive. Council Member Walsh asked for a copy of the investment policy. Mr. Stastrom said that he attended a number of these meetings and it has been in the top 18% in the nation.

Police Plan B

The discussion then moved to the City of Bridgeport Plan B (Police). Mr. Dawidowicz directed everyone's attention to page 2 in the summary of the three plans. He said that this plan does not have a bond, so it is a bit less complicated. The Plan Bs have a different investment structure and only earned 12% last year, which is less than Plan A. There were some significant investment losses that have not been realized at this time and will work their way through the system.

While this plan is well funded and stable, but the annual requirement is working towards a 100% funding level. With the figures the way they currently are, in eleven years, this plan is expected to be 100% funded. Mr. Stastrom commented that the State officials had asked about the funding levels and were very sanguine when they were told the level that Bridgeport was funding the plans. There are no immediate cash funding needs for this plan. Mr. Dawidowicz then said that this plan has a different board of advisory and trustees. Plan B is in very good shape.

Fire Plan B

This is a similar situation did almost as well as the City in terms of investment returns last year, but had a greater loss in the previous year. This could be due to aggressive management on the part of the investors. Mr. Dawidowicz said that he was aware of many clients who had a negative 25% during 2009, so the negative 19.9 percentage loss is not catastrophic. He said that it appears that the Police B pension fund did a bit better because Fire appeared to assume more risk. Mr. Sherwood said that Fire has decided to have the trustees manage the plan whereas the Police use a professional advisor. Discussion followed.

Council Member Curwen asked about how frequently the information is compiled. Mr. Dawidowicz explained that Bridgeport builds its budget on these numbers and some towns and cities don't review the actuary numbers for two years. Therefore Bridgeport gets very current information.

Council Member Brannelly asked about diversified portfolios. Mr. Stastrom explained that at one point, the Fire Department had 25% of its investment in one stock, which will never happen again.

Council Member Brannelly asked if there will be a time when Plan B will end up in the same situation as Plan A. Mr. Sherwood, said that once the groups move into MERF, the City will just pay whatever the State requires. The City still cuts the checks for the retirees in Plan A. Mr. Sherwood pointed out that when there is a disability claim, the State will be making the call on the pension. Secondly, there will be a change in how the pension is administered in terms of payment and whether the spouses receive. Mr. Sherwood added that when the firefighters receive a raise, the retirees receive an increase in their benefits also.

Council Member Curwen said that as the budget chair for thirteen years and on the committee for 16 years, he regrets not inviting Mr. Dawidowicz before. He said that he understands the presentation and clear. Mr. Dawidowicz said that he was very happy to be at the meeting. He said that he meets with his other budget sector clients.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia thanked Ms. Norton for inviting Mr. Dawidowicz and requested that the co-chairs invite Mr. Dawidowicz back for another meeting.

DEBT SERVICE (PULLMAN & COMLEY/PFM)

Mr. Sherwood then introduced Mr. Stastrom. Chart A shows all the General Obligations bonds and how much is remaining on the bonds.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY MOVED TO SUBMIT THE FOLLOWING ITEMS AS EXHIBITS:**

**A- GENERAL OBLIGATIONS; AND
B- DEBT SERVICE.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER DEPARA SECONDED.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The WPCA has a bond, which is paid back by the users, but is backed by the City. The City also has some HUD loans outstanding.

Mr. Stastrom then reviewed the Debt Service Payments and reminded everyone that the City had done bonding in 2008 and 2010. Mr. Stastrom said that the City had issued 25 million dollars in Tax Anticipation Notes (TANS). Council Member Curwen asked if this was documented in the Budget. Mr. Sherwood said that it was in the CAFER document. Mr. Stastrom said that he would supply copies for the Committee.

Mr. Stastrom pointed out that a significant amount of debt was involved with the school buildings that have been recently constructed. Pension obligations, schools and general purposes make up the bulk of the bonding. Mr. Stastrom said that the City's long term debt has dropped from 10 million to 6.5 million. The bond refunding was done last year for some savings. While it is not a good thing that the TANS have to be issued because the fund balance is too low, Ms. Norton was able to get one of the lowest interest rates ever.

Council Member Curwen asked if there was a debt ceiling. Mr. Stastrom replied that the State sets the ceiling, but the City is nowhere near them. Mr. Stastrom listed the ceilings, but cautioned everyone that no one would suggest bonding to those levels. Council Member Curwen asked what level the City could handle without impacting the employees. Mr. Stastrom reminded everyone that there were pension bond payments, which would otherwise be coming out of the General Fund. Council Member Curwen asked if the City was at risk for the bond. Mr. Stastrom said that he was not in a position to answer that as Bond Counsel.

Council Member Baker asked about the General Purpose bonds. Mr. Stratton reviewed the information on the General Obligations sheet. He then gave a brief overview of the taxable bonds and tax refunding bonds.

Mr. Stratton said that he was very happy to be invited to present his information to the Committee.

Council Member dePara then asked Mr. Stratton about the General Obligation and Debt Services status. He said that with the unemployment, foreclosures and financial situation, it is important to be cautious. He said that he felt that the school building program was almost complete and that the future projects should be focused on economic development. Mr. Sherwood commented that there were now more requirements on using the funding.

CURRENT YEAR COLLECTIONS AND EFFORTS
NUMBER OF ASSESSMENTS OVERTURNED BY PREVIOUS ASSESSOR;
VALUE OF REIMBURSEMENTS

Mr. Sherwood directed everyone to page 42. Mr. Sherwood said that he had never seen the automotive collection has high as they are. This is in part because of boot finder, the streamlining of the office and the overall improvement in customer service.

Ms. Kelly-Lentz said that right now, there was a lien sale coming up next week. She said that the people who are coming to pay the vehicle liens want to pay cash. Unfortunately, floaters need to know the statutes and how the office works. The counter processes are moving smoother.

Mr. Sherwood said that the police can now cruise the streets to locate out of state plates or stolen vehicles.

Council Member McCarthy asked about the out of state plates. Ms. Kelly-Lentz said this was working. Mr. Sherwood said that the police were still getting the bugs out of the system.

Council Member Baker asked about the cost of the system. Mr. Sherwood said that they were part of a Federal Grant. Council Member Baker asked if there should be more vehicles. Mr. Sherwood said that he felt that two was sufficient.

Council Member Baker asked about the Saturday hours. Ms. Kelly-Lentz said that people are using the Saturday hours and they open early. She added that there was a drop box, mailing in or paying at People's Bank.

Council Member Martinez asked about the out of states plates. Ms. Kelly-Lentz said that it was fraud. She added that the residents could be fined back for three years. She then said that she knew of illegals who were getting CDLs associated with businesses and had international driver's licenses.

Council Member Martinez asked about payments via the lock box and the fact that the interest accrued with late payments. Ms. Kelly-Lentz explained the process.

Council Member Martinez asked about those have delinquent taxes and the taxes are in arrears. Ms. Kelly-Lenz said that liens are often sold to third parties and that when the resident comes to pay, they may not realize that a third party now has the lien. Ms. Kelly-Lenz said that her office tries to notify people before the liens are put on and when a lien is indicated, the resident is given the contact information for the third party.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia had a question about a particular parcel that may have a lien on it. Ms. Kelly-Lenz said that she would check into this.

Council Member dePara asked about the vehicle that the Collector's uses for the Boot Finder. Ms. Kelly-Lenz said that it was a separate vehicle that does not have the same information that the Police have. However, it has brought in about 3.5 million in revenue, but she could not calculate how many people paid because of the fear of being booted. Council Member dePara had several more questions about the details. Ms. Kelly-Lenz said that there is usually a large number of vehicles that are identified before tax season and then it tapers off for a few months. Then there is another surge after the taxes are due, and it tapers off.

Council Member dePara asked about how the Police use their license plate readers. Mr. Sherwood reviewed the details of this with the Committee.

Council Member Brannelly asked about the Legal Services lines and the amounts. Ms. Kelly-Lenz said that there have been times where the City has won a judgment with reimbursement of legal fees.

Council Member Brannelly asked about the revenue. Mr. Sherwood said that there is the potential for two major settlements in the next year. Discussion followed.

Council Member Curwen asked about the tax appeals from last year. Ms. Kelly-Lenz said that the appeals that she said are the ones that involve refunds. She said that she was only aware of approximately 20 where refunds have been issues, but would email Council Member Curwen a list of pending appeals.

Council Member Curwen then asked about increasing the staff because this department had suffered cutbacks. Mr. Sherwood said that Ms. Kelly-Lenz was working with Labor about the job description. Ms. Kelly-Lenz said that if she had the choice between the overtime and a new position, she would keep the overtime. She said that she would not be able to get the level of work out of a new staff member that she could get from her staff working on a Saturday. The level of efficiency, especially with processing checks, has increase dramatically when the staff is in on Saturday.

Council Member Curwen asked about the cash flow in the department. Ms. Kelly-Lenz reviewed the process.

Council Member Curwen asked what the current tax rate. Ms. Kelly-Lenz said that she was running at about 91%. Last year it was 97.14% and the City was still on target for that.

Council Member Curwen asked about properties in arrears. Ms. Kelly-Lenz said that a lot have been cleared off the books and some have been turned over to attorneys for further action.

Council Member Martinez asked about the overtime and the extended hours. She wanted to know how the residents would know about the increased hours. Ms. Kelly-Lenz said that two people work the line and point out the extended hours on the bill and it is also published in the newspaper.

Council Member dePara asked about the Telecommunication line item. Mr. Sherwood reviewed the items that this covered.

Council Member dePara asked about the Room Occupancy Tax. Mr. Sherwood said that this was a new tax items proposed by the governor and has to do with hotels.

Council Member dePara asked about the retail Sales Tax. Mr. Sherwood said that it was in another category, he believe it was in Comptrollers.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia asked about the boats sitting in people's yards. Ms. Kelly-Lenz said that there was no way to tax the boats at this time, but the trailers were taxable. Mr. Sherwood said that if it was passed today, the City would not see the revenue until 12-13. Ms. Kelly-Lenz added that the amount generated by this type of tax would be very small.

Council Member dePara asked Mr. Sherwood if the line for retail sales tax was a correct number. Mr. Sherwood said that it was from the State and was calculated for Bridgeport.

Council Member Walsh asked about the overpayments. Ms. Kelly-Lenz said that the overage goes into a liability account, where it held until the refund is issued. She then reviewed the process when there is a court ordered refund. Council Member Walsh asked whether the larger refunds had been paid out. Ms. Kelly-Lenz said that she believe that all the larger ones had already been sent to court for review.

Council Member McCarthy asked about Captain's Cove tax status. Mr. Sherwood said that he believe that they were semi-current. He said that they deal directly with the City Attorney.

Council Member McCarthy asked about Wonderland. Mr. Sherwood said that they were current, but the City needed to finish up the work there.

Council Member Curwen asked about Grand List growth. Mr. Sherwood said that the City had grown, but it was not that great.

Council Member McCarthy asked if there was anyone that would be coming into full tax status. Ms. Kelly-Lenz said that 325 Lafayette building was coming into full maturity in two years. Council Member McCarthy asked about several other properties.

PLAN FOR NEXT REVALUATION

Mr. Sherwood said that revaluation was also on the agenda. Council Member dePara asked about drop in property. Ms. Kelly-Lenz said that the revaluation was done in 08 after the big drop. Ms. Kelly-Lenz said that there were a number of foreclosures from the mortgages before the residents become City property. The mortgage companies don't want to lose their assets.

FUND BALANCE

Council Member Curwen asked what the fund balance. Ms. Norton said that she believe it was 15. Mr. Curwen asked for a firm number. Ms. Norton looked it up in the CAFER and stated that it was currently \$15,642,227. Reserve restricted would be approximately 4 million.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS
SPECIAL MEETING
APRIL 23, 2011**

ATTENDANCE: Angel dePara, Co-chair; Robert Curwen, Co-Chair; Susan Brannelly, AmyMarie Vizzo-Paniccia; Lydia Martinez; Council President Thomas McCarthy (10:55 a.m.)

STAFF: Thomas Sherwood, OPM Director, Dawn Norton, Interim Finance Director

OTHERS: Council Member Martin McCarthy, Andy Nunn, Larry Osborne, Labor Relations Director; David Dunn, Civil Service Director; Mayor William Finch

CALL TO ORDER

Council Member dePara called the meeting to order at 9:45 a.m.

LABOR RELATIONS

Mr. Sherwood directed everyone's attention to page 88 of the budget book and gave a brief overview of the Personnel changes that were listed on page 91. Mr. Osborne then gave a brief update on the status of the negotiations with the various bargaining units and reported that there was only one contract fully open. All of the other units have now moved to a 25% premium cost share with a 1% increase per year up to 50% at retirement. The new contracts also stipulate that health benefits are only included in retirement after 25 years of employment. Mr. Osborne thanked Mr. Sherwood and Mr. Nunn for their hard work and support during these negotiations.

Mr. Sherwood then reviewed the financial details and reiterated that an employee must work 25 years before health benefits are included in the retirement benefits rather than the current 15 years.

Mr. Osborne said that there were no changes in the budget for his department. He then distributed copies of two documents: Tentative Agreements for Police Union Local 1159, Local 1522, BSCA, LIUNA, Local 1199, Teamster Local 191, Typographical Union #252, and City Attorneys; and a Summary of the various agreements to the Committee members.

Council Member Martinez asked for additional information on the co-pay requirements. Mr. Sherwood reviewed the details of the three tier payment scale with her. He reminded

everyone that the 25% co-pays increase each year by 1% up to 50% after 25 years of employment.

The discussion then moved to details of the contracts. Mr. Osborne reminded everyone that he does not negotiate with the Board of Education unions. Mr. Nunn commented that the City pays approximately 108 million dollars in health care costs every year.

Council Member Martinez expressed concerns that the change in the benefits would result in loss of employees and a decrease in applicants. Mr. Osborne assured her that employment applications are still being submitted at a steady rate. Mr. Sherwood added that the business corporations require a 50% health care co-pay, so having it capped at 50% after 25 years is still an attractive package. Also, the City pays for full vision and dental. He also pointed out that since the co-pays have increased, there has been a drop in the number of claims.

****COUNCIL MEMBER CURWEN MOVED TO SUBMIT THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS INTO THE RECORD AS EXHIBITS:**

TENTATIVE AGREEMENTS FOR POLICE UNION LOCAL 1159, LOCAL 1522, BSCA, LIUNA, LOCAL 1199, TEAMSTER LOCAL 191, TYPOGRAPHICAL UNION #252, AND CITY ATTORNEYS AS EXHIBIT L-A; AND

A SUMMARY OF THE VARIOUS AGREEMENTS AS EXHIBIT L-B.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY SECONDED.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Council Member Brannelly had some questions about the health care component. Mr. Sherwood said that he would be covering this information when Mr. Weiner comes before the Committee.

Mr. Sherwood said that there was new Federal Program called EERP, but he had not received all the details about it.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia asked about the job shifting that happens when positions are cut. Mr. Sherwood said that he had spoken with both the Town Clerk and the City Clerk regarding having more job uniformity in their departments. Mr. Osborne said that he did not feel that this was a major hurdle unless the employee was changing bargaining units. Mr. Sherwood then gave some examples of how this could be accomplished.

Council Member dePara then asked what the administration was doing in terms of updating the job descriptions, such as typist or minicomputer operators. Mr. Sherwood

said that discussions and negotiations have started on this. Mr. Osborne said that Mr. Dunn would most likely be covering that information more thoroughly. Mr. Nunn commented that the Administration was working on creating uniform classifications particularly where the public was directly impacted, such as the Tax Collectors and Vital Statistics.

Council Member Curwen asked about the open labor contract. Mr. Osborne reviewed the status of that contract with him.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia asked for an update on the audit of dependents. Mr. Sherwood said that Mr. Weiner would have more detailed information, but that the new program seems to be working well. Mr. Nunn said that two years ago, an audit was done on all the dependents that were listed in the program and it resulted in a significant number of names being removed from the program. He estimated that it resulted in cost reductions of approximately \$125,000. The audit will be done every few years to keep the records updated and accurate.

Council Member dePara asked if there were any significant issues in either of the two documents that had been submitted for the record. Mr. Osborne then reviewed the key issues with the Committee.

Council Member Curwen asked about the vacant position in Mr. Osborne's department. Mr. Osborne said that his staff was working hard to do more with less.

Council Member dePara asked about the line item on page 91 labeled as "Other services". Mr. Sherwood said that was the account that covered items like the arbitrator's fees, transcription services and expert witnesses. The arbitrator prescribes most of those fees. Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia asked whether private investigators were used. Mr. Osborne said that his department usually handles things internally.

Council Member dePara asked about the line item for "Subscriptions". Mr. Osborne said that this was for items like the CCM membership, which allows the department to use CCM for new labor decisions and statistics; and for other labor publications.

Council Member dePara asked about the line item for "Legal". Mr. Osborne explained that it was a budget line that was used during a major case with the Fire Department and now that the case was settled, was no longer needed.

Council Member dePara asked Mr. Osborne if he had anything he wanted the Committee to know. Mr. Osborne said that his department was working hard to do more with less and committed to staying on track with cases.

CIVIL SERVICE

Mr. Dunn greeted the members of the committee. Mr. Sherwood gave a brief overview of the budget for Civil Service and explained that the payroll system was now fully on MUNIS and that the next module that will be brought on line through MUNIS will be the Human Resources component. Currently all requests are being routed to Mr. Dunn. Mr. Sherwood said that he would also like to have a post employment component activated.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY MOVED TO SUBMIT THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENT INTO THE RECORD AS EXHIBIT CS-A – CIVIL SERVICE, DAVID DUNN, APRIL 22, 2011.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Mr. Dunn explained that all the staff in his department have been trained on MUNIS. He then reviewed the various questions that were submitted to him in advance and included in Exhibit CS-A on the following topics: Police Hiring Plan, Fire Test, Costs for Fire Class, Other Exams in FY 2012, and Civil Service Commission Department Organization Table.

Mr. Dunn then gave the Committee an update on the Police Department retirements and how the Federal Funding is used for the new recruits. It is critical to have no less than 407 officers, which is the base number that the Federal Government agree was the base line.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia asked about the grants that cover the salaries. Mr. Sherwood explained that the grant pays for the benefits, salaries and uniforms for the duration of the grant period and then officer's cost moves over to the Police Department budget.

Council Member McCarthy asked if there were more recruits in the class to account for the dropouts. Mr. Dunn explained that he had 25 solid candidates ready for Chief Gaudett's review on Monday. Mr. Sherwood commented that the list of candidates was good for two years. Mr. Dunn added that he would often have to work his way through 75 names to come up with the 25 candidates for review. The two thirds wash out rate is because of "Bad Habits and Conduct" that surfaces during the lie detector testing. State Law requires that officers pass a lie detector before hiring. He added that the Department is always interested in hiring Bridgeport residents, but they have the same attrition rate that the candidates from other areas do. Mr. Dunn pointed out that while the City adds an extra 10 points on the written exam for Bridgeport residency, it does not necessarily assist the candidates in the long term. To do that would require a charter change.

Mr. Dunn then reviewed the upcoming Fire Department Exam and explained why the Mayor postponed it to November. The Mayor will be making an announcement about this in the near future. There were billboard recruitment ads a few months ago that were donated by the billboard company.

Council Member Curwen asked about the details of the grant for the Police officers. Mr. Sherwood reviewed the terms of the grant and explained when the City could re-apply for additional funding.

Council Member McCarthy wished to know more about the CPAT exam. Mr. Dunn said that it would be give on July 25th and once a candidate passes the CPAT exam, it is good for a time period. For this upcoming test, those who took the CPAT after November 1st will be considered as candidates. However, once the candidates are accepted into the Fire Academy, they take the CPAT again. Koskoff, Koskoff and Bieder has a scholarship fund for those Bridgeport residents who do not have the \$150.00 for the cost of the CPAT. Mr. Dunn was then asked what pass/fail percentages was for the candidates. He explained that information was not yet available. He then reviewed the requirements of the test.

Council President McCarthy joined the meeting at 10:55 a.m.

Council Member McCarthy asked about the legal implications of having the fire department applicants take the CPAT. Mr. Dunn explained that the State requires this test. Following the administration of the CPAT, then the City could be liable by a candidate.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia asked if other towns require the CPAT. Mr. Dunn said that because the CPAT is administered during the early training phase at the academy, towns can adopt their own pre-Academy requirements, but most are very similar to the CPAT test. He then reviewed the costs associated with testing and which tests were on the schedule.

Council Member Curwen asked where the revenue from the test admissions goes. Mr. Sherwood directed everyone to page 76 and explained that basically the revenue cancels out the expense. If there are more candidates than planned for, the extra revenue will cancel out the expenses as well.

Council Member Curwen then asked about the Civil Service Personnel Summary. Mr. Sherwood reviewed the 2 full time clerical assistant positions and added that the titles have changed.

Council Member McCarthy then asked about the Property Rentals on page 80. Mr. Sherwood explained that the City used to rent hotel rooms for the tests. Now the Department uses the EOC and Hanson Building when available.

Council Member McCarthy then asked about the Advertising line item. Mr. Dunn replied that the Department uses Internet ads along with advertising in the Connecticut Post and other venues.

Council Member dePara asked whether the Office of Internal Affairs was used during the vetting process. Mr. Dunn said that it was and it was part of the Police Department budget. Background checks are done on the candidates, including home visits. For the most recent candidate class, this included sending OIA officers to Texas, Arizona, the Bronx and Long Island.

Council Member dePara asked where these travel expenses were listed. Mr. Sherwood indicated the appropriate line item in the Police Department budget. He said that the travel account is used when appropriate and other expenses are broken down as needed. Mr. Dunn commented that background checks are done for the Fire Department, also, but there is no lie detector test. He added that there had been concerns expressed about fire fighters who had prior arrests, and explained that these candidates cannot be disqualified because of this. Only police officers can be disqualified. Mr. Dunn also pointed out that Bridgeport was the only system in the State that has an appeal system for candidates that are disqualified for Habits and Conduct. The candidates may appeal to the Civil Service Commissioners. This process is over 70 years old and needs to be updated and enhanced for Bridgeport candidates.

Council Member dePara asked about the Special Master. Mr. Sherwood said that was a position that was only used by the Police Department for testing.

Council Member McCarthy asked whether it would be possible to require firefighters and police officers to live in Bridgeport. Council Member Curwen said that he had been working on trying to pass a tax break for police officers and fire fighters who live and work in Bridgeport for several years. Mr. Dunn noted that the Airport Certification position was the one that had a high turnover rate.

Council Member Martinez asked how many additional points Bridgeport residents receive on the tests. Mr. Dunn said that they get an additional 10 points on the overall written and verbal test scores.

Council Member Brannelly asked where the Civil Service needed to be changed. Mr. Dunn said that he would like to see the Charter updated, but would want to have specific citations in mind before recommending any changes. In general terms, it would be helpful to have some tools such as reallocation available. He added that prior Personnel

Directors were not willing to do this. Mr. Dunn also said that he was finishing up rewriting the LIUNA job descriptions.

Council Member Martinez asked if the public would be informed of these changes. Mr. Dunn replied that when the changes were finalized, a public hearing would be scheduled.

Council Member Curwen asked about the benefits for the starting recruits. Mr. Dunn gave a brief overview of the benefits but he also said that Mr. Weiner would be able to give more details on that.

Council Member McCarthy asked how employee's skill sets were used. Mr. Dunn explained that was really a Labor Relations question and his department just supplies information. Some of the jobs are filled based on seniority and other union contractual issues.

Council Member dePara asked about the Arbitration line item on page 80. Mr. Sherwood said that it was related to a labor lawsuit.

Council Member dePara asked about the line item for Hardware. Mr. Dunn said that was for the stopwatches used during the tests and for shirts for the testing staff.

Council Member dePara asked about the line item for Other Services. Mr. Dunn explained that was use to pay the outside firm that does the test grading, or professional psychological evaluators.

Council Member dePara asked about the line item for Medical Services. Mr. Dunn said that these funds were for medical exams when an employee returns from sick leave.

Mr. Dunn requested that the Committee approve his budget as submitted. He thanked the Council for working with the Police Department and the upcoming Fire Department tests. He added that it was important for everyone to remember that the current Charter was written in the 1930's.

RECESS

Council Member dePara announced a recess at 11:42 a.m. The meeting reconvened at 11:50 a.m.

CAPITAL BUDGET

Mr. Sherwood then referred to the document distributed earlier called Capital Project Reports and DRAFT List of Current/Recent Capital Projects.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY MOVED TO SUBMIT THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS INTO THE RECORD**

**EXHIBIT CPA –A : CAPITAL PROJECT REPORTS; AND
EXHIBIT CPA – B: DRAFT LIST OF CURRENT/RECENT CAPITAL PROJECTS.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA SECONDED.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Mr. Sherwood then reviewed the documents and stated that they included bond funds, private funds, Federal funds and State funds. Mr. Sherwood then informed the Committee that the coding structure had been changed so that the first digit of the account number reflected the year the project first was funded, while “L” in the second digit indicated LOCEP funding. The last three digits of the account number identified the project so now a report could be produced that would list all the costs associated with a particular project, or category of projects, such as sidewalks. Council Member Brannelly asked for clarification. Mr. Sherwood then reviewed the details and gave several examples.

Mayor Finch joined the meeting at 12:05 p.m.

Council Member Brannelly asked for a list of future projects that had not yet received funding. Mr. Sherwood said that he would compile a list for her.

Council Member McCarthy asked if a project could be on the list but not have any funds bonded for it. Mr. Sherwood said that this was possible. Council Member McCarthy asked if a project could be bonded, but not yet authorized. Mr. Sherwood said no. All projects on the list must be authorized in advance. However, the funding could come from different sources.

Council Member Brannelly asked what the “ORG” column stood for. Mr. Sherwood said that it was an organizational code and that the numbers 31, 32, and 33 indicated different categories. Council Member Brannelly said that she would like a listing of the codes provided with the report.

Mr. Sherwood explained that for Capital projects, the last three digits of the account number would be the most important, while for Operating budget items, the first two digits would be the most important.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia stated that a list of the account numbers and their meanings should be provided with a document like this.

Mr. Sherwood said that he was very proud of the fact that the new account numbers allows him to see all the facets of a project together.

Council Member dePara asked if there had been any more information from the BOE. Mr. Sherwood said that he had not received anything. Council Member McCarthy asked about the Bassick High School roof figures. Mr. Sherwood said that he had not received any information. A brief discussion followed.

Council Member Brannelly asked that both the Capital Budget document and the Draft of the upcoming projects be cross-referenced. Mr. Sherwood said that his department was still assigning account numbers and that the information would be available in the future.

The discussion then moved to the Gilman Street sidewalk project and associated details.

Council Member Curwen said that there would need to be changes in the Capital Budget. He added that the BOE had spoken about the Bassick High School roof, along with Central and Skane Schools. They had also mentioned new computers.

Mayor Finch left the meeting at 12:20 p.m.

Mr. Sherwood pointed out that the work on Skane would not be financed by an 80/20 split cost sharing with the State. He added that he did not know what the new cost sharing percentages would be yet.

Council Member Curwen pointed out that the walls at the Barnum Museum were buckling and that a window had recently shattered because of this. It is now a public safety issue. Council Member Curwen said that he felt it would be prudent to allocate approximately \$500,000 towards this.

Mr. Sherwood reminded everyone that the City actually owns the building along with the artifacts.

Council President McCarthy stated for the record that both he and Council Member Curwen were on the Board of the Barnum Museum.

The discussion then moved to the possibility of adding \$1.00 onto the admission fee of the Museum to help repay the cost of the repairs. Council President McCarthy said that when the tornado struck, the HVAC system had reversed as it was designed to do. However, it remained that way for several days before anyone realized that it was blowing mold spores throughout the building. The dome is not 100% stable. The back area is now being used as a restoration center. He added that there would be a meeting with the adjustors, but that if the City did not move forward on the repairs, the insurance

adjustors could deny the claim because the City is required to maintain the building. Discussion followed.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia asked if \$500,000 would be enough. Council Member Curwen pointed out that the Barnum is the only Museum that still has its own original artifacts on site.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia asked why there had been no preventative maintenance. Mr. Sherwood explained that this was not preventative maintenance, but structural issues. Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia replied that this was just like the Davis building, which should have been broom ready, but was not and added that this should have been dealt with years ago. She said that she would like to have a timeline of the funding that had been spent. Mr. Sherwood said that he could provide the financials, but reminded everyone that one of the problems was the large building that was located directly in back of the Museum. The City of Bridgeport has supported the Museum, but it has not been included in the past Capital Plan budgets. Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia stated that the City needed to be more pro-active in this type of work and mentioned the St. Vincent's parking garage.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia then mentioned the Mayor's Ball and stated that it was actually the PAL (Police Athletic League) ball and that the Mayor just lends his name to it. PAL does the majority of the work but the Mayor gets the credit. Mr. Nunn objected and said that the Mayor does make a significant amount of calls about the event.

Council Member dePara then asked for an overview of the Capital Plan. Mr. Sherwood directed everyone's attention to page 12, where he reviewed the Roadway Paving project details.

Council Member Brannelly asked how the State funds were accounted for. Mr. Sherwood said that they were still transferring information about this and prior bond issues from the old Advantage system into MUNIS.

Council Member Curwen asked about the arches at Seaside Park. He also wished to know what the plans were for the BOE computers replacement plans and the costs for a study on a new Police Station.

Mr. Sherwood said that the arches would require an engineering study and that the Fire Department was very good about going up there to clear away the debris. However, repairs do need to be made. Regarding the BOE computer request, the District needs have a rolling stock to replace the older machines. He then gave a projected figure for the police station study.

Council Member dePara asked about the feasibility of have a City impound yard. Discussion followed about this. Mr. Sherwood said that the first step would be to have OPED produce a list of potential sites.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia asked how the City would track the accountability of BOE new computers for the schools to insure they were being used by students and not by the administration if the request was allocated. Mr. Sherwood said that he would ask for a plan showing where the computers were to be installed and follow it up with site visits.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia said that she had not seen the WPCA trucks working. Ms. Norton said that she would get a list of the sites in a report. Other Committee members said that they had seen the crews out working at various times.

Council Member Curwen said that he would like to see the Capital Plan amended to include:

- a.) 1.5 million for the BOE Computer Phase 1 plan;
- b.) \$200,000 allocated toward the Seaside Avenue Park Arches Engineering Study;
- c.) \$500,000 for repairs at the Barnum Museum
- d.) \$250,000 for the new Police Station/ITS building
- e.) 1.5 million for the Bassick Roof Project.

Mr. Sherwood made a note of this.

Council Member McCarthy said that he would like to have it noted for the record that Council President McCarthy became very excited and yelled about the BOE lack of long term planning regarding this. Discussion followed.

Council Member Brannelly asked about the Land Acquisition figures. Mr. Sherwood explained that this was used for properties that come onto the market. The second figure is the rollover amount from the previous year.

Council Member Brannelly asked about the costs associated with McLevy. Mr. Sherwood explained that those figures were located on page 5 of the report under McLevy Renovation and the Code Compliance figures were at the bottom of page 7.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia asked about accountability from the BOE regarding the cost sharing for new schools. Mr. Sherwood said that the State controls what it will cover in terms of reimbursement. He suggested that the Council Members on the School Building Committee carefully monitor the discussions regarding this. "Is it eligible for reimbursement by the State?" would be an excellent question to ask. Items that are not eligible cost the City money. Discussion followed.

Council Member McCarthy asked about construction that was going on for the transfer of Vital Statistics. Mr. Sherwood said that it was shoring up the supports for the necessary vaults.

Council Member McCarthy then asked about what would be done with McLevy. Mr. Sherwood stated that it was on the Historical Register and a discussion about the future RFP followed.

Council Member McCarthy asked when the City Departments would vacate the building. Mr. Sherwood said that Vital Statistics would move when the construction work was finished and that the Probate and Registrars would move by the end of the summer.

Council Member McCarthy asked about the bike path. Mr. Sherwood said that the City was waiting on a study for the catch basins. Once that is completed, the project is good to go. He added that the City would now be putting up signs saying this was a City of Bridgeport project at the larger project sites.

Council Member dePara asked whether the Recycling and Toters were included in the Fiscal Year 11 summary. Mr. Sherwood said that they were. The Toters line item was on page 16 and the RFP was already out.

Council Member Brannelly asked about the Fairfield Avenue conversion by the Fountain and interchange. Mr. Sherwood said that the City has to wait for the State DOT to determine how they want to execute the project.

Council Member dePara asked about the roof replacement for 948 Main Street. Mr. Sherwood said that the City had done the roof about 10 years ago and he did not understand why it had to be replaced again, but he would check into this.

ADJOURNMENT

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

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

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services.

City of Bridgeport
Budget and Appropriations
Special Meeting
April 23, 2011
Page 12

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
BUDGET & APPROPRIATIONS
SPECIAL MEETING
APRIL 26, 2011**

ATTENDANCE: Robert Curwen, Co-chair; Lydia Martinez, Susan Brannelly, Council President Thomas McCarthy, AmyMarie Vizzo-Paniccia (6:40 p.m.); Angel dePara, Co-chair (6:45 p.m.)

STAFF: Thomas Sherwood, OPM; Dawn Norton, Interim Finance Director;

OTHERS: Janet Finch, Richard Weiner; Council Member Martin McCarthy; Council Member Walsh, Andrew Nunn, Janet Finch; Council Member Michelle Lyons, Dr. Dan Cook, BOE Interim Finance; Council Member Brantley; Brian Cutterback, CIGNA VP; Heather Carpeya, CIGNA Sales Client Manager; Stacy Evans, Medico; Mr. Caslin, Beacon Retiree Benefits Group; Ms. Darcy Caslin, Beacon Retiree Benefits Group; Kevin Weir, Vision Service Plan; Carl Fobel, John Aquillo

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Curwen called the meeting to order at 6:20 p.m. There was not a quorum present.

HEALTH CARE

Mr. Sherwood then directed everyone's attention to Pg 82, for the City's Health Care. This fund contains the money for the payment of health care claims. Mr. Sherwood said that the City had done well. There are no major changes, no staffing changes. Very little growth on the City side.

Page i14 outlines the Internal Service Fund, which Mr. Sherwood reviewed with the Committee.

Mr. Weiner then distributed a spreadsheet that gives an overview of the health care costs for the City. He reminded everyone that last year, the City moved from HealthNet to CIGNA, because CIGNA had very competitive claims. If HealthNet had remained as a provider, the medical costs would have been \$64,000,000 rather than \$54,898131.

Mr. Weiner then reviewed the Administration Fees, which will be increasing this year by \$35.35 per employee.

Council Member Walsh asked if the figures were the actual costs for 9 months. Mr. Weiner said that April was not closed yet, but Mr. Weiner projected the last three months. He then reviewed the details for the "Occurred but not reported". Council Member Walsh said he would like to see

those numbers for last year. Mr. Sherwood said that he would get the figures to Council Member Walsh. Mr. Weiner said that the City was still paying claims to HealthNet for services prior to June 30, 2010. Council Member Brannelly had several questions about the accrual process.

Mr. Sherwood then reviewed the process from the forecast through the budget process and how it was accounted for in the budget binders.

Mr. Weiner said that there was a program called the EERP, and the City has collected 1.8 million dollars, which was deposited into the General Fund. There has been a 13% increase in claims. The health care costs have increased because the government does not fully reimburse the doctors and hospitals. The shortfall is covered by private insurance companies. Now the cost of medical technology, defensive medicine and the excessive billing staff have increased.

Council Member Walsh said that he attended a seminar on insurance and it was stated that some insurance companies would counsel the patients as to where to have the medical procedures. He was concerned that patients might be steered away from Bridgeport Hospital. Mr. Sherwood said that one of the stipulations was that the health care provider use Bridgeport Hospital.

Mr. Cutterback came forward and introduced himself and his associate, Ms. Heather Carpeya from CIGNA. He thanked everyone and that about 4% of the expense of the claims, while the 96% of the costs were used for providing the services.

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

Mr. Cutterback then reviewed the various programs, including Disease Management programs that CIGNA offers for patients in need of care such as the lifestyle and better management program.

Ms. Carpeya said that the company was pleased that they were able to provide the services as projected.

Chairman Curwen asked about the 13% increase this year. Mr. Cutterback said that if the City had come in on budget, that would indicate an increase of 5%. There will be an impact because the adult dependents of an employee up to the age of 26 are now covered. Mr. Weiner said that this was approximately 250 previously uncovered family members.

Council Member dePara joined the meeting at 6:45 p.m.

Mr. Sherwood then reviewed the details of how this would be reflected in the budget. The cost to the City will be curtailed by the terms of the retirees' contract. Ms. Carpeya said that there would be a 1.6 increase because of this age increase.

Chairman Curwen asked if the City would benefit from the new health care. Mr. Weiner said that the Early Employee Retirement Program was the benefit.

Council Member Lyons then said that she was hearing that CIGNA was going below the target and wanted to know why this City costs were increasing. Mr. Sherwood said that the projected figures were for a 13% growth. Based on what the claims have been showing this year, the projection is holding steady. However, the employee premiums hold steady for the year, so any shortfall is paid by the City.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia asked about the claim processed. Mr. Weiner then said that the City was self-insured and only paid out when the claim is filed.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia asked if the employees that had dependents who were not eligible for coverage paid the City back for the costs of their claims. Mr. Sherwood said that there had been an audit on dependents and amnesty was announced for those who knew they had non-eligible dependents up to a certain date. After that, the employee would be prosecuted. Chairman Curwen asked how many dependents were removed from the rolls. Mr. Weiner said that it was about 100 depended.

CIGNA

Mr. Cutterback then spoke about how federal reform was affecting the health care costs. He said that CIGNA was very good in terms of expensive individual high cost claims, such as organ transplants.

Mr. Weiner said that the City has two dental plans in the City. One is a fully insured HMO plan and the PPO is largest of the two plans. In the PPO there are administration fees and medical fees. He then reviewed the costs per employee. The dental budget claims has been forecast to be just over 4 million.

The HMO plan has a fixed cost and will remain at \$241,504, mostly for orthodontia.

Mr. Cutterback said that CIGNA had been administering the dental plan for the City for quite some time.

Dr. Cook then asked Mr. Cutterback if the 13% increase was for both the BOE and the City. Mr. Cutterback said that this was so. Dr. Cook said that the BOE represents approximately 2/3rds of the total population. However they had been told an 18% increase. Mr. Cutterback said that if the aggregate was 13%, and the fixed cost would remain the same, so any variance would be a reflection of number of claims. Dr. Cook said that he would like to have something to bring back to his Board. Mr. Cutterback will look at this number. Mr. Sherwood said that there may be other factors like Worker's Comp and Prescription claim costs.

MEDCO

Mr. Weiner said that this would be the prescription claim costs. This is a 9% increase. This year, the City will be doing an RFP for prescriptions with a group of twelve other municipalities in Connecticut. Chairman Curwen asked Mr. Weiner if the State had invited the City to participate in a prescription. Next week is a meeting with the coalition for the RFP, so the figures are not readily available.

Mr. Sherwood said prior to joining the coalition and that it had provided strong cost reductions. The City used Medico before and Medico won the coalition bid. Right now, the City has virtually no prescription administration costs. Medico does not want to lose the City as a client.

Ms. Evans, a representative from Medico, came forward and greeted the Committee. She said that 95% of the costs were centered around 50% of the population who are high maintenance and specialized drugs. This means that there are individual consultations and some assistance with medication management. By educating the new memberships about generic medication and working with people to maintain their medication therapy.

Council Member Brannelly asked what would be considered specialty medications. Ms. Evans said that something like this would be an injectable medication for conditions like MS. Usually these drugs are single source and the items that are most likely to have a cost increase.

Council Member Lyons then asked about some of the details of working with Medico and CVS. Ms. Evans said that Medico has a Worry Free Refill plan and the employee needs to request this service. Council Member Martinez had a number of questions about the refill prescriptions and changing to a generic, which Ms. Evans answered.

Mr. Weiner then said that there were the retirees on the plan, and explained that there were Medicare and non-Medicare retirees. This past January, two medical plans were replaced with one plan from Anthem. In 2011, the premiums that are being paid to Anthem are lower than what the City was paying to HealthNet. Mr. Weiner said that this was due to the work of Council President McCarthy and Ms. Caslin. He said that he had been advised budget for a 7% increase.

Mr. Weiner then reviewed the retirees for Police and Fire and said that the City has been able to move them into a Medicare D plan, which gave them more benefits without increasing costs.

Retiree Drug Subsidy came into existence when Medicare D did not want to discourage insurance companies from having a prescription plan. The Federal Government gives the City of Bridgeport approximately \$900,000 in subsidy which covers approximately 28% of the costs.

The Employer Group Waiver Plan was introduced under Health Care Reform. The pharmacy manufacturer pay the City of Bridgeport a subsidy.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ MOVED TO SUBMITFY-12 BENEFIT BUDGET AS EXHIBIT HB-A**

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

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Mr. Sherwood said that like EERP, this is a complex plan. This has not been in effect for a full year yet and the government can change this tomorrow. Mr. Sherwood said that because there are so many variable, it will be held for a year before use.

Beacon Retiree Benefits Group.

Mr. Caslin came forward and introduced himself and Ms. Caslin. Ms. Caslin then distributed a hand out about the EGWP program, a waiver program. It allows an employer to tap into a pharmaceutical brand name drugs plan a for subsidy. Mr. Caslin said that he had advised Mr. Weiner to review the Medico information. Ms. Caslin then reviewed the benefits of Retirees Drug Subsidy (RDS) and the Medicare D (EGWP). The government now requires pharmaceutical corporations to provide subsidy for retirees who have large prescriptions cost that cross a set threshold.

Council Member Brannelly asked where the specialty drugs are being administered. Ms. Evans said that many times it is being administered at the doctor's office. Ms. Caslin said that most of the time when medications are administered in his office, then it is covered by Medicare D. Ms. Caslin said that under Medicare D, it is clearly defined where the costs would be accounted for. Council Member Lyons said that in all the various programs, there are discounts and subsidies. Mr. Weiner agreed, but pointed out that there were expenses that outweighed the discounts. Mr. Caslin then gave an overview of how the Federal Government provides subsidies and how much the employee premium pays. However, no one knows what next year will hold because the government decides major factors. There are 2,400 retirees who have their benefits set in stone. Discussion followed.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ MOVED TO SUBMIT: HB-B**

MEDICO HEALTH SOLUTIONS PRESENTATION TO THE CITY OF BRIDGEPORT, AS EXHIBIT HB-B, AND;

BEACON RETIREE BENEFITS GROUP, INC. MEDICARE PART D (EGWP) VS. RDS AS EXHIBIT HB-C.

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

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Mr. Weiner then reviewed the Part B reimbursement, which covers those police and fire retirees who are on Medicare. Council Member Brannelly asked for clarification on the two retiree

groups. Mr. Weiner said that the employee is required to contribute to the Medicare B plan. The City reimburses the retiree for these payments.

Ms. Finch said that employees who were hired before 1986 are not eligible for Medicare benefits and did not contribute to Medicare during their employment years. The discussion then moved to the fact that City employees do not pay social security. Mr. Weiner said that the City deducts the amount for MERF. Ms. Finch said that the City had a choice to contribute to MERF or Social Security. The Part time employees and the seasonals contribute to Social Security.

Vision Benefits –

This past fall an RFP was done for vision plans. Vision Service Plan was awarded the contract. VSP has worked with the City for many years. VSP offered the City a per employee rate of .51¢ a month rather than an admin fee. Mr. Kevin Weir is the account representative for VSP. Mr. Weir came forward and introduced himself to the Committee.

The great thing about VSP is that most people receive a routine physical, but 6 out of 10 people receive a yearly eye exam. 1 out of 6 people in America have VSP. He added that approximately 70% of the employees wear glasses or contacts.

Council Member Brannelly asked Mr. Sherwood why the City does not pay social security. Mr. Sherwood said that the City pays Social Security for the first six months of employment at 7% rather than 11.5% for the pension. Council Member Brannelly asked if the City could withdraw from MERF. Mr. Sherwood reviewed the requirements of the MERF plan and pointed out that the unions will not allow this, the State would be against this and it would cost the City a tremendous amount.

Mr. Weiner said that there were no representatives from the Hartford and Berkley, about short term and long term disability. Mr. Sherwood outlined the benefits and how the City could save benefits.

Mr. Weiner said that the group life insurance was now in the second year of a three year agreement for life insurance. This means that the City is paying the lowest fee in years.

Mr. Weiner then reviewed the worker's comp programs. He pointed out that this past year, the City paid out \$4,894,800 for this, which includes a portion of the program called "second injuries". Mr. Sherwood then directed everyone to page 85 where the financials were listed.

He then reviewed the second part of the administration fee, which include heart & hypertension, informal hearings, and other items. ADP asked why the City was paying half the cost for informal hearings when it did not pay for it before. Mr. Weiner said that when the RFP went out, none of the respondents were offering to carry the full cost for the informal hearings. Mr. Weiner said that the reason that Berkley was awarded the contract was because in the fourth year

of the six year contract, the administrative fees would decrease. Mr. Weiner then reviewed the figures for the administration.

There are basically two kinds of costs, heart and hypertension costs usually associated with Police and Fire; and then the basic worker's comp. The Worker's Comp pay for work (indemnity) time lost and medical costs. Chairman Curwen asked for a break out of the indemnity for the BOE. Mr. Sherwood said that he would provide this information.

Mr. Weiner said that it was difficult to project the costs since one year it could cover a heart transplant and the following year it would not re-occur. However, there are illnesses that are chronic. Mr. Sherwood said that in terms of Worker's Comp, it was important to track worker's comp because it would be worthwhile to reward the departments who work aggressively to reduce worker's comp.

Mr. Carl Fobel - It was stated that the gold star department was Public Facilities because they only had 8 claims this year. Considering the tornados and snowstorms this past year, it is truly amazing. A year ago, they had 15 cases. Total claims last year were 60, and this year was 45.

Chairman Curwen asked about the remainder of the program. He was told that there was no safety program at the Board of Education and that last year the BOE had 86 claims and this year it was 91. There were 677 total claims last year and the BOE accounted for approximately 300 of them. LM asked if it was mandatory to have a safety program. She was told that the State mandates any employer with more than 25 employees to have a safety program. There are 1,300 City employees. Mr. Sherwood estimated that the BOE has approximately 3,000 employees.

A bar chart was distributed that showed the number of lost time cases over a period of 7 years. It was pointed out that the numbers were down significantly. Mr. Sherwood then reviewed the details with Police and Fire. Short term disability is only seven calendar days and then it rolls over to long disability. Mr. Sherwood said that he believe that the City has done a yeoman's job in reducing the Worker's Comp.

It was stated that every quarter, Mr. Nunn calls the department heads to a meeting and there is a review about claim events.

Mr. John Aquillo came forward and said that he oversees the claims. He said that the program monitored the employees on light duty. He said that there have been significant savings for the City. St. Vincent's is the preferred treatment location and with the preferred prescriptions and diagnostic testing, the

**** COUNCIL MEMBER DEPARA MOVED TO ADMIT THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS INTO THE RECORD:**

CITY OF BRIDGEPORT - WORKERS COMPENSATION PROGRAM PAYCLASS SUMMARY REPORT FISCAL YEAR TO 7/1/2010 - 3/31/2011 AS EXHIBIT HB -D;

CITY OF BRIDGEPORT - WORKERS COMPENSATION PROGRAM NET CLAIM FREQUENCY REPORT FISCAL YEAR TO 7/1/2010 - 3/31/2011 AS EXHIBIT HB - E;

CITY OF BRIDGEPORT - TOTAL DOLLARS - TIME PERIOD JULY 01 TO MARCH 31 EXHIBIT HB - F;

CITY OF BRIDGEPORT - MEDICAL ONLY CASES - TIME PERIOD JULY 01 TO MARCH 31. AS EXHIBIT HB - G; AND

CITY OF BRIDGEPORT - TOTAL LOST TIME CASES - TIME PERIOD JULY 01 TO MARCH 31 AS EXHIBIT HB - H.

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

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Mr. Aquillo said that he was in favor of settling claims because the longer a case is dragged out the more the ultimate cost. Mr. Sherwood spoke about how the worker comp program works and how some employees have used it in the past.

Mr. Sherwood then directed the Committee to page i-17 for the break out by department.

Council Member Brannelly asked about the increase for Fire. Mr. Fobel explained that there had been a major fire where exposure to metal dust was involved.

Mr. Sherwood then commented that there was fraud. Mr. Weiner said that the City does hire some private investigators to check on certain comp claims. Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia said that she had been wanting to have the private investigators on these types of cases. She said that these types of cases are costing the taxpayers. She said that while the City was doing a good job, they needed to do more. Mr. Fobel said that on the City side, every supervisor must interview the injured party and the witness. The use of light duty has also worked in curbing the fraud. He added that when the need is felt to bring in an investigator, it is discussed with Mr. Weiner.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia then asked about training the employees and asked how frequently it was scheduled. Mr. Fobel said that the training was being done on a regular schedule. Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia asked if there was behind the wheel training. Mr. Fobel said that it was done with Public Facilities. Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia said that there was a problem with the employees carrying the Toters rather than using the mechanical arms.

Council Member dePara said that he would agree that the Police figures are higher on HB-D, but pointed out that they deal with different issues. However they have been declining over a period of time. Mr. Fobel said that there had been a decrease and stated that with the introduction of Tasers. He added that there were a number of injuries related to an officer getting out of a vehicle and slipping on ice.

Mr. Weiner said that there were no changes with the EAP employee Assistance Plan. Mr. Weiner then reviewed the remaining figures.

ADJOURNMENT

**** COUNCIL MEMBER DEPARA 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 & APPROPRIATIONS
SPECIAL MEETING
APRIL 26, 2011**

ATTENDANCE: Robert Curwen, Co-Chair; Angel dePara, Co-chair; Lydia Martinez, Susan Brannelly, AmyMarie Vizzo-Paniccia

STAFF: Thomas Sherwood, OPM; Dawn Norton, Interim Financial Director

OTHERS: Council President Thomas McCarthy, Council Member Martin McCarthy

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Curwen called to order at 9:25 p.m.

43-10 Proposed Five Year Capital Plan for Fiscal Years 2012-2016

Mr. Sherwood then distributed copies of documents titled Exhibit A and Exhibit B. He then reviewed the request changes in the Capital Budget.

Mr. Sherwood then pointed out that in order for the BOE to move forward with the application the City must authorize the full amount for the schools. However, this does not mean that all the school projects on the list will be funded. The borrowing amounts still need to be determined.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia said that there needed to be a discussion about the items on the Capital Budget. Discussion followed about the proposed allocation of the various projects and the past authorization of some school projects. Mr. Sherwood said that the new schools have been opened for two years and the State had not been down to do the audit.

Council Member Martinez asked for clarification on the items. Mr. Sherwood reviewed the details with her. Council Member McCarthy asked how to tell which projects were bonded. Mr. Sherwood said that the Account Codes would indicate that the bonding had been done.

Council Member Martinez said that she was uncomfortable with approve projects without the details. Mr. Sherwood said that these were final numbers. Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia said that she wanted to see where the 1.5 million for Bassick roof came from. Mr. Sherwood said that the City could not go out for bid without authorized funds. Mr. Sherwood said that the State wants the application by June 30th. If the application is not submitted, then the project will not be reimbursed at the 80/20 rate.

Mr. Sherwood said that this was just a plan for the year and should be treated as so. Council Member McCarthy has several questions about various projects.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia said that the City owns numerous buildings and felt that perhaps one of these could be converted to a Senior Center.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia said that before going after the sidewalks that the residents are responsible for maintaining, the City had to go out and repair the ones it is responsible first. She added that the City should be cleaning up the trees that were up and needed to be either taken down or trimmed.

Council Member Martinez said that it would be good to put a reminder in the Tax bill about repairing the sidewalks.

**** COUNCIL PRESIDENT MCCARTHY MOVED TO AMEND THE CAPITAL PLAN TO REFLECT THE BAC AS AMENDED**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**** ** COUNCIL PRESIDENT MCCARTHY MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 43-10 PROPOSED FIVE YEAR CAPITAL PLAN FOR FISCAL YEARS 2012-2016 AS AMENDED.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Chairman Curwen requested the item be placed on the Consent Calendar.

46-10 Approval of General Obligation Bonds - To Fund Certain Capital Improvement Projects.

**** COUNCIL PRESIDENT MCCARTHY MOVED TO ENTER BAC EXHIBIT A FOR ITEMS 46-10**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER DEPARA SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER DEPARA MOVED TO APPROVE 46-10 AS AMENDED IN THOSE LOCATIONS WHERE THE DOLLAR AMOUNT HAS BEEN CHANGES TO THE AMOUNT OF \$64,655,000 IN THE THIRD WHEREAS, AND IN THE VERY FIRST RESOLVE, BUT ALSO TO INCLUDE THE AMOUNT.**

**** COUNCIL PRESIDENT MCCARTHY SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER DEPARA MOVED TO APPROVE 46-10 AS AMENDED AS A WHOLE.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Chairman Curwen requested the item be placed on the Consent Calendar.

ADJOURMENT

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

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 10:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
BUDGET & APPROPRIATIONS
PUBLIC HEARING
APRIL 27, 2011**

ATTENDANCE: Angel dePara, Co-chair; Bob Curwen, Co-chair; Susan Brannelly, AmyMarie Vizzo-Paniccia, Lydia Martinez, Council President Thomas McCarthy

OTHERS: Council Member Martin McCarthy; Council Member Michelle Lyons, Council Member Robert Walsh; Council Member M. Evette Brantley

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman dePara called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m. and introduced the members of the Committee that were present, along with the other Council Members. He then reviewed the procedure for the public hearing and stated that each speaker would be given five minutes to address the Committee.

The following comments by all speakers are summarized and not verbatim.

Dr. John Ramos, Superintendent of Schools, 45 Lyon Terrace – Dr. Ramos came forward and greeted the Committee. He said that he was not present to defend the budget proposal, because it is not the time to do that. He was present to describe the impact that the budget would have. He said he was not present with scare tactics. He said that people needed to be prepared to deal with the consequences. If the present recommended amount is approved, the BOE will need to reduce the proposed budget by 19 million dollars. He said that the stimulus funding would end this year. The BOE has already made substantial cuts and that this was a perfect storm as it relates to the budget. Over 90% of the budget of the Board of Education is for personnel. It is a people business and 20,000 students will show up expecting a quality education. In previous years, many cuts were made. A worse case scenario would be having to reduce the budget by 6 million dollars, which equates to 300 teachers who have a normal teacher's salary. Another possibility is to build the system anew. He reminded everyone that once the mandatory items have been factored in, such as mandatory half day kindergarten, the final amount does not leave over a lot of money. The cuts will be to teachers and support staff, or to administrators, or to services, no matter it is, it must equal 19 million dollars. He said that he just wanted everyone to be prepared for those eventualities. Dr. Ramos concluded by saying that he was praying that the Committee would find a way to get through these difficult times. He then thanked the Committee for listening.

Ms. Mary Pat Healy, 2470 Fairfield Avenue – Ms. Healy greeted the Committee and said that the Bridgeport Child Advocacy appreciates the opportunity to submit testimony. She said that she was the Bridgeport Child Advocacy Executive Director and it was hard to be here with the same budget as last year. There is not question about the budget crisis and the fact that the State and the City are both in crisis. She expressed concerns about the children’s future and said that difficult choices would have to be made. Ms. Healy then referred to a recent article in Sunday’s Connecticut Post about the budget and pointed out that there was only one reference to education. While she appreciated the hard work that the Committee was doing, she wanted to know what would be cut. Would it be programs for autistic children, expansion of Discovery magnet school or would teachers have to be laid off? Parents want the best for their children and their children deserve a quality education. She then urged the City and the schools need to work together to insure that the students’ education is not harmed by the cuts in the budget. Ms. Healy then asked the Committee to engage the community and help the parents understand how and why the decisions are made and what plans are in place to address the situation. Communication must a priority. She then thanked the Committee for their time.

Ms. Mimi Nelsen, 219 Anson St. – Ms. Nelsen came forward and greeted the Committee. She said that she had heard that the Librarian Assistants were in line to be cut. Ms. Nelsen said that the L.As do Tier 2 interventions as mandated by the State These are small groups of students that are removed from the larger classroom for more individualized instruction. The students scores are improving. She said that she was also a certified teacher, but liked this particular position, which she had been doing it for thirteen years. She then asked the Committee to consider this when deciding on the budget and thanked the Committee for listening.

Mr. Charles Coviello – 83 Willow St. – Mr. Coviello came forward and greeted the Committee. He said that there were request for more money for this, or more money for that while in the background was the refrain of “don’t raise taxes”. It’s the same old story. There are more union concessions or there will be lay offs. Guess what? It’s going to get worse. What Bridgeport really needs is some new leadership. Buildings are being demolished because people want to save on taxes. They are taking big commercial buildings down all over the City, not because they are going to be developed, but because they want to save money. And Bridgeport residents will have a smaller grand list next year, which means that everyone will be taxed more. That will mean an even bigger problem. There’s been no development in Bridgeport for the last ten years. The Office of Economic Development should start doing something. They keep passing the buck. What about the twenty years of vacant space at Steele Point? That’s what we get. There has been a promise for a shopping center for the East End. The people that proposed it and said that they had the money to do it don’t have the money to do it.

And this is a tribute to our political campaigns for the leadership that is there in the City. It’s the same old thing. And guess what? Bridgeport gets the same results. Mr. Sherwood

is has been the advisor on budgets for years, and Mr. Sherwood is still there. And he's gone through I don't know how many administrations. Maybe Bridgeport should replace some key leadership. The City needs total transparency throughout all the City's budgetary items. The Committee is not getting it, and it's obvious. The department directors appear before the Committee, but they don't give you all the facts.

There should be total transparency on the Board of Education. Mr. Coviello said that he had been speaking before the Board frequently and said that the money was going to the wrong places. It wasn't possible to keep a program alive that was only spending \$100,000 that was focused on keeping kids in school. The BOE will say that they did something, but it wasn't the same program.

The Bridgeport residents need to find new sources of revenue other than taxes on houses. Mr. Coviello said that he had several ideas but no one will listen. He said that if people followed his campaign for Mayor, there would be some new ideas for creating new revenue. The City might have to do some investments in the new ideas. But the City needs new ideas, new solutions for revenue for the City's problems. He then asked the Committee not to start out the new fiscal year with a deficit. That was a mistake last year because the Committee is facing the same type of problems this year. He encouraged them to balance the budget and thanked them for their time.

Mr. Thomas Mulligan, 20 Armitage Dr. – Mr. Mulligan came forward and greeted the Committee. He said that he was on the Board of Education and was present to support the request of \$233,800,000 for the schools. That and the 2.2 million is for stable services, which have been provided in the past year. The 2.2 million allocation is to provide 1.1 million for increased services to the autistic students and the second 1.1 million for the Discovery School where the grades have to be added. Both of these items are State requirements, as is so many things in the budget. There will not be much room for discretion when the time comes to make the inevitable cuts. Other than the 2.2 million, this is just for the basic services that have been provided before. During the past few years, the services have been maintained because of Federal funding, which are coming to an end on June 30th, 2011. Dr. Ramos has already spoken about the dramatic cuts that may be necessary and this will not be an evolutionary process of a decrease in services. He then asked the Committee to consider if there are any funds to increase the allocation to the BOE over what the Mayor has recommended, it would be very appreciated. It also might save some services that could be very important. He added that when the cuts do come, the Committee members will be hearing from their constituents. He then reminded everyone that the BOE is experiencing financial difficulties just like the City side. He then thanked the Committee.

Mr. Barry Piesner, 4190 Park Ave. – Mr. Piesner came forward and greeted the Committee. He said that about 10 years ago, he had become concerned about the budget. He encourage the Budget and Appropriations Committee to look at the priorities. When

the Federal funds go away, no one will be able to replace the funding. Now was the time to cut the fat from the system and get serious.

Mr. Joseph Borges, 218 Norman St. – Mr. Borges came forward and greeted the Committee. He said that as the former Registrar of Voters, he wanted to speak about the problems that had occurred last year. When the problems cropped up, some of the politicians stood by the Registrars, for which they were thankful. Others, however, when the cameras started rolling, set the stage for how to do things. He reminded everyone that people had formed a committee to recommend improvements. When the cameras stopped rolling, then things disappeared. At the public hearing held at the time, the people came forward and said what they needed. Council President McCarthy had included a number of items in the budget for the Registrar's Office, but that line item had been cut. The people set the standard and said how it was going to be. Now the Federal money is gone and the budget is going to be cut again. There will be a City election this year, for the Council and for the Mayor. And there will be a Democratic primary, too. There is one every year. Now the responsibility for the finances is on the City. The new equipment there are maintenance costs, the booths need repair, ballots have to be purchased along with supplies. The maintenance cost for each machine is \$200.00 a year and Bridgeport has 54 machines. These machines were mandated by the State. The stage has been set and the Mayor set the bar by saying that there will not be problems again. The stage is now set for more problem. There is a small staff, the supplies need to be bought and the equipment needs to be put in place. When the finger pointing starts, remember this and point it at them.

Mr. Jeffrey Kohut, 30 Wickcliff Circle – Mr. Kohut came forward and greeted the Committee. He then read a lengthy document into the record.

To the Budget Committee and citizens of Bridgeport, as a citizen of Bridgeport, I feel it is important to address the budget situation in which the general public might not be familiar but about which they need to be fully informed. It should be known that the current Bridgeport development policy which determines the grand list and revenue building, is being driven by regional planning and crafted by the regional land use to perpetuate the importation and [inaudible] our City and its people. This regional planning is long standing planning, which goes back actually to the creation of Route 25/8, which siphoned off a lot of our development potential and extra and generally has been undermining our development since then. And there [inaudible] inefficient [inaudible] with the public sewer system, things of that nature. So, this plan has been in operation probably for fifty years. It's now called [inaudible].

In this plan, Bridgeport plays host as the regional labor force as the regional housing hub, while other [inaudible] support the situation such as

new roads, new train stations called feeder [inaudible] which will provide a feeder hub while having a negative impact on Bridgeport municipal revenue. A new municipal train station will not pay taxes and feeder hubs are designed to give a low cost rate to cars riding our streets with huge trucks that belch diesel fuel and ruin our infrastructure and damage [inaudible] taxes generated by such an operation. These are development issues.

This pool is the reason why the mission description which we have [inaudible] with the Fairfield County Council, the FCBC and its stepchild, the Bridgeport Regional Business Council, BRBC, are making a [inaudible] to insure that the 600 to 2,000 jobs [inaudible] solar panels manufacturing from G.E. [inaudible] can be located here. That adds up to [inaudible] to the East Side and East End. [Inaudible] a move over the objection of the [inaudible] should be part of the plan in what is now called Steele Point and the [inaudible]. In 2001, the [inaudible] chairman, Chris Rule, asked about the Bridgeport casino because he said, and this is a quote, "Take away our [inaudible] labor force." This is what is happening now.

We are presently rezoning industrial property for residential to make sure [inaudible] and jobs. [Inaudible] We are fulfilling the Stamford/Norwalk [inaudible] Instead, our leaders are taking us down the Seaview Avenue corridor, the road to [inaudible]. It's really the \$50 million dollar road, with no return. We have every [inaudible] can't support the school system [inaudible] roads and train stations and no parks as well as schools that we can't support. The use of the G.E. property for a high school is extremely poor and actually subversive economic development. It will only result in the destruction of [inaudible] in Remington Woods. [Inaudible] for transit oriented jobs requires services and infrastructure at tax payer's expense. Despite the [inaudible] of Mayor Finch and what the BRBC is saying, to develop the road would be [inaudible] and increase our taxes. The zoning will simply just benefit Stamford, Norwalk and the other Gold Coast towns as well as [inaudible]. Bridgeport provides the Gold Coast towns with municipal services as well as schools and Stamford, Norwalk get a lucrative tax base and the advantage of the commuting, non-local work force.

This is the plan for Bridgeport, endorsed by all the Mayors, Congressmen, [inaudible] We need G.E. back with 2,000 jobs. Harding High School should get a new location along the Pequonnock River near the new waterfront park.

In closing, I'd like to mention the Stamford budget is about the same size ours, about 470 million dollars. [Inaudible] people less people for which to provide services. Furthermore, municipal pension plans have got to get out of [inaudible] as well. How do they do this? [Inaudible] They provide an attractive business environment to retain high end base and a large grand list and keeping tax rates low and the physical attractive [inaudible] at the work force's expense with the help of hosting the infrastructure on Bridgeport. They get a free ride on Bridgeport's back. This is what the [inaudible] future is all about. This is Bridgeport's own development plan. Now, the Connecticut Post is saying our Mayor with the help of the [inaudible] forced his greenness while pushing the ahead full throttle [inaudible] preserving Remington Woods [inaudible] into tiny Bridgeport. Is this madness? Is this green? Is this part of the development plan? This is [inaudible] in Bridgeport We need a radical change. We need a new regime change [inaudible] and we have to keep Bridgeport separate and start doing things for Bridgeport. [Inaudible] Thank you.

Ms. Carol Nunley, 84 Anson St. – Ms. Nunley came forward and greeted the Committee. Ms. Nunley asked the Committee to help her and her family and to let her help the Committee. She said that she had been attending the B&A meetings and reminded everyone that they needed to consider the people and the children who are represented by the numbers. It will be the children who will impact our futures. They need their schools and libraries. The teachers need professional development. There have been many cuts in the past year that have adversely affected education. Ms. Nunley said that she now has a grandchildren Park City and seen the old computers and other needs. She then repeated her request for the Committee to support education for the children and added that it didn't take much money. She encouraged the Committee to invest more in everyone's future.

Ms. Karen Jackson, Bridgeport – Ms. Jackson came forward and greeted the Committee. Ms. Jackson said that 64 million dollars will be taken from Bridgeport according to Governor Malloy if the unions did not make concessions. This will be even more difficult if the Federal Government allows the various states to file bankruptcy. In addition, the Mayor will have to lay off city workers, which will be cut back on services for the public and the Mayor is not going to raise taxes.

Ms. Jackson then went on to comment about the Committee meeting that was held on Good Friday, a Christian Good Friday at the Hansen Building in Bridgeport. She said she felt that it was a very sad time to hold the meeting. Chairman dePara said that the meeting was held on Saturday, April 23rd. Ms. Jackson replied that the public hearing was basically held on Good Friday week-end when no one was around and said that she did not think it was a proper time to hold a public hearing

on the Capital Budget, or any budget. Only two or three people attending, including herself. That needs to be changed.

She then said that at the meeting she heard the Director of Civil Service request that the Charter be changed so that more Bridgeport residents with records could be seen on a case to case basis and more points given to Bridgeport residents. As a Bridgeport resident, she would strongly like to express her support that this recommendation be implemented.

One additional thing that she discovered was that those who are Bridgeport City employees are not necessarily domiciled in Bridgeport. She said that she felt that the employees should be domiciled in Bridgeport. Another thing that she heard about was about the bridge to Pleasure Beach, which has been shut down, should be make into a green way, a walkway and keep Pleasure Beach as a wildlife preserve. She felt that the boat taxi that will be operating in the summer was very good.

Ms. Jackson said that she agreed that the bus depot needs to be revamped. The passengers need an enclosed structure for bad weather. She said that the last one was improper and needs to be redone. She said that it would be important to ask the residents what they want the bus depot to look like and not what it is right now.

Ms. Jackson said that she was also present for the discussion about the Gilman Street sidewalk. She said that when it is built, it will look like a bike path and families with children will be walking almost in a street. Ms. Jackson thought it should actually be a sidewalk, not a bike path.

Ms. Jackson then presented a way for Bridgeport to create some revenue and went on to speak about the blight on the East Side. She thought that correcting this could bring revenue to Bridgeport.

The topic of school construction came up repeatedly. She then said that with the State reimbursement, it would be a zero balance, especially with the magnet school, which would be another zero balance. She said that she didn't know why it was included in the budget book if it was a zero balance. She then said that could be put towards the BOE budget.

She said that she spoke to Mr. Walsh about having an ordinance regarding the young people who wear their pants on their butts. He suggested that she create some language for this. That would also bring in revenue. She felt that having indecent exposure for young people to be wearing their pants off their butts.

Ms. Jackson said that the Board of Education budget that was presented should be approved without interference from the Mayor. She said that there should be an additional ten million dollars added to it. She attended a State Educational Resource Assessment. Parents were allowed to attend the meeting in Farmington, Connecticut. The group has methodologies about how to lower the achievement gap. So, it should be approved, but the Education gap should be implemented to lower the achievement gap. She said that proof was given about this from Chicago and Hartford to show that this could be done. The budget should be based on that implementation of lowering the achievement gap, which is the worst in the State. She said that approve the BOE budget as presented would show that the Committee cares about the children.

Ms. Jackson then listed a few things that bothered her about the meeting. She said that Mr. Curwen and Mr. McCarthy spoke about the Barnum Museum and the half a million dollars being allocated for it. She said that they couldn't vote on it, but she felt that both the Federal OSHA and State OSHA should be called in and once they evaluate the building, then the repairs could go forward. She then spoke about a comment Mr. McCarthy made about something being "off the record". The rules were not suspended and Ms. Jackson found that very disconcerting. She then said that if the Council Members were dictating what was said in the minutes, how would the public know what was in the minutes.

She then presented the Committee with a copy of an article that she had written and was published in the Bridgeport News about additional State and Federal cuts. She said that she would like this to be included in the record.

Ms. Karene Garcia. 454 Gordon St. – Ms. Garcia came forward and greeted the Committee. She said that she had two children in the schools, but hope that she would be seen as representing all residents and all the students in Bridgeport. She said that the students in the school were struggling and that the staff was trying to provide more services. Additional cuts will be devastating to the children and the instruction they receive. She went on to speak about how one class has 26 students in one class and there is a paraprofessional in the room with a teacher. It is a difficult task to give differentiated instruction to those students in kindergarten. What happens in eighth grade, when the students don't have a reading specialist or library specialist to help them through. Ms. Garcia said that she knew of a woman who was struggling to help her grandchild and the student needs remedial services. Ms. Healy was correct that investing in children was a great investment. These are not just any children, but our children. Ms. Garcia said that she was aware that this was an election year, no one wants to raise taxes and that everyone was hurting. It is important to invest in children because they can't fight back. They can't get a second job or a third job. She said it was time to stand up for the residents, for the children, but they can't do that without a solid,

quality education. She said that she would close by saying that by having a budget hearing where the Committee is hearing from parents from their hearts. Parents want to give their children everything they need, but they need the help of the City. The parents can't do it alone. Ms. Garcia said that she was sending her children to public schools because when she was growing up, that was the best education ever. The Committee could make this happen again.

Mr. John Marshal Lee, 30 Beacon – Mr. Lee came forward and displayed a strainer, a towel, and a book. He then proceeded to read the following statement into the record and submitted the following copy for inclusion in the minutes:

“A strainer, a towel and some material worth full reading4-27-11

INTRODUCTION: The City Council members are the elected representatives from the ten districts of Bridgeport. Those who elected you expect that you represent government to them, even though it is the Mayor who gets the photo-ops usually. You have structured the Council to use sub-committees to do the hard work of the Council, deliberating, researching, becoming expert on, and recommending a course of action to the Council as a whole. For instance, if the ordinance committee comes back with a unanimous recommendation, it can go on the consent calendar of your Council meeting and be approved without further discussion. You know that already, but perhaps there are those who do not know your process in the audience this evening.

The Budget is crafted by the Mayor and key persons on his staff. They have all the necessary information to review, product of their own research or that provided by outside consultants hired by them and paid for by the taxpayers. The budget plan as a whole contemplates one year of expenses by and revenues to operate the City and it must balance. The Council through its B&A acts as a strainer, attempting to look at the presentations individually and come up with a sense of what works and what doesn't for the coming year. It is a difficult job. It probably can use some help from the legislative assistant whose services do not appear to have been mentioned once in the sessions I have attended. It may indicate a use of “unexpected stipends” in the range of \$80,000-90,000 per year that is available for real municipal education, research and guidance on budget matters for those on your “strainer” committee. (Last year the public sense was that on B&A and the Council as a whole did little or no straining and accepted the Mayor's produced budget whole.)

My last comment on structural reform today is to suggest that Council Committee meetings might end with a fifteen-thirty minutes period for

questions and comments from any audience that attends such meetings. There are not many visitors historically. Yet they represent a reservoir of knowledge, experience and, yes, opinion, that might help the “straining” process. Another set of eyes to indicate a typographical error in this year’s actuarial report (page iv) that suggested an additional \$10 Million due in 2020 in addition to the projected \$60 Million.

COMMENTS: Tonight’s hearing is the City budget for July 1, 2011 until June 30, 2012, the only meeting where the public can talk to this subject and possibly be heard. For the past four weeks members of your Budget and Appropriations committee have met. Those meeting [sic] are open to the public for listening only and handouts for the public are not normally available. While open to all members of the Council, generally only 3 or 4 others are observed in attendance. *That means that approximately half the Council have minimal or zero contact with the B&A process. Those people may be very financially savvy or very trusting of their fellow Council members, or they may be woefully unprepared to cast an informed, unconflicted and positive vote for the City’s Annual Budget. That would not be good for the City or the people in the Districts represented.*

Three years of no municipal tax increases in an economy with big percentage increases in healthcare, for instance, from a Mayor who campaigned on but failed to deliver on a promise of a \$600 tax credit, has created some skepticism in Bridgeport. And that is how Budget Observer Bridgeport 2011 (BOB) came into being this year. About 30 people, basically any Bridgeport resident, voter, taxpayer I met was invited to be part of an observation group to attend every budget hearing. They were asked to sense what they could from listening, identifying questions they might like to ask, and submit a one page report. A simple concept with no expense except some copying. And time away from family and personal pursuits that is no different from your investment as City Council members.

Let me focus on two items of significant importance to the City at this moment: *Pension Plan A that has 866 retired beneficiaries and 33 still active public safety employees.* Information on this plan is available in this year’s budget in the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report -2010 by the City auditor, in the actuarial valuation report produced annually by a “pension plan” specialist in calculating needed funding for a plan with assets, in Pension Committee minutes and a letter from the City to

the State of CT OPM and Treasurer in April 2010. Is there anyone on the City Council who has reviewed each of these sources or documents, specific to coverage of Pension Plan A? I doubt that anyone wishes to answer that question, possibly because one or more of these resources has never been presented to you by the City as an opportunity to learn and become more informed in your “strainer” duty. This year the individual actuary from Segal and Company talked for over one hour on Pension Plan A. This was the first time he appeared in person although he has worked on this assignment for over 15 years.

He brought multiage reports for three City plans. These contained much info on *what has happened over the past ten years to show us where we are with major underfunding, as well as what we will be called to pay in the years out to 2020*. He also delivered a single page summary of current state for Pension Plan A. There was no appetite at that meeting for opening up the multipage document and digging in to the message it delivers to the City. There was evidence of concern on the part of some members by types of questions asked as to how correct our underfunded plans with less than minimum recommended funding.

How did we get where we are? In 2,000 [sic] a different Mayor knew that the State wanted to see funded pension plans at 78.6 of the actuarial liability. Our City was not there. The City voted to issue \$350 Million of Pension Obligation Bonds committing the City to pay about \$30 Million per year for 30 years. We have paid 11 years, but face 19 more years of this amount, due and payable. Look in the current Police \$15,437,327 and Fire \$14,831,942 budgets for the two numbers totaling \$30,269,269 and you will understand that these Millions make our public no safer today, but only meets an obligation due to bondholders who originally funded Pension Plan A. It does benefit former public safety employees 96% of whom have retired and/or died where their spouses earn a reduced benefit for their life.

Let's think of Pension Plan A as "sodded field purchased by the City with a 30 year mortgage that is to be maintained by the City" until the last employee or spousal heir is dead. The actuary is our supervision groundskeeper. \$350 Million sodded the field. In 2000 that put them in compliance with State regulations at 78.6% of actuarial liability. They were also instructed by their actuaries to water, feed and mow the grass regularly. Feeding, watering and mowing the dos did not occur in any meaningful manner for six years. The fund immediately ran into the "tech bubble" and significant funds were lost. The City appealed to the State in 2009 to make payments less than minimum actuarial requirements. We no

longer care about getting to 78.6%. We are actually at 56.8%. During the same period, retirees have also been drawing from the fund currently at a rate of \$8 Million per most recent quarter. That's \$32 Million per year in addition to the bond repayment for the next 10 years. What does the plan have today or how does the closed field look today? Unfortunately, like many of our other fields in Bridgeport. Only 6 years or less of income benefits are likely with the current market values, based on assumptions and certainly with the below minimum funding levels that the City has negotiated with the State. Where we are guided to be putting away \$15-20 Million per year we have been putting away only 25-33% or even less. The Mayor is looking for better investment returns to bail out this commitment. The B&A was asking similar questions. The answer is that minimum actuarial funding is necessary. Pay today or pay later at greater cost and greater public anger.

A final comment about Plan A: When the City negotiated with Police and Fire labor unions recently, increases in compensation to current employees has an effect on the compensation referenced for income benefits for the 900 persons covered by Plan A.

Why is there not one reference about the added cost to Pension Plan A from the recent union negotiations? Why not? City difficulties with finances might offer some pushback to union negotiations as to automatic increases per the NYU times article yesterday. But if City Leaders keep it secret, no one is the wiser and the concerns of the taxpayer are ignored instead of providing a reason for moderation or relief.

The other major item concerns Other Post Employment Benefits. You can find Note 12 in the CAFR-2010 to show you that the City self-insured health plans for the years 2008,09, and 10 had annual OPEB healthcare costs of \$50 Million but payments of only \$30 Million, thus creating \$61 Million of liability with an interest expense. Self insured healthcare for current and former employees as well as self-insured Worker's Compensation costs are handled inside an internal service fund., But where is information on that fund shown? If it is not paid with budgeted revenues or bonded revenues what device is used to mask the payments? Is the increasing use of tax anticipation notes the device used temporarily? And if this \$20 Million per year adds to the City current \$800 Million OPEB liability for which we are "pay as you go", how long can these liabilities be deferred? Has B&A looked at the consulting actuary reports from AON for this liability? What is the projection for the next ten years and beyond of "pay as you go" to this responsibility?

Pension Plan A and OPEB are two significant examples of having responsibilities yet failing to deal with them directly. *Conflict of interest in elected office is a critical subject today. It comes into play with Pension Plan A I believe. The Mayor and two of his key financial team are identified as Trustees. Trustees are fiduciaries and have a higher than ordinary duty to act in the interest of beneficiaries in most cases. But the Mayor and his financial team as elected or appointed employees want to stay in office. Perhaps it is easier to find ways to defer minimum actuarial costs rather than raise taxes and pay them today? Is that decision a conflict for a Mayor? Paying what we need to as we go must be dealt with fully today, even if it increases taxes.* Mayor Vincent Cianci “Buddy” to his friends has written a new book POLITICS AND PASTA. His advice to other Mayors, **“The first thing a new mayor should do when he takes office is raise taxes, and then blame it on the previous administrations.”** as Providence struggles with revenues for OPEB and Pensions also.

I raise pension plan A funding, OPEB disclosure and funding and City procedure in reviewing City finances as three areas that need immediate attention and reform. The City Council, [sic] needs to play a genuine role as check and balance or “strainer”. Now it is time to get answers. I, for one, am happy to sit and discuss these matters. Fear of raising taxes is a politician’s fear, the fear of losing votes. But fear of even higher tax payments in the future that include increasing interest expense should be a greater fear for taxpayers as voters.

A towel can be used by those who wish to cover their butts. (As an example I draw your attention to Segal and Company actuary points 1-6 on pages. i and ii)

The towel is not to be used by Bridgeporters who think that nothing can be done. It is not to be thrown in.

And it is not present tonight as a crying towel in place of real work by capable motivated representatives.

Let’s use it as the towel we use to wipe our brows when enough capable and responsible people use their energies in a common exercise of dealing fully with these true problem areas. Get all of the facts. Let’s assemble a realistic plan. Let’s enact it and get on with it.

John Marshall Lee
30 Beacon Street
Bridgeport, CT 06605
DAY 203-259-9642

Ms. Crystal Mack came forward and greeted the Committee. She said that she had worked with eight different administrations pertaining to education. She added that she was a former City employee. Ms. Mack then gave an overview of the magnet school program that started in 1984 and said that the State originally had wanted every school to be a magnet school by 1996. If the BOE had followed through on this, Bridgeport would not be in the situation that it is today. She then related the case of a Bridgeport woman who had enrolled her child into the Norwalk schools and had been arrested. Every child deserves the right to an education. Many of the children come from foster homes, broken homes and other situations. It's about the kids.

In 1997, the City of Bridgeport only had three jails, but today the City has 21, but they can't afford the schools. If a child gets to third grade without knowing how to read, it's the child's fault, but if the student get through to sixth grade, it's important to find out whose accountable. Rather than having substitute teachers, the District should have good teachers. Another big problem is the safety of our children. She said that when she goes to the schools to see her grandchildren, she sees mold and asbestoses and people are getting sick. She then went on to point out that the various schools are using different curriculum so that when the students get to twelfth grade, everyone is on the same page.

Ms. Mack expressed concerned about the number of students that have been put on medication. She added that she had purchased supplies for her grandchildren to learn and it cost \$20.00. Ms. Mack said that she felt that people were playing games with this. She said that the Board of Education has been making decisions without giving the parents input.

Ms. Mack concluded by saying that everyone needed to support and teach one another. She reminded everyone that eventually, these children will be the ones caring for us.

Chairman dePara then asked if there was anyone else present who wished to address the Board. No one came forward.

ADJOURNMENT

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

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Sharon L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services

City of Bridgeport
Budget & Appropriations
Public Hearing
April 27, 2011
Page 14

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS
SPECIAL MEETING
APRIL 29, 2011**

ATTENDANCE: Robert Curwen, Co-chair; Susan Brannelly, Lydia Martinez, Council President Thomas McCarthy; Co-chair Angel dePara,

OTHERS: Scott Hughes, City Librarian, James O'Donnell, Library Board President, Tom Errichetti, Library Board Treasurer; Don Greenberg, Library Board Member; Paul Arroyo, Library Board Member; Kenya Osborne-Gant, Library Board Member; Ann Cunningham, Library Board Member; Mark Anastasi, Associate City Attorney

CALL TO ORDER

Council Member Curwen called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m. He announced that although Co-chair dePara had been unavoidably delayed, a quorum was present.

LIBRARIES

Mr. Hughes said that he would defer to the Board President, Mr. O'Donnell. Mr. O'Donnell said that there was a memo that had gone around about the process for this year. He said that the Library's major concern was the funding because discussions were had with Charlie Carroll and others regarding issues at the Main branch. Mr. Graybarz and other staff member were working on resolving some of the issues. There was \$900,000 available for a project. So there is some funding left over from that. The major issue is resolving the roof issue from the Capital budget process. As a result of the funds that the Library has not been able to spend, the Library has those available for debt service, the Board is working with Public Facilities to review what can be done to fix the roof as well. There have only been soft estimates as to what that amount will be and other issues that it will entail.

Mr. O'Donnell said that apparently it does not provide any roof top solar panels, which was in part of another grant for a different building. Other buildings are roof ready for that purpose. There is also an issue regarding the windows that need to be corrected at Burroughs and some other issues that need to be resolved in regard to the back wall that is open glass, whether or not this can be eliminated to avoid refenestration and the issues that this will entail. However, there are some concerns about the caulking used in the process and a study will have to be done. That is the issue for Capital with regard to the main library. There is also a project in process to renovate the outside steps.

Council Member Curwen then asked what the total grant amount was from the American Resource Recovery Act allocated for that project. Mr. O'Donnell said that he believe it was slightly more than \$900,000. Council Member Curwen said that he thought it might have been \$971,000. He then said that there were concerns that the roof costs might be more than 1.5 million. Mr. O'Donnell said that the expectation on the roof was the cost to simply do the roof would cost \$650,000. However, there are antiquated rooftop units on the roof and a crane has to be brought in. Four of the units work, one does not. One is in a shelter house that was created on the roof because according to Mr. Tristeen, it was an interior unit that never should have been outside. Mr. O'Donnell believed that this might have happened twenty years ago. Replacing the roof top units has raised some questions and he had not received a clear answer from Mr. Graybarz and the bid process that was being put out, as to whether or not that would eliminate some of the HVAC chillers units that were being considered. Mr. Tristeen was thinking appeared to be that it would be better to have all rooftop units for service purposes. That does not involve any solar, but there would be some discussion about allocating \$50,000 for a green roof of about 1,000 square feet. The total package number for the roof aspect of it, with demolition and the new roof and other items, was estimated to be approaching \$800,000. It was believed that the \$200,000 demolition cost might be a bit high.

Council Member Curwen asked if a boiler would be involved also. Mr. O'Donnell said that he understood that the boiler and the chiller would be covered by part of the grant funding. That would be part of the \$550,000. He said that he believed that there was roughly \$381,000 dollars of the grant left to devote to the roof, but that would only represent slightly less than half of what was needed to accomplish the full job. The full job would entail taking off at least the majority of the skylights, the roof top units, redecking where the skylights existed and putting a proper base so that the membrane could go over that and the substrate so that the roof would be a solid surface to eliminate the various problems that exist now. It would eliminate the problems with leaks from a few years ago after the originally roof drains, the scuppers, had been sealed over multiple times. There are three or four roofs on top of that. These must all be stripped off to eliminate the problem of improper flow for the drainage.

Council Member dePara joined the meeting and took over as Chair.

Council Member dePara greeted everyone. Mr. O'Donnell said that he had been reviewing the issues at Burroughs including the roof, the windows and walling in the wall of windows in the stacks that needs to be done. The other primary issue that is crucial is to get off paying the lease amounts that are currently in place. It costs between \$70,000 to \$80,000 a piece for the East End and the East End.

Mr. Errichetti explained that the Library was currently leasing on the East Side, Old Mill Green and the East End. He added that he had submitted a 3.5 million dollar capital

request for each location for the Capital budget because the Library would need bonding for this. Council Member Curwen asked which facility the 3.5 million was needed. Mr. Errichetti explained that 3.5 million would be needed to replace Old Mill Green and another 3.5 million will be needed for the East End. Council Member Curwen asked if the City owned Old Mill Green. Mr. Errichetti explained that the Library had been leasing those facilities. Mr. O'Donnell went on to explain that the facility at Old Mill Green was inadequate in terms of space for computers along with the books. He reminded everyone that 25 years ago, James Street had to be abandoned because of issues and now Newfield is developing the same issues. The Charles Smith Foundation was involved in putting a new roof and elevator there and there have been discussions about this with Mr. Smith, Mr. Wood and Mr. Carroll to explore the possibility of combining other City services under the Health Department to have multiple uses there. There are concerns about the natures of the communities that would utilize the facility and whether or not that would be a good fit. It is the Library's understanding that the services that would be provided would be Veteran's groups and other services. However, there is an issue with parking. A facility audit in regards to what the Health Department's needs are and whether those services could be located in one spot or would have to be branched out to multiple spots. This would indicate whether the expansion plans and the feasibility study for Newfield that was already done by the Library would accommodate multiple uses at that location. If this turns out to be the case, then the commitment that was made by Public Facilities and the Mayor's office was that with the funds available to the library and to them, it would be a 50/50 proposition, depending on how the space allocations worked out.

What is important to the community, Mr. O'Donnell explained, is that it does no good to acquire that property unless the Library is able to immediately start expanding that facility. The feasibility study that has been done would roughly double the footprint there and expand into the lot that faces on Revere Street behind the Central Office where the Newfield branch was. That is done within the current setbacks. If it is possible to expand that footprint through some variance work with the Zoning people, the Library may be able to make the plans fit better. The Library will need all of the space in the anticipated upper floor of that proposed facility and some of the space down below for community rooms and programming. How much the Health Department would need is currently being determined. In order to add roughly 5,400 square feet and two stories to the building, the cost is projected to be about 3.5 million. The Foundation has done a feasibility study that considers adding more as well.

Mr. O'Donnell said that the Library has been waiting to hear about possible space over at the Marin School for the East Side Community's appropriate Library services. He added that Mr. Hughes had had some discussions about a facility used by one of the Charters that could be a possibility. Mr. O'Donnell said that he understood that there may be other available space elsewhere in the community, but that this would need to be discussed

with the NRZs and community groups. Without the ability to know that bonding could be done, the Library can't move forward.

For the Committee's purposes, the funds that were available under the referendum has roughly \$800,000 earmarked for this project. Mr. O'Donnell reminded everyone that there would also be funds that had been allocated towards the leases. He said that it would work out to \$940,000 if both are included. Mr. Errichetti said that the debt service had been built into the budget before the referendum.

Council President McCarthy asked for confirmation of the request for the 3.5 million for Old Mill Green and 3.5 Newfield. Mr. O'Donnell confirmed that this was so. Council President McCarthy said that he had heard the details about the potential use of Charles Smith as a replacement for Newfield. He asked how the Library had developed the figure for the East End. Mr. Errichetti said that both estimates were based on the costs for Black Rock. Council President McCarthy said that he had only been aware of the Charles Smith conversations and that the impression was that the project had not yet reached the point where it would be included in the Capital Plan. He said that he had not heard about Marin. Mr. Errichetti said that he had had a meeting with Mr. Nunn and Mr. Wood about this and at that point the Capital budget was discussed and later Mr. Errichetti submitted a letter to Mr. Nunn and Mr. Wood with those two figures for what was being planned. Mr. O'Donnell said that was part of the submission process in January and he had thought that the Committee had received the information. Council President McCarthy said that he personally had not received that information. Mr. Errichetti asked what he should do next year to insure that the information is properly distributed. Council Member Curwen pointed out that this did not mean that the request still couldn't be added to the Capital Plan. The Capital Plan can be amended at any given time. He then recommended that Mr. Nunn and Mr. Wood be contacted and let them know that the Committee had not received the recommendations or the documents. He added that it would be important to ask whether the City was willing to take on the debt. Mr. Errichetti said that the debt would come out of the Library's budget.

Council Member Curwen then said that the Library was just using the City to secure the bond. Mr. Errichetti agreed and said that the Library needed to do this because it was not a standalone entity. Council Member Curwen suggested that next year, the Library deliver the information to both the Committee and the Administration before March. Mr. Errichetti asked if he should send the information to the Chairs of the Budget Committee. Council Member Curwen said that this was correct.

Council President McCarthy said that it used to be that the Committee would say this is your allocation, but now the practice is allocating funds for analysis and renderings so that the Committee has an idea of what the final cost will be and then a second request is made for the actual funding of the project. He gave an example of the study that is being funded for a potential replacement and relocation of the police department. He added

that it could be likely that the Council could approve funding for a cost estimate in this year's Capital Plan and then when the study is completed and the potential cost is clearer, the Library would come back to add it to the Capital Plan.

Council Member dePara agreed with Council President McCarthy and said that he thought it would be the most responsible approach from the Council's point of view. He said that the Council had worked on being discerning when it comes to the Capital in asking tough questions and requiring that the threshold for funding be higher than it has in the past. This is why he thought it would be the prudent and responsible thing to allocate funds for a feasibility study as to what it would take for the East Side and East End to allow the project to proceed accordingly.

Council Member Martinez then said that she had conversations with the Board members of the Library about the East Side Library for more than a year. She said that she had met with the community and that they would like to have a library. It was one of the things that was promised to the East Side and East End when the Library presented the referendum. The community is expecting and waiting for the new libraries in both locations. Council Member Martinez said that there was a parcel of land at Marin and it was for the firehouse and the library, but the funding was not available. She said that the land was there for the library and she would appreciate if this was looked into. It is next to two urban schools and it is close to the East Side, so it would provide services for a large number of children. Council Member Martinez said that it was a shame that the Library was not able to move this project forward because the East Side residents were waiting for this for many years. She said that she would like to have this looked into before this year's budget is closed. Council Member dePara commented that he would take that into consideration and was sure that the other Council Members would also, but thought that with a modest investment in the feasibility study was a prudent way to go. That would be a commitment on the part of the Committee towards the two libraries.

Council Member dePara then said that there had been a communication dated April 2nd, that was sent to Mr. Hughes from the Committee. Council Member dePara said that he would like to begin with the requested information. He asked the Board to start with the status update of the East End Library and if there was anything on paper. Mr. Errichetti said that there were no documents.

Mr. Hughes, the City Librarian, said that he had shared the feasibility with the East End, but now there is more information. Council Member Martinez asked if she had been forgotten and said that she had been talking to the Library for over a year. Mr. Hughes said that a feasibility study could be done for the East Side and that he believes that the new property information would be looked into. Council Member dePara then asked if Mr. Hughes had said that a feasibility study on the relocation and the construction of a new East Side library had been shared with the City. Mr. Hughes said it was for Newfield, the East End. He then said that now the possibility of joining with the Health

Department for the mixed use was being explored. Council Member dePara explained that this was why the Committee had submitted the questions to the Library since there were additional options that were now available. Mr. Hughes said that it would be important to explore mixed use with the Old Mill Green library also. If it was just the library, it would be a simpler study, but since mixed use is involved, there are more factors to consider.

Mr. Errichetti said that the first question was about litigation. He then said that this was the first year that the Library was dealing with the receipts from the one mill tax. One of the things that the Library was striving to do was to expand service hours. This has been a major focus throughout the year. There have been changes, but not as many as the Library had hoped for. He pointed out that the branch development goes hand in hand with having enough personnel on hand to work in the branches. The plan was to create both the East End and East Side facilities comparable to what Black Rock has in terms of size. The figures that the Board presented were based on the renovations of Black Rock. He said that the 3.5 million includes the debt service for the two facilities and it would not be coming out of the City's one mill that is dedicated for Library service. He said that the Library has not progressed to doing any type of architectural plans. There is a friend of the library who is an architect and has done some rough sketches in terms of what may be feasible with the existing Charles Smith Foundation building. One of the biggest impediments previously that the building was not ADA compliant and the Smith Foundation put an elevator in the building. The other item that has recently discussed was the mixed use for the East Side facility. There have been some requests regarding incorporating seniors services. That may require a larger footprint. Mr. Errichetti said that one facility would have mixed use, but wanted to be sure that mixed use would not be requested for the other.

Council Member dePara said that it appeared that there were a number of different options and opportunities. Mr. Errichetti agreed. Council Member dePara said that it appeared to depend on where the Board as a whole wants to go and what would be the highest and best use, whether it would be beneficial to have partnerships with the Smith Foundation, the City, a Senior Center or a mixed use development. He said that he thought this was the beginning of something extremely fruitful, but that the Board would have to discuss it which direction to go in. Mr. Errichetti said that he did not disagree with that. He added that his own view was that the Library did want to provide the library services, and if the City or another organization was interested in partnering to expand the services, the Library was receptive to that. With more activities going on in the libraries, the more people that would be coming in the door to use the services and appreciate what the library is. Council Member dePara agreed and said that partnerships foster synergy and produce good things when people work together and split costs. It is beneficial to everyone. However, it is important to have a direction before moving forward.

Council Member Brannelly then said that she was a little disappointed because the Library had started on a whole new method of receiving funds came to pass. Based on the book, it looks like the Library's budget had increase by 2 million dollars. She then explained that she had expected the Library representatives to have arrived with a list of items that included their successes and the struggles. She pointed out that the Library supporters had fought very hard for the new funding approval and that the first thing she heard was about the further funding that was needed. She said that it was clear that the Library would pay for it, which she appreciated. However, Council Member Brannelly said that she wanted to know where the 2 million dollars was. It appears to her that salaries have increased \$600,000 from year to year. She said that this did not mean that they were filled, it doesn't mean that they have been spend, but that she was hearing the Library was struggling to have more hours. She said that if her perspective was simple and naïve, she would appreciate being updated, since she is not in the library business.

Council Member Brannelly said that one difference was that the Library has a Board and the only other department that the Committee deals with that has a Board is the Board of Education. She said that the City is obligated to provide them with a minimum amount of funding. The Board of Education is an elected Board and they are elected by the City of Bridgeport. She then said that the Library Board was not and the Committee and Council were still the responsible for the mill. She acknowledged that it goes to the library, but wanted to know what they had done with the funding.

Mr. Hughes said that in the budget binder, the Library did not get the money last year. And last year, the Library opened up Black Rock and there was a 20% increase with flat funding. The Library increase hours by 20%. There was a 20% increase in usage and a 15% increase in circulation. 15% increase in visits to the library.

Council President McCarthy asked for clarification of the term "last year". Mr. Hughes said that this year, the Library had lost staff and had not filled the positions. Council President McCarthy then tried to ask question again. Mr. Hughes said that he was responding to Council Member Brannelly's question and needed to finish. Council Member dePara said that there was no need for this kind of response. Mr. Hughes said that he would defer. Council President McCarthy then said that he was trying to clarify if "last year" refers to the operating, or the financial year that everyone was in. Mr. Hughes said that this current year, the library had held steady. He said that on July 1st, the statistics would be available, but that the library had less staff, and statistically the Library was providing more services and doing more on paper. He said that he did not know how the Library managed to stay open in terms of hours of operation. He repeated that the Library has less staff than last year and had increased services by 20%. He asked the Committee to show him another department in the City that had done this.

Mr. Errichetti then said that he would like to clarify the 2 million dollars that mentioned and that the \$800,000 that was earmarked for debt service. And it was not intended to be

part of the operational budget. Mr. Errichetti said that the publication and book purchases and that there are more books on the shelves for circulation now than prior to when the referendum passed. The Library wants to expand hours and hire more personnel. He then added that what Mr. Hughes was trying to say is that the personnel staff had physically shrunk from Fiscal Year July 1, '09-'10 to Fiscal Year '10-'11. Mr. Errichetti said that there were less people on staff currently than a year ago. This is because despite having the referendum passed, the Library had not be able to hire the personnel through the City's process, in order to expand hours and provide better service. Mr. Errichetti said that the funding was there to hire staff, but the positions have not been filled to provide the service. He said that the Library was working with Civil Service to hire the staff during the past year.

Council President McCarthy then asked if the "last year" referred to '09-'10, which was before the referendum. Mr. Errichetti agreed.

Council Member Brannelly said that she did not see the debt service on the page for the budget. Council Member dePara said that was page 370 in the budget binder. Mr. Errichetti said that the Library did not have a debt service line in the City budget system. Council Member Brannelly said that this was fine. The 1.65 million was the catchall for everything. She said that that particular line had \$381,000. Mr. Errichetti indicated where this was in the budget. Mr. O'Donnell said that the Library had been trying to get a clarification from OPM office as to how to allocate these funds. Council President McCarthy suggested that this issue be taken up with Mr. Sherwood regarding the budget allocations with follow up to the budget committee. He added that it was unfortunate that Mr. Sherwood was not able to be at the meeting. Mr. Errichetti said that he had not seen the figures in the budget book before. Council Member Brannelly said that she believed that the budget book was available to the public online. She said that she believed that there was access through MUNIS. Mr. Errichetti said that he was not a City employee and would not have access. Council Member Brannelly said that she did not mean to be confrontational about this, but if the figures didn't line up, there wasn't much to talk about. However, she repeated that she would have liked to have seen the Library come in with a presentation that highlighted the accomplishment and explained that they were stuck in Civil Service hell in terms of hiring more staff. She said that the Committee needed to understand what was going on with the library since the public is not happy with the library services.

Mr. O'Donnell apologized and said that he had understood that this meeting was in regards to the Capital budget, which is why the representatives had focused on the bond issue. Regarding the budget issue, Mr. O'Donnell said that the Board would be working with the OPM to resolve the problem. In response to Council Member Brannelly's comment, the major portion of the effort has been focused on having the branches opened as many hours as possible. There is a plan that would allow for hours from 10 a.m. until 8 p.m. four days a week in all the branches and from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Friday and

Saturday. He added that the Board was considering some Sunday hours. The problem is that the funds that came through the referendum did not come into the pipeline until July 1st, 2010. There were numerous positions waiting for the funding, but it was not until last week that the Board found out that the log jam in Civil Service was beginning to clear. He said that the Library had supplied the information the way that it had been presented for the last twenty years. He was told that there were some changes in the Civil Service process and that the positions would have to be reposted and there would be a new process involved. Mr. O'Donnell said that the Library has been working through this process, but for the last nine months, the Library had been trying to move the hiring of new staff forward.

Council Member Brannelly said that it was good news about the hours and that the Committee appreciated that. Mr. Hughes then asked who the Library's liaison was. Council Member Brannelly replied that she was. Mr. Hughes then said that her participation would be welcomed. Council Member Brannelly stated that unfortunately she was in Committee meetings during the Library Board meetings and this was a priority. Mr. Hughes said that he would send Council Member Brannelly a schedule. Council Member Brannelly said that Mr. Hughes should feel free to reach out to her anytime that he felt that he had something to discuss.

Council Member dePara said that he did not like Mr. Hughes' tone and that he thought that it was very disrespectful, argumentative and confrontational when the Committee was just trying to get some clarification. He said that the Committee was being professional and not taking an attitude, just asking for information because at the end of the day, the Committee is on the hook. The Committee members are beaten up if they don't ask the questions and told they are not doing their jobs. He said that he felt there was no reason to take that tone. Mr. Hughes said that he gets beat up, too, every single day when bills don't get paid through the Comptroller's office. He said that everyone was in the same boat. Council Member dePara said that was fine, but pointed out that the Council Members were not taking their frustrations out on Mr. Hughes. Council Member Brannelly said that the Council Members were just protecting the citizens of the City of Bridgeport. Mr. Hughes stated that he was a citizen of Bridgeport and a taxpayer. Council Member Brannelly replied that he should be glad that the Council Members were sitting here fighting for him. She added that he was paid to be the Head Librarian.

Council President McCarthy said that the Council Members were all volunteers and while he appreciated the fact that the Library Board were volunteers and what they did, no one deserves to be spoken to in the manner that Mr. Hughes just did. He added that he personally did not appreciate it and was letting Mr. Hughes know that. Every night, the Committee works hard every night and tries their best to do make sure that the City does well. Council President McCarthy then said that he would like to state that there had not been an illegitimate question asked so far. He said that he thought that the Council Members had been pretty good about asking questions and trying to make changes to the

Capital Plan that they had previously been unaware of. He repeated that he did not appreciate Mr. Hughes' attitude.

Council President McCarthy said that he appreciated the role that the Board Member had mentioned the lack of ability to fund positions. He said that he did not believe it was accurate to state that it was just Civil Service's issue. He said that he felt there probably have been mistakes made all round. He suggested that this be left there and said that this should stay as with everyone being friends and move on.

Mr. O'Donnell said that he had to apologize, but had an appointment in Glastonbury at 9 p.m. He then asked if there were any specific questions that the Committee wished him to answer.

Council Member Curwen then asked to make a clarification. He then said that he understood Mr. Errichetti's logic for setting the debt service money aside, but then reviewed the process. Once the Board collectively settles on a vision and decides whether it will be a collaborative or not, then the Board votes on it. After this, the Board would need to get an architect. The Board could bond for it through various means through the Capital funding. Arbitrarily choosing a figure such as 3.5 million is not a good way of doing it. Mr. Errichetti said that he wanted to get the project on the radar of what he thought the bonding would be. Council Member Curwen explained that the 7 million dollars does not need to be secured right now. He suggested that for the two projects \$400,000 or \$500,000 be set aside. Mr. Errichetti said that he understood. Council Member Curwen said that this would free up some funding for other projects.

Mr. O'Donnell said that he had confirmed with the City in writing that any unspent funding from 6.7 million this year would be carried over as restricted surplus for the benefit of the library. Mr. O'Donnell said that the Library did not want to spend money just to insure that it is improved. Council Member Curwen said that he understood. Mr. Errichetti said that the Library did not want to imprudently spend money, so they set targets. He then directed everyone's attention to Line Item 53200. In prior years, that was not allocated, but OPM has been giving the Library a number for the principal and the debt service. He said that rather than doing repeated referendums, an adequate figure had been plugged in.

Council President McCarthy then said that he had a non-budgetary question. There have been concerns expressed about the Library Board. The Board members are supposed to be referred to the City Council for approval and that has not happened in years. He then said that there is a legitimate question about the current, sitting members of the Library Board. He said that there needs to be a conversation about how to fix this situation because the Library Board is supposed to appoint and then send for approval by the City Council and that has not happened. Council President McCarthy said that he was having the City Clerk check to see when it last happened and that there were probably Board

members that are not legitimate Board members at the present time. This needs to be addressed.

Mr. O'Donnell apologized and said that he thought that they were on board because it was his understanding was that names had been submitted. He said that Mr. Arroyo and Mr. Greenberg have recently come onto the Board and he thought that the paperwork was in process. Council Member dePara asked where the paperwork was submitted. Mr. O'Donnell said that Mr. Hughes had handled it. Mr. Hughes said that he would have to find out. Council President McCarthy was asked how a Board Member would have known if the process had been completed. He explained that the Miscellaneous Matters Committee would have had the Board Member come before them to answer questions. One of the members said that he had submitted information for a background check. Council Member dePara said that the background check was only the first step, the Ethics Commission then reviews it and gives a referral with the packet of information to the City Council, who then refers it to the Miscellaneous Matters committee. Following the interview, it is confirmed by the City Council. Council President McCarthy added that the Board would refer to the City Clerk's Office and then it is put on the Miscellaneous Matters agenda. He said that he had not seen a Library Board Member on the agenda in a very long time.

Council Member Brannelly said that the no one had a list of who was on the Library Board. Mr. Errichetti said that Ms. Osborne-Gant and Ms. Cunningham both remembered their interview with Miscellaneous Matters, which were around the same time. He said that Mr. Arroyo and Mr. Greenberg were the two most recent appointments. Council Member Brannelly said that she would get a list of the Board members and verify that everything was in order.

Council Member Martinez said she knew that some of the Board members had been on the Board for several years. She said that having people that reflect the community was a great thing, so she would like to say that she appreciated that. She added that she knew Council Member Brannelly would follow up on making sure that everything was done properly.

The Library Board Members then introduced themselves to the Committee.

Council Member Martinez said that she was disappointed that Ms. Cunningham was not on board for moving the East Side project forward and that the East End project had been submitted. She repeated that there had been discussions about the need for the East Side library for over a year and that there was land available.

Council Member dePara then asked about the Book Mobile. Mr. Errichetti said that currently, there is no one on staff to drive it. Mr. O'Donnell said that there were funds available through the Friends of Bridgeport Library so that a staff member could be

trained and get a CDL license, but because of conflict in scheduling and union rules, this was not possible. One of the job postings does have a CDL license requirement for this.

Council Member dePara thanked Mr. Errichetti for mentioned about the bottle necking in terms of the employment. He added that he had made a note of it and would be following up on it. He then asked where the Mobile was housed. He was told that it was parked in back of the library. It has been taken out a few times for community events, but the Library had not had a chance to explore how it can be further utilized, such as taking it to senior locations.

Council Member dePara then asked about the Old Mill Green lease renewal. Mr. Errichetti said this lease was renewed because even with the land that was available, the Library knew they would not have a facility in place this year. The current renewal at the same location is for the same rate for five years, which is about \$80,000. Council Member dePara asked if this was for one calendar year. If the City provides another facility, the Library can get out of the lease without a penalty. This lease was signed at the beginning of April. Council Member dePara asked if there were penalties if the library moved. If they move to another facility not provided by the City, then there would be a penalty. Council Member dePara asked if there were additional costs. Mr. Errichetti said that there were not. However, there are common charges, which covers plowing, a portion of the property taxes and insurance. Utilities are separate.

Council Member dePara said that he would like to have these figures provided to the Committee in paper form. Mr. O'Donnell said that Mr. Errichetti would be talking to Mr. Sherwood about this.

Council Member Brannelly asked for clarification about how the Committee would be informed of the Library's Capital Budget request. Council President McCarthy said that if the Budget and Appropriations had their quarterly meeting, this could be discussed. Mr. O'Donnell said that a clarification discussion would be helpful. A quarterly magnitude scope on what needed to be done for that. At this time, the Library was not prepared to commit funds until they knew that bonding would be available to build the building. He said that the Board did not feel it was prudent to spend money for another set of drawing. Council President McCarthy said that while this did need to be discussed further, he felt that the Committee would be in favor of the library project, particularly if the repayment is included in the planning. Mr. O'Donnell said that this was all part of the strategic plan that the Board had. Council Member dePara said that it would be good to have it in writing. Council Member McCarthy agreed. Mr. Errichetti said that as an accountant, he works the other way, which is "what can I afford to build?" and then work backwards so that the Board wouldn't be coming back to the Council for more money. Council President McCarthy said that the Council is familiar with building schools and that the School Building Committee usually discusses what kind of tile is being used has an impact on how much the City of Bridgeport pays.

Mr. O'Donnell said that he was sorry, but he needed to leave for his other meeting. He thanked the Committee and said that the Board did appreciate all that the Board does for the City. He said that the Library is trying to do as much as they can, but he also shares Council Member Brannelly's frustration regarding the expansion of services.

Mr. O'Donnell left the meeting at 7:20 p.m.

Council Member dePara then asked Mr. Errichetti if the debt service would fluctuate with the market. Mr. Errichetti said that it was his understanding that when the City bonds at a particular percentage that the debt service would be at a fixed rate.

Council Member dePara asked if the hours had been extended at Old Mill Green. Mr. Errichetti said that this would not be possible to do until there were more personnel. The goal is 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday thru Thursday; 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Friday and Saturday.

Council Member dePara asked about the staffing model in the branches. Mr. Hughes then distributed copies of a Table of Organization.

Council Member Brannelly asked if the Library was requesting additional positions other than the four vacancies in the budget. Mr. Hughes said that the Library had lost about four people since the document was printed. Council Member Brannelly said that the sheet indicated that there were three filled and four vacant. Mr. Hughes said that the Library had lost one person since the page was printed.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY MOVED TO ENTER THE DOCUMENT TITLED LIBRARY POSITIONS AS EXHIBIT L-A.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Mr. Hughes said that the goal was to have one person with a CDL. That employee would be able to make deliveries and drive the book mobile. The other requested positions are with the intent to provide six days of service system wide and seven days of service at the main library downtown. At the present, none of the positions requested have been filled. Council Member dePara asked about details of the various number, which Mr. Hughes reviewed with the Committee.

Council Member Brannelly asked for clarification about the 52 positions in the budget as opposed to the number of positions listed on the document she had just received. Mr. Hughes said that if the numbers were totaled up, they would be within the budget.

Mr. Errichetti then explained that the library pages were indicated on the LA, but not shown on the budget. He said that he did not know why there was a disconnect.

Council Member dePara asked if the column titled "Filled" contained those who were currently employed, the column titled "Open" was the vacancies, and the "Requests" were the positions that the Library was looking for. Mr. Hughes said this was so. Council Member dePara asked if it was correct that the Library was requesting 16 positions. Mr. Hughes said that it was 16 or 20 if the five junior librarian positions. He said that the Library still has a Special Officer and that the Civil Service had reallocated that to five part time security guards, but that the Library was still waiting for job descriptions from Civil Service. Mr. Errichetti said that it was a total of 27 positions, of which 10 are part time. There are five library assistants part time, five junior librarians part time; and then six special officers part time. He said that of the 27 positions, 16 would be part time.

Council President McCarthy asked if the Special Officer was part time. Mr. Hughes said that the Special Officer had been full time, but Civil Service reallocated the position to five part time security guards. He said that Mr. Dunn had not finished working on this.

Council President McCarthy asked if it was the intent of the library to hire six full time officers. Mr. Hughes said no, the intent was to hire five part time security guards at 19 hours a week. A discussion about the details then followed. Council President McCarthy explained that Civil Service has a table of organization for the entire city as to what someone is allowed to hire. He said that this would not necessarily equate to the budget regarding what the Library would be allowed to do. He then asked where this was on the positions were on the handout. After being shown where it was, Council President McCarthy said that he was most likely confusing the title of Special Officer with a uniformed, certified Police Officer. He said that the actual position was a Security Guard and that the Library was requesting six security guards.

Council Member Brannelly asked if Mr. Hughes could provide the Committee with a listing of the currently filled positions. Mr. Hughes said that there had been some turn over and he would provide the Committee with the exact staffing.

Council Member dePara asked if the Library had the 27 positions filled, they would be able to expand the library hours. Mr. Errichetti and Mr. Hughes said yes, this was so. Council Member dePara asked how much it would cost just to add the 27 people, including benefits and salaries. Mr. Hughes pointed out that most of them were part time. He said that could compile that information for the Committee.

Council President McCarthy then asked if the positions non-general funding positions in the Library. Mr. Errichetti said that they did not. Any funds that are saved is used for books. Some non-levied money was used when a consultant for Mr. Hughes' position,

but the funds are not used for any full time or part time ongoing staff. He added that this cannot be done because of union issues. Council President McCarthy clarified that he was speaking about grant funded positions and explained that grant funded positions simply means it is not a general fund number. Mr. Errichetti repeated that there were no non-general funded positions. Council President McCarthy explained that after adding up the filled number, it was over the number that is reflected in the budget book, which is a problem. Mr. Errichetti said that in the overall City budget, there is no effect. A discussion followed about the details. Council President McCarthy pointed out that the budget book document is generated by the MUNIS system and that it is not possible for a City employee to receive a paycheck unless it goes through the MUNIS system. Mr. Errichetti said that he would be happy to get a listing of who's on staff and what their salaries are. He added that he would work with Janet Scott to determine what the new positions would cost. Council Member Brannelly pointed out that it could be that 50% of the positions are part time and they show up in the budget book as one body while the Library counts them as individuals. Mr. Errichetti will email this information to the co-chairs.

Council Member dePara asked if there had been any decisions as to where the positions would be assigned or if they would be used as "floaters". Mr. Hughes said that some of the staff would be distributed throughout the branches.

Council Member dePara asked if Mr. Hughes thought that the six special officers would be enough. Mr. Hughes said that he did. Council Member dePara asked how this would work. Mr. Errichetti said that when the library lost the special officer that they had, and the police officers were hired on a overtime basis, the major concern was the winter hours at Newfield and another location along with the Main branch. He added that there are people who cause disturbances at the libraries. At Newfield, the staff tried to work with the kids to not be so disruptive. The staff is trying to minimize this because they don't want the library to be perceived as a unsafe place. Council Member dePara asked if the Library had approached the Police Department. Mr. Hughes said that there were some part time, overtime police officers some time ago, but that had been discontinued. There have been meetings with the Police Chief and the supervisors to answer questions and inform them who to contact for what. When asked, Mr. Errichetti explained that back in '09-'10, a decision had to be made as to whether the Library wanted security guards or to have library hours and staff. The Board felt it was the right decision, although the staff was not necessarily happy with it. It was felt that with more patrons in the library, there would be less disruption. Council Member dePara asked how many security guards were in the library before then. Mr. Errichetti said that there was one guard. Council Member dePara asked where the guard was located. Mr. Errichetti said that he knew he had seen the guard at various locations, but he was based downtown.

Council Member dePara asked if there were any litigation issues. Mr. Errichetti said that there were no legal issues. The one potential issue had been resolved.

Council Member Brannelly asked about the service indicators. She said that circulation was clearly climbing and that electronic resource users were also increasing. The number of books in circulation appears to be flat and she wondered if that was dates. Mr. Errichetti commented that he had been told by someone that the book selection had been improving over the past year. He said that this indicated that people were not waiting for the books as they had been previously.

Mr. Hughes said that the significant issue was that there was aggressive weeding of materials and there was a dramatic decrease caused by this. These items have been replaced with new books. The registered borrowers that were not active users were culled. More people are getting library cards.

Mr. Errichetti said that Mr. Hughes had dramatically increased the number of hours that the library was open. When Mr. Goldrick was running the library, Main was closed many hours. The main branch is now opened 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. four days a week and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Friday and Saturday. The branches have suffered because of those hours, due to cutbacks. The effort has been to get the books into the library and now the effort is to get the hours extended. At Burroughs, the computers are always being used and the same is true at Newfield. The access to the computer is automated and a user inserts their library card for a time period to prevent people from monopolizing the computers.

Council Member dePara asked how many computers the Library had. Mr. Errichetti said that there were 265 computers city wide. Council Member dePara asked how many were used by the public. Mr. Hughes said that the Library had added some computers and removed ones that were obsolete. There were computers that had been part of the original grant from Bill Gates. The City gave the Library some funding to replace computers in Fiscal Year '09. A second grant from the Gates Foundation helped replace more computers. With such a long lag time between replacements, most of the computers have become obsolete and these had to be recycled. This is why there are no significant increases in the number of computers.

Council Member Brannelly asked Mr. Hughes to grade the 265 computers as a group. Mr. Hughes said that the Library was probably at a "C" in terms of keeping up with the demand for more computers at the main library alone. The Library does have the intent to double the number of computers available to the public. He added that this could also be the case city wide and used Old Mill Green as an example, which has the second highest usage, but does not have enough room to add more computers. The demand is there for more computers. If the increase could continue by 50%, there would be some dramatic increases in technology usage.

Council Member Brannelly said that she would encourage Mr. Hughes to use the very specific items in the goals. The six goals that the Library has in the Budget book are very

general. She pointed out that a 100 computers were mentioned in the six month goals and that it would be helpful in next year's goals to reflect the status of that particular goal.

Council Member dePara asked if there was a purchasing committee or technology committee that meets to set some specs when purchasing. Mr. Hughes said that it was based on the City contracts both on City and State levels. Council Member dePara said that he wasn't referring to the vendors, but how the Library determines what type of computer they want. Mr. Errichetti gave the name of the staff member who determines what kind of computer would best serve the public. Those recommendations are then passed along to the Board. Mr. Hughes said that a technology plan has been developed and he would be happy to send it along electronically. Council Member dePara said that he would welcome this.

Council President McCarthy asked about the interaction with the IT Department. He said that with the Board of Education and the City, there is a lot of duplication. He went on to say that he knew that the Library had access to fiber optics, which the City does not currently have access to. He asked if the Library had considered the idea of consolidation. Mr. Errichetti said that the staff member who makes the recommendations of which computers would be best for public service also has other job responsibilities in other areas. When the computers were purchased, a service contract was also purchased because of the heavy public use. There is no one on staff that is an IT person. There is some support from the Connecticut Library Association, but there are no stand alones.

Council President McCarthy asked if the staff member had talked to the IT department before making the recommendation. Mr. Hughes said that the staff member had contacted IT about this. Council President McCarthy asked if the Library had a need to network with the City. Mr. Errichetti said that there was a outside connection for the card catalog, but that is independent of the City and the Library. Council President McCarthy asked what would happen if the computers went down. Mr. Hughes said that the staff member has cross trained supervisors, so they can restart the system if she is not there. A significant amount of time has been spent cross training people. Some of it is funded through Federal funding. The maintenance and troubleshooting is done in house through cross training people. Mr. Hughes said that he thought the Library was saving a lot of money. There is some interaction with IT, but Mr. Hughes did not think that the City would save that much money by consolidation. Council President McCarthy commented that it was always better for people to be working in the same system. Mr. Errichetti said that the accounting system went through the City.

Council Member dePara said that the point was to see if there was any way the Committee or Council could foster a better working relationship with the City's IT department or help some partnerships that yield benefits for both parties involved.

Council Member dePara asked if the Library staff member was the one that did the installation and maintenance of the computers. Mr. Hughes confirmed this. Mr. Errichetti said that the staff member was not a dedicated IT person for maintaining the system. Once the computers are up and running, they run fairly well. The staff member has many other duties and this is not her full time job.

Council Member dePara asked who did the hardwiring, or if it was wireless. Mr. Hughes said that would be the staff member. Once the system is up and running, it is more preventative maintenance. There are not constant installations going on. Council Member dePara said that there were concerns because of the number of news stories about hackers, malware, data theft, etc. Mr. Errichetti explained that the Library public computers do not have hard drives and nothing can be stored on them. There are scanned discs which are cleaned off every night. There is no server room.

Council Member dePara said that the BOE had requested upgraded computers, which is why he was asking, since the Library had similar needs. He then asked if there was any consideration about using “thin clients”. Mr. Hughes said that this was in the strategic plan, but may not be in the technology plan. Council Member dePara then explained what a “thin client” was for the other Committee members.

Mr. Errichetti said that he would like to remind everyone that some of the computers run 24/7 because of the catalog or the programs that are available to Bridgeport residents via their library cards, such as homework help after hours.

Council Member dePara then asked about Worker’s Comp. Mr. Hughes said that the Library was working with the City on this. There were visits to all locations and one mandatory training at City Hall by Berkeley.

Council Member dePara asked if the list of items requested had been recorded. Mr. Errichetti replied that it was a revised budget sheet, the cost of the add on employees. A brief discussion followed. Mr. Hughes said that he would be sending the Committee the strategic plan and the technology plan.

Council Member dePara asked if there was grant writing being done. He said that there had been earlier mention of grant funding awarded from the Gates Foundation. Mr. Errichetti said that there was no full time person writing grants. Various librarians identify and write the grants. Council Member dePara asked for a rough number of the grants that the Library was currently receiving. Mr. Errichetti said that he would send that information because he did not know it off hand. The Gates Foundation have the largest ones to date, along with the various grants from the Friends of the Library.

Council Member dePara asked if there was anything being done to reduce utility costs with the understand that the libraries were open more hours. Mr. Errichetti said that it

was recognized that Burroughs was not efficient and work is being done with Mr. Carroll about this. The building is from 1927 and had items that need to be addressed. Energy efficient bulbs have been installed. By working on the back glass wall, this will help with the costs.

Council Member dePara asked if there was a practice of turning off the computers at the end of the day. Mr. Hughes said that they shut down automatically.

Council Member dePara then thanked the Library representatives for coming before the Committee. He said that it was a little difficult, but that everyone had gotten through it and felt that it was a working relationship that could possibly foster good things for both the City and the residents that use the facilities.

RECESS

Council Member dePara called a recess at 8:00 p.m. The meeting resumed at 8:20 p.m.

CITY ATTORNEY

Attorney Mark T. Anastasi introduced himself to the Committee.

Council Member dePara asked Atty. Anastasi to give an overview of the department. He said that while he had received the memorandum from the Committee, but was not able to get a breakdown from the public website on the information. A brief discussion followed.

Atty. Anastasi then reviewed the staffing in the department. He then distributed a Table of Organization. Council President McCarthy asked Atty. Anastasi where he was on the budget. Atty. Anastasi said that he was listed as an Associate City Attorney because he was not given any compensation for being the City Attorney. Discussion followed.

Atty. Anastasi then gave a brief overview of the Table of Organizations. There are 9 Associate City Attorneys. He then directed everyone to page 2, which includes descriptions of the various attorneys. He said that the first footnote indicates that the duties and responsibilities are being performed by the full time Associate City Attorney, which referred to him.

A second footnote indicates that Attorney Caldwell is employed by the Board of Education. Council Member dePara asked about the disposition of the funding for this. The City took the position that having an in-house attorney could reduce having the BOE hire outside counsel. This does not mean that the lawyer will be performing all of the Board of Education cases. There will be additional support from the City's litigation team in terms of trying cases. Atty. Caldwell is very well qualified. Atty. Anastasi then

gave a brief overview of Atty. Caldwell's C.V. to the Committee. He said that he felt that Atty. Caldwell was going to help the BOE and the City a lot.

There are two paralegals who have been working out very well. One of the paralegals coordinates all the F.O.I. information. Previously, an attorney handled them, which was an inefficient use of attorney time. Attorneys are not general as organized as paralegals, so Atty. Anastasi said that he felt the department was doing a much better job in terms of meeting the deadlines in responding to requests.

Council Member dePara asked for clarification. Atty. Anastasi explained that one of the paralegals handles this as part of their function. Other items include case preparation, going to court with the attorneys on complicated cases, handle the claims and other items. One of the paralegals worked well handling a recent F.O.I. requests for, which turned out to be a massive undertaking.

Council President McCarthy asked for an overview of the outside legal services. Atty. Anastasi said that he wished Mr. Sherwood was present because he wanted to know how it was reported this year. He said that essentially on Line 6139, Legal Services. He said that he believed it was \$50,000. Council Member dePara said that it was \$56,130. Council President McCarthy then read off the request and the allocation for both the budget '11-'12 Fiscal year and for '10-'11. Atty. Anastasi pointed out that not all of the outside attorneys were paid from this line. The B.O.E. has a number of outside attorney payments and the W.P.C.A. has some. There is a variety of places that it is expended from. The biggest problem is the fact that it is difficult to manage that line since it had become a consolidation of the litigation services and legal services. Litigation services was used to pay for outside lawyers but also sheriff's fees, court filing fees, witness fees, expert fees, court stenographers and all of the support documentation.

Council President asked if Atty. Anastasi could get a break down of that line for what was spent on outside legal and what was spent on sheriffs, etc. He asked if the sense was that the department was spending most of the most of the funding on outside legal. He said that he would like to see that, particularly if it is going up. Council President McCarthy said that he fully realized that if there was a major case underway, it would cost significant dollars. Council Member dePara said that a more specific breakdown would justify the amount, considering the items that were in there. Atty. Anastasi said that it would be easier if the items were in two separate categories, but understood from a budgetary standpoint why this was not done. He said that he wouldn't disagree with the OPM on this, but felt that the amount would not be adequate for the entire fiscal year.

Council Member Brannelly asked if the break down could include 2010, 2011, and 2012 in order to see the trend. Atty. Anastasi said that he would provide the total for the outside attorneys and the total for the support services.

Council President McCarthy then asked about any major cases on the horizon. Atty. Anastasi asked if the Committee could enter into Executive Session to discuss a particular case involving outside litigation.

- ** COUNCIL PRESIDENT MCCARTHY MOVED TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS LITIGATION ISSUES.**
- ** COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ SECONDED.**
- ** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The Committee and Atty. Anastasi entered into Executive Session to discuss litigation at 8:30 p.m. They returned to public session at 9:34 p.m.

Council Member Brannelly then asked about the auditors projected budget for litigation for the upcoming Fiscal Year. Atty. Anastasi said that there is a discussion with the auditors and the Finance Department regarding major cases on an annual basis to insure that full disclosures of exposures had been and that the City's fiscal situation can handle the expenditures. Council Member Brannelly asked if there was a budget line item about this.

- ** COUNCIL PRESIDENT MCCARTHY MOVED TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS LITIGATION ISSUES.**
- ** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY SECONDED.**
- ** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The Committee and Atty. Anastasi entered into Executive Session to discuss litigation at 9:35 p.m. They returned to public session at 9:36 p.m.

A brief discussion followed on whether or not the meeting should be carried over to another date. Atty. Anastasi said that he did not believe the information that the Committee was requesting would be available in time for the meeting next Wednesday. It was suggested that this issue be addressed with Mr. Sherwood on the following day to clarify additional information.

ADJOURNMENT

- ** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY MOVED TO ADJOURNED.**
- ** COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ SECONDED.**
- ** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS
SPECIAL MEETING
APRIL 30, 2011**

ATTENDANCE: Robert Curwen, Co-chair; Angel dePara, Co-chair; Susan Brannelly, Lydia Martinez, Council President Thomas McCarthy (10:24 a.m.); AmyMarie Vizzo-Paniccia (12:45 p.m.)

STAFF: Thomas Sherwood, OPM

OTHERS: Council Member Martin McCarthy; Council Member Michelle Lyons

CALL TO ORDER

Council Member Curwen called the meeting to order 10:15 a.m.

Mr. Sherwood said that the Board of Education had said that they felt the projected Health Care costs were too high. He explained that there would be a meeting with the BOE representatives on Wednesday, May 4th at 11:00 a.m. in Mr. Nunn's office to review the figures. He said that he would report back to the Committee on the outcome of this meeting.

Council Member Curwen then directed everyone's attention to page i15 in the budget book and pointed out that there was 1.3 million less being requested than last year. He asked the Committee members to take notes on the various ideas that be discussed. Mr. Sherwood would also be taking notes and compiling the various changes to the budget. Council Member Curwen then pointed out that the Committee has lowered the Mayor's Recommended budget every year that he has been involved with the Budget and Appropriations Committee except one when there was a surplus of funding.

The discussion then moved to the Mayor's Office, which was on page 1. Council Member Brannelly then commented that the Mayor's Office staff had not done a presentation to the Committee.

Council President McCarthy joined the meeting at 10:24 a.m.

Mr. Sherwood proceeded to review the budget request for the Mayor's Office by pointing out that there were no changes in the staffing level. He added that the unaffiliated staff follows the Supervisor's union in terms of pay raises. This included the 2% pay raise this

year. He then reviewed the reasons for creating the salary grid and the information contained in it.

The discussion then moved to the CAO's office on page 110 of the budget book.

Council Member Brannelly left the meeting at 10:30 a.m.

Council Member Lyons expressed concerns about one of the staff positions in the CAO's office.

The discussion then moved to line item for copier costs. Mr. Sherwood reported that all the computers were now networked to a central copier/printer. He indicated that on Line 56, the cost of the toner is including in the service maintenance agreement.

When asked what the "Landscaping" line item was for, Mr. Sherwood said that this was for flowers for funerals and other events.

The discussion then moved to the Catering line and concerns were expressed about the amount involved. Mr. Sherwood said that when there are meetings with non-Bridgeport groups, it is important to have a good impression.

Mr. Sherwood then directed everyone's attention to page 10, which is the Central Grants Office. He explained that since Ms. Kabel left, the Director's position was currently vacant and Ms. McDermott was supervising all the CDBG funding and programs, while Alex is supervising the Central Grants portion. Council Member Martinez asked if the department was producing grant funding for the City. Mr. Sherwood assured her that it was. The vacant director's position will be filled after July 1st.

He went on to explain that initially it appeared that the CDBG funding would be cut by as much as 30%, and this would result in the loss of two staff positions. However, the final Federal grant reduction was only 16%, so that only one staff position was eliminated. Council Member Martinez asked where the funding was for the new director. Mr. Sherwood indicated where this information was on page 10.

The discussion then moved to the Comptroller's Office. Mr. Sherwood said that Ms. Norton had requested that the Office Supply request be restored to the original amount of \$2477.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ MOVED TO ACCEPT THE OPM'S RECOMMENDATION TO RESTORE THE COMPTROLLER'S OFFICE SUPPLY AMOUNT TO \$2477.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER DEPARA SECONDED.**
**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The discussion then moved to the Finance office and the reduction for their office supplies. Mr. Sherwood cautioned the Committee against cutting a line item for the sake of cutting. The original request was for \$1,477 and he recommended that this be changed to \$1,000.

In the Printing Office, there were no changes.

Mr. Sherwood then reviewed the Purchasing Department has registration fees, on line 35.

Tax Collectors had no changes. Mr. Sherwood pointed out that the Council had said they would write a letter in support of cross training for the counter duties for the staff in both the Tax Collector's Office and the Town Clerk. He was then asked about the postage costs and what the book binding fees were for in the Tax Assessor's Office. Mr. Sherwood said that the postage costs were for mailing the tax bills and that the State requires a bound copy of the Grand List every year.

The Committee then reviewed the information on the Registrar's Office on page 60 of the budget book. Mr. Sherwood reminded everyone that some of the costs were for the Redistricting. Council Member Martinez asked for clarification on the transfer revenues. Mr. Sherwood gave an overview and explained that it was fully funded above the Mayor's recommended amount. Council Member Curwen also reminded everyone that there were eight other towns that had ballot issues in the last election. He pointed out that the tools were now there for the next three elections.

Council Member Martinez asked about having a list of voters provided by the Registrars. It was explained that the list needed to be integrated into a spreadsheet by IT and then imported into Microsoft Access.

The discussion then moved to the City Clerk's office on page 62. Council Member Curwen said that there were legal issues involved. Following a discussion, it was decided to unfund the Assistant City Clerk part time position and another position. The funds will be transferred to the Reserve account and will be returned to the Office when the City Clerk has plans to hire a full time staff member. The part time position will be transferred to the Lighthouse project to help with registration.

Mr. Sherwood then directed everyone's attention to the Law Office and said that if there are potential cases, he is informed of them and the funds are used as accrual.

Archives was the next department reviewed. The Committee briefly discussed the recommended changes.

There were questions about the budgeting for potential investigations in Civil Service. Mr. Sherwood explained that currently, the City would only be doing investigations for the Fire Department. More extensive investigations are required for new policemen.

Council Member Martinez left the meeting at 12:17 p.m.

Mr. Sherwood then reviewed the revenue assumptions. He said that the Police testing generates more revenue than the Fire Department testing.

The committee then moved on to Grants and Benefits and Mr. Sherwood gave a brief overview of the budget.

Regarding the Labor Department, Mr. Sherwood said that he recommended no changes.

He added that the positions were filled at the Mayor's pleasure and that everything possible is being done not to shift work outside. He added that every day a position remains vacant results in cost reductions for the City. Several questions were asked about the details of filling the positions. Mr. Sherwood reviewed these and said that the new hires would be at the entry level position.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia joined the meeting at 12:45 p.m.

The discussion then moved to the Actuaries Services on line 01086 of the Pension and Notations budget.

Mr. Sherwood then reviewed the line item for the Town Clerk's Computer Supplies.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia asked Mr. Sherwood about writing a letter of support for cross training the staff in both the Tax Assessor's Office and Town Clerk's office. Mr. Sherwood made a note of this.

The Legislative Office on page 104 was the next one reviewed. Council President McCarthy said that he was not in favor of reducing the funding for this department. Council Member dePara said that it was important to lead by example. It was also pointed out that the Department did not come before the Budget and Appropriations Committee for a review. Council Member Curwen responded that this was the argument that has been going on for years. Council President McCarthy pointed out that last year, the Council hired an outside attorney to review an LDA. Council Member Lyons said that it was important to keep looking out for the constituents. If the department funding was

reduced, she wanted to know where the funding would go. Council Member Lyons also pointed out that other cities have a legislative office to answer constituents questions. Council Member dePara commented that the Legislative Office is in the City Clerk's Office in New Haven.

Council Member Brannelly rejoined the meeting at 12:51 p.m.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia suggested having Council President McCarthy review the Legislative office budget.

Council Member McCarthy asked about the unused \$4,500 from '09-'10. Mr. Sherwood said that went back into the fund balance.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia said that she had some concerns about the IT department. She said that there were only a few employees and that the office needed to be cleaned up. Mr. Sherwood said that he would be having a meeting with Mr. Heller. Recently, a position for Network Technician 2 was posted. Two positions for main frame operators were unfunded because the City no longer has a main frame computer. Two new positions for Support Specialists will be created. He added that one employee handed in notice yesterday effective immediately.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia then asked about cross training. Mr. Sherwood said that one support person is assigned to Public Safety. There are also MCSC and CISCO certifications involved.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia asked if there would be training on broadband. Mr. Sherwood said that there would be.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia said that with the cubicles set up the way they are, the employees can't be seen. Mr. Sherwood said that the department would be moving into a new space. Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia said that it needed to be an open space. The discussion then moved to the offsite consultant and the main frame defunding.

Council Member dePara then reviewed the details of the AT&T support.

Mr. Sherwood then directed everyone to page 120, which lists the Small and Minority Business Office. Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia said that Ms. Cavernish had two different job titles. Mr. Sherwood said that he would check this and determine which title was the correct one. He added that there was an assistant who is fluent in Spanish, but when that assistant is not present, there is someone else who is fluent in Spanish available to the office.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia wished to know who was paying for the Small and Minority Business events. Mr. Sherwood replied that the vendors do. Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia said that she would like documentation on this. Council President McCarthy said that Ms. Cavernish was doing a wonderful job and he thought she should come before the Council to give a presentation. Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia said that the office should have more exposure.

Council Member Brannelly then asked about the seasonal workers listed under Grants. Mr. Sherwood reviewed the fact that some seasonal workers are listed under Grants and others are under Civil Service.

Council Member Brannelly then asked what R.S.V.P. was. Mr. Sherwood said that the was the Retired Senior Volunteer Program.

The discussion then moved to the Veterinarian services and computer costs. Mr. Sherwood said that he had verified the amounts. Council Member dePara expressed concerns about the unlicensed pit bulls. He asked if it would be possible to have another part time position. Mr. Sherwood pointed out that there was one vacant position. Council Member dePara said that the unlicensed pit bulls were a public safety issue.

Council Member Curwen said that it would be important to include a feasibility study for a new Police Department with IT in it and possibly combining the BOE security with the Police Department, and the decisions about the veterinarian services. Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia pointed out that there would have to be discussions with the unions before moving the BOE's security officers into the Police Department. Mr. Sherwood agreed, but added that it would save the BOE money.

Council Member Brannelly asked whether there had been further consideration to creating a City impound lot for vehicles. Council President McCarthy said that it was too early in the process to look at it. Mr. Nunn is checking into other cities. Then OPED would have to check for possible sites in the city.

The discussion then moved to the Fire Department. Mr. Sherwood confirmed that the amount for the public safety equipment had been restored to the budget.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia asked if there were accounts for repairs of the buildings and equipment. Mr. Sherwood replied that there were. Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia then asked about the Fire Inspectors. Mr. Sherwood confirmed this also.

There were no changes for Weights and Measures.

Council Member Brannelly asked about the Safe Sleep program. Mr. Sherwood thought that there might be funding available through the Department of Justice.

The account for gas for the EOC needs to be increased and this has been duly noted in the budget, Mr. Sherwood said.

Council Member dePara asked about the two pending sales for the airport building and the access road. Discussion followed about matching funds.

Council President McCarthy left the meeting at 1:47 p.m.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia said that residents had been harassed when they were making multiple trips to the transfer station. Mr. Sherwood said that the Police Department will be assigning officers who are on transitional work to the Transfer Station. He added that he would like to see some kind of registration or bar code on the transfer station stickers. Council Member Brannelly said that she would like see this happen. Mr. Sherwood said that it would also help track the usage.

The discussion moved to the Department of Aging. It was pointed out that there was not breakout of the personnel summary. Mr. Sherwood made a note of this and said that he would supply the Committee members with a more detailed account. Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia asked how many staff members there were in the department. Mr. Sherwood said that he thought it was about 6 or 7 positions. Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia said that the department needed more exposure. Mr. Sherwood said that he would check about having some information included with the tax bills.

Mr. Sherwood then reported to the Committee that it cost \$140,000 to keep the recycling bank open. However, the City is moving to single stream recycling. He suggested that perhaps the recycling bank idea could be used for education.

Council Member Curwen asked Mr. Sherwood who was paying for the cameras that Mr. Ricci mentioned at the airport in order to collect off hour landing fees. Mr. Sherwood said that that funds were coming from a Federal Grant.

ADJOURNMENT

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

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Sharon L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS
SPECIAL MEETING
MAY 4, 2011**

ATTENDANCE: Angel dePara, Co-chair; Lydia Martinez, Susan Brannelly, AmyMarie Vizzo-Paniccia; Howard Austin; Robert Curwen (6:13 p.m.); Council President Thomas McCarthy (7:00 p.m.)

STAFF: Thomas Sherwood, OPM

OTHERS: Andrew Nunn, CAO; Council Member Andre Baker; Council Member Michelle Lyons

CALL TO ORDER

Council Member dePara called to order at 6:08 p.m.

OPM

Mr. Sherwood said that he had a few items. He then handed out the Proposed Payroll for Department Aging, which had been updated. He then distributed an updated listing of the budgets.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY MOVED TO ADD TWO DOCUMENTS AS EXHIBITS:**

BUDGET/REVENUE SHEET AS EXHIBIT BR-A; AND

PUBLIC FACILITIES 1 - PROPOSED

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Council Member Curwen joined at 6:13 p.m.

OPM

Mr. Sherwood then directed everyone's attention to page 106. He said that there was only one change in his department, which was moving the Grants Facilitator's position into his office rather than staying on in Grants.

Council Member Brannelly asked about the budget policy analysis. Mr. Sherwood said that it was contractual and that one position had been filled.

Council Member dePara asked about a line item on pg 108 for computer equipment. Mr. Sherwood said that last year two printers were purchased for his department, and he only puts funds in the item when he needs to purchase something. The other item was the copier.

Council Member dePara asked about the position that was moved from Grants to OPM. Mr. Sherwood said that by doing this, there was one less position that had to be cut.

Ethics - page 110 - there is a small budget for mailing for the Ethics Commission. All the personnel listing are contained within the CAO's budget.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia - asked about the \$3,100 in Ethics. Mr. Sherwood explained that was for the secretary that does the minutes.

Council Member Brannelly asked if there was a break down on the stenographers from City Clerk's.

Council Member dePara asked about a line item on pg. 115 - Memberships and Registrations. Mr. Sherwood said that was CCM membership, which is \$93,000 for CCM and one other organization. Council Member dePara asked about another line Other Service, which Mr. Sherwood said was the Federal and State Lobbyists.

Council Member Brannelly asked about Other Services. \$52,000- State; \$48,000 is Federal. Council Member Curwen said that the City had the Federal lobbyist had been very worthwhile in terms of securing brownfield funding. Mr. Sherwood said that the Conveyance Tax had been retained because they lobbied for the City.

Council Member dePara, asked about the line item for the copier. He said that there was a difference between the various copiers. Mr. Sherwood said that his machine was older and one of the first connected to the computer. The company name changed, but the City has the same vendor. Mr. Sherwood said that this coming fiscal year, the lease will be up and the City would go out to bid.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia asked about the number of printers and whether the smaller departments needed their own printers. Mr. Sherwood said that it doesn't make sense to have printers anymore when computers can be networked to the copiers.

Council Member dePara asked about the line item that was for transcriptional services, Mr. Sherwood said he did not remember what it was. He said that he would get the information.

CAO

Mr. Nunn said that his job was to run the City on a day to day basis. He said that he was there to oversee and insure that the other departmental goals are reached. He works with Ms. Cavenish with the MBE and the various items, like the IED, and the EOC. Right now, there are two department that have departmental vacancies, Finance and Grants.

Council Member Brannelly then asked about the Grants Department position. Mr. Nunn said that right now there were items like the budget and other items to deal with, but then the position will be filled.

Council Member dePara asked about the status of CitiStat. Mr. Nunn said that it was going well. Today there was an awards ceremony for the employees that close out the various call in signs. Tracking data is being done and various departments are being analyzed to provide better services. The Queue Send is working well and there is an app that is being developed for smart phones. Now, residents can use the website to call things in. CitiStat is modeled after ComStat, which was started by the New York City Police. Today, ComStat announced that residents could text in requests.

Council Member Baker asked about the breakdown on the requests from CitiStat. He said that he was seeing large numbers, but couldn't tell if it was multiple requests on the same issue. Mr. Nunn said that he would get a break down to Council Member Baker. Council Member Baker asked about cost savings. Mr. Nunn said that there have been and gave an example of how the anti-blight departments were now located all in the same area at the Annex. Council Member Baker said that in the number of years that CitiStat had been in operation, he'd been told that there would be great savings, but had never seen any hard figures. Mr. Sherwood said that when Public Facilities presented, there were clear reductions due to the recycling. In the blight area, there was a collections attorney that was not aggressive enough and now that someone else is in the position, the revenue is beginning to come in. Council Member Baker said that he felt it was a waste of time because he did not see any savings.

Council Member Brannelly said that when Ms. Paul had been present and talked about CitiStat, Ms. Paul had said that a regular report can easily be generated just by telling her what kind of information was needed and that the program would automatically generate the report for the person. Council Member Curwen said that when CitiStat started three years ago, it was to funnel the requested to the departments and giving the administration information as to where there are on-going issues. There are four people in the department, one of which is the Department head. He then cautioned everyone about cutting because with the electronic media, people can send a picture of the potholes and upload it directly to CitiStat. Mr. Sherwood said that there were definitely cost avoidances simply because the repair of the potholes prevents the liability. Council Member dePara said that in his opinion, CitiStat brings a new level of accountability. With the new high tech tools at the Council's disposal, the information was more readily available.

Council Member Martinez said that there are departments that don't generate revenue, but provide services. With the Queue Alert, she had been able to deal with items that her constituents have mentioned right away.

Council Member Lyons asked about the new program that was installed, she had trouble tracking the "ticket" when a request is registered. Mr. Nunn said that there was a problem with this, but it is being worked out and there should be a way to follow up soon. Council Member Brannelly said that Ms. Paul had said there would be outreach to the community soon and some training on it.

Council Member Brannelly asked about a job description rewrite initiative. Mr. Nunn said that the unaffiliated employees are working on job performance. Then there will be discussions with NAGE and LIUNA in terms of changing the obsolete job descriptions.

Council Member Martinez left the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

The Committee then returned to their discussions on the individual line items.

OPED

Council Member Curwen then said that he had received an email from Council Member Walsh regarding various changes. Council Member dePara distributed copies of the email to the Committee members.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia asked about amount for advertising on page 275. It should go back up to \$20,000 which they use for legal notices. Council Member Curwen said that the line item for Other Services should be returned to \$7,459 for the transcription services.

Council Member Curwen then said that the revenues from the Charter school would be going into general revenue. Mr. Sherwood said that the permits would be covered in the Building Department.

Council Member Curwen asked about anticipated revenues for 16 North. Mr. Nunn said that he had a meeting scheduled about this the next day and would give Council Member Curwen a timeline.

Mr. Sherwood directed everyone to page 288. He said that the school building permits will be on the line item called New Building Permits. It is important to note that the amount on Contingency (Other Financing Uses - OFU) would be fluctuating up or down as the Committee adds or reduces line items.

Council President McCarthy joined the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Council Member Lyons said that were many zoning issues in the North End without the proper permits. Because of the lack staffing in the Zoning Office has resulted in a decline in the various neighborhoods. She said that it was time consuming to have to keep coming around to the same issues. Mr. Sherwood said that once the pictures and requests hit the Queue Alert and it will be tracked. Council Member dePara said that many of the Council Members have concerns about this type of issue.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia said that she would like to have someone on night shift because there are often issues that start at night when there is no enforcements. Council Member Martinez said that it would be important to have someone who was available at night because that's when they park trucks on the street. Mr. Sherwood said that the staff member who was ill has now left the City and the position can be filled.

The Committee then moved to the Zoning Department on pg. 298. Council Member dePara asked if it would be more efficient to have more officers rather than inspectors. Mr. Sherwood said that this had been tried three years ago and they can't do inspections.

The Health Department was on page 302. Mr. Sherwood said that there was an adjustment in the City Clerk's office. One position salary will go to the OFU funding until the City Clerk's office is ready to hire. The second position has been moved to Health Administration position, Assistant Position Project Manager, which allows the staff to work on a variety of tasks.

Regarding Vital Statistics, Mr. Sherwood directed everyone to page 309. The department arrived with all the justifications as to why their budgets should be increased.

The Communicable Clinic does all the physicals for the Fire Department and the line items covers supplies for those physicals.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia asked about the seven employees listed under Environmental Health on page 318. Concerns were expressed about the fact that there were barber shops that were operating without the proper licenses. Council Member dePara asked whether one registered sanitarian could be added to the department. Mr. Sherwood said that he would look into this. Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia said that she would like to have someone available at night. Mr. Nunn then said that there are some employees that are in the Department are willing to go out at night as needed. Discussion about the job description followed. Council Member dePara said that with the new software and the new Health Director would have an impact on this.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia asked about the paging services on page 322. Mr. Sherwood said that he believe it was connected to the cell phones. He will check into this.

Council Member Curwen said that he would like to have the City staff wear uniforms for this. Mr. Nunn said that he would look into this.

Council Member dePara asked about housing code inspectors. Mr. Sherwood said that the City would be replacing the housing code inspectors with registered sanitarians.

Mr. Sherwood then directed everyone to page 338. He said that the position that had been transferred to the Disabilities line item.

Mr. Sherwood then reviewed the changes that will be made in Veteran's, which includes increases to cover the cost of the flags for the graves.

On 352, the Social Service director has been changed to a full time positions

Council Member Lyons asked why the Lighthouse Program was on the City side. Mr. Sherwood reviewed the history of the program. It is important to maintain the after school program. Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia said that when she was in Denver, she had attended a meeting and Bridgeport was very highly commended for its program. Ms. Sherwood said that the program had been asked by the Weldon Endowment to submit an application for funding. Mr. Sherwood then went on to speak about how the Mayor wants to have the sports program organized and all working together.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia asked about the Social Services Department. Mr. Sherwood explained that the Social Service Department is basically grant funded and had about 14 employees.

OFU - Required Reserve - This has been written up in the intent and will be transferred to the City Clerk when they are ready to hire.

OFU - Contingency - Based on the decisions that the Committee makes, the Contingency will go to the fund balance.

Library - Council Member Brannelly said that the Library's current year budgets were not jiving with Mr. Sherwood.

RECESS

A recess was called at 7:48 p.m. The meeting was called back to order at 8:00 p.m.

Council Member Brannelly said that the numbers given by the Library had not matched with what was in the book. Mr. Sherwood said that the Library had transferred a large amount of money into various different line items the day before the meeting. Mr. Sherwood said that he would be willing to send an email to Mr. Hughes about this. He added that there had been

numerous conflicts regarding the hiring process. Council President McCarthy said that there had been numerous meetings about the hiring process and that some of the positions were union positions. The discussion then moved to pg. 366, where the library pages were listed. Mr. Sherwood said that he never put a value in for pages. Council Member Brannelly said that it would have been helpful to have this information on Friday. The lack of information seems to indicate that the Committee was playing games with the Library staff. Mr. Sherwood said that he would be comparing the positions against the payroll. Discussion followed.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia asked if Mr. Sherwood would include the dates when the information was requested from the Library. Mr. Sherwood said that he would bring copies of all the documents.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia asked for breakouts of the revenue. Mr. Sherwood said that it was totally managed by the library and that the request would have to go to the Board. He said that the Library funding does not go through the City's budget anymore.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia asked for the status of the Board members. Council Member Brannelly said that these go to City Clerk first and then to Miscellaneous Matters.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia asked what Other Services represented. Mr. Sherwood said that he did not know. He pointed out that there was a reduction on that line item. Council Member Brannelly said that the Police Commission were appointed by the Mayor. Council President McCarthy said that the Board members should be subjected to the same process that the other Commissioners and Board members.

Council Member Austin left the meeting at 8:25 p.m.

Council Member Curwen said that he did not agree with Board President O'Donnell on the appointment process.

Mr. Sherwood said that he attended the Board of Education meeting. Mr. Henry asked Mr. Sherwood how he had calculated the figure. Mr. Sherwood then reviewed the process. He explained that one of the figures was incorrect and inflated the figures. The two and half million dollar savings that the BOE thought that they had turned out to be incorrect. Mr. Sherwood said that he had given them the information on March 12th.

Mr. Sherwood said that the State will be providing ECS funding. He added that the City will be providing busing for the Charter School students. This will be about 2,000 students.

The discussion then moved to the Contingency Fund. Council Member Curwen said that he would like have to put 10% back into the Fund Balance. Mr. Sherwood said that this could be possible because the Contingency is close enough.

Council Member Brannelly asked about the Library and the mill rate. Mr. Sherwood said that the tax bills have it illustrated on it, and then the Library is given the amount of 1 mill.

Council Member Brannelly then asked where the City owned vehicles that would be take homes were included. Council President McCarthy said that there were some vehicles that were assigned by contract, such as the Fire Department. Mr. Sherwood then reviewed the details of the plan.

ADJOURNMENT

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

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

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
BUDGET & APPROPRIATIONS
SPECIAL MEETING
MAY 5, 2011**

ATTENDANCE: Robert Curwen, Chair; Angel dePara, Co-chair; Howard Austin, Lydia Martinez, Susan Brannelly; Council President Thomas McCarthy; AmyMarie Vizzo-Paniccia (6:30 p.m.)

STAFF: Tom Sherwood, OPM, Dawn Norton, Interim Financial Director

OTHERS: Council Member Michelle Lyons

CALL TO ORDER

Council Member Curwen called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m.

Mr. Sherwood then distributed document about the Library. He explained that on the Library Budget Status of Library Requested Transfers, all the figures in the column titled "Original" are the figures they originally had. Some transfers were made on April 25th. Mr. Sherwood said that he did not know why the Library's figures were different on the 29th.

Mr. Sherwood then said that the second document, titled Library Payroll Detail FY 2012 , shows the figures that are currently in MUNIS as of last week.

Council Member Brannelly asked for clarification on the details, which Mr. Sherwood reviewed. The positions that are listed on the Payroll sheet are the active bodies that are being paid at the present time.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY MOVED TO ADD THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS TO THE RECORD:**

**LIBRARY BUDGET STATUS - L A
LIBRARY PAYROLL - L B**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER AUSTIN SECONDED.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Mr. Sherwood said that there were 62 people on the payroll.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia joined the meeting at 6:30 p.m.

Council Member Curwen said that the Committee had reviewed the entire budget during the last six weeks. He then asked if there were any other changes to the document.

Council Member dePara asked what the cost of a registered sanitarian. Mr. Sherwood said Step 1 was \$50,598 for salary and that the additional Zoning Personnel was \$40,982.

Council Member Brannelly asked how the first two legislative intents were created. Mr. Sherwood said that in order to arrive at the figure that the Council wanted, he adjusted the Penalties.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia asked if there were any cuts or freezes. Mr. Sherwood said that the unaffiliated employees were getting 2%. The discussion then moved to the position changes in the City Clerk's office.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia asked if there were any cuts in the Mayor's Office. She said that there were staff that were duplicating the same task. Council Member Curwen said that he understood the situation. He pointed out that the Mayor's budget was 1 million dollars less than last year. Mr. Sherwood said that there was one clerical person who was from OPED, and all the other staff members were paid from the General Fund. Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia said that she was looking to make an impact on the budget and that there was more meat in the budget that needed to be taken care of. She said that she did not believe that the Committee was making enough of an impact. Council Member Curwen said that the Committee was sending over 1 million to the fund balance. Mr. Sherwood said that the taxes would not be increased this year. Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia said that the public would not understand this. Mr. Sherwood said that the City was putting 10% back into the fund balance, which Wall Street will approve of when the City goes back to bond.

Council Member Curwen said that last year there was an 8 million dollar gap. When the unions elected not to give concessions, layoffs followed. Mr. Sherwood said that the same union was very close to settling with the City after two years of layoffs. He said that he felt that the Committee had worked hard to balance the budget. He also reminded everyone that the City only has a third of the total budget.

Council Member Brannelly asked about the chances that the permitting for the Magnet School. Mr. Sherwood said that the goal was to pour concrete and have the steel up by the fall. Otherwise, the construction can not start until next spring. Council Member Curwen said that the School Building Committee was ready to build. Mr. Sherwood said that there was a one time shot revenue, he said that it went back to the fund balance.

Council Member Brannelly asked about the ECS revenue. Mr. Sherwood said that he had spoken to Mr. Kevin Chambers in Harford about this. He then reviewed the details and mentioned the 2% set aside law. He said that the City was in full compliance with the regulations, but explained that it would be a wash in the budget. Council Member Martinez

asked how the BOE was going to balance their budget. Mr. Sherwood said that the BOE would have to work on it, but did not know what they were planning. Council Member Curwen said that the Superintendent admitted that the BOE used the ARRA funding knowing that there would come the day when there would be no more money. That day has arrived.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia asked about the roof for 948. Mr. Sherwood said that the BOE had switched priorities and was now focused on Bassick High School.

Council Member Lyons said that the BOE has their own Security and Maintenance. She said that both groups have to be paid through contractual obligations. Mr. Sherwood said that if there were three groups using the facility during the same time, each of the groups are charged for the same maintenance employee's time.

Council Member dePara asked if there had been further discussion about moving the School Police to the Police Department. Mr. Sherwood said that there would be a meeting with the BOE, the Mayor and Chief Gaudett. Council Member dePara asked what kind of salary savings there would be. Mr. Sherwood reviewed this with the Committee.

Council Member Lyons asked about fact that the Charter had stipulated that retirees were not allowed to come back to work. Mr. Sherwood said that he believe that it was allowed, but there was a two year window. He suggested that perhaps the State Pension Board would have to deal with this. Mr. Sherwood said that the BOE was asked to supply a list of consultants, but they never did.

Council Member Lyons asked if there had been a discussion about the recycling. Mr. Sherwood said that BOE representatives said that they were starting a pilot program. Council Member dePara added that they had also said that they were not working on reducing Worker's Comp.

Council Member Lyons asked if the zoning inspector and the registered sanitarian had been added. Mr. Sherwood indicated where they were in the proposed resolution.

Council Member Lyons asked if there were layoffs on the City side. Mr. Sherwood indicated that there were two positions in the City Clerk's, one of which was a transfer to another position.

Council Member Lyons asked about the floaters. Mr. Sherwood said that the floaters would be down at the Tax Collectors soon.

Council Member Brannelly asked about the Public Safety equipment. Mr. Sherwood reviewed where this was indicated.

Council Member Lyons asked if there were staff members who were duplicating the same tasks in City offices. Council Member Curwen said that there were floaters who move from building to building. Council Member Lyons said that she was concerned that there were extra people in

the Mayor's Office. She said that she believed that there were interns in the Mayor's Office. She wanted to know why there were eight people in the Mayor's office, what their specific jobs were and what their salaries were. She said that if all the other departments had to be versatile, then so did the Mayor's Office. Council Member dePara pointed out that there were positions that were in unions and they won't do other job tasks, if they are asked to do other jobs, they file a grievance. Council Member Lyons disagreed. Council Member Curwen said that he believed that the staff in the Mayor's Office were unaffiliated. Mr. Sherwood then reviewed the various positions and responsibilities. He said that while his office was able to downsize because of the new programs. However, he said that he did not believe that the Mayor's office could do something like this.

Council Member Brannelly asked about the Non Public School Transportation line. Mr. Sherwood then reviewed the reasons that this number was broken out in the manner that it was.

Council Member Lyons asked about the consolidation of the School Police with the Bpt. Police. Mr. Sherwood said that he would like to see Maintenance and IT also be consolidated. It was stated that while Mr. Mulligan was in favor of the idea, Dr. Ramos was not.

Council Member Brannelly asked what book binding was for the Tax Assessor. Mr. Sherwood said that it was a State requirement for the Grand List to be bound and sent to the State every year.

Council Member Lyons asked about the Zoning officer and the Registered Sanitarian. Mr. Sherwood said that he had spoke with the Mr. Nunn and that before someone is hired, there will be a plan for utilizing the new staff members. Council Member Lyons said that she believed that it would improve the City and bring more to the plate. Departments will know what is going on in the City. Mr. Sherwood said that it will also help businesses because when the illegal businesses are shut down, people will go to the businesses that are properly licensed.

Council Member Brannelly asked about the cost of the ballots. Mr. Sherwood reviewed the details of the formula for the calculating the cost of the ballots.

Council Member Martinez asked about the contract for redistricting. Mr. Sherwood said that the contract was in the City's Attorney's Office for review.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia said that last year, there had been a deficit in the budget. Mr. Sherwood said that other than the Police settling their contract with Pension B, there would not be a shortfall. Council Member Curwen said that this year, the Committee was handing back a balanced budget.

Council Member Brannelly asked about the City Clerk's Special Services. Mr. Sherwood said that it was for transcription. Council Member Brannelly asked why the budget was cut. Mr.

Sherwood said that they didn't have the billing in when the budget was compiled, but when they came in for the interview, the staff justified the cost.

Council Member dePara asked about Waltersville School and if there was an interlocal agreement. Mr. Sherwood said that there had not been one.

Council Member dePara asked about the copier costs and doing an RFP with more favorable terms. Mr. Sherwood said that

Council Member Brannelly asked what the unreserved fund balance was. Mr. Sherwood said that it was \$11,640,230 and that the City was adding 10% to the fund balance. He said that he hoped that soon the City would be announcing a Pension settlement.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ MOVED AGENDA ITEM 62-10(A) AS FOLLOWS:**

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.

CITY COUNCIL VOTE NUMBER 1 – 62-10(a)

Budget & Appropriations Committee Vote of General Fund Revenue Increases

THERE ARE 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	41702	Penalties: Current Taxes	1,500,000	1,705,480	205,480
01040000	41703	Penalties: Arrears Taxes	1,000,000	1,160,000	160,000
01455000	41532	New Non Residential	350,000	1,850,000	1,500,000
01863000	44520	ECS Education Cost Sharing	133,796,765	155,698,819	21,902,054
01940000	44516	Non Public School Transportation		31,250	31,250
Total Revenue Increases			\$136,646,765	\$160,445,549	\$23,798,784

LEGISLATIVE INTENT REVENUE INCREASES

01040000 41702 The legislative intent is to increase current penalty revenues through additional justification documentation.

01040000 41703 The legislative intent is to increase arrears penalty revenues through additional justification documentation.

01455000 41532 The legislative intent is to recognize potential revenues through permitting of the new Magnet High School.

01863000 44520 The legislative intent is to recognize increased revenue for the Education Cost Sharing grant per the direction of the State Department of Education. This is to be in compliance with the MBR (Minimum Budget Requirement).

01940000 44516 The legislative intent is to recognize increased revenue of 25% of the projected expense for transportation of students to a Charter High School.

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.

CITY COUNCIL VOTE NUMBER –

Budget & Appropriations Committee Vote of General Fund Revenue Decreases

There are adjustments to the Mayor's Recommended Budget for general fund purposes as detailed by the City Council's Budget & Appropriations Committee.

NOT APPLICABLE – THERE ARE NO REVENUE DECREASES

**** COUNCIL MEMBER AUSTIN SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Council Member dePara noted that in 62-10b there is a special services section. Mr. Sherwood said that there were no revenue decreases. He said that he would like to have an independent financial consultant to help the Committee member understand the financial statements. Council President McCarthy said that this could be discussed at another meeting. Mr. Sherwood said that auditors are only helpful when the City had completed a cycle. Council Member dePara said that the Committee could use this to ascertain the status of the Library or the BOE. Mr. Sherwood agreed and said that as the Gibson report is being completed.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia asked if the Committee was able to hire an outside consultant for the Council that was not associated with Bridgeport. Mr. Sherwood said that the Committee had already met a number of the vendors that the City does business with and there is no problem with asking them to do a report up to \$2,500

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia said that she would like to have various departments come in during the quieter months for review. Mr. Sherwood agreed and said that quarterly, there should be meetings with Police, Fire and other departments. Council Member Curwen said that this year, there were quarterly meetings, but reminded everyone that at the start of the year, there is very little information available. He added that if there were more regular meetings, he expected to have a quorum. Mr. Sherwood suggested joint committee meetings.

Council Member Brannelly commented that there had been some requests where the items had not been presented.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER AUSTIN MOVED AGENDA ITEM 62-10B AS FOLLOWS:**

CITY COUNCIL VOTE NUMBER 2 – 62-10(b)

BUDGET & APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE VOTE OF GENERAL FUND

APPROPRIATION INCREASES

THERE ARE ADJUSTMENTS TO THE MAYOR'S RECOMMENDED BUDGET FOR GENERAL FUND PURPOSES AS DETAILED BY THE CITY COUNCIL BUDGET & APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE.

ORG	APPROP	DESCRIPTION	MAYOR PROPOSED	COUNCIL ADOPTED	CHANGE
APPROPRIATIONS					
01001000	4010EX	Comptroller's Office Operational Expenses	1,292	3,333	2,041
01015000	4015EX	Finance Operational Expenses	1,477	2,477	1,000
01035000	4035EX	Purchasing Operational Expenses	125	305	180
01035000	6035SS	Purchasing Operational Expenses	1,000	1,800	800
01041000	4041EX	Tax Assessor's Operational Expenses	7,654	9,654	2,000
01041000	6041SS	Tax Assessor's Special Services	5,606	10,606	5,000
01041000	6041SS	Tax Assessor's Special Services	65,350	130,699	65,349
01450000	6045SS	Treasury Special Services	9,375	18,750	9,375
01050000	3050FB	Registrar of Voters Fringe Benefits	880	1,759	879
01050000	4050EX	Registrar of Voters Operational Expenses	750	1,500	750
01050000	4050EX	Registrar of Voters Operational Expenses	173	345	172
01050000	4050EX	Registrar of Voters Operational Expenses	263	525	262
01050000	4050EX	Registrar of Voters Operational Expenses	3,000	6,000	3,000
01050000	4050EX	Registrar of Voters Operational Expenses	2,391	4,782	2,391
01050000	4050EX	Registrar of Voters Operational Expenses	123	245	122
01050000	6050SS	Registrar of Voters Special Services	836	1,672	836
01050000	6050SS	Registrar of Voters Special Services	12,291	83,261	70,970
01055000	4055EX	City Clerk Operational Expenses	275	550	275
01055000	4055EX	City Clerk Operational Expenses	4,500	9,000	4,500
01055000	4055EX	City Clerk Operational Expenses	2,250	4,500	2,250
01055000	4055EX	City Clerk Operational Expenses	2,100	4,200	2,100
01055000	4055EX	City Clerk Operational Expenses	1,100	2,000	900
01055000	6055SS	City Clerk Special Services	11,072	22,144	11,072
01065000	6065SS	Archives & Records Special Services	750	1,500	750
01065000	6065SS	Archives & Records Special Services	1,181	2,362	1,181
01065000	6065SS	Archives & Records Special Services	1,469	2,938	1,469
01086000	3086FB	Pensions Fringe Benefits	17,050	34,100	17,050
01090000	4090EX	Town Clerk Operational Expenses	405	810	405
01090000	4090EX	Town Clerk Operational Expenses	1,250	2,500	1,250
01090000	4090EX	Town Clerk Operational Expenses	3,500	7,000	3,500
01095000	1095PS	Legislative Services Personal Services	47,411	85,427	38,016
01095000	6095SS	Legislative Services Special Services	49,750	99,500	49,750
01108000	1108PS	Information Technology Personal Services	948,076	972,076	24,000
01250000	6250SS	Police Department Special Services	80,000	141,623	61,623
01250000	6250SS	Police Department Special Services	75,000	135,000	60,000
01260000	4260EX	Fire Department Operational Expenses	233,620	260,620	27,000
01290000	4290EX	Emergency Comm. Ctr. Operational Expenses	3,000	16,000	13,000
01450000	4450EX	OPED Operational Expenses	10,000	20,000	10,000
01450000	6450SS	OPED Special Services	10,000	17,459	7,459
01457000	1457PS	Zoning Personal Services	313,592	354,574	40,982
01552000	4552EX	Vital Statistics Operational Expenses	4,408	8,815	4,407
01552000	4552EX	Vital Statistics Operational Expenses	2,500	5,000	2,500
01552000	6552SS	Vital Statistics Special Services	2,500	5,000	2,500
01554000	4554EX	Communicable Clinic Operational Expenses	8,629	17,258	8,629
01554000	6554SS	Communicable Clinic Special Services	4,008	8,016	4,008
01555000	1555PS	Environmental Health Personal Services	454,934	505,532	50,598
01576000	1576PS	Persons with Disabilities Personal Services		19,500	19,500
01578000	4578EX	Veteran Affairs Operational Expenses	1,500	3,000	1,500
01578000	6578SS	Veteran Affairs Special Services	3,401	6,802	3,401
01610000	6610SS	Other Financing Uses Special Services	-3,878,146	-3,830,287	47,859
01610000	6610SS	Other Financing Uses Special Services	-3,830,287	-2,666,064	1,164,223
01801000	11801PS	Elementary Classroom Teachers Personal Services	-83,381,646	-61,479,592	21,902,054
01940000	4940EX	BOE Dedicated Use Operational Expenses	15,539,675	15,664,675	125,000
Total Appropriation Increases			-\$73,138,587	-\$49,258,749	\$23,879,838

City of Bridgeport

Budget & Appropriations

Special Meeting

May 5, 2011

Page 9

LEGISLATIVE INTENT APPROPRIATION INCREASES

01010000 4010EX The legislative intent is to increase office supplies per additional justification documentation and current year forecasted amounts.

01015000 4015EX The legislative intent is to increase office supplies per additional justification documentation and current year forecasted amounts.

01035000 4035EX The legislative intent is to increase memberships / registration fees per additional justification documentation and current year forecasted amounts.

01035000 6035SS The legislative intent is to increase office equipment maintenance services per additional justification documentation and current year forecasted amounts.

01041000 4041EX The legislative intent is to increase postage per additional justification documentation and current year forecasted amounts.

01041000 6041SS The legislative intent is to increase bookbinding services per additional justification documentation and current year forecasted amounts.

01041000 6041SS The legislative intent is to increase other services for tax assessor computer software support per additional justification documentation and current year forecasted amounts.

01045000 6045SS The legislative intent is to increase public safety services for the treasury for Dunbar service per additional justification documentation and current year forecasted amounts.

01050000 3050FB The legislative intent is to increase city owned vehicle benefit when the department has use of a vehicle on a seasonal basis per additional justification documentation and current year forecasted amounts.

01050000 4050EX The legislative intent is to increase city property rental/lease when the department utilizes non-city owed property on a seasonal basis per additional justification documentation and current year forecasted amounts.

01050000 4050EX The legislative intent is to increase memberships / registration fees per additional justification documentation and current year forecasted amounts.

01050000 4050EX The legislative intent is to increase travel expenses per additional justification documentation and current year forecasted amounts.

01050000 4050EX The legislative intent is to increase travel reimbursements per additional justification documentation and current year forecasted amounts.

01050000 4050EX The legislative intent is to increase office supplies per additional justification documentation and current year forecasted amounts.

01050000 4050EX The legislative intent is to increase subscriptions per additional justification documentation and current year forecasted amounts.

01050000 6050SS The legislative intent is to increase office equipment maintenance service per additional justification documentation and current year forecasted amounts.

01050000 6050SS The legislative intent is to increase other services for purchasing ballots and redistricting costs per additional justification documentation and current year forecasted amounts.

01055000 4055EX The legislative intent is to increase memberships / registration fees per additional justification documentation and current year forecasted amounts.

01055000 4055EX The legislative intent is to increase advertising services per additional justification documentation and current year forecasted amounts.

01055000 4055EX The legislative intent is to increase travel expenses per additional justification documentation and current year forecasted amounts.

01055000 4055EX The legislative intent is to increase office supplies per additional justification documentation and current year forecasted amounts.

01055000 6055SS The legislative intent is to increase office equipment maintenance services per additional justification documentation and current year forecasted amounts.

01055000 6055SS The legislative intent is to increase other services for transcription services per additional justification documentation and current year forecasted amounts.

01065000 6065SS The legislative intent is to increase computer services per additional justification documentation and current year forecasted amounts.

01065000 6065SS The legislative intent is to increase office equipment maintenance services per additional justification documentation and current year forecasted amounts.

01065000 6065SS The legislative intent is to increase recycling services per additional justification documentation and current year forecasted amounts.

01086000 3086FB The legislative intent is to increase actuarial services per additional justification documentation and current year forecasted amounts.

01090000 4090EX The legislative intent is to increase computer supplies per additional justification documentation and current year forecasted amounts.

01090000 4090EX The legislative intent is to increase office supplies per additional justification documentation and current year forecasted amounts.

01090000 4090EX The legislative intent is to increase other supplies per additional justification documentation and current year forecasted amounts.

01095000 1095PS The legislative intent is to increase personal services to add a full time Legislative Aide back into the department. This was frozen to assist with the Mayor's give back concession bargaining effort in the current fiscal year.

01095000 6095SS The legislative intent is to maintain other services budget to the current fiscal year amount which was reduced in the Mayor's proposed budget.

01108000 1108PS The legislative intent is to increase personal services to add a 2 full time Support Specialist II's, provide for increased amounts for a Network Architect and Enterprise Manager and unfund 2 Project Specialists.

01250000 6250SS The legislative intent is to increase veterinary services per additional justification documentation and current year forecasted amounts.

01250000 6250SS The legislative intent is to increase computer services per additional justification documentation and current year forecasted amounts.

01260000 4260EX The legislative intent is to increase public safety equipment per additional justification documentation and current year forecasted amounts.

01290000 4290EX The legislative intent is to increase gas utility expense per additional justification documentation and current year forecasted amounts.

01450000 4450EX The legislative intent is to increase advertising services per additional justification documentation and current year forecasted amounts.

01450000 6450SS The legislative intent is to increase other services per additional justification documentation and current year forecasted amounts.

01457000 1457PS The legislative intent is to increase the personnel by one Zoning Inspector.

01576000 1576PS The legislative intent is to increase personal services to add a part time Asst. Special Project Manager for the increasing workload with the Persons with Disabilities clients.

01552000 4552EX The legislative intent is to increase office supplies per additional justification documentation and current year forecasted amounts.

01552000 4552EX The legislative intent is to increase office equipment per additional justification documentation and current year forecasted amounts.

01552000 6552SS The legislative intent is to increase computer services per additional justification documentation and current year forecasted amounts.

01554000 4554EX The legislative intent is to increase medical supplies per additional justification documentation and current year forecasted amounts.

01554000 6554SS The legislative intent is to increase medical services per additional justification documentation and current year forecasted amounts.

01555000 1555PS The legislative intent is to increase personnel by one Registered Sanitarian.

01578000 4578EX The legislative intent is to increase meetings/workshops per additional justification documentation and current year forecasted amounts.

01578000 4578EX The legislative intent is to increase other supplies per additional justification documentation and current year forecasted amounts.

01610000 6610SS The legislative intent is to increase the required reserve for the value of a Typist III position. This will be transferred by the City Council to the City Clerk's office when part-time staff is eliminated and they are ready to hire a full time position.

01610000 6610SS The legislative intent is to increase the contingency account for the value of \$1,164,223 for the purposes of increasing the fund balance reserve. This amount is

additional savings discovered by the Budget and Appropriation Committee during its deliberations and is equal to 10% of the FY 2010 audited non restricted fund balance.

01801000 1801PS The legislative intent is to increase the classroom teacher line item for increased ECS grant aid. Per correspondence from the State Department of Education, all ECS aid, minus the 2% set-aside, must be appropriated to the Board of Education.

01940000 4940EX The legislative intent is to create a transportation expense line for Charter School students which will be starting high school. These students will be bused to a Charter High School and the City will be reimbursed 25% of this expense. Under State Statute this does not fall under normal transportation of students.

NOTE: Although it is not a budget item, the Committee is supporting the study by the Police Department for the potential creation and staffing of a City Impound Yard.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY SECONDED.
 ** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY MOVED AGENDA ITEM 62-10C AS
 FOLLOWS:**

CITY COUNCIL VOTE NUMBER 3 - 62-10(C)

BUDGET & APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE VOTE OF GENERAL FUND

APPROPRIATION DECREASES

THERE ARE ADJUSTMENTS TO THE MAYOR'S RECOMMENDED BUDGET FOR GENERAL FUND PURPOSES AS DETAILED BY THE CITY COUNCIL BUDGET & APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE.

ORG	APPROP	DESCRIPTION	MAYOR PROPOSED	COUNCIL ADOPTED	CHANGE
		<u>APPROPRIATIONS</u>			
01055000	1055PS	City Clerk Personal Services	242,226	185,172	-57,054
01108000	6108SS	Information Technology Special Services	315,903	291,903	-24,000
		Total Appropriation Increases	\$558,129	\$477,075	-\$81,054

LEGISLATIVE INTENT APPROPRIATION DECREASES

01055000 1055PS The legislative intent is to unfund a part time assistant city clerk and assistant special project manager. The assistant special project manager is funding in the health department to work with Persons with Disabilities. When these positions are eliminated, the council has provided for a full time typist III or equivalent position in the contingency account and will transfer it to the City Clerk's budget.

01108000 6108SS The legislative intent is to decrease the management services account to fund the personnel re-alignment illustrated in the appropriation increases section.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER AUSTIN SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER AUSTIN MOVED AGENDA ITEM 62-10 d AS FOLLOWS:**

CITY COUNCIL VOTE NUMBER 4 – 62-10(d)

BUDGET & APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE VOTE OF GENERAL FUND

BUDGET

OVERALL TOTAL

DESCRIPTION	MAYOR PROPOSED	COUNCIL ADOPTED INCREASES	COUNCIL ADOPTED DECREASES	COUNCIL ADOPTED BUDGET
REVENUES				
ALL OTHER GENERAL FUND	\$468,078,112	\$23,798,784		\$491,876,896
TOTAL COUNCIL ADOPTED REVENUES	\$468,078,112	\$23,798,784		\$491,876,896
APPROPRIATIONS				
ALL OTHER GENERAL FUND	\$468,078,112	\$22,715,615	\$81,054	\$490,712,673
Contingency Account for FUND BALANCE		1,164,223		\$1,164,223
TOTAL COUNCIL ADOPTED APPROPRIATIONS	\$468,078,112	\$23,879,838	\$81,054	\$491,876,896
NET BUDGET SURPLUS / (SHORTAGE)		81,054	-81,054	

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY SECONDED.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia thanked the committee for allowing the neighbors to talk. Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia said that when the co-chairs are making the presentations, it would be best if they explain the reasons for the various components of the budget.

The discussion then moved to scheduling meeting to approve an adjustment the Nutrition Center.

Council Member Lyons gave Mr. Sherwood a compliment for the paperwork being clear, the pages were numbered clearly, and the process was much easier. Council Member Martinez agreed.

Council President McCarthy thanked Mr. Sherwood and Ms. Norton for their hard work. He thanked everyone on the committee for their work, and the Council Member who were not on the Committee but were in attendance. The discussion then moved to possibly hiring a media person to bring the information to the public.

ADJOURNMENT

**** COUNCIL PRESIDENT MCCARTHY MOVED TO ADJOURN.
** COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ SECONDED.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services