

CITY OF BRIDGEPORT  
JOINT MEETING  
BUDGET COMMITTEE *and* MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE  
DECEMBER 27, 2005

**ATTENDANCE BUDGET COMMITTEE**

COUNCILMEMBERS: CURWEN, MOJICA, McCARTHY, SILVA, WALSH,  
CURRAN, VIZZO-PANICCIA

**ATTENDANCE MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE**

COUNCILMEMBERS: MOJICA, VIZZO-PANICCIA, PAOLETTO, WALSH,  
AYALA(sat in to make a quorum)

OTHER(s): COUNCILMEMBERS: LYONS, MULLIGAN, PIVIROTTO  
ASSOCIATE CITY ATTORNEY TRACHTENBURG,  
ED LAVERNOICH; OPED, CHARLES CAROLL; CHIEF OF  
STAFF, CEFAB REPRESENTATIVES

Councilmember Curwen called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m. He reviewed the ground rules for conducting the meeting. He stated that four (4) votes would be needed from each committee for the resolution to pass.

**28-05 Real Estate Taxes on a Property Undergoing Environmental Remediation**

Mr. Lavernoich stated he was from the Office of Planning and Economic Development. He stated that a resolution had been drafted to authorize the Mayor to forgive back taxes due at 552 Housatonic Avenue. He explained that the new owner would conduct the remediation. He said he would give a history of the property, an update on the current conditions, the tax situation and settlement. He went on to speak about property in question. He displayed an aerial map and pointed out the former Bridgeport Brass property that had been an active company in Bridgeport for 90 years. The property covered 28-acres in the center of the city. He noted that Bridgeport Brass abandoned the property in 1980 and there has been no productive use of the property since 1980, except for a trash hauling operation. The former buildings at 552 Housatonic Avenue consist of 400,000 + square feet were there are large pits in the ground and enormous foundations that will cause environmental problems cleaning it up. The buildings were removed in 1990 and 2000 and there have been various phases of clean up since then. He continued to speak about how Mr. DiNardo acquired the company from Capital Asset in 1998, after three years of them not paying taxes, Mr. DiNardo made a contract to pay back the taxes amounting to \$300k. Mr. DiNardo started the remediation and demolition in 1999 and began discussions with the city in 2000, however, he was unable to get a clear answer

from the prior administration and he started seeing the costs escalate. At the time the costs were approximately \$4million (*Mr. Lavernoich had a document indicating this*), but he noted that he wasn't sure if it could be considered an official accurate document. Subsequently, Mr. DiNardo provided a document from a licensed environmental professional that there was approximately \$1million + to be done in remediation costs, beyond what was already done.

Councilmember Curwen asked if Delta Environmental was a subsidiary of Capital Asset. Mr. DiNardo said no.

Mr. Lavernoich explained the settlement and said that under the 1997 law, there were two different options. There was a provision to allow a prospective purchaser to buy a property and get all or a portion of the back taxes waived, but this option wasn't considered by the city. So they took into consideration the documents and the letter from the professional engineer, as well as the total outstanding taxes due currently (*this was outlined in a listing he distributed*) in the amount of \$1.6 million. He further explained that the law passed in 1997, didn't allow taxes from 1996 and 1997 to be forgiven, so Mr. DiNardo paid the 1997 taxes as it was outlined in the document. He further noted the amount Mr. DiNardo would pay immediately, noting that the total principal amount was \$689,354.06, but that he would pay a little more than the outstanding amount of approximately \$695k.

Councilmember McCarthy asked if the proposal was to pay the 1995, 1996 and 1997 taxes. Mr. Lavernoich said yes and the subsequent years taxes would be forgiven.

Mr. Lavernoich reiterated that Mr. DiNardo would pay the \$695k immediately and complete the clean up as approved by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Commissioner. This will have to be shown by a document indicating the clean up has been done. But the interest and penalties will continue on top of the \$695k and he will have nine months to a one year to complete the cleanup. But if he doesn't complete it, then the foreclosure continues until the taxes are paid, otherwise he will lose the property.

Mr. Lavernoich said they would get the \$695k immediately, he mentioned that he hoped this would compel Mr. DiNardo to clean up the property in a reasonable amount of time.

Councilmember McCarthy asked then if they were forgiving years 1998 to 2004 taxes. Mr. Lavernoich said that was the intention, but again, if the clean up was not done within the next few months, then the old taxes will begin rationing up fees.

Councilmember Curwen asked if the reason the 1995, 1996 and 1997 taxes were not applicable, was because the law didn't predate paying those taxes. Mr. Lavernoich said that was correct.

Councilmember Ayala asked in regard to the clean up, what standard was the city requiring for cleaning up the property. Mr. Lavernoich said they were going by the state standards that are driven by the reuse of the property i.e., the more aggressive the use, there are more restrictive standards. This protects people from pollution surrounding a residential use.

Mr. Lavernoich summed up the process of what would happen if the resolution was approved.

Councilmember McCarthy asked Mr. Lavernoich to point out the area in question on the map. Mr. Lavernoich pointed out the area and said it was 12.5 acres south of Grand Street; there was 450,000 sq. ft. of building. Again, the property was purchased from Capital Asset in 1998 and has undergone clean up since then.

Mr. Lavernoich expressed the importance of encouraging this type of activity. He said they tried to get the state and city assistance for the clean ups, but it would cost between \$6 and \$7 million and probably would have been done less effectively by either. So they thought they would have to find the resources to demolish the buildings and clean them up. He further stressed that he wanted to encourage the clean up of brown fields, in that, perhaps other people might come forward to do so. Councilmember Curwen concurred with the statement that something was needed to do this, but he questioned whether each case should be taken case-by-case. Mr. Lavernoich said yes, but he noted the procedure should have a broad criterion, wherein, the city would consider tax breaks for those types of clean up.

Councilmember Mojica asked if Mr. DiNardo qualified for the tax break under the state statute. Mr. Lavernoich said that according to Attorney Trachtenburg he did.

Councilmember Mojica asked about assurances on the city side, that the clean up in fact gets done and what those assurances were. Mr. Lavernoich said they would get \$695k immediately and then it will be agreed that the taxes would continue for the part not forgiven and that Mr. DiNardo has proven that he has cleaned up the site in accordance with the Connecticut standards. And until he does, the remainder of the back taxes will continue.

Attorney Trachtenburg said the state statute Sec. 1281-R requires completion of the clean up prior to the power to forgive the taxes. That is, the statute gives the authority to make that assurance and the person must complete the remediation.

Councilmember Ayala questioned who Housatonic & Grand LLC were as it was outlined in the resolution. Mr. Lavernoich said they were another single purpose corporation established and controlled by Mr. DiNardo. He clarified that he has to transfer to another entity to meet the threshold requirement.

Councilmember Ayala also questioned if the property wasn't cleaned up, were there any restrictions that would be deemed inappropriate to put another business in that might be detrimental to the city. Mr. Lavernoich asked if he meant restricting activities and what is eventually built there. Attorney Trachtenburg said this would have to be legal and outlined in the plans of the city, but she noted that as a practicality there might be certain restrictions.

Councilmember Walsh asked about asbestos in the building. Mr. Lavernoich said asbestos removal would require special handling during demolition.

Councilmember Walsh asked if remediation of the ground was necessary, would asbestos removal be required. Mr. Lavernoich said that was fair to say.

Councilmember Walsh asked who actually owned the property at this time. Mr. Lavernoich said that Grand Brass LLC was on the Tax Assessor's record as of today.

Mr. DiNardo said he purchased the property under Grand Brass LLC and he subdivided it into Grand Brass and Grand Brass II. And then he had to create another entity to take the title.

Councilmember Walsh asked if the property currently had a gross assessment of \$2 million. Mr. Lavernoich said that seemed to be accurate.

Councilmember Walsh asked then if there was a negative net worth attached to the property, i.e., does the property owner owe more to the City of Bridgeport than the property was worth. Mr. Lavernoich said the property could be under water as far as the value of it, but he said he would have to research that point.

Councilmember Walsh questioned why they were approving a resolution and not a final legal document. He questioned why they didn't wait until the final document was drawn up. Mr. Lavernoich explained they had limited legal staff and the documents take time to put together. So they try to put strict parameters on the deal first and then if the council is supportive, they then dedicate the time to drawing up the final document.

Councilmember Walsh further questioned whether there were still negotiations going on, and if so, why was a resolution being proposed. Mr. Lavernoich said because there were all kinds of nuances to finalize the agreement. Attorney Trachtenburg added it could also be a matter of how the insurance is applied on the property and other minor details outlined in the contract. But there have to be some parameters to get the document into final form. She noted that small nuances don't always affect the substance of the deal.

Councilmember Curwen asked if the word "negotiate" would have to be included in the deal then. Attorney Trachtenburg said yes, it would have to be.

Councilmember Mojica asked if the resolution passed and the final agreement was made, did it have to come back to the full council. Mr. Lavernoich said no, they didn't plan for that.

Councilmember Mojica stated that in the event there was any language changed in the agreement, he felt the matter should come back to the council, just in case there was something contained in it that they didn't agree with. Mr. Lavernoich said if anything changed, such as the amount of taxes paid, then it would definitely come back to the council.

Attorney Trachtenburg explained that for insurance bonds, clauses are included in the contract to protect the city. And whether it be by bond or title insurance, it seemed repetitive to bring those issues to the council, because one they get the broad bones of the structure of the agreement, all protective measures to the city are incorporated into the contract.

Councilmember Walsh asked about the property being subject to a spill. Mr. Lavernoich said there was hazardous waste released in the past, but they relied on subparagraph 2 to address this (*Councilmember Walsh read the paragraph*). He asked if they had environmental protection for the property. Mr. Lavernoich said no, but again, Mr. DiNardo **must** provide that or the taxes will not be forgiven.

Mr. Lavernoich said Mr. DiNardo has to get the plan approved, implemented and completed. It must satisfy the DEP commissioner and the city has to see proof of this, and then and only then, will the taxes be forgiven.

Councilmember Walsh further stated that they should have had that information first before the tax is abated. Mr. Lavernoich said they could get the plan in place, but it will not get guaranteed until the environmental professional assesses the matter.

Councilmember Walsh questioned when the state drafted legislature, did they envision one LLC selling to the same LLC as impetus for remediation. He felt this was indicative of a sham transaction. Mr. Lavernoich said the goal was to get private parties to clean up properties.

Councilmember Walsh questioned the wording "Rather the Tax Forgiveness Act states that the municipality must "deem" the property to be "abandoned" as it was outlined in Mr. DiNardo's letter. Mr. Lavernoich said abandoned was a term in the statute, but here it's just a determination of the city council. But he represented that the property was abandoned and has the potential to be cleaned up.

Councilmember Walsh felt that if the agreement didn't meet the legislative intent, then he didn't think the resolution should be passed.

Councilmember Walsh questioned the property that was purchased in 1998 with tax liens. Mr. Lavernoich said that Mr. DiNardo bought the property with three years back taxes that Capital Asset didn't pay. He purchased it subject to back taxes and he thought the costs be absorbed and that he could control the costs, but they escalated and that's when he approached the city under the statute.

Councilmember Walsh asked about contemplation of warehousing that is the lowest use of the land and sees the lowest tax base. Mr. Lavernoich said there were appropriate places in the city for that type of use, although he didn't wish to see them dominate in the city.

Councilmember Walsh questioned the land being used for school swing space. Mr. DiNardo clarified that Bridgeport Machine was offered for that use, not Bridgeport Brass.

Councilmember Walsh asked about the Soccochi Plan. Mr. Lavernoich said the plan was recommended for water dependant uses and not industrial, but in the plan, some industrial would allowed. However, the dominate use was preferred.

Councilmember Walsh emphasized that unless the city came up with a structured way for plans to go forward, as well as having a manner to allow competitive bidding that would result in the best tax break for the city; he urged his fellow councilmember to push for developing a comprehensive plan by which to judge these types of agreements favorable.

Councilmember Curran commented that she found it hard to defend to the taxpayers that they would go in and help a private developer, with no guarantee of the type of product that will go on the property. She said she felt uncomfortable with the scope of the resolution and she thought it was shortsighted and not in the best interest of the city. She also mentioned that she was resentful that they didn't have an up to date master plan or an inventory of these types of assets. Overall, she thought it was a lot to digest and was a reactive not a proactive agreement.

Councilmember Curwen stated that it wouldn't cost the taxpayers anything, since it hasn't for the last 25 years. He stressed that if they don't take the brown-fields of land and put them back to use, then this would ultimately present a dilemma, in that these pieces of land wouldn't end back up on the tax roll.

Councilmember Mojica commented that they probably wouldn't find many bidders willing to spend on brown fields. This was a business transaction and for someone to offer to clean one up was a rarity.

Councilmember Mojica asked Mr. DiNardo's thoughts on the matter. Mr. DiNardo stated that Mr. Lavernoich pretty much covered everything. But he said that when he started the project, he was going to be next to the courthouse, that would have been a viable location then, but now the property is next to a crushing and steel plant, so

admittedly he made a mistake in not asking for a waiver from the city. He said that currently he pays \$1 million in taxes to the city on square footage he has in the city. He went onto say he began buying brown fields to try to make money from them and although he realizes that everyone pays taxes, if he has the opportunity to lower his taxes, it's a benefit to him. He further explained that he is in the leasing business to buy and build properties. Overall, he is in business to make money.

Councilmember Paoletto stated that they shouldn't lose sight of the issue, in that Mr. DiNardo is a businessman. And although buying brown fields is a new concept in Bridgeport, it's not throughout the state. He thought Mr. DiNardo's proposal would be beneficial to the city long term. He didn't think anyone else would be interested in the property until it was cleaned up, so he thought it was the best solution to go forward.

Councilmember Silva said he agreed with Councilmember Paoletto. He asked about the future of the site and if there could possibly be anything else put there where more taxes would be generated. Mr. DiNardo said if they let him have the steel mill, he believed he could put in the types of businesses that would be a viable asset to the city such as offices.

Councilmember Silva said the property was in his district and he had a concern about trucking and children in the area. So if he had a choice, he would rather see more retail and lofts, instead of a rock crushing or distribution center where there will be a lot of trucks emitting fumes that are hazardous to one's health. Although he understood Mr. DiNardo would build to the best of his use, he asked if he had any other angles for building. Mr. DiNardo said he couldn't just market a heavy retail use on the site, and he honestly didn't see the site as any other thing but warehousing and distribution. Councilmember Curwen asked if it was possible to add a clause stating that if the resolution was approved, the matter would have to come back to the committee or full council as to what is built on the parcel. Attorney Trachtenburg said it would be next to impossible to structure a deal on an uncertainty. But if they had a definitive parameter it could possibly be done. But they couldn't do it on an uncertain contingency.

Councilmember Mulligan asked about the Delta appraisal dated February 28, 2005 and if any work had been done since then. Mr. Lavernoich said there has been active remediation. Mr. DiNardo said he did a little work on the site to try to decide how to take on certain clean up measures.

Councilmember Curwen asked if any monies have been worked off in the remediation to date. Mr. DiNardo replied that a little bit has. He thought the city should help him out on the \$4 million he already spent, noting this was only reasonable.

Councilmember Mulligan asked if they were all third party suppliers. Mr. DiNardo said yes, he said he owned the companies that did the work, but all the hours were documented for the time spent doing it.

Councilmember Paoletto commented that because this was a joint meeting, he asked if two motions had to be made. Councilmember Curwen said yes.

**\*\* COUNCILMEMBER PAOLETTO MOVED TO APPROVE AS A MEMBER OF THE MISCELLANEOUS COMMITTEE**

Councilmember Paoletto withdrew his motion

Councilmember Ayala said he would like to see language in regard to the types of development already seen that are not deemed acceptable by the city, such as a rock crushing operation. Attorney Trachtenburg said as long as the request was for something **specific** it could be done.

The following is a piecemeal amendment to the resolution (*see the completed amendment on page 9*)

“AMENDMENT TO THE RESOLUTION TO RESOLVE THAT: IF ALL THE CONDITIONS ARE MET AS OUTLINED IN THE RESOLUTION, THAT ANY FUTURE DEVELOPER ON THES SITE, SHOULD NOT DEVELOP THE PIECE OF PREPRTY INTO AN ASPHALT PLANT OR ROCK CRUSHING OPERATION.

Attorney Trachtenburg added that the tax forgiveness should be specific to the potential purchaser, so the language should be indicative of any prospective purchaser or any subsequent recipient of benefits.

**\*\* COUNCILMEMBER AYALA MOVED FOR THE MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE THAT THE RESOLUTION BE AMENDED AS FOLLOWS:**

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT UPON THE EVENTS THAT THE DELINQUENT REAL PROPERTY TAXES, INTEREST AND LIEN FEES ON THE PROPERTY ASSOCIATED WITH THE GRAND LISTS OF 1995, 1996 & 1997 ARE PAID IN FULL ON OR BEFORE MARCH 31, 2006; H&G ACQUIRES FEE TITLE TO THE PROPERTY; H&G OBTAINS AN ENVIRONMENTAL INVESTIGATION OR REMEDIATION PLAN APPROVED BY THE COMMISSIONER OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION OR A LICENSED ENVIRONMENTAL PROFESSIONAL; AND H&G COMPLETES OR CAUSES TO BE COMPLETED SUCH REMEDIATION FOR AN ESTABLISHMENT AS DEFINED IN SECTION 22A-134 OF THE CONNECTICUT GENERAL STATUTE, ALL THE AFOREMENTIONED CONDITIONS TO BE MET TO THE REASONABLE SATISFACTION OF THE OFFICE OF PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND THE**

**PROSPECTIVE PURCHASER AND/OR ANY SUBSEQUENT RECIPIENT OF THE BENEFITS OF THE TAX FORGIVENESS CONTEMPLATED HEREIN AGREE NOT TO DEVELOP, NOR TO ALLOW FOR 20 YEARS THE DEVELOPMENT, OF THE PROPERTY INTO ANY ASPHALT PLANT OR ROCK CRUSHING OPERATION, WHEREUPON THE CITY OF BRIDGEPORT SHALL AND CONDITIONED AS ABOVE, FORGIVE THE REAL PROPERTY TAXES AND INTEREST REFLECTIVE OF THE GRAND LIST YEARS OF 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003 AND 2004, AS RELATING TO THE PROPERTY, BLOCK 1534 LOT 01.**

**AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor be and is hereby empowered and authorized to negotiate and execute, in consultation with the Office of the City Attorney, any and all documents reasonably necessary to effectuate completion of the remedial clean-up of the Property and effectuate the forgiveness of taxes as outlined above.**

**\*\* COUNCILMEMBER PAOLETTO SECONDED**

Councilmember Walsh stated that he would vote for the amendment to the resolution but not the resolution.

Councilmember Vizzo-Paniccia asked if the amendment would be across the board for all companies. Councilmember Curwen said it would be case-by case.

**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**\*Approved by Councilmember's: Walsh, Mojica, Vizzo-Paniccia and Paoletto**

**\*\* COUNCILMEMBER PAOLETTO MOVED TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION AS AMENDMENEED FOR THE MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE**

**\*\* VIZZO-PANICCIA SECONDED**

**\*\* MOTION PASSED WITH FOUR VOTES IN FAVOR AND ONE VOTE IN OPPOSITION (COUNCILMEMBER WALSH)**

**\*Approved by Councilmember's: Paoletto, Vizzo-Paniccia, Ayala, Mojica**

**\*\* COUNCILMEMBER McCARTHY MOVED TO APROVE THE RESOLUTION AS AMENDED FOR THE BUDGET COMMMITTEE**

**\* VIZZO-PANICCIA SECONDED**

**\*\* MOTION PASSED WITH FIVE VOTES IN FAVOR AND TWO VOTES IN OPPOSITION (COUNCILMEMBERS: CURRAN and WALSH)**

**\*Approved by Councilmember's: Curwen, Vizzo-Paniccia, McCarthy, Silva,  
Mojica,**

\*It was stated that the following documents will be submitted to the City Clerks office by Councilmember Curwen:

- The final amended resolution
- The original resolution
- The questions asked by Councilmember Walsh during the meeting

**ADJOURNED**

**\*\* COUNCILMEMBER PAOLETTO MOVED TO ADJOURN  
\*\* COUNCILMEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA SECONDED  
\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Graham  
Telesco Secretarial Services

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT  
BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE  
JANUARY 30, 2006**

**ATTENDANCE:** Robert Curwen (138th), Co-chair; Rafael Mojica (131st), Co-Chair;

Donna Curran (130th); Carlos Silva (136th); AmyMarie Vizzo-Paniccia (134th).

**OTHERS:** Michael Lupkas, Richard Davanzo, Deputy Director of Finance; Frank Cleary, Bond Council

**CALL TO ORDER**

Co-Chair Curwen called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m. He then called roll, stating the member's name and district number. Co-Chair Curwen stated that Mr. McCarthy and Mr. Walsh were unable to attend the meeting because they were in other meetings at City Hall.

**43-05 Approval of General Obligation Bonds -  
To Refund Certain General Obligation Bonds.**

Co-Chair Curwen read the resolution for the Committee and recognized Mr. Lupkas. Mr. Lupkas greeted the Committee members and proceeded to review the proposal. He explained that the bonds under discussion were already issued and that by refunding them, the City would have a savings on debt service. It is the goal to refund them at 3%, but Mr. Lupkas explained that the actual percentage might be slightly under that goal percentage. He explained that the market changes daily and that the sale would not take place unless the market was favorable.

Mr. Mojica asked for an explanation of the refunding, which Mr. Lupkas gave briefly. He also stated that if the City was having a bond sale, that 2.8% would be an acceptable percentage while 2.50% would not. With the Committee and Council approval, the City would be in a position to sell when the conditions were favorable.

Co-Chair Curwen asked how much the City would save by doing this. Mr. Lupkas replied that it would depend on the market rates. Ms. Curran asked about moving the debt back. Mr. Lupkas explained that it would move the debt forward from 2006 to 2007. Following a discussion of some of the details of the sale and its affect on the current project, Ms. Curran asked how she could get an overview on the subject. Mr. Lupkas stated that she could call his office and he would prepare some general materials for her.

**\*\* MR. MOJICA MOVED TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 43-05 APPROVAL OF  
GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS -TO REFUND CERTAIN GENERAL  
OBLIGATION BONDS AND ADDITION TO THE CONSENT**

**CALENDAR.**

**\*\* MS. VIZZO-PANICCIA SECONDED.**

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

At this point, Mr. Lupkas introduced Mr. Davanzo, the new Deputy Director of Finance to the Committee and Mr. Frank Cleary, the Bond Council.

**\*\* MR. MOJICA MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING.**

**\*\* MR. SILVA SECONDED.**

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

The meeting adjourned at 6:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Sharon L. Soltes  
Telesco Secretarial Services

CITY OF BRIDGEPORT  
BUDGET and APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE  
MARCH 20, 2006

ATTENDANCE: COUNCILMEMBERS: CURWEN, MOJICA, McCARTHY,  
SILVA, WALSH, CURRAN, VIZZO-PANICCIA

OTHER COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:  
AYALA, MULLIGAN, PAOLETTO, LYONS

OTHER(s): TOM SHERWOOD; OPM DIRECTOR,  
DR. RAMOS; SUPERINTENDENT of SCHOOLS

Councilmember Curwen called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m.

**72-05** Budget Transfer to comply with State P.A. 05-245, Sec. 31 From:  
Various Employee Benefits Accounts To: Various BOE Accounts

Council member Curwen updated that the committee met two weeks ago on this matter. There was a prior conversation with Dr. Ramos who asked for an extension to discuss the matter with the BOE members, to determine if they would be more amenable to this aspect.

Dr. Ramos extended his appreciations to the committee for discussing this matter. He stated that when the city was approached about moving health benefits, it was done on a Monday evening. He was copied on the paperwork and received it the following Friday, but he didn't have any previous communication with the BOE regarding the matter. So at the next BOE meeting that followed, there was a discussion, but he wasn't well informed enough on the matter to relay it to the BOE. So that's why he asked for more time to share the information and discuss it further. He went on to say that he met with the Finance Committee and it was explained what the city was planning to do with the MBR and health issues. At the end of the meeting, the board asked him to continue discussion with the city. But they made it clear they weren't interested in taking the health benefits back. Then last Monday, the issue came up again, but there was no plan to report to the Finance Committee that night; however, the matter came up under other business and it was decided to make it clear to the Mayor and the city by a resolution that as submitted that the BOE didn't want the health benefits returned to the BOE. But if it was going to be done, they requested that it be done by July 1, 2006. And if they were returned, it should be done as a complete package with retirement, co-pays etc. included.

Dr. Ramos further explained that what precipitated this discussion was outlined in a memo he referred to that was distributed. He said the costs outlined represented increases for next year that brought them to a budget of an 8.71% increase that is needed to maintain what they already have. But to open a new school and meet their obligations and bring equity to the elementary schools, those items reviewed brought the amount to \$178,847 over the current budget. But if they transfer the health benefits with revenue generated, then the operating costs totaled up to the amount outlined in the handout. But if they transfer without revenue, it has to be a higher figure in order to meet next year's projected cost. So the question was how they came up with that cost. He referred to the next page of the handout showing how the amount was generated that was based on the prior year, and it was the same for 2004-2005 and for 2005-2006, that's where they came up with the projection. He clarified there was a concern that for the \$19,996,120, if they followed through with what was proposed and give the money back, there's a promise that if the benefits run over, the city will assume the amount. So again, there was a question of what the problem was. In his discussion with the Mayor, he said there was a commitment that if they ran over the \$19,996,120 the city would meet the costs. But the intention of the proposal was for this year only. Also, it was made clear that in moving in this direction, when the move was made, then the groundwork was laid to carry on. So again, he had a concern of why do it now, when they were two-thirds into the year. Overall, there was a consensus that they should wait and do it in its entirety. And if in fact they give the benefits to the school board and they run over without being accommodated, they will have to look to the operating budget. But it was understood that the budget was inadequate to meet their demands.

Dr. Ramos further expressed the poor conditions of the schools', so again, there's a question of how to cover the costs. He reiterated that the BOE's position was that they don't want the health benefits back. And if so, again, it should be done in July, so the board has the capacity to meet their obligation.

Council member Curwen asked why it was important to turn over the benefits now. Mr. Sherwood said he had correspondence from December regarding the MBR (Minimum Budget Requirement). When they passed the budget, health care was recommended and included was growth for 2004-2005 that was higher than the budget. But it was asked that they not move the item back. So when they took action on the Mayor's budget, the law was clear that the budget transactions be shown on the books, in that the matter had to go through the Board of Education's appropriation. So they decided to move the health care and it was approved with the clarity that if it doesn't stay in the budget, they would make good on this fiscal year. He further noted there were a lot of issues that dealt with legislation. But as far as revenues, it had no bearing on this matter, because they're giving them the total gross expected and revenue is already in the budget for MER purposes. And as far as next year, they weren't sure what would happen, this proposal was decided for 2006-2007 only. But if they don't make the move now, it won't comply with the MBR for a couple of reasons.

Mr. Sherwood had a letter from Dr. Betty Sternberg, Commissioner of Education stating that **“The plan that was outlined should bring Bridgeport into compliance with the**

**MBR requirement, provided that the transfer of the health insurance benefits does not require the Bridgeport Board to use any of the additional \$962,508 to pay any additional costs associated therewith.”** And that they will return to the city council if they needed to move more money. Mr. Sherwood relayed that this matter was somewhat controversial in view of the current legislation.

Council member Curran remarked about the February 16, 2006 from Dr. Sternberg. She asked how health care became part of this discussion. Mr. Sherwood said that Dr. Ramos responded to a letter to portray that they wanted to apply the ECSA to employee's health care. The letter indicated they had to get the \$962,508 to the BOE's appropriation. So action needed to be taken and Mike Feeney outlined a plan and they were given until March 1, 2006 to respond. But initially, they wanted to move health care and show that the \$962,508 was a separate item. But if the health care is not moved, it will never count towards the ECSA use intended and it won't be included in the budget to be accounted for future years.

Council member Curwen asked then if the request was for three months. Mr. Sherwood said no, they were asking to do it from here forward, there was no specific time limit. Dr. Ramos clarified that they weren't sure what they were doing going forward. He expressed that it was somewhat confusing because there was the matter whether the city met the MBR and whether or not the health benefits were met. So this issue was whether or not the city was short on the MBR. He stressed that in the past, the city has retained a portion of the ECSA dollars and in the event that the funds were found not to be enough, they could tap the ECSA money and in turn, move it back to buy text books, etc. If needed.

Dr. Ramos further simplified the matter in that he thought the issues were mutually exclusive, since the commitment was made to pay for any overage and the end game was to get benefits back to the city side. And although there is a rationale, he felt they could just move the \$962,508 and be done with it!

Council member Mojica questioned if they were going to move the health benefits, why not do in its entirety. He also asked the following questions:

- Why does the city keep revenues from co-pays paid by the teachers etc., as was indicated in a recent CT Post article?

Mr. Sherwood replied that the article was inaccurate. He explained they were moving the entire fund, noting that it's funded by grants. And payroll for employees go with active people. But if they were given revenues, they will still be in the general fund and it will still be recorded each week and put in as a budget item. So they were appropriating the gross amount needed to cover health care.

- Why does the city only transfer health benefits and keep the reimbursements from retirements?

Mr. Sherwood said when they report to the state for the MER, they net the amount out and the credits are applied and netted down.

Mr. Sherwood added that with grant employees, total membership is looked at under what's called a pseudo-rate. They are given three options how they can pay, but there is an established rate for each member based on their status i.e., single, family. They are predetermined rates that come from the health provider. Dr. Ramos added that according to the state because this isn't an MER issue, there needs to be a determination whether the pseudo-rate is an allowable one.

Council member Walsh referred to last paragraph of the letter from Betty Sternberg indicating her concern regarding the calculation for the MBR for Bridgeport (*he read the paragraph*). He said this indicated that they must show the increase of \$962,508. He emphasized why they just don't do that!

Mr. Sherwood said that under the MBR, next year if the city keeps the benefits, since it's not in the MBR, the city will ultimately absorb the cost. Council member Walsh said it still didn't make sense to him, noting that it seemed the city got caught underfunding the BOE and now they were taking the opportunity to move the health cost to the BOE. Mr. Sherwood disputed the statement that the city got caught. He pointed out that legislation was a big factor in this matter.

Council member Mulligan asked if Board of Education Commissioner was requiring that they transfer the \$19,996,120 along with the \$962,508. Mr. Sherwood said no.

Council member Mulligan asked if they just gave the \$962,508 to the BOE, were they required to spend it on health insurance. Mr. Sherwood said no, the BOE planned to use the money to offset the gas utilities for the schools.

Council member Curwen asked if it was recommended that the monies be moved to the budget to show a complete package as was indicated by Dr. Sternberg. Mr. Sherwood said no, that decision was made by the board. Dr. Ramos added that the commissioner was looking for the MBR to be met and looking for the \$962,508 to go to the school board.

Council member McCarthy asked if there was a time frame to allocate the \$962,508. Mr. Sherwood said there wasn't any specific time frame, but if the board uses the monies for utilities that would be okay, but to expedite the matter and show good faith, they hope it is done ASAP.

Dr. Ramos said he was sure that when the commissioner talked about the arrangement with the city, she thought it would be okay as long as they kept it clean. He didn't feel she meant that if the monies went forward there would be any kind of impact.

Council member Mulligan asked what the motivators were for the \$19,996,120 and \$962,508 amounts. Mr. Sherwood said that there should be a transfer initiated to clearly show that they took action on the \$962,508 and to show where it would end up in the BOE's budget.

Council member Ayala asked if the \$962,508 was currently in the budget for this year. Mr. Sherwood said that was correct. Council member Ayala asked if that amount was a contingency account, should the city dollars go over and be used as a cushion. Mr. Sherwood said that was correct. Council member Ayala asked what the forecast was for health benefits and if they were at risk of going over what was appropriated, not counting the cushion. Mr. Sherwood said that through February they were looking at a \$400k surplus.

Council member Ayala said then if they moved the \$962,508 over, because they had a surplus, would they be in a better position on the city side. Mr. Sherwood said yes, but he emphasized that if that wasn't done, any overage in health care would go into taxation. Again, he stressed that was a major factor as it pertained to the law.

Council member Curwen commented that if the budget was recommended by the Mayor, they will probably have the same discussion at budget time.

Dr. Ramos said if the attempt was for the ECSA money to be on the BOE side and if health benefits run over, then he felt the monies would end up going to the city and that wasn't the intention of the money.

Council member Curwen stated that when the Budget Committee gets the budget, there's usually no communication regarding these issues, but now that the matter has been brought to their attention, there needs to be a mechanism. He said it seemed the city will incur the cost anyway. So he felt the budget needed to be in line with the national average of 8 or 9% and that it needed to reflect that the dollars were going to health care anyway.

Council member McCarthy asked if they could act on the \$962,508 as an amendment to the larger amount of \$19,996,120. Council member Curwen deferred to Mr. Sherwood for an answer. Mr. Sherwood said they already amended the \$19,996,120 to bring in the \$962,508.

Council member McCarthy asked by bringing up the \$19,996,120 item, could they vote on the amended portion of \$962,508 and delay a decision on the \$19,996,120. Mr. Sherwood said no, because they would be delaying it past the fiscal year end.

Council member Curran asked if they were pushing to have health care transferred to meet the MBR requirements. Mr. Sherwood said that was correct.

Council member Curwen clarified that the item couldn't be amended, but to meet the MBR, he said they could move the \$962,508 to the BOE by approving the transfer of the health benefits.

Council member McCarthy asked if they were able to amend the \$19,996,120 out. Council member Walsh responded that they could amend it to zero out. Mr. Sherwood suggested that they obtain the city attorney's advice before acting on that.

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER MCCARTHY MOVED TO ZERO OUT THE  
\$19,996,120 LINE AS AMENDED  
\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER SILVA SECONDED**

Mr. Sherwood advised once again, that they verify doing this with the city attorney. Council member Mojica agreed that might be a good idea.

Council member Walsh felt they could pass the matter now and the city attorney could review and research the matter later. If it was found not to be the most prudent thing to do, then if necessary, the Mayor could veto it.

Council member Mulligan felt that they should consult City Attorney Anastasi on the matter, recess the meeting and then reconvene later to resolve the issue.

Council President Ayala stated that he planned to hold a caucus prior to the city council meeting tonight, so he thought perhaps they could take up the matter then.

Council member Walsh questioned whether the city attorney had the time to thoroughly research the legislation sufficiently to speak on the matter tonight.

Mr. Sherwood clarified that City Attorney Anastasi should be consulted to determine whether they could discard the original item and replace it with what was proposed tonight.

Council member Curwen agreed there could be a problem if they just discarded the original amount of \$19,996,120 and zeroed it out. He said there was still a question of where the \$962,508 was coming from.

Council member Walsh said then they should reduce the \$19,996,120 to \$962,508.

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER McCARTHY WITHDREW HIS MOTION  
\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER SILVA WITHDREW HIS SECOND**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER MOJICA MOVED TO RECESS  
\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER WALSH SECONDED  
\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**\*It was stated that the committee would reconvene following the city council caucus tonight.**

**RECESSED**

**\*\* COUNCILMEMBER McCARTHY MOVED TO RECESS  
\*\* COUNCILMEMBER SILVA SECONDED  
\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

The meeting was recessed at 6:50 p.m.

\*Let it be noted that the Public Speaking forum of the City Council was called to order at 6:52 p.m., then the City Council meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. and recessed at 7:20 p.m. to reconvene the Budget and Appropriations Committee meeting (*see below*).

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*The Budget and Appropriations Committee reconvened at 7:30 p.m. To continue discussion of item:*

**72-05** Budget Transfer to comply with State P.A. 05-245, Sec. 31 From:  
Various Employee Benefits Accounts To: Various BOE Accounts

Council member Curwen stated that this matter was previously discussed. He recapped the motions that were made. He said that City Attorney Anastasi clarified the rules as they pertained to the previous motion made. And the item before them was that they can alter the numbers as they wish and that the \$19,996,120 could be changed to reflect the action by the committee.

Council member McCarthy asked then if they were able to zero out the amount. Council member Curwen said they needed to be cautious of using the language “zero out”. he said they needed to amend the motion amended earlier to include... City Attorney Anastasi interjected to clarify that he hadn’t seen the agenda item. But he made it clear that they couldn’t amend by substitution to a different subject matter. He said if they were going to amend the item by adding additional monies or substituting, it needed to remain a balanced budget that is in compliance with the Public Act 05-245 Sec. 31.

Council member Curwen asked if the \$962,508 would satisfy the intention of Public Act 05-245 and if it would bring Bridgeport in compliance. Mr. Sherwood’s response was that, that would be up to the commissioner.

City Attorney Anastasi expressed that it sounded like what they were proposing was a serious change in dollar differential. He emphasized that he didn’t have sufficient information to speak on the matter of zeroing out the \$962,508.

Mr. Sherwood explained that the **first transfer** was for health care only and the **second transfer** was for the MBR requirement. He was adamant that he wasn't sure if one had anything to do with the other and if they were acting correctly if they zeroed the amount out.

Council member Curwen read the original communication as it pertained to the \$19,996,120.

*There was some further open discussion and:*

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER WALSH MOVED TO AMEND THE ORIGINAL AMENDMENT BY SUBSTITUTION TO TRANSFER FROM THE VARIOUS EMPLOYEE BENEFITS ACCOUNTS \$962,508 TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION UTILITIES ACCOUNTS FOR \$962,508  
\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER McCARTHY SECONDED  
\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER McCARTHY MOVED TO APPROVE THE ITEM AS AMENDED  
\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER SILVA SECONDED  
\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

### **ADJOURNED**

**\*\* COUNCILMEMBER McCARTHY MOVED TO ADJOURN  
\*\* COUNCILMEMBER MOJICA SECONDED  
\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

The meeting was recessed at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Graham  
Telesco Secretarial Services

CITY OF BRIDGEPORT  
BUDGET and APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE of the CITY COUNCIL  
PUBLIC HEARING – SPECIAL SESSION  
APRIL 10, 2006

ATTENDANCE: COUNCILMEMBERS: CURWEN, MOJICA, VIZZO-PANICCIA, SILVA, McCARTHY, CURRAN, WALSH,

OTHERS PRESENT: COUNCIL MEMBERS: AYALA, PAOLETTO, BAKER, HOLLOWAY, VALLE, DePARA, MULLIGAN, LYONS, RODGERSON, PIVIROTTO, BLUNT

and MAYOR JOHN FABRIZI, CHRIS ROSARIO;  
LEGISLTATIVE AIDE

Council member Curwen called the public hearing to order at 6:05 p.m.

**PUBLIC HEARING CONCERNING THE MAYOR’S PROPOSED GENERAL FUND BUDGET FOR FY 2006-2007**

Council member Curwen introduced the committee members. He reviewed the ground rules for the public hearing and requested that everyone present be courteous and respectful when other people were speaking. He reminded everyone that each speaker would be allowed to speak for three minutes. And he asked that each person be brief if they were commenting on the same topic.

\*He requested that everyone turn off their cell phones.

*Let it be noted that all comments and statements have been summarized.*

- **Janice Sisbara, 675 Henry Avenue** - Ms. Sisbara stated that she was a public health nurse. She noted that she began her job just days after the world trade center disaster and that she experienced anthrax and smallpox scares. She pointed out that nursed work the annual flu shot clinics and they organize to make sure the sick receive vaccines. She expressed that Bridgeport public health nurses were valuable in the city, noting that with the bird flu on the horizon, they are needed to prepare for the worst. She asked that they don’t sell them to the BOE, because doing so will limit the services they offer. She asked to **KEEP the word PUBLIC in PUBLIC HEATH.**

- **Evelyn Liptak, 121 Seamans Lane, Milford** - Ms. Liptak said she was a nurse in Bridgeport. She spoke about the community based services that oversee various health clinics for varied illnesses with the purpose of promoting good health. She noted this was the health department's first step to the educational process. She pointed out the number of students in schools where they only receive part time services and where complicated health services are provided. They are also responsible for referrals and monitoring of medications. But without the nursing services, she said she shuddered to think who would care for the people and patients. She stressed that the health department was a priority, because it meant health for the citizens of Bridgeport.
- **Mary Alice Knapp, 61 Ripton Road, Newtown** - Ms. Knapp spoke about public health nurses being in existence for years. She pointed out that the services they render integrate the community and health care as it relates to the population. And it exercises a standard of care and performance. Overall, nurses are knowledgeable about various stages of intervention for people in need and it allows affordable care. She questioned who will provide the training required in the event of a disaster. She asked to please leave the department as **PUBLIC HEALTH**.
- **Mary Ann Muthersbaugh, 345 Surburan Avenue, Fairfield** - she stated that she was a nurse at Columbus School. She expressed that many of the children entering school have varied medical and psychological problems and nurses are needed to provide the necessary care to those children. She said there must be a supervisory relationship between the nurse, supervisor and health professional. And replacing those persons with BOE members would be foolhardy and may leave the issue open to potential liabilities. Overall, she stressed they need to **let educators educate and not assume the role of health providers**. She asked that they don't change the department as it is, because they have served well.

*Council member Curwen expressed that all comments being made tonight mattered and would be considered.*

- **Neida Robles, 333 Vincelle Street, Bridgeport** - she said she was a Bridgeport health nurse. She asked that they do the right thing for the kids and residents of the city and that they maintain a separate entity under a separate budget and not become a pawn in Bridgeport politics, by leaving the responsibility with the BOE. She pointed out that Mayor Fabrizi as our mayor, he had the responsibility for the kids and residents of the city and consider what's more important. She expressed that the city residents would hold the city responsible if the idea doesn't work.
- **Kate Gredinger, 53 Gilles Rd., Trumbull** - Ms. Gredinger said she based her opposition to moving public health services to the BOE, because she thought it was akin to only shifting funds around. She had a concern that the varied services performed would be jeopardized if they became part of the BOE, who don't have certification and who will oversee critical aspects of health services. She was also

concerned about what would happen to other programs run by the health department. So she felt the services needed be continued by the health department so they can provide the best services possible. She also noted that if they merged, there was a good chance the students they serve wouldn't be comfortable with the changes.

- **Nancy Munn, 17 Fairview Avenue, Brookfield** - she stated she was a Bridgeport Health Department nurse. She spoke about leaving Bridgeport vulnerable if they merged with the BOE. She pointed out that the health department carried out and administered various vaccines and health services. But she thought that since the BOE was limited by law, services would be affected greatly. She thanked Mayor Fabrizi for his past support of Bridgeport Health Department services, but she questioned why they need to change now, since they've been operating as a stable separate entity.
- **Connie Catrone, 381 Cornwall, Avenue, Cheshire** - she said she worked in the private and public sectors with 30 years experience as a nurse. She spoke about the potential impact of the change, noting it wouldn't be appropriate to use the BOE to satisfy the MER (Minimum Eligible Requirement). She further noted that they can't split the program responsibility and management to achieve good health care. She pointed out that the matter has been discussed behind the scenes without much information given to the health department. And she had a fear of replacing with the unknown. Overall, she didn't think the BOE should be able to dictate how to operate health services.
- **Chris Reale, 116 Waverly Road, Huntington** - Ms. Reale said she was present to ask them to keep health services in the hands of professionals. She spoke about the finance aspect and being told it was a financial issue and about the MER. She stressed the issue was only in regard to a shortfall that the BOE will ultimately see if the MER was not achieved. Overall, she felt this was a matter of eligibility and school-based services vs. the MER.
- **Polly Cromwell, 241 Home Street, Fairfield** - she said she had been a nurse for 19 years, the last 2 years at Bridgeport Health Department. She noted there were various services they administer, noting there were 12,000 students that attend school-based health centers. So without those services, many that don't have health insurance will be left out of receiving health care. She stressed it was important that they remain as part of the Bridgeport Health Department because they were also affiliated with the state health department and if it changes, they won't receive the much needed funds to oversee the services they do now. She further stressed that they provided (546) visits to asthma sufferers and administer child immunizations and they also offer dental care services. Overall, she said the students will lose out, **so please keep the department as is.**
- **John Ramos, Superintendent of Schools, 140 Pondview Drive, Watertown** – Dr. Ramos stated that he was **not advocating** that they disinherit school health services or the nurses. He read a statement that was written by a student that highlighted the importance of team sports and the importance of getting involved. He said the situation was that all students strive to achieve at a high proficiency,

but along the way to do that they need guidance. He referred to a handout outlining increases in the budget. He pointed out the amount they requested this year needed to achieve what they currently accomplish. He said that 94% of the budget was comprised of mandatory items such as, text books, supplies etc. He further emphasized that budget cuts for last year and he explained how some teachers considered leaving the schools due to the lack of school resources. He stressed that next year, if they don't get the additional funding, what will happen is that any potential increase will be consumed for health benefits. Overall, he concluded to say we need to ask ourselves if we were serious at the city and state levels about educating the kids. And do we really believe the system can operate differently. At any rate, he felt they needed to find a way to deliver to the kids. He expressed that the issue was **not** about adults, it's about the kids. He strongly offered that if they approach it right, the resources will come, but they needed support of the community and they need to ban together and come up with a solution. *He submitted his statement into the record.*

Council member Walsh asked Dr. Ramos if they accepted funds in the Mayor's budget for school-based health; would they have to maintain the same level of service, or was the money there for them to use as the Board of Education saw fit. Dr. Ramos said they couldn't do anything if the accounts shifted to them, but they would be legally obligated to run the programs.

- **Auden Grogins, 155 Brewster Street, Bridgeport** - she stated she was President of the BOE. She expressed that this was a dire situation, in view of the fact that they might only receive the \$ 2million increase proposed. She requested the status quo budget to keep things the way they are, although changes were needed, she understood the dilemma when the BOE requests increases. However, she said when she sits in her seat as President of the BOE, she sees that it is a most critical situation. She admonished that they couldn't lose sight of the critical funding needed and the value of education for the kids to take an inferior education and turn it into a superior one. **If the schools fail, we all fail!** She went on to read the list of budget cuts consisting of:
  - Home economic course
  - Foreign language at High Horizons School
  - The Blue Ribbon award
  - At-risk children program
  - Art and physical education teachers
  - Substitute teachers

She strongly expressed these were problems they faced, so again, it was critically important to receive revenue and **don't** give them the health benefits. She asked that they please view this as a partnership to receiving more funding.

- **Max Medina, 140 Hickory Street, Bridgeport** - he thanked the committee and city council members for the opportunity to speak. And he commended them all for attending tonight. He went on to express that there was pride in John Fabrizi being elected Mayor, especially since he was a former teacher. However, he criticized that he thought that he has treated the school system worse and worse. He strongly requested that the city council to advise the Mayor not to support the proposal. He said he endorsed all the arguments made by the Bridgeport Health Department nurses and he emphasized that there was **no reason to shift the department**. He said they shouldn't have to question whether or not to buy vaccines or books. He pointed out that it was a radical idea simply because Tom Sherwood thought so. He stressed that if they thought there was really an argument to be made, then the matter should be addressed and studied by all parties at length and they shouldn't make a hasty decision. He expressed that his comments were offered out of respect, but he relayed that he was tired of having to address the same topic every year, noting that sacrifices have been made by many. Overall, the budget puts the kids last, so he asked that they put them first this year!
- **John Olson, 574 Maplewood Avenue, Bridgeport** - Mr. Olson stated that he was a member of the Board of Education. He offered a sentiment and quoted a rabbi, to say that there is "*always the poor with you and then what has gets*". He further spoke about the importance of caring for education, noting the revenues are always in short supply and the BOE continuously is shortchanged. He further noted the increases never seem to be quite enough, so this spring, Bridgeport is before the Mayor and City Council once again as adversaries, because of what's right to do for the kids. He emphasized that the state may come through, but if not, the city has to do their duty. And if it means possibly raising taxes, then so be it; he felt the residents needed to be open to that possibility. He further stressed that if Hartford didn't come through, the what?
- **Dr. Carole Presnick, 179 Martin Lane, Orange** - she spoke to the issue of keeping the Bridgeport Public Health Department as is. She stated that as a doctor, she has worked in Bridgeport Hospital and she was aware of the services the health department offers. She mentioned that she agreed to render her services to the Bridgeport Health Department at a cost of \$1.00 per year. She further noted that the Bridgeport Health Department did fine work and she asked to keep the resources with the Department of Health.
- **Joy Purdie, 648 Stillman Street, Bridgeport** - she stated that she was not employed with the City of Bridgeport or a nurse, but she was a parent volunteer. She expressed that they needed the school-based health centers to remain. She pointed out that she depended on them for her child's sake because she has health issues. And it's convenient for her should she require care. She said having the centers available eliminates her and her husband having to lose time from work, in case her daughter requires care. And as a result, with the centers in place, her child doesn't miss out on any school time. **But without healthy kids, they won't have smart kids!**

- **Mary Beth Long, 226 Level Road, Fairfield** - she said she was the President of the Bridgeport Education Association teachers union. She pointed out how participation of parents, teachers and administrators has increased over the years, but that funding has decreased and they are able to do less in Bridgeport. She mentioned that the BOE had to eliminate teaching positions and other resources and that turnover was at an all time high. She expressed that the city council had the power to put Bridgeport kids first, so they better address the issue now, instead of paying a price later!
- **Garry Peluchetti, 2675 Park Avenue, Bridgeport** - he said he was a teacher and Vice President of the Bridgeport Education Association. He made a facetious remark and stated that if he had to write on the city council's report card, he would write, **does not play well with others!** He went on to say it was time to stop playing and they needed to sit down and work together to solve the problem. He emphasized the achievement gap and the fact that they need to promote a strong public school system.
- **Tito Planos, 750 Platt Street, Bridgeport** - he stated that he was the Treasurer of the Bridgeport Education Association. He spoke about the budget and mentioned that the \$2 million increase was not acceptable, because the BOE needed \$13.2 million to achieve their goals. He felt to give them less, says no to allow students to compete and won't allow them to decrease class sizes. He stressed that they have to fight for the kids and scrape the bottom of the barrel if necessary to look at other areas to cut money and find the necessary funds. He sad they also needed to stop the shifting of resources. Overall, they need to make education a priority in Bridgeport. And **SAY NOT TO THE BUDGET!**
- **Rob Traber, 110 Hale Terrace, Bridgeport** - he stated that he has been a teacher for five years and was also a resident of Bridgeport. He expressed that he attended a public hearing last week concerning state legislators and recalled the Mayor's comment of "*Shame on them*", meaning the people in Hartford and Washington for not giving Bridgeport as much funding as other municipalities. But he thought they should be saying shame on our Mayor and the city council because we should be spending more money on the kids of Bridgeport also because they are getting shortchanged. He emphasized that the figures don't lie and he has seen the numbers lowered ever since his child has been in the school system and there is less of everything, year after year. He thought this public hearing was all a waste of time, although he hoped circumstances would change. He mentioned that he also disagreed with moving the health department under the BOE, noting it could be bad for health. Overall the Bridgeport BOE was a priority.
- **Christine Jardin, 47 Longmeadow Road,** she said she applied for numerous grants as a worker in the health department. Those grants were dedicated to helping varied health ,social and mental services. She read an essay written from a Bassick High School student that expressed how he was a depressed person and how he was lost and felt hopeless. But eventually, he sought help from the school-based health center and experienced a positive outcome due to being able to talk

- to a counselor, this resulted in a turn around in their life. Ms. Jardin emphasized that getting this help was the best thing that person could have done!
- **Lisa Stefanko, 11 Boston Avenue, Milford** - she stated she was a social work at Harding High School. She spoke about being concerned about the Mayor's budget to switch the school-based health services to the BOE. She pointed out the BOE was not in that business and that the Bridgeport Public Health Dept. does a very good job now. They provide varied services and they needed to consider the impact years from now, in terms of having to choose between hiring teachers or keeping the health clinics. They need to consider the big picture! Overall, she thought it was wrong for the Mayor to fix the budget problem at the expense of the kids in Bridgeport.
  - **Yazmin Caruttini, 15 Falic Court, Trumbull** - she said she was a school-based health center worker where numerous health services were rendered. They are a product of the health care administered in Bridgeport and they play an essential role in healthcare through access and follow up. She pleaded to keep the school based healthcare where it belongs. *She submitted a petition of signatures in support of keeping health care within the Bridgeport Public Health Dept.*
  - **Margie Powell, 196 Pitt Street, Bridgeport** - she stated that every year they make the same request for funding that affects the kids and all they hear are numerous stories of how for instance, a classroom has had a substitute all year long, that she felt resulted in the kids getting an inferior education. She also relayed incidents of violence due to the lack of resources to address the issues. And with so many cuts, she questioned how children could learn. Furthermore, she thought many negative effects would become of so many cuts.
  - **Hernan Illingsworth, 133 Bronx Avenue, Bridgeport** - he stated that education needed to be a priority, but the budget puts kids last. They need the support but it's not there. He relayed how a council member stated that all members of the council supported education, but he didn't think that was true. He noted when they had the chance last year to increase the budget, thirteen (13) council members voted against it. Overall, the decisions they make and how they vote make a difference, but when they vote to cut the budget, they vote to cut education! He challenged the Mayor to answer to the kids when they are told that a new school won't open. So please put the kids first, not second, because it's a priority. He mentioned that moving the health services to the BOE was just a game and Mr. Sherwood's ploy to satisfy the MER, but the way to do that is by finding more money.
  - **Marilyn Curasik, 78 Alpine Street** – she referred to a handout outlining the topic of “Transparency in City Government” and the requests made by the BOE, that consisted of contractual increases, textbooks etc. She stated that she gave some testimony a week ago and heard the budget would result in massive layoffs, cuts in athletic programs etc. She recalled that last year there was an effort to increase funding, but the city council restored the money to other departments, not to the BOE. As far as moving the health services to the BOE, that is nothing but a shell game, because they will split the expenses in two and this won't benefit

either party. So she questioned how it made any sense. She went on to say it was important to look over the budget again. She noted that the summary highlighted that there will be \$200 million raised in city taxes, but that doesn't reflect the surplus that could go towards education. So she thought "*spin was the name of the game*" and they had a duty to address it.

- **Barbara Garrity, 139 Woolsley Avenue, Trumbull** - she said she was a nursing health supervisor. She expressed that it was not a good idea to move health services to the BOE. She noted the nurses were trained in various aspects of health care and they carry out multi-services to serve the population in Bridgeport. She appealed to the city council to maintain the nursing services in the Bridgeport Public Health Dept.
- **Dr. Marian Evans, 649 Soulpport Road, Bethany** - thanked Dr. Ramos for his answers sought from the health department, in that the BOE had no responsibility or need to take over the health services. She expressed there were many cases made by the nurses about what they do. She said she has expressed that they needed full time nurses in the schools, but unfortunately, this was not the case. She mentioned that she received a call from the state health department and was told they had their support. She offered to set up a meeting with key parties to discuss the matter further and she cautioned everyone not to be hasty about this issue. Overall, if the kids suffer, we all suffer! Also, there is a matter that the health department needs to bring in more revenues. She pointed out that they are not safety net nurses, but they are a net underneath the safety net.
- **Charles Coviello, 73 Williams Street, Bridgeport** - he stated that he was present as a CEFAB representative. He spoke about schools in other Connecticut districts and seeing that education in those districts was the most important thing and that futures were at stake, that would allow them to go on to college. So it all starts with keeping kids in the schools. He expressed that he was sorry that we have allowed the city to abandon the schools. And although they have been told there will be **no child left behind**, they go just that in Bridgeport. He thought the problem did amount to discrimination to disallow a basic education to Bridgeport students. He strongly stressed that our leadership needs to live up to their responsibilities and put the kids first and **not last!**
- **David Weiss, 475 Ruth Street, Bridgeport** - said he was present to speak about keeping the health centers as is. He said he meets with social workers weekly for reasons that were confidential, but the center has nice, helpful people and they have helped him a lot. He said he enjoyed talking to them and he stressed that without them, he wasn't sure where he would be today.
- **Elizabeth Radcliff, 431 Washington Avenue** - she expressed that lack of education breeds violence as has been seen lately in the schools. She pointed out that the country was getting larger in meets and bounds. She said that learning and education in its highest form must be taught. And healthcare provided to avoid epidemics, so healthcare and education were necessary.
- **Dr. Larry Vitalano, 163 Carol Road, Fairfield** - said he was the Secretary of the board of directors of the SW Community Health Centers. He said he was born

in Bridgeport on the east side and he was present tonight as a voice for the kids. He explained that it was his job to treat those rich or poor and that many kids can't advocate for themselves. In fact, many kids have varied issues, such as abusive situations and it's his job to take care of them. He stressed the importance of not moving the health services and not to take away the resources that hold the future for the kids. Because they need a place to be treated for their wounds and to try to heal. He asked the city council to be part of the solution for the kids in Bridgeport.

- **Marlene Ruiz, 79 Raft Street, Stratford** - said the Mayor's budget would take on three dimensions, but moving the health care services to the BOE didn't make any sense and they should leave it where it belongs. She questioned how the BOE could take on the problems of health related issues. And she repeated the health services were best left where they are to serve the residents of Bridgeport. She further questioned how the Mayor could be so irresponsible and not allow more funding to the BOE.
- **Andrea Kovacs, 356 Fairview Avenue** - said she worked in the city and had a child in the school system. She said she realized there was a lot to absorb on this matter, but she thought speaking out was necessary. She expressed that the matter involved all kids, because if the schools fail, we fail! And if this happens, it will affect all aspects of the city being able to run properly, emphasizing the children matter as much as the budget. She further pointed out there have been BOE cuts, such as home economic courses, dance and world language and the kids are suffering. She thought we were responsible for them. She added that they could kiss economic development goodbye if they don't improve the educational base. Overall, she said they need to work together to gain a solution because we owe that much to our children! She also asked to leave the public health services where they are.
- **Kim McLaushion, 110 Hale Terrace, Bridgeport** - stated that we lived in a time that Washington was out of touch with cities, so she was here because at some point, "*the buck has to stop*" and they have to turn the situation around. But she hasn't seen leaders of the city stand up and say the kid are the future and we're responsible for them and that 's all that people are looking for them to do. She emphasized that it was the residents of Bridgeport that could make that happen. *At this point in her statement, she turned her back to the city council to address the audience* and she pointed out that they have been here before with the same fight. She stressed the importance of being heard and having the power to put education first on the front page for years to come.
- **John Bolton, 71 Woodland Avenue, Bridgeport** - stated that he was against the budget and the city always saying they don't have the money, yet they waste a lot. He mentioned that there were two non-United States citizens working for the city who don't pay taxes. And he further mentioned that there were allegedly child molesters working in the school system, but nothing has been done about that. But again, the Mayor hired people that don't pay taxes. He admonished to stop

spending money in the wrong places. And he further criticized the city attorney's practice of going outside the city to seek legal counsel, when the monies could be put towards better uses. He stressed that the Mayor needed to answer to these questions.

- **Peter George, 550 Maplewood Avenue, Bridgeport** - said he was a resident and a retired teacher in Bridgeport. He also worked as a homebound teacher. He expressed that he couldn't recall when this situation hasn't occurred time and time again and them having to beg for money for education and the city having to be forced to put in education. He spoke about the city and the BOE accounts that seemed to be intertwined, thus causing confusion and tying up monies that should go to the BOE. He emphasized that this was embarrassing, demeaning and humiliating. So they needed to **stop it** and look at the budget and reexamine it further. And if it meant raising taxes, speaking for himself personally, he said so be it. Overall, he said they needed to address good budgetary accounting. He mentioned a couple of council members that he taught in the past to point out that a good education would allow kids a future to possibly sit on the city council one day. But it's up to us!

*Council member Curwen called for a 10-minute break at 8:30 p.m.*

*The public hearing reconvened at 8:40 p.m.*

- **Alice Scunton, 1488 Noble Avenue, Bridgeport** - said she was new to Bridgeport and her kids attended school here. She relayed that she came from an area of the country where the children received an excellent education and there was no gang violence or other serious issues to contend with; she felt this was due to the sufficient funding they received. She pointed out that most kids don't have the tools needed to succeed today and go on to college, and she felt this was due to not having enough educational resources. She expressed that once they get kids on the right track, they can then go on, but they need certain programs continued so the kids can become self-sufficient in the future. She expressed that she had a fear that she might be forced to move to avoid having to send her kids to Bridgeport schools anymore if the problems continued.
- **Carmen Ayala, 89 Ranch Drive, Bridgeport** - spoke as a resident and employee of the school health center and as a parent. She talked about the services provided by the health clinics and the lives they have helped save, noting there were many kids treated with some very serious health problems. She expressed that as a social worker, she was responsible for referring kids to the proper agency to address their needs. She urged everyone to visit the clinics before making the decision to abandon the budget. She went on to point out that they couldn't revitalize Bridgeport if they don't revitalize the kids first, because they were deserving!

ADJOURNED

**\*\* COUNCILMEMBER SILVA MOVED TO ADJOURN  
\*\* COUNCILMEMBER McCARTHY SECONDED  
\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Graham  
Telesco Secretarial Services

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT  
BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS  
APRIL 12, 2006**

**ATTENDANCE:** Robert Curwen, Co-chair, Rafael Mojica, Co-chair; Carlos Silva, AmyMarie Vizzo-Paniccia, Robert Walsh (6:10 p.m.) Keith Rodgerson (6:15 p.m.); Thomas McCarthy (7:10 p.m.)

**STAFF:** Michael Lupkas, Mr. Sherwood

**OTHERS:** Andres Ayala, City Council President, Michelle Lyons, City Council Member; Elaine Pivrotto, City Council Member; Johnny Dye, City Council Member; Angel dePara, City Council Member; Dr. John Ramos, Superintendent of Schools; Henry R. Kelly, Deputy Superintendent of Schools, Douglas Hiscox, Assistant Superintendent of High Schools; Clarence Tolbert, Chief of Staff and Operations; John DiDonato, Assistant Superintendent of Youth Development; Carole Pannozzo, Executive Director of Human Resources, Bobby Simmons, BOE; Coretta K. Dean, BOE; Cynthia Fernandes, BOE; Mary-Beth Lang. BEA; Nerda Robles, Heinan Illingsworth.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Curwen called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. and reviewed the rules for the public. He then introduced the members of the Committee and identified other members of the City Council present.

**REVIEW OF THE 2006-2007 BRIDGEPORT PUBLIC SCHOOLS BUDGET  
REQUEST**

*Committee member Walsh arrived at 6:10 p.m.*

The first issue that was discussed was health care and the auditor's conclusion. Mr. Sherwood was asked to give the Committee an update. He explained that the audit had been completed but that no exit interview had been scheduled. Bridgeport handles its health care plans different from other communities. He stated that on July 1st, all the health care accounts will be transferred to the new agency and that the auditors will be reviewing the program with the City Council members at a separate meeting.

*Committee Member Rodgerson arrived at 6:15 p.m.*

Committee Member Mojica asked if any benefits would be lost by the school nurses in the transfer. Mr. Sherwood replied that he did not think so and moving the operations to the new program would level the accounts held by the City.

Council Member Pivrotto wished to know if there will be one account or separate accounts. Mr. Sherwood stated that there would be one account. Committee Member Walsh wished to know if the school based health clinics were legal. Mr. Sherwood replied that the City had presented their reasoning and that the City had turned over five years of paperwork dealing with the school based health clinics to the auditors, but no decision had been reached.

*Council Member Johnny Dye arrived at 6:25 p.m.*

At this point, Committee Member Mojica reminded everyone that the health insurance issue would be reviewed at a separate meeting.

Dr. Ramos, the Superintendent of the Bridgeport Schools introduced himself to the Committee and gave a brief overview of the budget requests. He stated that in order for the schools to continue to operate at status quo, the budget would need to increase by 8%. He also pointed out that the City would be opening Ceasar Batalla Elementary School in January of 2007, which will require additional staff, both in the teaching and support areas.

Chairman Curwen asked how Dr. Ramos how the schools had balanced last year's budget of \$162,000,000 against their request of \$168,000,000. Dr. Ramos directed everyone's attention to illustration 9 on page 5 of Bridgeport Schools Goal, which gives a partial list of the program and staff losses over the last few years. Chairman Curwen asked what the projected increase was for the next year. Dr. Ramos reiterated that to maintain the schools operations as they are currently, the budget requires an 8% increase. Chairman Curwen asked about the master plan calling for students to be assigned to local neighborhood schools, but the transportation costs are increasing instead. Dr. Ramos stated that this was a reflection of the increase in fuel costs and the bus company costs increases.

Chairman Curwen also wished to know about the increase in Special Education. Mr. DiDonato explained that there was a nation wide epidemic of autism. Bridgeport originally had one class for autistic children but now requires six classes. Each class must have one Special Education Teacher and two paraprofessionals for six students.

Committee Member Walsh asked if the insurance is turned over to the Board of Education, could the City then be held liable. Mr. Sherwood reviewed the technical aspects of the transfer and the legal commitments. He concluded by suggesting that question be deferred to the auditors when the scheduled meeting takes place.

Chairman Curwen stated that the Budget and Appropriations Committee had asked for an Operations Audit for a number of years. He was curious as to why one has not be done. Dr. Ramos replied that it was his understanding, since he has only been in his position for less than a year, the Board of Education was poised to begin an operations audit when the

State required a physical audit. Mr. Simmons concurred, saying that when the State audit came up, the Operations audit was shelved.

*Committee Member McCarthy arrived at 7:10 p.m.*

Dr. Ramos commented that the auditors had informed him that they were not able to complete the third stage of the audit because of some obstacles. Chairman Curwen stated that it was fiscally prudent to have an operations audit. Dr. Ramos agreed, stated that it was his position that transparency was the name of the game. He also directed the Committee members' attention to charts 11 & 12 on page 6 of the Bridgeport Public Schools Goals. These charts illustrate how underfunded Bridgeport is in comparison to Hartford and New Haven.

Council President Ayala asked about the obstacles that the auditors were encountering and asked Dr. Ramos if he knew where they were. Dr. Ramos stated that the auditors claimed they were on the part of the City. Mr. Sherwood stated that the auditors had met with his department on August 5th. He had never heard from them again about any additional information. Dr. Ramos stated that he will be reviewing the auditor's report with the Mayor. The consultants state that a larger degree of separation is needed between the BOE and the City finances. Council President Ayala stated that it would be helpful to have a percentage breakdown on how much Hartford and New Haven allocate to their BOEs. He also wondered what the City's fair share would be that would loosen the purse strings in Hartford. Mr. Sherwood stated that he would have those figures for Council President Ayala at the meeting scheduled for the 13th. Mr. Sherwood explained that there were two pieces of legislation, one which capped the amount of funding and a second one that had to do with "hold harmless" causes, which excluded Bridgeport from receiving funds. It was Mr. Sherwood's opinion that many of the funding problems dated back to 1996, when the first piece of legislation was passed.

*Committee Member Vizzo-Paniccia left the room at 7:25 p.m.*

Mr. Sherwood also reminded the Committee that Bridgeport is currently in compliance with all that the law requires. He pointed out that if the City was not in compliance, then the City would be receiving penalties from the State.

Dr. Ramos agreed and pointed out that both Bridgeport and New Britain had been in the same situation, but New Britain has apparently been able to rectify the situation and is no longer being scrutinized by the State. *Dr. Ramos then distributed copies of a handout entitled Urban School Districts to the Committee members and City Council members.*

*Committee Member Vizzo-Paniccia returned to the room at 7:30 p.m. Committee Member Silva and Council Member Pivrotto left the room at 7:30 p.m.*

Council President Ayala asked if Dr. Ramos knew if the figures for New Haven and Hartford for 2004-5 included health care. Dr. Ramos said he did not know, but Mr. Feeney stated that he would check and have the figures ready for the meeting on the 13th.

*Committee member Silva returned to the room at 7:31 p.m.*

Committee Member Walsh stated that looking at New Haven and Hartford was interesting but if the City was not going to provide the finances for the BOE, then this was just talk.

*Council Member Pivrotto returned to the room at 7:37 p.m.*

Committee Member Mojica asked how many consultants were employed by the schools. Ms. Pannozzo replied that this past year, there had been a number of situations where the principals of schools had been ill and the City had retired principals returning to cover the illnesses. She stated she believe the number was eight or nine. Ms. Pannozzo stated that Bridgeport was fortunate to be able to do this as the retired principals were familiar with the facilities, the students, and could step into the situation with the knowledge they needed to make decisions and see that the schools continued to run smoothly.

Committee Member Mojica asked about the Aquaculture program and Dr. Ramos replied that it was running very well. Bridgeport students were attending the program and it was considered a success.

*Committee Member Vizzo-Paniccia left the meeting at 7:45 p.m. Council Member dePara arrived at 7:45 p.m.*

Several of the Committee members had questions about the principals for Ms. Pannozzo. Committee Member Silva asked for a list of the participants, which Ms. Pannozzo agreed to provide to the Committee members.

Chairman Curwen called for a recess at 7:47 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 8:00 p.m.

*Council Member dePara left the meeting at 8:01 p.m.*

Dr. Ramos stated that regarding the School Based Health Clinics being transferred to the Board of Education, if this happened, the clinics would have to be supervised. He stated that he was not interesting in having this under the BOE budget or jurisdiction. Others expressed several concerns expressed regarding situations where a decision might be between buying text books or vaccinations. The BOE would be obligated to purchase the books rather than the vaccines. There was also some discussion about whether the clinics service just the student population or the student's families. Mr. Sherwood pointed out that if the clinics are shifted over to the BOE, the state law requires that a school medical advisor be available. He also commented that Bridgeport funds a portion of the clinics,

unlike other cities who rely on grand funding for the clinics. Committee Member Mojica asked about the annual budget for supplies for the clinics. Mr. Sherwood referred him to page 409 of the budget report. Mr. Sherwood stated that he felt the clinics should be self-supporting.

Council Member Pivrotto asked about the Adult Education Program. Dr. Ramos replied that it was totally a grant program.

Council Member Mojica asked what would happen if the City could not provide the full funding amount requested. Dr. Ramos replied that the reason he had started with the status quo was to illustrate the critical needs. If there is a budget shortfall, then there will be critical consequences. He explained that the school system was already in a deficit position. Dr. Ramos stated that he had explained to the Mayor that there would not be a list of hot button issues presented to the Committee or the Council because of the simple fact that an 8% increase is needed to simply maintain status quo. Any cut will be vital.

Chairman Curwen commented that he particularly appreciated the Budget being turned in on time and thanked Dr. Ramos for his participation in the meeting. He also thanked everyone else for their attendance and concerns.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

**\*\* MR. MCCARTHY MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**\*\* MR. SILVA 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 COMMITTEE  
APRIL 19, 2006**

**PRESENT:** Robert Curwen, Co-chair; Rafael Mojica, Co-Chair; Thomas McCarthy  
Carlos Silva, Donna Curran, Robert Walsh (6:15 p.m.), AmyMarie Vizzo-  
Paniccia (6:17 p.m.)

**OTHERS:** Michelle Lyons, Council Member; Letitia Colon, Council Member;  
Thomas Mulligan, Council Member ( 6:15 p.m.), Keith Rodgerson,  
Council Member(7:10 p.m.), Warren Blunt, Council Member (7:30 p.m.);  
Thomas Sherwood, Helen O'Brien, Dental Hygiene; Pat McCoy, Vital  
Records; Kate Gredinger, School Based Health Centers; Chris Reale,  
School Based Health Centers, Barbara Garrity, Public Health Nursing; Dr.  
Marian Evans, Health Department Director; Valerie Sorrentino, Human  
Services; Rose Hoyt.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Co-chair Curwen called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m. and reviewed the rules for those present. Co-chair Curwen asked if there was any department head that was present who had no changes in their budget. Seeing that there were none, he asked if any department head present had only one or two changes to their budget.

Ms. Hoyt indicated that the budget for the Department of Aging had a budget with only one change.

*Council Members Walsh and Mulligan arrived at the meeting at 6:15 p.m..*

Dr. Evans stated that it was her understanding that the budget was handled by Parks and Recreation based on a memo that she had received. Mr. Sherwood asked to clarify that because Ms. Hoyt was obliged to take a leave of absence. In her absence, a memo was issued stating that Luanne Conei would be coordinating the Aging efforts during that time. Mr. Sherwood stated that the Department of Aging was still budgeted in Health and Social Services.. Mr. Sherwood stated that an alliance between the Aging program and the Recreation program. Currently, the goal is to produce a comprehensive City program for both seniors and the youth. Because of this, numbers should increase in various areas. Dr. Evans thanked Mr. Sherwood for the clarification and stated that she had not been aware of this earlier.

*Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia arrived at 6:17 p.m. Dr. Evans distributed the Budget for the Department of Aging and an updated packet entitled " Requested Changes to the Mayor's FY 07 Recommended Budget" to the Committee Members.*

Mr. Sherwood was asked by Co-chair Curwen to give the Committee an overview of what the Mayor is recommending for the budget. Mr. Sherwood stated that the Mayor's recommendation was basically status quo from the year before. As the various departments presented their budgets, Mr. Sherwood stated that he would review the Mayor's recommendation either in the overview or specific detail as requested.

Mr. Sherwood went on to say that his name had been brought up at the public hearing and aside from personal attacks, which would be dealt with elsewhere, he wished to set the record straight on a few issues. He stated that some statements made about him were incorrect, including the issue regarding the dental hygienists being 100% MER (Minimal Educational Requirement). He stated that the Dental Hygienists are 0% MER and have never been included in the MER. His department is attempting to include them, and has had discussions to this end, but to date, they are not included.

Secondly, Mr. Sherwood went on to state for the record that he had never said that this budget was a done deal. He said that his actual statement was the exact opposite. There is a five point process for the budget and until that concludes, nothing is a done deal.

Thirdly, regarding staffing and personnel, he referred back to data from 1989, and indicated that the staff had not been reduced. *Mr. Sherwood distributed a sheet with staff information from 1989 to the present.* He stated that when the School Based Health Centers (SBHCs) were introduced, there were thirteen staff members in 1989. Today there are 25 staff members in the SBHCs. In the City, between 1989 and today, there were 780 cuts, other than the Dinah Memorial Center. Mr. Sherwood stated that there have not been cuts once MER is brought into the equation, he can not touch those divisions because they are 100% MER. Mr. Sherwood stated that one year, the number of nurses were raised to 40 individuals because the goal was a nurse in every school. During that fiscal year, some positions were not filled. The following year, the Council cut the number of positions so they would not fund vacancies while sending others home. It wasn't an OPN deal to eliminate health with the Council saying that it was not fair to send people home when there are vacancies not being filled. He stated that he was submitting this to the Committee and that he wished for it to be included in the record. He stated that anyone with questions about the numbers or the staffing between those two periods of time, his office would be more than happy to provide the data.

Council Member McCarthy asked for some clarification on the layout of the information, which Mr. Sherwood provided. Council Member McCarthy also has some questions about the number of staff in the Comptrollers Office over a period of years. Mr. Sherwood remarked that both the Dinah Memorial Center and the City Department of Welfare were included in the early numbers, neither of which are present in the current fiscal year.

Dr. Evans commented in regards to the unfilled school nurses positions. She reminded everyone that there was a shortage of nurses nation wide and the City was able to hire six additional nurses that year. She also commented that the pay that was being offered at

the time was not competitive. Dr. Evans concluded that she hoped the Committee would not hold that against the Health Department. Co-chair Curwen stated that he believed that Mr. Sherwood was just comparing numbers rather than making a judgmental statement.

### **1.) HEALTH ADMINISTRATION**

Dr. Evans referred the Committee to the packet titled “Requested Changes to the Mayor’s FY 07 Recommended Budget”.

Dr. Evans reviewed the various items for the Committee and explained that there are several unfunded State mandates regarding the training and services. Currently the recommendation is \$2,250 and the Health Department is requesting it be raised to \$3,500 to cover these unfunded mandates.

Mr. Sherwood commented that the Health Department has been undergoing a reorganization since Dr. Evan’s arrival. He stated that when the request has been in his office, they did not have enough time to digest the changes. He stated that his office would be working on the reorganization during the year, which will facilitate the budget movements.

Council Member Curran asked whether or not the Red Cross instructs the CPR courses given by the Health Department. Dr. Evans replied that the Red Cross now charges \$75.00 per person for CPR instruction and that the Health Department does in-house instruction. However, she did add that the Red Cross recently updated their materials and procedures which may result in the Health Department needing to follow suit.

Council Member Mojica asked how many hours were required for Continuing Education Development (CEDs). Dr. Evans replied that they varied with the professions, but were mandated by the State. Mr. Sherwood stated that in the various labor contracts the training course tuition are paid by the City.

Council Member McCarthy had some questions about the request for security purposes. Dr. Evans replied that there have been a number of incidents recently where there were people in the building who should not have been there. It is difficult to control because of the high traffic to various offices, such as WIC, or Environmental Health. There have also been incidents of cars being keyed and license plates stolen. Dr. Evans said that it is important to update the locks. When asked if a bid had been done, she replied that it had and the lowest bidder had been Sonitrol, which was around \$6,000.

Mr. Sherwood stated that he was aware of the problem and that some work would be done through Public Facilities in this fiscal year. Mr. Sherwood also stated that normally the Health Department requires about \$5,000 for on-going security. He also informed the Committee that the Veteran Affairs and the Disabilities had been moved to the Health And Human Services building, located at 752 East Main Street and that the move had

worked out well. The V.A. and Disabilities were located on the first floor in the rear of the building.

Dr. Evans directed the Committee's attention to the line item for Mailing Services. She explained that the Health Department is often mailing important documents to Hartford. There have been numerous times when those documents have not arrived, so the Health Department had taken to using FedEx for them. There have been instances where someone drove the documents to Hartford, but that is more expensive than using FedEx. When asked why this did not go through the City Hall mailing room, Mr. Sherwood stated that it made no sense to bring the FedEx documents to City Hall to be sent rather than sending them directly as the rate would be the same. He acknowledged that the recommended budget of \$25.00 needed to be adjusted.

## **2. DENTAL HYGIENE**

Dr. Evans introduced Ms. O'Brien who is in charge of the Dental Hygiene program. *Ms. O'Brien distributed packets of information to the Committee members.*

Mr. Sherwood stated that he had recommended the Dental Hygienists be included in the Board of Education and that they were currently not part of MER.

Council Member McCarthy stated for the record that he had 32 years of no cavities and requested a sticker from Ms. O'Brien. Ms. O'Brien replied that his sticker was on the information packet.

Council Member Walsh asked about a letter he had received about the SBHC from Meredith Ferranro, the Executive Director of the Area Health Education Centers.. He wished to know how the Mayor's Recommended Budget addressed the issue in the letter. Mr. Sherwood responded that Council Member Walsh would have to ask the Mayor. Council Member Walsh then stated that he was against moving the Dental Hygienists into the Board of Education budget.

Council Member Mojica asked how many Dental Hygienists were on staff. Ms. O'Brien replied that there were seven. Council Member Mojica asked Ms. O'Brien for her opinion on the issue of whether the Dental Hygienists should be included in the Board of Education budget. Ms. O'Brien stated that she did not think it was a good idea.

Council Member Mulligan asked if there had been any reports from the auditors. Mr. Sherwood stated that the auditors had not yet contacted him to schedule an exit interview. Council Member Mulligan then wished to know if the auditors would be asked if the Public Health Nurses and the Dental Hygienists would be considered MER. Mr. Sherwood said that they would be asked about this.

*Council Member Mojica left the room at 7:07 p.m.*

Council Member Curwen reminded everyone that the Council Members have been working on getting an opinion on this matter from the auditors, with no success thus far.

*Council Member Rodgeron arrived at 7:10 p.m.*

Dr. Evans stated that regardless of whether the Dental Hygienists were eligible for MER, that Dr. Ramos had stated that he would most likely cut the program if it was placed under the Board of Education.

*Council Member Rodgeron left the room at 7:15 p.m and returned at 7:16 p.m.*

### **3. VITAL STATISTICS**

Dr. Evans introduced Ms. McCoy to the Committee. *Ms. McCoy distributed a packet of information to the Committee members.* She stated that starting in January of 2007, the State law would require birth certificates to enroll in Medicaid. She also informed the Committee members that the current style of certificate on white paper with either hand written or typed information was not being accepted by certain states. This will require using safety paper with the State seal on it, an additional expense.

*Council Member Mojica returned to the room at 7:19 p.m.*

Ms. McCoy stated that they have seven computers in Vital Statistics and that they are all old and will not be able to handle the safety paper and the increased volume. Council Member Mojica asked what would happen if there was a fire. Ms. McCoy stated that there would be a great deal of ash. Dr. Evans stated that she would love to have Vital Statistics in her building. Council Member Curwen stated that with the present state of security at the Health Department, this would not be possible, but that it could be a future goal. He asked Dr. Evans to contact the proper authorities to determine whether the vault on the third floor would be appropriate for Vital Statistics. Dr. Evans agreed to do so.

*Council Member Silva left the room at 7:23 p.m.*

When asked about the marriage surtax, Ms. McCoy explained that the fees are set by the State and that \$19.00 of the \$30.00 Marriage License fee goes to Abused Women programs.

*Council Member Blunt arrived at 7:30 p.m.*

Ms. McCoy also informed the Committee that State Law requires her to maintain hard copies of the various records unless they are microfilmed. She went on to say that when the Department had funds left over from other accounts, they would funnel that money towards having the records microfilmed.

*Council Members Walsh and Silva returned to the room at 7:35 p.m.*

#### **4. COMMUNICABLE**

Dr. Evans informed the Committee that one of the Communicable Clinic Nurses, Maureen Driscoll had just had a baby girl.

Regarding the issue of transferring two of the Public Health Nurses (PHNs) from Communicable Clinic to the Public Health Nurse program, Mr. Sherwood explained that this can not be done because the City bills for Communicable Clinic services. He went on to say that with the changes to the North End Clinic, it would be wise to wait and sort out the staffing.

#### **5. ENVIRONMENTAL**

There was some questions regarding transferring the HIV/AIDS program from Enviromental to the Communicable. Co-Chair Curwen asked if income is generated from the Communicable services. Dr. Evans replied that there was. Mr. Sherwood commented that the HIV/AIDS program needed to be in the General Fund because it is City money. Dr. Evans suggested that the Committee consider putting the HIV/AIDS program under Health Administration or Communicable, since it would fit either definition. The program is strictly from City funds and last year, the budget was \$20,000 for the whole operation.

*Council Members Vizzo-Paniccia and McCarthy left the room at 7:45 p.m.*

When asked if she could provide the Committee with the funding amounts for the program by the end of the week, Dr. Evans said that she would.

*Council Member Colon left the room at 7:46 p.m.*

It is important for the State to see that the City is investing funds into the program when applying for grants.

*Council member Colon and McCarthy returned to the room at 7:50 p.m.*

Federal funds are drying up, partially due to the emphasis on national security. New Haven funds their program at 50% and when they went for grant request, they received the full amount because of that city participation. One of the Health nurses began Hepatitis screening on 100 substance abusers. 75 of them tested positive for Hepatitis C, which has a long incubation period. This may be a new epidemic on the horizon.

*Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia returned to the room at 7:53 p.m.*

Regarding the Enviromental Health budget, Dr. Evans explained that one of the line items is the paging service that they use for contacting the registered sanitarians, who are on call not only for inspections, but other events, such as fires.

Mr. Sherwood said that his department is working with the sanitarians to collect revenue in arrears.

Council Member Blunt came forward and informed the Committee that the registered sanitarians were working on requiring inspections for tattoos, hair braiding and spas, but that they had not heard back from the City Attorney's office. Most of their jobs are mandated by the State and there are various levels of inspection required. Council Member Mojica asked how many registered sanitarians the City currently employs. Council Member Blunt replied that there are three. Dr. Evans informed the Committee that she had located a registered sanitarian who is a Bridgeport resident. Council Member Blunt stated that the registered sanitarians need a new database system so they can update the information that they have.

## **6. HOUSING CODE**

No change to the budget.

## **7. LAB**

Dr. Evans reported that the revue is funded by grants. Mr. Sherwood said that his office was presently setting up an account for the Labs. *Dr. Evans distributed a packet of information to the Committee members concerning billing that had been done by the lab.* She informed the Committee that the Health Department had billed the State for services in the amount of \$12,000, but had never received the check. The packet of information included the original bills and she indicated that the money had gone to the City instead of the Health Department. She directed the Committee members attention to copies of checks In the packets that had been received on April 18th from the State for \$11,000 plus to cover these costs. Co-Chair Curwen wished to know why there was a differential between the billed amount of \$12,000 and the check total of \$11,000 plus. Dr. Evans explained that the State has a complex formula for what it will and will not pay. Therefore, the Health Department submits the bill and the State determines how much of the bill it will pay.

## **8. LEAD**

Mr. Sherwood explained that there were internal problems with getting HUD to add the lead program to the original block grant.

Dr. Evans stated that the requested amount was for a copier. The lead program oversees the gardening project and Section Eight housing. However, they are not able to bill, so it must be done through a third party. When lead is discovered, the State mandates that the City perform blood testing. When asked if the City bills when other towns come for assistance, Dr. Evans replied that they do not. She stated that the Health Department needs to have the right structure in place to retrieve funds and stated that it would help if the Health Department could set this up during the reorganization.

*Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia left the meeting at 8:24 p.m.*

Co-Chair Curwen declared a recess at 8:25 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 8:40 p.m.

## **12. HUMAN SERVICES**

No changes in the budget.

## **14. VETERANS**

Dr. Evans introduced Ms. Sorrentino to the Committee. Ms. Sorrentino thanked the Committee for the support that the City Council has shown for the veterans. Since the department's relocation to the Health Department, the client traffic has doubled. Ms. Sorrentino explained that the Veterans needs the vehicles to be maintained because they are used to transport veterans and that the phone budgets are necessary because they are used to contact the drivers while en route. The \$600 line item in account #4560 is an account that is used to pay someone for the rental of the public address system on Memorial Day. This arrangement was made through the Mayor's office. Mr. Sherwood stated that the Public Facilities department would take care of the vehicle maintenance for the Veterans.

## **13. DISABILITIES**

Ms. Sorrentino explained that since the previous director left, there was money in the budget. This could be used to hire an disabilities advocate for the City. During the last year, two grants, totaling \$20,000 was lost because there was no director or advocate position. Ms. Sorrentino explained that the disabilities advocate would be responsible for case management.

*Council Member dePara arrived at the meeting at 8:50 p.m.*

Dr. Evans suggested that the City has a Disabilities Coordinator in Employee Benefits and wondered if this person could help the Health Department. She stated that a clear decision needs to be made regarding the office, as to whether to keep the office with funding or to close it. Council Member Mojica asked Dr. Evans if people go to her office for handicapped stickers. Dr. Evans replied that they did.

## **9. CLINICS**

Dr. Evans stated that the clinic program has suffered a number of set backs in the past fiscal year with the closing of the North End Clinic and more recently, the death of Maureen Crowley, who ran the Haborview Health Clinic. With the closing of the North End Clinic, revenues were down. Dr. Evans pointed out that the budget was set in July and the North End Clinic closed in September.

Council Member Mulligan stated that last year, the Health Department had planned to revitalize the clinic program. Ms. Reale stated that the Health Department does as much as it can, but each year, the department loses a little bit more funding, which effects their ability to run the programs.

*Council Members dePara, Blunt and Rodgerson left the room at 9:00 p.m.*

Council Member Curran asked why there were so many visits but so little revenue. Dr. Evans replied that they can only bill for certain procedures. Co-Chair Curwen commended the Health Department for their dedication but stated that the Committee must look at revenue. Dr. Evans pointed out that it takes five years to get a private medical practice off the ground and functioning. Council Member Mojica commented that it was important for the Committee to remember not to only look at the revenue, but also remember the people factor. He commented that the patients at Harborview often did not have money to pay for services and requested the financial information from Dr. Evans. She said she would provide it.

Council Member Walsh asked about the break out in billing and wished to know why there was uncollectable amounts outstanding. Dr. Evans reiterated that a portion of the clinic patients were unable to pay.

*Council Member dePara returned to the room at 9:30 p.m.*

Ms. Reale explained that the Health Department had asked for a clerical position and that they are actively pursuing accounts receivable. Another issue is that the clinics can not charge the same fee for being seen by an N.P. as they do for an M.D.. Ms. Reale reported that Dr. Evans had negotiated with one of the Medical Directors and as a result the doctor will be donating services for the sum of one dollar a year, rather than \$59,000.

*Council Member Blunt returned to the room at 9:35 p.m.*

Dr. Evans also informed the Committee that the Health Department had just finished negotiating with the Fire Department to provide all the physicals. That represents a savings of \$165,000 for the City.

*Council Member Rodgerson returned to the room at 9:50 p.m.*

Council Member Colon asked about the role of the school nurses versus the SBHCs. Dr. Evans replied that they have had a number of employees leave. Often they will train someone to do billing and then that employee leaves, which means the Health Department is back at square one again. Dr. Evans also informed the Committee that the Health Department had requested \$20,000 for flu vaccines, but had only been given \$5,000. However, the Health Department charged for the vaccines and were able to generate \$19,000 in revenue, which covered the cost of the vaccines.

## **11. SCHOOL BASED HEALTH CLINICS**

Ms. Gredinger explained that the SBHCs were still collecting revenue from January. She pointed out that approximately one third of the student population has no medical insurance and therefore there are no billable services. This also includes undocumented students. The heading of collateral contacts represents the staff talking to the parents or other family members. Ms. Gredinger concluded by requesting that the SBHCs remain under the Health Department jurisdiction.

*Council Member dePara returned to the room at 10:00 p.m.*

Mr. Sherwood asked the Committee if they were going to view this like other MER programs. There was no general consensus on this.

Dr. Evans was asked why Dunbar was listed on the budget sheet but had no figures attached. She explained that the City subcontracts the services out at Dunbar and no city funds are used at that facility at all. Dr. Evans then went on to explain that the State supplies all of the clinical testing, flu shots and other various items for the SBHC for free. However, if the program is moved from the Health Department to the BOE, the state support will stop.

Ms. Gredinger was asked about the number of enrolled students listed on the forms and she replied that those were the number of students enrolled in the SBHC program at each school, not the total student enrollment.

## **10. PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING**

Dr. Evans introduced Ms. Garrity, who explained that the school nurses are responsible for every student in their assigned school. The State mandates that the nurse interact with the student upon their entry to the school, and in first, sixth and eleventh grades. Ms. Garrity stated that it would be a great mistake to transfer the SBHCs or the Public Health Nurses into the BOE. Ms. Garrity also explained that there is a difference between the R.N.s and the Nurse Practitioners (N.P.s) The R.N.s must see every sick or injured student. The N.P.s only deal with the students enrolled in the program and provide more sophisticated services, some of which are billable.

Ms. Garrity also stated for the record that her comments the other night were directed at the Administration, not at Mr. Sherwood, but that she stands by what she said at that time.

Co-Chair Curwen commented that there were ten Council members present and that they will encourage the Mayor to schedule a meeting with Dr. Ramos and Dr. Evans to discuss the matter.

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER WALSH MOVED TO MAKE A STATEMENT THAT THE PUBLIC HEALTH NURSES AND THE SBHCS NEED TO REMAIN UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT.**

**\*\* THE MOTION FAILED FOR LACK OF A SECOND.**

Council Member dePara commented that last year, the BOE had stated they would cut the sports programs and teachers if their budget was cut. He asked the Committee members if they thought the BOE would hesitate to cut the Public Health Nurses or the SBHCs from the budget. When asked how many students were in the schools, Ms. Reale and Garrity estimated that there were approximately 22,000 public school students.

*Council Member Mulligan left the meeting at 10:50 p.m.*

Council Member Curran stated that she felt that the problem was that the SBHCs were located in the school facilities, but had nothing to do with the education provided by the BOE. Co-Chair Curwen stated that he would set up a meeting with the Mayor about the SBHCs. Dr. Evans thanked him for doing so.

Ms. Reale stated that she appreciated Mr. Sherwood's input and thanked the Committee for their attention.

**\*\* CO-CHAIR CURWEN MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER CURRAN SECONDED.**

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

The meeting adjourned at 10:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Sharon L. Soltes  
Telesco Secretarial Services

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT  
BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE  
APRIL 20, 2006**

**PRESENT:** Rafael Mojica, Co-Chair, Robert Curwen, Co-Chair; Thomas McCarthy, Donna Curran, Robert Walsh (7:05 p.m)

**OTHERS:** Michelle Lyons, City Council; Thomas Mulligan (6:53 p.m.); Fleeta Hudson, City Clerk; Ann Murray, Assistant City Clerk; Mike Lupkus, Director of Finance, Mark Anastasi, City Attorney; Michael Golrick, Bridgeport Public Library Director; Tom Arquette, Bridgeport Library Board of Directors

**CALL TO ORDER**

Co-Chair Mojica called the meeting to order at 6:13 p.m. and reviewed the procedures for the public.

**1. CITY CLERK**

Ms. Hudson introduced Ms. Murray to the Committee. Ms. Murray reviewed their budget and stated that their budget cuts were small, but that the accounts are small. She informed the Committee that the cost of repairing the typewriters is increasing. Also, the office supply budget was cut. This covers paper and copying costs.

Council Member Curran asked about the City Hall Committee. Ms. Hudson explained that when the City takes possession of a real estate parcel, the OPN brings any proposals having to do with that parcel to the City Hall Committee. The Committee then makes a recommendation to the City Council and also covers the cost of disagreements over appraisals for city owned property.

Council Member Curran wished to know what the budget item "Other Services" indicated. Ms. Hudson explained that this covered the stenographer, and special projects, like Municipal Code Updates, which are issued to the City Council.

Council Member McCarthy asked what the City Clerk's office was leasing. Ms. Hudson replied that it was the copiers, which they are looking to maintain until the City purchases some copiers.

Council Member Curran wished to know how often the Municipal Code is updated. Ms. Murray replied that she had just paid \$3,000 for an update to the code. Co-chair Mojica stated that the Special Rules Committee was also working on updating the Council Rules. Ms. Murray stated that project would be handled in house. Council Member Curwen reminded that the number of ordinances has increased.

Ms. Murray also informed the Committee that “Other Services” also covers the digitizing of the minutes and the scanning of various records. State Law prohibits the removal of the paper records until they have been microfilmed. Any extra funds at the end of the year are used towards microfilming records.

Ms. Murray explained that last year, the City Clerk’s office asked for \$800.00 to purchase a table. The one in the office which held the fax machine, printer and various other things had broken. In the interim, the staff pulled a table out of the garbage. Last year, the Mayor approved the purchase of the table but the Council had cut it from the budget. Now the price of the table has increased to \$1,000.

When asked about the travel account, Ms. Hudson explained that she attends an international conference of Municipal Clerks.

Council Member McCarthy asked what the status was on the Special Officer. Ms. Murray explained that the office had a candidate who fulfilled all the Civil Service Requirements, but had been told by the Civil Service office at the last moment that there was a lawsuit involving Special Officers who wish to be admitted into the Police Union. Ms. Hudson expressed some concern that the City may be sued to cover the cost of the exams and testing that the candidate paid for since the Civil Service rejected the applicant because of the lawsuit.

*Co-chair Mojica announced a recess at 6:45 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 7:05 p.m.*

Co-chair Mojica announced that Council Member Silva would not be able to attend the meeting due to illness. Council Member Walsh arrived at the meeting.

## **2. CITY ATTORNEY**

Attorney Anastasi presented the budget for the City Attorney’s office to the Committee. He indicated that there had been increases in the line items regarding litigation, which fall into two categories: those which have been settled and those that are still pending. Attorney Anastasi said that his department is focusing on ways to reduce the number of accidents that the city vehicles are involved in. He reminded everyone that these vehicles include first responders and others are part of the job, such as snow plows scraping vehicles on the street.

Council Member Walsh pointed out that there were significant increases, particularly in litigation services. Attorney Anastasi reviewed his earlier statements and stated that hiring an outside attorney based on a low hourly rate is not a good indicator of cost. A low hourly rate combined with a high number of hours would work out to the same amount as a higher hourly rate with fewer hours. Council Member Walsh wished to know how many cases the City is involved in as the litigator. Attorney Anastasi replied he would review this in executive session with the Committee Members. He stated that the

majority of cases usually involved the City as the defendant rather than the prosecutor, with the exception of a few cases where the City has joined in suits or has counter sued.

When asked how the attorneys are selected, Attorney Anastasi replied that RFPs are sent out related to five different areas and the office tries to get the work done locally. One of the cost saving measures is that the office has eliminated all transportation fees in their contracts. Unfortunately, law partnership are increasingly asking for the full hourly rate rather than giving the City a discount.

Council Member Curwen asked whether the associates were litigators. Attorney Anastasi replied that it was extremely difficult to attract litigators with the low salary that the City offers.

Council Member Lyons asked about the insurance coverage when a City vehicle is involved in an accident. Attorney Anastasi replied that Bridgeport self-insures. Council Member Lyons then wished to know if the city employees that have city vehicles to take home are restricted to driving these vehicles only in Bridgeport. Attorney Anastasi replied that the vehicles are not restricted to just the City of Bridgeport. Council Member McCarthy reminded the Committee that when the Parks Department tried to revoke the Special Officer's vehicles, there were many problems and the measure was abandoned.

Council Member Walsh asked for the status of the WPA delinquencies. Attorney Anastasi replied that one of the City lawyers had been working to reduce the amount of debt owned and that it was down to just slightly over 2 million. There is still a lot of work to be done, but the department is chasing smaller amounts of money.

Council Member Walsh asked about the hiring salaries. Attorney Anastasi replied that the City uses merit increases which eventually puts everyone in the highest bracket. When asked if his office could use interns, Attorney Anastasi replied that the positions don't have any funds attached so that the applicants are college students rather than law students.

When asked about who his department represents, Attorney Anastasi stated that his department is an independent City Counsel. They are charged with representing the best interests of the City of Bridgeport, not the Mayor. When there are conflicts within departments, often one City Attorney will represent one of the parties and the other party is represented by an outside attorney. He also pointed out that the City Council is the contracting body for the City, not the Mayor.

Another issue that was mentioned was that city attorneys need to be present at Committee meetings because of the frequent legal questions that arise. Attorney Anastasi will inform his department of this.

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER CURWEN MOVED TO ENTER EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS LITIGATION ISSUES WITH THE CITY ATTORNEY.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER MCCARTHY SECONDED.**  
**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The Committee went into Executive Session at 8:05 p.m. with Attorney Anastasi and reconvened into Public Session at 8:58 p.m.

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER MCCARTHY MOVED TO RETURN TO THE PUBLIC SESSION.**  
**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER CURWEN SECONDED.**  
**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

### **3. LIBRARY**

Mr. Golrick introduced himself and Mr. Arquette to the Committee. *Mr. Golrick distributed a packet of information to the members of the Committee.* He informed the Committee that there were no salary increases in the budget and directed the Committee's attention to the information regarding the contractual increases, which have been negotiated by the City. These are contractual agreements, do not appear to be account for in the present budget and not under the Library's control. Mr. Golrick also informed the Committee that there were five positions currently funded that would be cut from the budget. Those five positions would be one custodian, two part time assistants and three full time positions. He also indicated that the Library needs a Security Officer, which was funded in the past.

Council Member Curwen stated that the Committee hears from the Board of Education year after year about the importance of education and the Library provides education for the public.

Mr. Arquette stated that the Library is trying to reduce costs and that the staff from the Black Rock branch are now working at the other Bridgeport Libraries. Mr. Arquette also went on to comment that he has seen numerous motorcycle police officers at Barnum Park on Saturday and Sundays, but a Security officer can't be found for the library. He also cited another instance of City money being spent to provide officers where there was apparently no need. When Mr. Arquette inquired about that, he was told it was the law, but no one has ever provided him with a copy of this ordinance. Council Member Curwen stated that the issue of Special Officers is a difficult one at the present time.

Council Member Walsh asked if the Library was going to hire a development coordinator and cautioned Mr. Golrick that often promises are made that the revenue generated will pay for the position, but this is not always true. Mr. Golrick stated that he was hoping to hire someone as an independent contractor and was aware of the pitfalls.

Council Member Walsh stated that when he was at Newfield the last time, the signage was not very uniform and needed to be updated. Mr. Golrick stated that he would check into this.

Mr. Golrick then directed the Committee's attention to the USF/E-rate, which provides a savings of 90% on the communication rates. This represents about \$25, 000 a year.

The Library is currently in need of a new van, as the current vehicle is from 1993. Mr. Lupkus said that he will check with Public Facilities about giving the Library a newer vehicle.

When asked about the line item labeled "Special", Mr. Golrick replied that the money was used to pay for snow plowing the parking lots for Newfield and the North Branch. Because the library must be open by ten a.m. the City plows can not guarantee the lots will be plowed early enough to allow the staff members to get into the facilities and prepare for the day. Therefore the plowing is done with private contractors.

Co-Chair Mojica thanked Mr. Golrick and Mr. Arquette for their time.

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

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER CURWEN 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 COMMITTEE  
APRIL 26, 2006**

**PRESENT:** Robert Curwen, Co-chair; Carlos Silva, Rafael Mojica, Co-chair;  
Donna Curran, Thomas McCarthy (6:45 p.m.); Robert Walsh (7:05 p.m.)

**OTHERS:** Elaine Pivrotto, Council Member; Andres Ayala, Council President;  
Michelle Lyons, Council Member; Angel dePara Council Member (8:45  
p.m.); Keith Rodgerson (10:05 p.m.); Tom Sherwood, Luann Conine,  
Recreation; Stephen T. Hladun, Recreation; Phillip C. Handy, Parks &  
Recreation; Frank Staff, student; Andy Kennedy, Municipal Garage;  
Kurt Sendlein, Sikorsky Airport; John Ricci, Sikorsky Airport; Joseph  
Savino, Bridgeport Harbor Master; Rich Davanzo, Finance; Michael  
Feeney, CAO; John Cottell, Public Facilities Utilities; Cathy Curwen,  
Public Facilities Administration; Gregg Damcho, Beardsley Zoo;  
Barry Skinner, Engineering; George Estrada, Public Facilities Director;  
Michael Lupkis, Finance Director; Ted Graybars

**CALL TO ORDER**

Co-chair Curwen called the meeting to order at 6:11 p.m. He reviewed the rules for all those present and introduced the various attendees.

**REVENUE**

Mr. Sherwood suggested that the Committee begin the review with revenues. Council Member Curran asked about the line item labeled transient revenues under the Airport heading. Mr. Ricci introduced himself to the Committee and explained that the Airport charged this fee to those pilots who wished to land at Sikorsky. He also reviewed the aspects of the tie down fees and landing rights for Council Member Curran. He also reviewed the revenue potential for the new terminal and the possibility of micro jets and increased transient traffic.

Council Member Mojica asked about hanger rentals. *Mr. Ricci distributed a report outlining the various income sources for the Airport.* He explained that about 75% of the revenue is fixed via leases and the remaining 25% is generated from transient traffic, which the Airport has no way to predict or control. Mr. Ricci went on to explain that income is generated from the car rental companies which are located at the airport.

When asked if there were any particular concerns that he had, Mr. Ricci stated that there were some buildings that needed to be demolished and that he was working with the Airport Commission on this. There is also the possibility of leasing some small parcels of land along the perimeter of the property to a developer for construction of residences which would be occupied by airport friendly residents who would have access to the field

via their back doors. He also reminded the Committee that FAA rules dictate all the revenue that is generated by the Airport stays at the airport.

Council Member Pivrotto asked Mr. Estrada about the status of a contract that the City had signed with a company to install cell towers at Kennedy Stadium. She wished to know where that income was reflected. Mr. Estrada informed her that the construction of the towers has not yet begun.

Council Member Pivrotto also asked about various rates for sidewalk permits. Mr. Estrada assured her that the new rates were in place. There was also some question regarding the rent from an apartment that the City owns. Mr. Handy will check into that situation and verify that all the payments have been collected and properly accounted for.

### **AIRPORT**

Mr. Estrada stated that the budget at the Airport was status quo and all the increases were gas and utilities, along with vehicle maintenance. He pointed out that by taking down the terminal, the City will save on heating it.

### **ENGINEERING**

Mr. Skinner presented a very brief overview of his budget, which basically is status quo.

Council Member Curran wished to know what traffic control produces were. Mr. Skinner explained that those were replacements of broken components for items like traffic signals.

Council President Ayala asked about the vacancy. Mr. Skinner replied that the position is currently vacant and has been since the late summer, early fall but that resumes arrived and are being evaluated.

Council Member Pivrotto asked about installing equipment that automatically tickets people for running red lights. Mr. Feeney explained that New Haven has a test program that is going on right now, but that the State Legislature was required to give them a special permit to do this as it is against the law in Connecticut.

*Council Member McCarthy arrived at 6:45 p.m.*

Co-chair Curwen asked about requests that were submitted to Engineering that had to do with traffic patterns were not being followed up. Mr. Skinner explained that these were submitted to the Police Commission. Council President Ayala requested that a copy of the request to the Police Commission be sent to the Council Member who requested the action. Mr. Skinner said that he would see that this was done. Council Member Mojica stated that he had requested a stop sign at a particular intersection and that the request had been refused by Ortiz's office because there was no record of accidents at that location.

Council Member Mojica said that he had gone to the Post and located accounts of accidents that had happened at that location. Mr. Estrada and Mr. Skinner said they would follow up on this. Mr. Estrada went on to explain that street lights and stop signs are very passionate issues and that the department receives a flood of requests for them.

Council Member Curran asked about the recent flooding and if it was on the increase. Mr. Estrada explained that there were several factors involved in that flooding: substantial rain amounting to six inches along with the water table being high. When Council Member Curran asked if something was being planned to alleviate flooding, Council Member Mojica commented that there had been some serious flooding in his district. Following that, he distributed flyers all over his district, encouraging people to attend a meeting at Bassick High School to discuss flooding concerns. Only six people showed up for the meeting.

Council Member Silva returned to the issue of the vacant position in Engineering and wished to know if the budgeted salary for the nine month vacancy was placed in the general fund. Mr. Sherwood stated that the money remains in the Salary category, but is a savings for the City.

### **HARBOR MASTER**

Harbor Master Savino gave a brief overview of the state of the Harbor. During the President's recent visit, the Harbor was totally shut down to all maritime traffic. He also informed the Committee that the ferry company is in the process of replacing his old boat which sank due to the ferry company's actions. He will be receiving a new 17 foot boat from the company. Harbor Master Savino also reviewed some of the security measures that will be enacted on the car ferries in the future, including underwater imaging and scanning of car chassis as they board the ferries. Co-chair Curwen stated that during the City Council's recent trip to Washington, D.C., they had lobbied hard for the security measures for the harbor. Harbor Master Savino thanked them for their efforts on his behalf.

*Council Member Walsh arrived at 7:05 p.m.*

Harbor Master Savino also commented that dredging the harbor was a real concern because of the build up of sediment. When Co-chair Curwen asked about the money budgeted last year for this project, Harbor Master Savino explained that the Army Corp of Engineers were working on a plan for dredging. This was complicated by the presence of polluted sediment on the harbor bottom.

Co-chair Curwen asked about status of the feeder tanks and barge project. Harbor Master Savino replied that tug operators are lined up, and sites have been selected in both Bridgeport and New York. Currently, negotiations are underway with the ILA union. This project will bring in considerable revenue for the City.

Council Member Curran expressed concern about the recent storm which resulted in the sewage treatment plant overflowing and discharging waste into Black Rock Harbor. Harbor Master Savino acknowledged this problem and pointed out that the torrential rain created a capacity problem.

*Council Member Pivrotto left the meeting at 7:15 p.m.*

Council Member Curran commented that it appeared that the WPCA was not handling the waste properly. Mr. Estrada replied that when news of the coming storm was known, he and Ted had gone to the treatment plant to check on the situation. Everything was operational. No one expected six inches of rain, which overtaxed the system. This happened at all the coastal communities. Council Member Curran asked about having a pipe that extends 2-3 miles offshore for disposal. This would entail going under a land fill and going offshore at least a mile at Seaside, Mr. Estrada explained.

### **BEARDSLEY ZOO**

Mr. Damcho introduced himself to the Committee and stated that the only increases that the Zoo was requesting had to do with fuel costs and contractual obligations. He stated that the attendance at the Zoo was increasing, particularly after the birth of a tiger last year and some otters this year. He stated that they had recently finished an aviary and an outside area for meetings. Recently the National Fish and Wildlife used the new community room to hold a meeting on grants and a group of students have also used it. Co-chair Curwen asked that it be duly noted that this is in the 138th District and is the State's only zoo.

Council Member Curran asked where the funds for building this community room came from. Mr. Damcho stated that there was a building fund created by the Hanson Family of Easton who lost their son, their daughter and their grandchild on 9/11, so this building was constructed in their memory.

Currently, the Zoo is working on securing funding to redo the picnic grove and the construction will start on May 1st. The area will be leveled and tiered, which will allow ADA access. Last week, the zoo had record breaking attendance during the school vacation.

There were several questions as to why the carousel was a separate line item. Mr. Damcho explained that when the Zoo was sold to the Zoological Society, it was uncertain as to whether or not the carousel would be part of the deal. Later, it was determined that it would be included. Mr. Damcho stated that he felt it would be easier if the line item was put under the Zoo. Mr. Estrada agreed.

Co-chair Curwen asked about the Zoo receiving some grants from the State. Mr. Damcho acknowledged this but said that the money has not arrived yet. The zoo employees and friends have been lobbying hard to secure funds for the condors and jaguars, but the bond issue has not been scheduled yet. Once these two components are

completed, it will complete the rain forest project which was started eleven years ago. Mr. Damcho also commented that the \$400,000 state Zoo funding has been transferred to the Tourism budget and that the State has no contractual obligation to give that money to the Zoo. The Tourism department wants to eliminate all earmarked line items, which would put the \$400,000 in their general fund. Mr. Sherwood suggested that those concerned consider contacting their legislators and asked that the Zoo be transferred out of Tourism and placed under Parks.

Council Member Mojica asked about reciprocity between facilities. Mr. Damcho explained that the Zoo is a member of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums. All of the members who have endangered species animals are not owned by the individual members. They are owned by the zoo collective and is managed by the SSP, the Species Survival Plan. The animals are moved about to different facilities for breeding purposes to keep the genetic diversity high. The receiving facility pays for the shipping when the animals are transferred, but the animals themselves do not have a monetary value. The otters, which were just born, do have a monetary value even though they are not endangered because they do not breed well in zoos. Council Member Walsh asked if it was possible to rotate animals. Mr. Damcho explained that it is not easy to do because most zoos have an animal management plan. However, he added that the Zoo is hoping to have some kangaroos next year.

Council Member Lyons asked about the salary overtime. Mr. Damcho stated that it is regulated by the unions, not by him. He also explained that the Zoo is open every day except Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Years. However, the animals must be cared for every single day.

### GARAGE

Mr. Sherwood stated that the major increases in the Garage budget were due to contractual agreements, fuel costs and maintenance. Mr. Estrada commented that the Garage keeps 500 vehicles on the road. There is increases in parts costs along with aging vehicles and increased usage. These vehicles require constant maintenance. Mr. Catino explained that the Roadway Parks covers replacement parts for the street sweepers and the MadVacs. The increase in fuel costs is purely market driven. Diesel consumption has actually decreased but the price is rising.

Mr. Estrada also informed the Committee that the fleet now has some hybrid vehicles and that the City will continue to explore that in the future. During the recent flooding, it was clear that cars would not be useful. Mr. Estrada also stated that the Department is looking to replace vehicles rather than recycle them.

Co-chair Curwen stated that he was happy to hear that the Department was taking pro-active measures to reduce costs. Mr. Catino reminded the Committee that they supplied fuel for all the city vehicles. *Mr. Sherwood distributed a Gasoline Summary to the Committee members.* He explained that all the fleet drivers have cards and tags that

allows them to get gasoline. The Police and Fire Department have their own separate fuel tanks and accounts. Questions about the Parks Department fuel tank not being metered arose. Mr. Estrada and Mr. Handy stated that they would have that fuel tank put on a meter.

When questions arose about employees taking vehicles home, Mr. Estrada stated that recently the Park Police had successfully petitioned the State Labor Board regarding the ability to have their vehicles at their homes. Council Member Lyons stated that Westport had reduced the number municipal vehicles and asked why Bridgeport could not do this also. Mr. Sherwood explained that the Housing Inspectors have nine vehicles available and the staff uses them because they are going in nine different directions every day. Council Member Lyons reiterated her statement that if Westport could reduce the number of municipal vehicles, Bridgeport should also.

Mr. Estrada stated that he was hoping to get a Fleet Management System and pointed out that when a vehicle dies, Mr. Kennedy resurrect it, sometimes three or four times. Council Member Mojica asked Mr. Kennedy for his recommendation regarding reducing costs. Mr. Kennedy replied that he would recommend the use of synthetic oil, which costs more than regular oil but does not need to be changed. While the oil is twice the price, it yields four times the efficiency.

Mr. Estrada informed the Committee that the City had received its first new sweeper in many years. The new vehicle has a vacuum with a filtration system and therefore does not need water to keep the dust down.

Council Member Mojica wished to know about the recycling program. Mr. Estrada explained that it was continuing, but in certain parts of the City, bilingual materials were needed and an enforcement officer would be needed.

Co-chair Curwen stated that although the City had purchased MadVacs, he had yet to see them in his district. Mr. Estrada stated he would look into this.

Mr. Sherwood commented that regarding the Housing Inspectors, the City has a capacity for nine inspectors to be on the road, but reminded every one that the union contracts dictates who qualifies for the vehicles.

### **RECESS**

Co-chair Curwen announced a recess at 8:25 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 8:37 p.m.

### **RECREATION**

Mr. Sherwood explained that due to illness, the staff member who had directed the Program for the Aging had been out on leave and the program was transferred over to Ms. Conine in the Recreations Department.

*Council Member dePara arrived at 8:45 p.m.*

Ms. Conine explained that she handled about 350 seniors and reviewed a number of the programs that the Department sponsored, including swimming, bingo, line dancing, and trips to various locations. She invited the Committee to attend the upcoming Salute to Veterans on May 31st and stated that she was distributing flyers at all the Senior Housing Complexes. The attendance at the Senior Centers has increased over the last few months.

Council Member McCarthy stated that this was an excellent program and noted that they were not asking for additional money. He also commented that the Senior Chores Program would be on May 3rd, which is a fund raiser. Mr. Estrada stated that Ms. Conine had reorganized the program and revitalized it.

One issue was brought up was that the seniors use school pools on Monday, Wednesday and Friday nights while the custodians are in the building. The Board of Education requires that the City pay the custodians for the use of the building even though they are there to clean it. This needs to be investigated.

Council Member Silva asked if grant funding would help provide funds for the program. Mr. Estrada stated that they are looking into that. Council Member Silva also pointed out that one of the pool tables at one of the Centers was very worn and needs to be replaced. Mr. Estrada said that they would work on getting the table re-felted.

Council Member Curran asked who were the seasonal staff. Mr. Estrada replied that they were the sports coaches, camp counselors, life guards and other various employees.

### **PARKS - ADMINISTRATION AND LABOR**

Mr. Estrada explained that there were no changes to the Administration portion of the Park budget other than sewer and utilities. In terms of the Labor portion, there are contractual agreements and fuel increases. He also pointed out that all the seasonal employees are paid on an hourly rate.

Mr. Sherwood commented that transferring the payroll to Genesis was being considered, which would allow it to be entered by the clerks. He also said that it was important to track absenteeism, jury duty, sick time and other leaves of absence more accurately.

Council Member McCarthy asked about the tree cutting program. Mr. Estrada explained that the previous contractor had created a problem and the Mayor had disqualified that contractor from the job.

Council Member Walsh asked about the overtime and Other Personnel Services. Mr. Estrada explained that there were event spikes, like the 4th of July or the Barnum Parade that required 2-3 days set up preparation and then a day or so for break down. He also pointed out that there are 53 parks in the City of Bridgeport that are available 365 days a

year. Peak use is during the spring/summer months. Once the seasonal employees go, there are only about 9 Parks full year employees.

Council Member Mojica has some concerns about the Port-a-lets and the frequency of their cleaning. Mr. Handy reviewed the cleaning fee schedule with the Committee and said that the City was looking to do some of the servicing.

Council Member Mojica wished to know if the City could use Seniors to staff the Seasonal Tickets office. Mr. Handy replied that he would love to employ the Seniors, but that most are not interested when they find out the long hours and low pay.

*Council Member McCarthy left at 9:15 p.m.*

### **TRANSFER STATION**

Mr. Sherwood commented that the surrounding towns charge for dumping. Payments are made to CRA and have increased from \$65.00 to \$70.00 per month. All the garbage at the transfer station is hauled to CRA by Enviro. The bids for Enviro are increasing and all of the contracts are very similar. The Transfer Station fees are becoming cost prohibited.

### **SANITATION**

Mr. Estrada explained that there is an adjustment via the tipping fees for commercial businesses. The City charges \$89 but only pays \$66 for the drop. The original contract with RESCO was based on an estimated 110 tons of garbage at the rate of \$8 per ton. The City pays RESCO \$880,000 regardless of how many tons are sent to RESCO. This was before the recycling became mandatory or before the FLOAT legislation was enacted.

Council Member Curran asked if the sanitation workers were doing a full time job. Mr. Estrada explained that contractually they are. By contract they are limited to picking up 13 tons a day. Council Member Curran stated that the staff's attitudes are awful and garbage is often strewn all over. Mr. Estrada explained that his department is looking to initiate the TOTER program, which has hinged cans with a bar handle that the truck will hoist and dump. He believes that this will increase safety and decrease injuries.

Council Member Lyons was curious about the salary differences. Mr. Sherwood explained that this was due to different salary levels.

Council Member Walsh asked about the practice of picking up bulk leaves and whether this was worth it. Mr. Estrada explained that after careful consideration, having the workers blow the leaves out into the middle of the street and using a payloader was more efficient than using the large vacs. Mr. Handy commented that if the City did not do this,

they would end up paying the same amount and the employees would be occupied with illegal trash pick ups.

*Council Member Rodgeron arrived at 10:05 p.m*

### **ROAD WAY**

Mr. Estrada stated that the only change to the Road Way Budget was for supplies and contractual obligations. Mr. Handy commented that there was an increase in the cost of salt and sand. He pointed out that sleet or freezing rain requires multiple applications of either the salt or sand where a full blown storm only requires one application. Mr. Handy explained that calcium chloride adheres to the roads longer than regular sodium chloride. There is the possibility of a new chemical which is environmentally friendly and deices the roads for a longer period.

### **MAINTENANCE**

*Mr. Sherwood distributed two reports on the Utilities, one by organization and the other by object to the Committee Members.*

Mr. Sherwood explained that the reports allow the Committee members to see the utility usage in each City owned building, and also by department. An energy audit by Honeywell reduced the costs for the City. Infrastructure items need to be replaced. There are 168 traffic lights in the City and by replacing the light bulbs with LEDs, there is a savings reduction from \$50/month to \$25/month. The street lights are the largest consumers of energy and account for 2.5 million in the budget. Mr. Graybar explained that by analyzing the usage of the building, such as the Police Station, they have been able to adjust rates where ever possible. During the analysis, they discovered water leaks at Engine Company 3 & 4. CL & P bills the City for electricity for the street lights regardless of whether the light is functioning or not. By locating missing fixtures downtown, the bills have been adjusted accordingly. The escalators in the Annex was discovered to be large consumers, so they are now turned off at night. Motion detectors for lights and fans are being installed in various locations. Council Member Walsh commented that usage was actually down, but it was offset by the rate increases.

Council Member dePara asked if all the City buildings will be analyzed for energy efficiency. Mr. Graybar replied that they would and when repairs are being made, the office is trying to address issues like lighting. Excluding the schools, there is 1.7 million square feet of space owned by the City and Mr. Graybar is working to find ways to efficiently use all the buildings.

Council Member Mojica had some concerns about whether the utilization of the space would result in over-crowding. Mr. Graybar explained that he was in the process of studying the HVAC system and hoping to improve the air quality. Mr. Handy added this will require cleaning the filters, and investigating the ventilation systems.

*Council Member Lyons left the meeting at 11:10 p.m.*

Mr. Handy explained that it was important to do efficiency studies but that it was important to realize that the street lighting makes up two thirds of the energy costs as there are roughly 11 million street lights.

### **PUBLIC FACILITIES**

Mr. Estrada reported that the demolition of the old facility has been completed and they had to remove the factory on the street side because it was not hurricane proof. It was more cost effective to demolish the building than try to rehabilitate.

Regarding the Animal Shelter, the bids came in at over 4 million, which was too high. Bid requests are going out again.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

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

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

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

The meeting adjourned at 11:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon L. Soltes  
Telesco Secretarial Services

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT  
BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS  
LABOR RELATIONS & BENEFITS  
APRIL 27, 2006**

**PRESENT:** Rafael Mojica, Co-chair; Robert Curwen, Co-chair; Robert Walsh (6:30 p.m.); Carlos Silva (6:30 p.m.)

**OTHERS:** Thomas Mulligan, Council Member (6:40 p.m.); Elaine Pivirotto, Council Member (7:40 p.m.); Angel dePara (8:50 p.m.); Tom Sherwood, Ned Winterbottom, Labor Relations; Ralph Jacobs, Personnel; Janet Finch, Human Resources/Grants Personnel; Richard Weiner, Benefits; Michael Feeney, CAO; Rich Davanzo, Finance.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Co-chair Mojica called the meeting to order at 6:20 p.m. *Mr. Sherwood distributed a report on Group Benefits and Worker's Compensation to the Committee members.*

Mr. Sherwood explained that because of all the upcoming changes pending the meeting with the auditors, Scully and Wolf, the review of the benefits will be limited. He explained that certain City accounts, such as Nutrition will be zeroed out and transferred to special funds. However, he stated that while surplus funds will be left in the accounts, shortfalls must be made up. Since the funds will be separated into a different category, any shortfalls will not effect the general funds.

Council Member Curwen stated that this proposal was the Mayor's plan, but wished to know what the Finance Department would propose. Mr. Lupkis stated that Labor would need to monitor the plan. Mr. Sherwood stated that he believes this would mitigate risk and that the details of this transfer would be available on May 3rd. Mr. Sherwood went on to add that moving the benefits to the Board of Education will cover MER at the beginning of the year. When asked if the State had made this recommendation, Mr. Sherwood replied that they had. He was also asked if copies of that document could be provided to the Committee members, to which he replied that he would provide copies to them.

Council Member Walsh wished to know why the Board of Education grants are under the City budget. Mr. Sherwood explained that they are in fact, City grants, but because of filing requirements, they must have their own budget line. Council Member Walsh had several detailed questions about COBRA requirements and rates, which Mr. Sherwood answered to Council Member Walsh's satisfaction.

**BENEFITS**

Mr. Sherwood informed the Committee that there would only be changes in the Health Care portion of the Budget. He also introduced Ms. Finch to the Committee and explained that when the Training Officer position was eliminated, Ms. Finch took over with a very small budget. *Ms. Finch distributed to the Committee members a document titled "Grants Personnel Office" which gave an overview of her department's function.* She directed the Committee members attention to page three, which listed the training programs both past and future, that her office had provided at no cost to the City.

Council Member Curwen wished to know if the employees who have been accused of sexual harassment were going to be taking the course, not as a form of punishment, but as a form of protection. Ms. Finch remarked that she would be working with Labor Relations regarding this and that they are also working on logging the various training courses into the attendant's personnel file.

Regarding Family Personnel Leave (FMLA) , Ms. Finch said that the City needs to improve their attendance records. Many of the department heads don't understand how to implement FMLA and that it is budgetarily difficult because of the overtime incurred while covering the temporarily vacant position. The Committee had several questions regarding the details of the FMLA plan, which Ms. Finch explained.

Regarding Disability, Mr. Winterbottom explained that the Police and Firefighters have unlimited sick and disability time, not counting short term or long term disability.

Ethics Training is progressing, with 130 employees having completed the course and 160 who will be taking the course. Other than the Police and Fire Departments, which have their own course, all City employees must take the course.

Council Member Walsh wished to know about Work Place Safety. Mr. Weiner replied that a Safety Committee has been established and that most of the work place injuries were due to over exertion.

Council Member Silva asked about Compensation and was informed that the Risk Safety Manager position was eliminated and that an employee at Berkeley House provides 20 hours a week to the City. Mr. Sherwood reported on various scenarios for disability claims. Mr. Weiner pointed out that the highest categories for injuries were the Police Department, the Fire Department and Public Facilities. Mr. Feeney commented that the City has arranged for a doctor from St. Vincent's to provide the evaluations for the Police and Fire Department disability claims.

Council Member Mulligan had several detailed questions regarding the MERF pension plan and a discussion on those issues followed.

## **HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES**

Mr. Sherwood reviewed the history of the Americans with Disability Act director's retirement, which left the position vacant and the establishment of two grant funded positions. One of the positions could be used as an advocate for disabled citizens. Currently, Loretta's emphasis is on City employees and their disabilities. One advantage to moving the office to the Health Department is that the office would be on the first floor and ADA accessible. A discussion followed regarding the feasibility of moving the office from its present location to the Health Department. Mr. Sherwood commented that the technical and financial aspects of such a move could be done easily, however, the decision to actually enact the move would rest with management.

Council Member Curwen observed that the City has multiple entities performing the same job, but that Bridgeport needs a centralized department for Human Services rather than the current system of the Civil Service Department and the Grants employees. *Ms. Finch distributed a letter to the members of the Committee having to do with training.*

### **PERSONNEL**

Mr. Sherwood indicated that another area of employment difficulty was the issue of "Acting" positions, which need to be converted back to the regular positions via the Civil Service exams. Mr. Jacobs presented a brief overview of Civil Service Department, which had lost focus in the past and was now being revitalized. Currently, the Police and Fire Department have legal writs against the City. The Police Department just settled and it is expected that the Fire Department will soon follow suit. Administering the Police and Fire Department exams are very expensive because of the litigation that inevitably results. Mr. Jacobs reviewed the portion of the Charter that referred his department and expressed concern that the City was in violation of its own laws by ignoring this.

Co-chair Mojica asked if centralizing this would move Bridgeport in the right direction. Mr. Jacobs stated that if the Civil Service has been properly staffed and run, the City would be in a different place today.

Council Member Mulligan stated that the City taxpayers have been carrying a huge burden. Mr. Jacobs acknowledged this and stated that all governments want to spend more money than is available. Because of this, it is necessary to prioritize. Mr. Sherwood commented that Section 19 of the Charter forbids departments to over spend.

One issue was updating the various job descriptions, such as Typist 1, which was written in the late 1950's before the advent of electric typewriters or computers. Adjustments of this nature have to be worked through with the unions.

Council Member Curwen stated that the Council needs to follow the law, but that they also bore responsibility to the City. He requested that Mr. Jacobs educate the Council members as the process develops. Mr. Jacobs commented that this was a situation where

there was too much that needed to be done too quickly, but none of it can be accomplished quickly because of the various details involved.

Council Member Walsh congratulated Mr. Jacobs on the swearing in ceremony which took place on Sunday, April 23rd despite the torrential rain storm. The Council Chamber was filled to capacity. He also asked Mr. Jacobs where the Exhibits were that were referenced in the information packet the Committee members had received. Mr. Jacobs apologized, saying that he thought adding the Exhibit paperwork would double the bulk of the packet, but that he would see that Council Member Walsh and any other Council Member who was interested received the extra items. Mr. Jacobs then passed around a print out of a timeline that he had devised before the beginning of the union talks. Since the start of the talks, the time line changed significantly, but it still served to show the overall strategy for bringing the City in to compliance with its own Charter.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Co-chair Mojica announced that the Committee had no further questions and adjourned the meeting at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon L. Soltes  
Telesco Secretarial Services

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT  
BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS  
CAPITAL BUDGET  
APRIL 27, 2006**

**PRESENT:** Rafael Mojica, Co-chair; Robert Curwen, Co-chair; Robert Walsh, Carlos Silva

**OTHERS:** Thomas Mulligan, Council Member; Elaine Pivrotto, Council Member; Angel dePara, Council Member, Tom Sherwood; Michael Golrick, Bridgeport Public Library Director, Michael Lupkis, Finance.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Co-chair Mojica called the meeting to order at 8:45 p.m.

*Mr. Sherwood distributed the Five Year Capital Plan to the Committee.* He then reviewed the key points for them. Council Member Curwen had several questions about the Security vehicles for the Board of Education and stated that unless more details was provided, he would not be in support of them.

Council Member Pivrotto had several questions about the modifications for the school grants. There were a number of issues that were not yet determined and Council Member Pivrotto was concerned that if the grant figures changed, the money would be denied. The members of the Committee asked her to submit the figures for adjustment to the Budget and Appropriations Committee when the final numbers were available.

*Council Member Silva left the meeting at 9:00 p.m.*

Council Member Curwen asked for an update on the bond rates. Mr. Lupkis stated that the City was able to realize 1.3 million dollars in savings, but that at the last moment, the market had turned against the City, so the savings were not as much as he had hoped for.

Council Member Mulligan asked how the City stood in terms of debt. Mr. Lupkis stated that there was 56 million in new money, 36 of which was for the schools. He also explained that the debt service did not grow this year because of the restructuring.

Mr. Golrick, the director of the Bridgeport Public Libraries, introduced himself to the Committee and explained that he had been requested to attend this meeting during the budget presentation for the Library. He indicated that the Library had requested \$75,000 for computers for public use, needed to purchase a van and needed new phones installed in the Burroughs building. Mr. Sherwood stated that the libraries will be getting IP from the City and Public Facilities was working on finding a better van for the library to use.

Council Mulligan had several questions regarding the Black Rock Branch of the Library. Mr. Golrick explained that the Governor had not scheduled a state bond committee meeting yet. The Black Rock branch has been closed for three years, but if the architectural plans are changed or reduced, the City will lose the \$375,000 grant. Any changes to the plans will result in having to redo the architectural plans, incurring more costs.

Co-chair Mojica thanked Mr. Golrick for attending the meeting adjourned the meeting at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon L. Soltes  
Telesco Secretarial Services.

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT  
BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS  
RECAP AND CAPITAL VOTE  
APRIL 28, 2006**

**PRESENT:** Robert Curwen, Co-chair, Rafael Mojica, Co-chair; Thomas McCarthy  
Carlos Silva, Robert Walsh, Donna Curran

**OTHERS:** Thomas Mulligan, Council Member, Thomas Sherwood, George Estrada,  
Public Facilities Director; Richard Huot, Board of Education Financial  
Officer; Nancy Hadley

**CALL TO ORDER**

Co-Chair Curwen called the meeting to order.

Mr. Sherwood stated that Mr. Estrada has another obligation and asked if the Committee would begin with him. This was agreeable to all.

**PUBLIC FACILITIES**

Mr. Estrada's request regarded the signage and the Senior Center, along with a break down of what equipment was in order to facilitate updating the aging fleet. Mr. Sherwood explained that the Capital Plan that was submitted to the Committee on April 27th contained a front sheet that covered what the Mayor recommended for the Capital Plan. The second sheet contains amendments. Mr. Sherwood highlighted a few items, Land Management Acquisitions under Other Departments, which involves a worst case scenario schedule to acquire Congress Plaza. There is also the Master Plan which is filed with the State and provides access to LOCIP funds. Mr. Sherwood stated that the City is hoping for approval of the financing, but for now, it needs to be accounted for by the City. The request to the Council members was to provide more details on various issues.

Mr. Estrada referred to the hand out he had distributed and explained he had prepared the information in the same order as the Capital Budget had been submitted. He indicated that one aspect was the project to remodel some of the offices at Lyons Terrace. This would include replacing the doors with glass on the second floor and redesigning the space more efficiently. A second item was public facilities equipment, which focuses on updating the rolling fleet. Four new snowplows are being delivered and two more are planning to replace the aging vehicles, one of which is twenty three years old. One new sweeper has been delivered and the department is planning to buy one this coming fiscal year and one the following year. Rack bodies are the boxy like trucks that follow the payloaders. They are actually recycled sanitation trucks with reinforced frames. These have lasted for two or three bodies and now simply need to be replaced. Some of the pick-up trucks have very high mileage and are literally wearing out.

Council Member Silva asked about the Capital Plan. Mr. Sherwood explained that the prices change are reflected in the five year plan. When the City applies for grants and other funding, the State looks at the City's five year plan. When the Council adopts a five year plan, according to the Charter, all the Council is actually doing is ratifying the first year budget. Mr. Estrada stated that the City has no way to project what the cost of a snow plow would be in year four or five and may only be able to afford one snowplow rather than two because the cost has risen too much. Mr. Sherwood stated that the way the City does the vehicle purchasing is through annual bids.

Council Member Mojica asked how the inflation rate was calculated when dealing with this type of five year plan. Mr. Sherwood replied that if the plan reflects a particular amount and the bid comes back higher than the amount, the department can't afford the item. Mr. Estrada explained that the department was at the mercy of the market when purchasing the equipment because they have no control over the prices. Mr. Sherwood stated that if Mr. Estrada was authorized to purchase the vehicles, which sometime have a nine to thirteen month lead time before they are delivered, he can issue an RFP now. A fire truck has an eighteen month lead time before delivery. Mr. Estrada gave the Committee members an example where a department was authorized to purchase four vehicles and because they were placing the order all at one time, the discount was strong enough to allow them to purchase a fifth vehicle and remain within budget.

Mr. Estrada then reported on the City signage and traffic upgrades. The signage throughout the City is being evaluated, particularly the directional signs. He displayed pictures of some of the vandalism that has taken place, others that have incorrect information and still others that show signs of deterioration. The LED lighting in the traffic signals has a significant effect on the power consumption. There may be some cases where the State will require matching funds when the traffic signals are upgraded. Currently, when the streets are being repaved, the crosswalks are being relined and turning lanes installed for better traffic flow. He also spoke about the signage practices in Norwalk and Stamford that have the major intersections with clear signage. Mr. Sherwood explained that the City would be using its money to leverage State transportation dollars to add expanded signage and turn lanes. The expenses are in the signals, which could easily be \$35,000 - \$40,000 per intersection.

Council Member Mojica expressed concerns about the lack of funds for stop signs and handicapped signs but spending \$250,000 for traffic signals bonded over a ten year period. Mr. Sherwood replied that the City has done this every year. He reminded everyone that Morteza secured money to run the fiber underneath the streets, which is the expensive portion of the project. Vandalism is rampant. Council Member Mojica reiterated that he was concerned that signs for his district were difficult to obtain, while these big ticket projects were being considered.

Council Member Walsh asked about the cost for the LED line item. Mr. Estrada explained that it would be based on the intersection that was being done. Council Member Walsh restated that question, asking what percentage of the \$250,000 would be for LED improvements. Mr. Estrada replied that he expected approximately 50% of that amount would be spent on the LEDs. When a State grant is approved, the State expects the City to contribute around 20% of a project. Mr. Sherwood stated that the City was working with the State on various portions of the City, such as Fairfield and State Street.

Mr. Estrada concluded that his only concern was that good signage was important to present a good image in order to attract people to come to Bridgeport. Council Member Mulligan stated that he agreed with Mr. Estrada, but that the debt service would be increasing in the coming years, and that he would prefer that the project be pared down. There was a discussion over the cost and effectiveness of the signage over reducing spending. Council Member Mulligan also stated that the primary offender was the State with their signage all along the highways. Mr. Sherwood commented that when an attempt was made to cut the grass on the highway ramp, a grievance resulted, so it was a difficult issue.

Council Member McCarthy commented that he had seen signage where there was a tag line which stated "Sign maintained by..." and asked if that had been considered. Mr. Estrada replied that he would love to pursue, but it was labor intensive in terms of finding a sponsor and then getting the design of the sign. Another problem was that if a sponsor, like D'Adderio had a sign and later abandoned it, the sign would have to be redone if another sponsor picked it up.

Seaside Park needs a great deal of sidewalk repair and replacement of missing sections of curbing, particularly in the Waldemere area by the horseshoe pits and playground. Mr. Estrada stated that the entire park needs to have trees replanted, particularly along the lower end of the landfill as well as the leaf composting area for shielding purposes. Mr. Sherwood commented that a great deal came from a Seaside improvement plan. The Army Corps of Engineers made some recommendations on how to shore up the sidewalks to prevent the break up of the slabs.

Council Member Mojica asked whether the easy of cleaning off graffiti was considered when the RFPs went out for bid. Mr. Estrada replied that the department has been researching this subject before replacement. The modular frames are being considered but the sign at Fairfield Avenue totally disintegrated during one of the wind storms last month. He stated that the department was trying to utilize the frames already in place because they are very sturdy. That would allow for changes and keep the signs current. One recent replacement of a sign that was downed by a car cost \$7,500, which was paid by the driver's insurance company. Had that particular sign blown over, it would have cost the City the same amount. A modular sign will be less expensive because the City will only be replacing pieces rather than the entire sign.

Council Member Curran asked about the amount for the Seaside curb and sidewalk repair. Mr. Estrada explained that he did not have a break down on that. The figures would come out of the overall plan for the park. Mr. Estrada informed the Committee that last year the department had secured a grant which paid for seventy trees in the park. He hopes to reapply for the same grant this coming June.

Council Member Mojica commented that while the money for planting trees was good, the park needs a retaining wall because of the erosion that occurs during the severe storms. Mr. Estrada explained that the wall acts as a breaker, which is its primary function. During the Katrina storm, a section of wall and sidewalk caved in. A block grant has been applied for, but the repair will cost \$75,000 - \$100,000 just to repair the section of that wall. Council Member Mojica commented that he remembered large sinkholes in the parking area following severe storms. Mr. Estrada agreed, saying that the water gets underneath the paving. The retaining walls at Seaside were designed by the Army Corps of Engineers and is designed as a breaker to protect the residents and to stop water flooding from any incidental storm.

Council Member Walsh asked how many more years of commitment of \$500,000 is left on the Seaside Park project. Mr. Estrada replied that the answer would lie in when the Council, the Committee and the residents wanted him to stop improving the park. He stated that he was laying out his plans before the Committee for the continual upkeep of the park. Mr. Sherwood commented that the original plan for the park had six stages to it. Later it was broken down into bite size pieces. Council Member Walsh commented that all this money had been expended and there still wasn't a catering operation in the park. This was one of the revenue generating plans. Mr. Estrada explained that they would never make money on the bath house. He stated that there were bids going out, and there was a renter who was looking to invest his private capital in the facility. Mr. Estrada explained the details and stated that the City Attorney was reviewing the proposal and that it would be brought to the Committee when more of the details are in place.

Council Member Silva questioned what was covered by "Concession Repairs". Mr. Estrada explained that was a line item to cover any kind of vandalism on the bath house until the business is up and running. There are three concession buildings in the park and all the repairs must be made through this line item, one of which is in great disrepair.

### **BOARD OF EDUCATION**

The discussion move to the Public Address systems and the security issues. Mr. Sherwood stated that the Committee had asked for a description of make, model and years of the vehicles owned by the Board of Education, but never received that information. When asked whether or not the vehicles would be given to security or to the superintendent's department, Mr. Huot replied that it was the superintendent's vehicle which would be given to the security department. When Co-chair Curwen asked why this was not stated clearly, Mr. Huot replied that it was the BOE's understanding that

some correspondence had been submitted to the Committee with the request. He stated that it was the BOE's intent from the beginning to use a supervisor's car for security. Mr. Huot stated that the current vehicle used by the supervisory was five years old and had some mileage on it. Mr. Sherwood stated that they would have to amend the proposal to clarify that what was being requested was five security and one BOE superintendent vehicle.

Council Member Curran commented that request for \$250,000 indicated that the average price was \$42,000 per vehicle. Mr. Huot explained that they had bids on Special Education buses. The BOE was only able to purchase four with the funds available, which was just under \$300,000. Mr. Huot stated that the head of security was looking at a basic Taurus but that the car would have to be outfitted with radios and other equipment. Council Member dePara asked Mr. Sherwood how much the police cruisers cost. Mr. Sherwood replied that when they are fully outfitted other than the data terminal, costs about \$31,000. Mr. Huot stated that they had just put some budget numbers together. He went on to state that the research indicated that it would be about \$21,000, but Mr. Huot stated that he was not certain what it would cost to outfit a car. Council Member dePara respectfully suggested that Mr. Huot research the figures a bit more before bringing a budget request like this to the Committee.

Mr. Sherwood stated that he was not quite sure if the BOE was asking for six specific vehicles or if they were asking for a dollar amount to purchase however many vehicles they could with the money. Council Mulligan pointed out that the request as written was for \$250,000 with a 6 written next to it and said that he was not sure number the request was for. Mr. Sherwood reviewed the possible outcomes. Co-chair Curwen stated that he did not have an issue with six vehicles, but that the Committee needed to follow through on Council Member dePara's suggestion. Mr. Huot stated that he would get back to the Committee with the requested information and additional research.

Council Member Curran asked about replacement furniture. Mr. Huot stated that the BOE wanted to get into a program of replacing classroom furniture at the rate of one classroom a year. Co-chair Curwen asked Mr. Sherwood to reword the line item for clarity.

Mr. Huot informed the Committee that when the Special Ed buses arrived, they were substantially higher than the estimated \$60,000. Two of them are Special Ed lift buses, with modifications. Mr. Sherwood said that the State requires monitoring equipment on the buses. Mr. Huot stated that by bonding, they were able to secure much better rates.

Mr. Huot reviewed the request for replacement technology, which is for replacing classroom technology. A computer labs costs varies from year to year, but the BOE was estimating \$25,000 per lab. Council Member dePara had several questions about the equipment and the associated costs. Mr. Huot explained that the budget figure came from Joe Hydal. He commented that it has been three years since any major replacements had been done. Council Member dePara asked for more detail regarding the type of

equipment and the costs. Mr. Huot said he would be happy to provide that information to Council Member dePara.

Council Member Lyons asked about the replacement plan and stated that she works in the schools. Mr. Huot stated that it was the Board's intention to replace the older equipment first, which are starting to break down. Co-chair Curwen asked Mr. Huot to give the Committee members an idea of the technology plan for the school system. Mr. Huot reviewed the history of the technology plan for the Committee. Co-chair Curwen respectfully suggested that the BOE review the numbers and represent the request to the Committee in the near future.

Mr. Huot reviewed the BOE maintenance project for the Committee. He recommended that Mr. Lupkas focus on using the money for roof replacement with good insulation. The building that have been done already show significant savings in terms of energy costs. Mr. Huot explained that this request had been submitted because it was maintenance that was state grant eligible. Mr. Sherwood stated that he would not like to authorize this project for bonding because of the last similar project, which was heavily discounted. Council Member Mojica asked previous roof replacements. A list of which projects were done at what time has been requested but has not been received.

The final item for discussion was the public address systems in eleven of the school buildings, where there are routine maintenance problems. The systems are approximately twenty to twenty five years old. This would entail the replacement of the console and speakers that are no longer working, along with adding additional speakers where needed. The requested amount was based on past repairs and projects.

Mr. Sherwood reminded the Committee that they had requested the update on state and federal grants for the current fiscal year. Mr. Huot stated that he believe it was sent out from the office the previous day and the Committee members should be receiving that information in the near future. The information includes the numbers for '04-'05; '05-'06 and the projected '06-'07 and a comparison of the data for the current year with the information from the State and Federal government. Co-chair Curwen also asked about the information on consultants. Mr. Huot stated that it should be in the packet. He then reviewed the information that the Committee had requested from him during the meeting. Co-chair Curwen stated that he had received his packet of information and was surprised that a number of staff members who were known to him were not on the list. Mr. Huot stated that he had only reviewed the information that had been generated by his office. He stated that the hires come through the Personnel office and Mr. Huot was not always aware of them. Co-chair Curwen stated that the Committee had asked for a list from last year, since the list from '05-'06 was only a partial year's listing, including per diem workers.

Mr. Huot stated that he would check with Personnel and update the list for the Committee.

Co-chair Curwen thanked Mr. Huot for working with the Committee

## LAND MANAGEMENT

Mr. Sherwood reminded the Committee that there was a case in court regarding a parcel of property and the department had 2.3 million set aside but that realistically, the court might decide on the low side of 1.5 million. The judgment also could be as high as 2.4 million, but the City needs to have the cash available when the judge sets the final figure. Mr. Sherwood explained that he put this in Capital, but he was hoping to use LOCIF funds. Co-chair Curwen explained that the Committee had many questions about the Master Plan.

He stated that all the Committee was doing at this time was approving this action so that it could become part of the plan. When the time comes to bond the final figure, the City needs to be able to acquire, which they do not have at the present time.

Ms. Hadley gave an overview of the eleven acre Congress Street Plaza site. The court is about to decide the eminent domain cases, so the City must be prepared to pay whatever price Superior Court sets. A downtown plan is in the final stages. Ms. Hadley spoke about having a consultant come in to analyze the intermodal structure so that the density could be evaluated and included the plan. She stated that the Master Plan would be finished by September. She stated that the ultimate result will be that the tax revenues will increase. Last year, the department had to scramble to gather the funds for one settlement and Ms. Hadley reminded the Committee that if the City does not pay promptly, the Court then starts amassing penalties. The current Master Plan is ten years old. There is no Plan of Conservation and Development. This results in a major revision to the Land Use Policy, which will take about 18 to 24 months. Mr. Sherwood explained that he needed the full amount in the Capital budget because he will need to issue an RFP and also be able to issue a P.O. for the project.

Council Member Walsh had several questions about the upcoming Fairfield Avenue train station and the resulting traffic on Fairfield Avenue. Ms. Hadley stated that the DOT director would be speaking with the Mayor in the coming week about this issue, but that there were some serious planning issues connected with this project. One of the banks will be putting up some money to pay for the Neighborhood Revitalization Zone ( NRZ) plans for Black Rock, which will help with the planning issues.

Co-chair Curwen asked Mr. Sherwood about the chances of the City being able to use the LOCIF funds for the project. Mr. Sherwood stated that he thought the City had a good chance, particularly since the City has not done a CIP before.

Council Member Walsh had several questions about the eminent domain cases currently being considered by the Superior Court. A discussion followed on the various aspects of the pending cases.

Council Member Walsh wished to know why the Master Plan could not be broken up into sections. Mr. Sherwood reiterated that he needs the full amount in order to issue an RFP and also be able to issue a P.O. for the project. Ms. Hadley explained that if the City does the project piece meal, it will not be as efficient or cost effective and that it will take much longer.

Council Member Lyons asked for some clarification on the term “renewal”. Ms. Hadley reviewed that with her in terms of the Urban Renewal Plan. Council Member Pivrotto asked which comes first, the Zoning Regulations or the Master Plan. She commented that there had been a number of requests to amend the Zoning Regulations lately. Council Member Pivrotto asked if the Zoning Committee should wait for the Master Plan. Ms. Hadley explained that it was a transitional stage to increase the tax base. There was also some questions about a city wide Zoning Regulation proposed change. Ms. Hadley reviewed the history of that particular issue for the Committee and gave a brief overview of her staff’s recommendations.

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER MOJICA MOVED TO TABLE THE BOARD OF EDUCATION’S TWO MILLION DOLLAR REQUEST UNTIL FURTHER DOCUMENTATION IS PRESENTED TO THE COMMITTEE.  
\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER MCCARTHY SECONDED.**

Mr. Sherwood suggested that the Committee consider amend the striking out the Board of Education’s items to allow them to approve the remaining items, which would result in modifying their entire section when all the information has been submitted. He explained his reasoning for this. Council Member Mojica agreed.

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER MOJICA WITHDREW HIS MOTION.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER MOJICA MOVED TO STRIKE OUT ALL OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION LINE ITEMS EQUIVALENT TO TWO MILLION DOLLARS TEMPORARILY UNTIL FURTHER DOCUMENTATION AND INFORMATION IS MADE AVAILABLE TO THE BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE.  
\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER MCCARTHY SECONDED.  
\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER MOJICA MOVED TO APPROVE THE REMAINING PUBLIC FACILITIES AND OTHER DEPARTMENTS, WHICH WAS REDUCED BY TWO MILLION DOLLARS FOR THE BOARD OF EDUCATION.  
\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER MCCARTHY SECONDED.**

Council Member Walsh stated that he would only approve of it if 150 thousand was moved out of Public Facilities Equipment this year into next year, cut City signage in half, and cut Seaside Park improvement in half.

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER WALSH MOVED TO AMEND THE MOTION BY MOVING 150 THOUSAND OUT OF FISCAL YEAR 2007 TO FISCAL YEAR 2008 FOR PUBLIC FACILITIES EQUIPMENT, REDUCE CITY SIGNAGE FROM 250 TO 125 FOR 2007, AND INCREASE 125 TO FISCAL YEAR 2008 AND REDUCE SEASIDE PARK IMPROVEMENT TO 250 IN 2007 AND INCREASED TO 250 IN 2008.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER MCCARTHY SECONDED.**

Mr. Sherwood reviewed the adjusted numbers for the Committee. Council Member Curran commented that signage was important, but stated that the Committee needed to be conservative by removing the signs that were deteriorating and inaccurate.

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER WALSH AMENDED HIS MOTION TO HOLD THE SIGNAGE AND THE DOLLAR AMOUNT IN ABEYANCE TO BE VOTED ON SEPARATELY.**

Co-chair Curwen stated that the Committee was to vote on Item #3, City Traffic Light upgrades with 125 thousand upgrades in 07 and 125 thousand upgrades in 08. The rest of the Committee informed him that the item up for vote was the FY 2007 Recommended Capital Plan. Council Member Walsh then read out the recommended capital plan numbers, 200,00 (City Hall/McLevy ReHab); 635,000 (Public Facility Equipment); 125,000 (Traffic Light Upgrades); 250,000 (Municipal Bldg HVAC); 250,000 (City Building Code Compliance); 257,150 (Parks Maintenance Equipment); 200,000 (Rehab/Equip Senior Centers); 250,000 (Seaside Park Improvement).

**\*\* THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING ITEMS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2007: 200,00 (CITY HALL/MCLEVY REHAB); 635,000 (PUBLIC FACILITY EQUIPMENT); 250,000 (MUNICIPAL BLDG HVAC); 250,000 (CITY BUILDING CODE COMPLIANCE); 257,150 (PARKS MAINTENANCE EQUIPMENT); 200,000 (REHAB/EQUIP SENIOR CENTERS); 250,000 (SEASIDE PARK IMPROVEMENT) WAS UNANIMOUS.**

The motion to approve the city signage traffic upgrades which was amended by Council Member Walsh to strike out City signage and reduce city signage from 250 to 125 for 2007 and increase 125 to fiscal year 2008 was placed on the table by Co-chair Curwen. Council Member Walsh stated that he wished to amend that original motion.

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER WALSH MOVED TO AMEND THE MOTION TO STRIKE CITY SIGNAGE, TRAFFIC LIGHT UPGRADES TO 125 FOR 2007.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER CURRAN SECONDED.**

**\*\* THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE AMENDMENT TO THE AMENDMENT TO STRIKE OUT THE SIGNAGE AND ONLY HAVING 125,000 IN FISCAL**

**YEAR 2007 PASSED WITH THREE IN FAVOR (CURRAN, WALSH & MOJICA) AND ONE OPPOSED (MCCARTHY).**

**TECHNOLOGY INFRASTRUCTURE/VOICE OVER IP**

Council Member dePara quickly reviewed the changes and upgrades that this plan would bring to the administrative offices.

**LAND MANAGEMENT/ACQUISITIONS**

Council Member Walsh stated that he wished to lower the amount from 2.39 million to 1.7 million because of the reasons Council Member Mulligan stated during the discussion of pending court cases.

- \*\* COUNCIL MEMBER WALSH MOVED TO ADD 1.7 MILLION DOLLARS FOR LAND ACQUISITION FOR THE CONGRESS STREET PLAZA ONLY.**
- \*\* COUNCIL MEMBER MOJICA SECONDED.**
- \*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**MASTER PLAN**

Co-chair stated that there was 1,000,000 allocated for the master plan.

- \*\* COUNCIL MEMBER CURRAN MOVED TO ADD ONE MILLION DOLLARS TO THE CAPITAL PLAN UNDER THE CATEGORY OF MASTER PLAN.**
- \*\* COUNCIL MEMBER SILVA SECONDED.**
- \*\* THE MOTION PASSED WITH FOUR IN FAVOR (MOJICA, MCCARTHY, SILVA AND CURRAN) AND ONE OPPOSED (WALSH).**

- \*\* COUNCIL MEMBER MCCARTHY MOVED TO AUTHORIZE THE SUM OF ONE MILLION DOLLARS OF LOCIP FUNDS TO POSSIBLY REPLACE THE ONE MILLION DOLLARS IN THE CAPITAL PLAN FOR THE MASTER PLAN.**
- \*\* COUNCIL MEMBER CURRAN SECONDED.**
- \*\* THE MOTION PASSED WITH FOUR IN FAVOR (MOJICA, MCCARTHY, SILVA AND CURRAN) AND ONE OPPOSED (WALSH).**

**CAPITAL PLAN**

Co-chair Curwen stated that he would entertain a motion to approve the Capital Plan as amended.

- \*\* COUNCIL MEMBER MCCARTHY MOVED TO APPROVE THE CAPITAL PLAN AS AMENDED.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER MOJICA SECONDED.**  
**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED WITH FOUR IN FAVOR (MOJICA, MCCARTHY, SILVA AND CURRAN) AND ONE OPPOSED (WALSH).**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER MOJICA MOVED TO APPROVE THE CAPITAL PLAN WITH A FINAL DOLLAR AMOUNT OF \$5,067,150.**  
**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER SILVA SECONDED.**  
**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED WITH FOUR IN FAVOR (MOJICA, MCCARTHY, SILVA AND CURRAN) AND ONE OPPOSED (WALSH).**

Mr. Sherwood distributed copies of the proposed document titled “Adoption of the 2007-2008 Capital Plan” and Approval of a General Obligation Bonds - to Fund Certain Capital Improvement Projects”. He stated that the amounts in the proposed document would be updated to reflect the amounts approved by the Committee and that it will be amended for the meeting on May 8th.

Following some discussion, the Committee decided to delete the second paragraph on page 5 which reads “ BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Council hereby authorized the Officials in connection with the issuance of the Bonds to allocate any unused bond proceeds, consistent with the applicable tax and other laws, as deemed to be necessary or advisable and in the best interests of the City by the Officials; and -”

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER WALSH MOVED TO DELETE THE SECOND PARAGRAPH ON THE FIFTH PAGE OF THE DOCUMENT TITLED “ADOPTION OF THE 2007-2008 CAPITAL PLAN” AND APPROVAL OF A GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS - TO FUND CERTAIN CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS” WHICH READS AS FOLLOWS: “ BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, THAT THE CITY COUNCIL HEREBY AUTHORIZED THE OFFICIALS IN CONNECTION WITH THE ISSUANCE OF THE BONDS TO ALLOCATE ANY UNUSED BOND PROCEEDS, CONSISTENT WITH THE APPLICABLE TAX AND OTHER LAWS, AS DEEMED TO BE NECESSARY OR ADVISABLE AND IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE CITY BY THE OFFICIALS; AND -”**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER CURRAN SECONDED.**  
**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED WITH THREE IN FAVOR ( SILVA, CURRAN, WALSH) AND ONE OPPOSED ( MCCARTHY).**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER WALSH MOVED TO APPROVE THE DOCUMENT TITLED “ADOPTION OF THE 2007-2008 CAPITAL PLAN” AND APPROVAL OF A GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS - TO FUND CERTAIN CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS” AS AMENDED ABOVE.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER SILVA SECONDED.**  
**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED WITH THREE IN FAVOR ( SILVA, CURRAN, WALSH) AND ONE OPPOSED ( MCCARTHY).**

Mr. Sherwood stated that he would update the lists for Ms. Murray.

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER CURRAN SECONDED.**

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon L. Soltes  
Telesco Secretarial Services

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT  
BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS  
FIRE DEPARTMENT  
MAY 2, 2006**

**ATTENDANCE:** Robert Curwen, Co-chair; Rafael Mojica; Donna Curran, AmyMarie Vizzo-Paniccia; Robert Walsh (6:17 p.m.), Carlos Silva (6:20 p.m.)

**OTHERS:** Richard Paoletto, Council Member; Thomas Sherwood, OPC Director; Brian Rooney, Bridgeport Fire Chief; Robert Petrucelli, Deputy Fire Chief; Gary Boros, Fire Captain; Thomas Mulligan, Council Member; Andres Ayala, Council President; Elaine Pivrotto, Council Member; Michelle Lyons, Council Member, Marie Valle, Council Member, Brian Feeney, CAO Director

**CALL TO ORDER**

Co-chair Curwen called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT**

**Revenue**

Deputy Chief Petrucelli stated that the Fire Department was developing a new billing system for insurance and also billing for the equipment and time to put out a fire. Co-chair Curwen asked the Deputy Chief if Bridgeport was charging the surrounding communities when Bridgeport provided back up or coverage. Chief Rooney replied that the Fire Department does not and does not intend to because the surrounding towns provide house coverage when the Bridgeport Fire Department is responding to a fire, like the Torchlight Condos. With the closing of the various fire stations, this coverage is vital to the safety of Bridgeport residents.

*Council Members Walsh and Paoletto arrived at 6:17 p.m.*

Council Member Curran asked why the Department was budgeting \$18,000 for copies. Deputy Chief Petrucelli replied that the Department was required to provide copies of the reports per the Freedom of Information Act but can not charge for them.

Co-chair Curwen stated that fuel costs were flying and respectfully requested that the Fire Department try to curtail the use of the engines as much as possible.

*Council Member Silva arrived at 6:20 p.m.*

Council Member Mojica asked if there had been any thoughts on converting some of the equipment to vegetable oil. Mr. Sherwood replied that unfortunately, there were only two pumps in the entire country and that conversion would not be possible or practical at this time.

*Council Member Mulligan arrived at 6:25 p.m.*

Council Member Walsh asked whether any thought had been given to ways to have the Rescue Squad respond to smaller situations. Deputy Chief Petrucelli replied that the idea about rotating the companies had been mentioned to the union and they would not budge on the issue. Currently the Department is trying to reduce numbers through attrition.

*Council President Ayala and Council Member Pivrotto arrived at 6:30 p.m.*

Council Member Curran had several questions about the training programs. Chief Rooney reviewed the procedures with her and explained that training is done in house which saves \$8,000 per student. Council Member Curran also asked for clarification about various line items, which Chief Rooney explained to her.

Council Member Mojica asked if Company Five could be reopened. Fire Chief Rooney replied it would entail a large amount of overtime. Council Member Mojica then asked how many firefighters would be retiring before 2008. Chief Rooney replied that a larger number may retire because the new contract offers good benefits. But that will depend on the contract and whether it goes to arbitration.

*Council Members Lyons and Valle arrived at 6:40 p.m.*

Fire Chief Rooney then went on to review the overtime, stand by and longevity pay regulations. Council Member Curran had several questions about the contractual nature of the overtime and stand by pay structure, which Mr. Sherwood reviewed with her. Council President Ayala has a question about the accounting, which Mr. Sherwood explained, indicating the timeline and what has been posted to date.

Co-chair Curwen asked about the computer software. Deputy Chief Petrucelli explained that the State had recently made some major changes in their reporting and all the Fire Departments in the State will have to upgrade their software to accommodate this. Mr. Sherwood reported that the Capital expense would cover putting in fiber optics and stated that the Fire Department needs to be upgraded. He also stated that he would like all the departments to use the Genesis program for payroll and attendance records.

*Council Member Valle left the meeting at 6:55 p.m.*

Captain Boros commented that unfortunately the current system only allows ten people to be online at the same time and that the Department needs more access. Council President

Ayala asked if the upgrades could be done regionally. Captain Boros replied that the Department was presently investigating this with other Fire Departments.

Co-chair Curwen asked if the City would have some savings with the Emergency Operations Center (EOC). Chief Rooney replied that the City would have some savings, but not for a year or two. The EOC will be staffed with civilians. Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia asked if firefighters who were returning to work after disability would be assigned to light duty at the EOC. Chief Rooney replied that the Department already assigns returning employees to light duty elsewhere. Mr. Feeney complimented the Department for utilizing that practice. Council Member Walsh wished to know if that was reflected in the budget. Mr. Feeney confirmed that it was and Mr. Sherwood directed the Committee's attention to the particular line item. Chief Rooney commented that the Department has 334 employees and currently there are only seventeen out on sick leave.

Council Member Walsh pointed out that the 132nd District has had the most fire fatalities in the City and asked what the Fire Department is doing about this. Chief Rooney said that the Department was busy with community outreach and that they were pushing the Free Smoke Detector units, and educating the community about fire safety. The Building Inspectors are working hard to bring the housing units into compliance and continual marketing is going on. More than 50% of the three family units have been inspected but the Department's goal is 100%. Council Member Curran asked what was being done in the schools. Chief Rooney replied that the k thru 5th grade teachers are educating their students in fire safety. Council Member Mojica said that he approved of the Safe Sleep Program which has a team come into a unit and install smoke detectors.

*Deputy Chief Petrucelli distributed copies of the Capital Budget Requests, the Operating Budget and the Mayor's Recommended Budget to the member of the Committee.*

Chief Rooney informed the Committee that OSHA requires the firefighters to have a physical every year, which costs the Department a large sum. Dr. Evans has promised to do the physicals for the Department for \$15,000. Co-chair Curwen was happy to hear this and asked for the name of the nurse practitioner so that her position will be protected. Chief Rooney promised to provide the Committee with that name promptly.

Regarding the vehicles for the Department, some of them have over 250,000 miles on them and other require serious repairs. Council President Ayala questioned the fuel consumption and Council Member Mojica asked about the take home vehicles, particularly the Hazard Materials and Fire Investigators vehicles. Chief Rooney reviewed the fuel consumption costs, which have risen despite the lower usage. He also explained that the Fire Inspectors need to be on the scene as quickly as possible to talk to people. Once the fire is out, the spectators and the information they have, disperse.

Council Member Curran asked about fire hydrants and Chief Rooney informed her that Aquiron replaces and repairs them. To replace a hydrant costs \$3,000. When Council Member Curran asked how long a fire hydrant lasts, Deputy Chief Petrucelli stated that there are some hydrants in the City that are over 100 years old and still work well. The replacements are usually needed when a hydrant is hit by a vehicle.

Deputy Chief Petrucelli also reviewed the fees involved in renewing the First Responders Licensing from the State. This particular license allows the Bridgeport Fire Department direct radio access to the Bridgeport hospitals. A discussion followed on the appropriateness of the State charging the City of Bridgeport to speak with their own hospitals and what might be done about it.

Council Member Mojica commended Chief Rooney for reinstating the testing procedures and providing accountability to the Department. Co-chair Curwen agreed and stated that there had been some allegations in the past that he was glad would be prevented from reoccurring. Co-chair Curwen thanked Chief Rooney, Deputy Chief Petrucelli and Captain Boros.

**RECESS**

Co-Chair Curwen announced a five minute break at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted  
Sharon L. Soltes  
Telesco Secretarial Services

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT  
BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS  
POLICE DEPARTMENT  
MAY 2, 2006**

**ATTENDANCE:** Robert Curwen, Co-chair; Rafael Mojica; Donna Curran, AmyMarie Vizzo-Paniccia; Robert Walsh (6:17 p.m.), Carlos Silva (6:20 p.m.)

**OTHERS:** Richard Paoletto, Council Member; Thomas Sherwood, OPC Director; Thomas Mulligan, Council Member; Andres Ayala, Council President; Elaine Pivrotto, Council Member; Michelle Lyons, Council Member, Brian Feeney, CAO Director Bryan T. Norwood, Bridgeport Chief of Police; Anthony S. Armeno, Deputy Chief of Police; Sergeant John Cueto, Bridgeport Mounted Police.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Co-chair Curwen called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m. *A large flow chart showing the Police Department various officers and functions was taped to the wall for the Committee's information.*

**POLICE DEPARTMENT**

**Revenue**

Co-chair Curwen welcomed Bryan T. Norwood, who is the new Bridgeport Chief of Police and introduced all the Council Members present to Chief Norwood.

Mr. Sherwood informed the Committee that he had tried to charge for copies of reports but the State had rules it was against the Freedom of Information Act.

Deputy Chief Armeno explained that the largest source of revenue is generated from private events where officers are directing traffic. Traffic violations also generate income as does charges for false alarms. Council Member Walsh asked about asset forfeiture. Sgt. Cueto explained that there were three units that handled that type of seizures and that when the assess sold, the money was restricted to the Police Department. Mr. Sherwood stated that assess seizures were not included in the general fund. Co-chair Curwen asked for a report on the various items seized and how the money was utilized. Sgt. Cueto stated that he was fairly sure that the last sale had provided computers for the detective unit.

Council Member Curran asked about the Housing Authority. Deputy Chief Armeno replied that HUD requires that the City provide certain services to the Housing Authority.

Council Member Mojica wished to know about illegal dumping. Deputy Chief Armeno explained that the ordinances have no teeth in them and there is a \$99.00 cap on the fines. He also commented that some of the ordinances need to be enforceable. Co-chair Curwen asked what the status was regarding the noise ordinance. Deputy Chief Armeno replied that once the suit with the EPA was settled, the City hoped to move forward in controlling the noise pollution.

Council Member McCarthy stated that he was concerned about the amount of money the City was not getting from the federal government. Chief Norwood agreed and said that Community Based Policing is the goal, but that it is difficult to balance with the responsibility of being a First Responder.

Mr. Sherwood commented that in regards to the earlier question about the Housing Authority, the Housing Authority sets its own rules regarding what is and is not acceptable. Co-chair Curwen added that this directly impacts each unit because it allows the Housing Authority to move people out who are causing problems. Council Member Mojica concurred with those statements.

Council Member Mojica also had some questions about putting officers back on the beat. Chief Norwood stated that it would be negligible in terms of financial savings but that the community relations would improve. He stated that he was hoping for a two year consistency beat and added that the remedy order is being negotiated. Mr. Sherwood explained that there is a federal order to rotate various positions. Mr. Sherwood would like to see the various departments streamlined and hopes to consolidate various functions in order to create transparency. Training is a key piece of this project and problem solving will happen at the grass roots level.

Co-chair Curwen stated that he had twenty three years experience in Law Enforcement and is a proponent of Community Policing. However, there is a 15 million dollar gap in the budget and he suggested that the Mounted Police be moved back into the Traffic Division to cut overtime. Chief Norwood stated that he wanted to put the Mounted Police on Fairfield Avenue so that they would have greater visibility. They are valuable in being able to direct traffic and people from a high vantage point.

Some questions regarding the tests that need to be administered and the federal grants came up. A discussion on these issues followed.

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

Deputy Chief Armeno commented that in two years, the officer class of 1983 will be eligible to retire. This particular class consisted of more than 80 officers. There has been

some attrition, but a cache of trained officers will be needed to fill the gap. Council Member Mojica asked how many officers are currently in Bridgeport. Deputy Chief Armeno stated that he believe the number to be 416 and said that in 2008, there is the possibility that forty officers will be able to retire.

Council Member Mulligan had some questions regarding overtime and the union contract agreements. He stated that Workers Compensation drives overtime and that the Department was already over budget. There also is a 30 year contract for the Arena in which the Arena pays for two officers and the City picks up the tab for the remaining officers needed.

Council Member Ayala asked Chief Norwood how he intended to handle issues like that. Chief Norwood replied that he was looking at communication between the Finance Department and the Police Department. Consolidation is important and he agreed that Worker's Compensation is a major component in the issue. Mr. Sherwood stated that when special events, such as President George W. Bush's recent visit to Bridgeport, need to be documented in terms of the cost to the City. The City will not receive any reimbursements from the Federal Government for that and the City pays the overtime but does not calculate the cost. Deputy Chief Armeno commented that a recent funeral of a Hells Angel cost the City \$35,000 in overtime, but President Bush only cost the City \$30,000.

Council Member Curran had several questions regarding the property rental lease line item. Mr. Sherwood explained that the Department used to rent space from the University of Bridgeport for training, but decided to move the training to the Chase Building a few years ago. This turned out to be difficult and the City will be moving back to the rental space at UB.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia complimented the Police Department for their fine work but asked for an explanation about the Mounted Police being moved to Traffic, which she had no knowledge of. Co-chair Curwen explained that this had been discussed for the last three years, Council Member Walsh stated that he would like to have a chance for the Mounted Police Division to justify their existence. Chief Norwood agreed to set this up in the future.

Council Member Walsh also asked about controlling overtime costs, which forced the Irish Festival out of Seaside Park. He wished to know how this could be prevented from happening in the future, particularly as Bridgeport is trying to become a destination.

Council Member Lyons asked who makes the decisions regarding how the funds from the seized assesses are spent. Deputy Chief Armeno said that he would get back to her with the details regarding that.

Council Member Curran had some questions about a number of Police vehicles that were parked in a particular lot. Deputy Chief Armeno explained that those were the School Resource Officer's vehicles

Council Member Curran asked about the Special Master line item. Deputy Chief Armeno stated that this was by court order and that if the report was late for any reason, he would personally be fined \$1,000/day by the court. Currently, Deputy Chief Armeno is working on plan that he hopes will satisfy the court and remove the order.

Council Member Lyons asked about the Victim's Advocate. Deputy Chief Armeno replied that this position was covered by a grant and provides services to the victims of crimes.

Council Member Lyons also commented that there was an ongoing problem in her district with students from Sacred Heart who party off campus. The school has agreed to work with the Police Department and the Council by calling parents and they hoped to see the issue resolved. Chief Norwood stated that he would help in any way that he could with this issue.

Council Member Mulligan left the meeting at 9:20 p.m.

There was a brief discussion about the impact that the new Emergency Operations Center (EOC) would have on the budget and the Police Department.

Co-chair Curwen asked about the status of the animal shelter and noted that the conditions at the shelter had improved but that a new building was needed. Chief Norwood agreed and stated that it was somewhat of a political issue. He informed the Committee that he had made a surprise visit and found the facility to be clean and serviceable. However, to run a shelter like this needs expertise and Chief Norwood hopes to find someone to run the shelter with that particular type of expertise.

Council Member Silva asked about the School Resource Officers and Special Officers. Mr. Sherwood gave a very brief overview of the situation. Deputy Chief Armeno stated that there was a mix which has become problematic and that they were working with the Board of Education to resolve the issues. Council Member Silva asked if the City could get some revenue back from the Board of Education on this. Deputy Chief Armeno said he was working on it.

Council President Ayala asked what happens when an officer causes damage to a police vehicle. Chief Norwood announce that he will be taking a strong stand on that issue. Council President Ayala asked about the take home vehicles, particularly the SUVs. Chief Norwood stated that he has one, as does Deputy Chief Armeno, because they have to respond in all types of weather. Council President Ayala asked about using hybrids. Chief Norwood explained that using hybrids for patrol vehicles was expensive and the

technology needs to be improved before it become practical. Council Member Lyons asked about the reasons why the vehicles are taken home. Mr. Sherwood reiterated the reasons.

Council President Ayala asked Chief Norwood if it was true that he intended to move to Bridgeport. Chief Norwood replied that he was planning on doing so. At this point, all the Council Members present offered tours of their particular districts and suggestions for real estate.

When order was restored, Sgt. Cueto asked if he could clarify some issues regarding the Mounted Police. He felt there was a matter of misconception and that he would like to schedule a time to present a case for the Mounted Police. He pointed out that the M.P.s are productive and also responsible for breaking up the grid lock at Seaside Park. Last year, the M.P.s wrote around 400 traffic tickets. Sgt. Cueto then pointed out that a radio patrol car costs about \$36,000 plus the fuel. The horses cost about \$10 a day in hay and feed, which works out to \$3,650 per year. The horses are also a major component of community relations and non threatening. He illustrated that at a large basketball game between two of the local high schools, three mounted officers were able to move the crowd in and out of the facility without incident. Deputy Chief Armeno commented that radio cars are call driven where as the M.P.s are pro active. Council Member Curran commented that she was on the Board for Seaside Park and that the M.P.s help clean up the park tremendously. Sgt. Cueto concluded by saying that the M.P.s had raised the funds to purchase the new horses for the last two years and reminded everyone that they are the greatest non-aggressive vehicle for moving large numbers of people.

Mr. Sherwood asked Chief Norwood about Crown Victoria's being the standard police cars and if there were any other types the Department approved of. Chief Norwood replied that they had looked at the Dodge Chargers which seemed to work fairly well, but there were some space issues in regarding to equipment in the trunks.

Co-chair Curwen thanked the officers for coming.

### **FUTURE MEETINGS**

Mr. Sherwood reviewed the upcoming schedule for the Committee:

May 3rd from 5-6 p.m. - The Scully and Wolf Auditor's presentation/workshop

May 3rd from 7-7:30 - OPED

May 3rd from 7:30 - Finance

May 4th - Workshop

May 5th - Possible Workshop

May 8th - Regularly scheduled Budget & Appropriations Meeting.

Mr. Sherwood then announced that the Mayor had put together the letter for the subpoena for the Budget vote.

Council Member Curran stated that she was concerned with the debt service and the constraints put on the City by the Civil Service and the unions. Co-chair Curwen pointed out that over the last three years, 325 jobs had been cut from the City because of budget constraints. Last year alone, 110 positions were lost.

The discussion returned to the Budget and it was decided that there would be meetings on:

May 5th, at 4:30 p.m. in the Annex to finalize the budget.  
May 6th at 9:00 a.m. in the Annex to finalize the budget.  
May 8th at the regular meeting to vote on the final budget package  
May 9th, the Full Council in the Council Chambers to vote on the budget.

Mr. Sherwood quickly reviewed the information on the State and Federal grants.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER MOJICA MOVED TO ADJOURN.**  
**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER MCCARTHY SECONDED.**  
**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 10:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon L. Soltes  
Telesco Secretarial Services

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT  
BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE  
BUDGET WORKSHOP  
MAY 6, 2006**

**PRESENT:** Robert Curwen, Co-chair; Rafael Mojica, Co-chair; Donna Curran, Robert Walsh, Thomas McCarthy, AmyMarie Vizzo-Paniccia

**OTHERS:** Michelle Lyons, Council Member; Thomas Mulligan, Council Member; Andres Baker, Council Member; Elaine Pivrotto, Council Member, Angel dePara, Council Member; Thomas Sherwood, Michael Lupkas

**CALL TO ORDER**

Co-chair Curwen called the meeting to order.

A discussion started regarding the impact of ever increasing taxes on the senior citizen population. Co-chair Curwen displayed the file of emails that he had received on the various topics from Bridgeport citizens and stated that he had entered these items in the record at the previous meeting. Co-chair Curwen also informed Council Members Walsh and Curran, who were unable to attend the workshop on May 5th, that the Mayor's letter regarding the Public Health Nurses, the School Based Health Clinics and the Dental Hygienists did not cover the insurance issues. Mr. Sherwood reviewed the procedural details associated with creating the separate health insurance fund. These actions were recommended by the auditors, Scully and Wolf and had been proposed at an earlier meeting.

Council Member Mulligan stated that there have been three independent studies and when the City's contributions are matched against the State contributions, the city residents are paying the highest taxes of any the largest cities in the nation. Council Member Mulligan stated that knowing this, his goal was to produce a budget that would have only a one mil increase. Council Member Mulligan also has some comments on the nature of discretionary costs. He suggested a few areas to review for possible reductions and stated that it was difficult to request residents to pay a tax increase that is higher than the inflation rate year after year. He stated that he would be very reluctant to cut any of the Fire Department budget items because of the one million dollar cut from last year that resulted in the closing of Company 5. That one million dollars went to education, but still there is an outcry for increased educational spending. Council Member Mulligan stated that perhaps the City should consider a hiring freeze. He also suggested that perhaps an outside analysis might be in order to help trim the spiraling costs.

Co-chair Curwen concurred but stated that he calls meetings with McLatchery and Fullin, who are the outside auditors, on a regular basis for analysis and suggestion. With the new Advantage system, the auditors feel that Bridgeport is at the state of the art level

regarding the computer software system. He stated that the auditors felt it was the economic times. Council Member Curran rejected that statement. Council Member Mulligan stated that the budget was available online and that auditors had been hired to check the City's business practices. He stated that is why he had introduced the resolution involving a letter from Mayor accompanying the tax bills. Every corporation has an annual report, every church provides a fiscal year report. Mr. Sherwood stated that the staff was working very hard to contain costs. He also pointed out several instances where the Bridgeport Police were obligated to respond to situations that require more officers, such as the President's visit or the funeral for the Hells Angel leader. Once the costs associated with events like this are calculated, then the City and the Police Department can begin to work towards reducing overtime and better utilizing the resources available.

Council Member Baker stated that this was his first year on the Council and other than the issue regarding the SBHCs, the Public Health Nurses and the Dental Hygienists kept in the City budget, he was content to watch the process and follow the majority.

Council Member Pivrotto agreed with Council Member Mulligan about preserving the funding for the Fire Department as it currently stands, about establishing an advisory committee or panel to help control costs and keeping the mil rate down. She stated that she did not know how the Committee or the Council could not give the BOE more money this year. She suggested perhaps one cost containment measure might be furloughs rather than lay offs. Council Member Pivrotto stated that the City had been choosing poor business practices, such as tax forgiveness and encouraging projects that would not bring in tax revenue, this is the ultimate result. She stated that during her time on the Council, she is seeing more problem-solving and more positive decisions, but there is still a great more to do. Council Member Pivrotto stated that she had some serious questions about the OPED procedure. She reminded everyone that Mr. Sherwood had stated that OPED brings in a significant portion of revenue and that a large part of that money is bonded money from building permits.

Council Member McCarthy stated that he was in accord with what the other Council Members had already expressed. He stated that the Mayor's Recommended mil increase is inappropriate, wrong and should not happen. The residents in the North End can not afford this anymore. He stated that he is concerned because he feels that the money for education is not getting to the students. He said that he wished there was a way to address that problem. Council Member McCarthy pointed out that Bridgeport is a small city on a limited amount of land, that is poor and has a large number of non-profits, which summarizes the problems the City has. It is not possible for the Council to do everything that the Council should be doing. He asked if Bridgeport fund education to the level that it should be, and answered, "Absolutely not." He stated that the Connecticut State Constitution requires that every child be provided with a good education. He pointed out that the BOE is getting more money this year, but they are not getting as much as they say they need. Council Member McCarthy stated that because of the "No Child Left Behind" law, the BOE will be losing ninety (90) para professional staff members. Council Member Lyons commented that some of those 90 para professionals will be

leaving because they have not passed the test. They have until June to do so. Mr. Sherwood commented that this was after a year's extension. Council Member McCarthy stated that the mil rate must come down and if there was a way to get the mil rate down to a reasonable rate and find a way to fund education, it would be wonderful.

Mr. Sherwood commented that the mil rate was high and would like to see it come down. He reminded everyone that the budget that gets passed has to be a good one that everyone has to live with on July 2nd. Otherwise, the City will have a bigger problem down the road.

Council Member Curran stated that the more that the City subsidizes the way that the City Budget process works and the fiscal constraints, the Administration is insulated. She said that she disagrees and that going forward with a reasonable mil rate increase is irresponsible in the long range view of getting the Administration to pay attention to efficiencies and the lack of urgency in going up to Hartford and finding significant ways to reduce the labor and civil unions grasp on the City. Sending a signal of "Business As Usual" is a dis-service to the residents. Increasing the budget without increasing revenues will result in a greater deficit next year.

Co-chair Curwen commented regarding economic development and tax abatements. He stated that he would much rather see a parcel of land be put back on the tax rolls and generating some form of taxes instead of sitting dormant for years. He stated that waiving taxes all the time would be irresponsible, but that looking at the Master Plan, he evaluates the corridors that are involved, which may spur some growth. There are 183 million dollars of brown field sites in the City of Bridgeport which generate zero taxes. By cleaning up the sites and putting them back on the tax rolls, they could generate 52 million dollars without anything on them. That's 12 mils, which would generate more money for education.

Mr. Sherwood stated that the Courts decreed that municipalities can come in twice a year with summary foreclosures and that the City should not be allowing a parcel to be two years in arrears.

Council Member Curran asked Co-chair Curwen that when he gets to the State Legislature, to be sure that when the State disperses money to Bridgeport, there is oversight attached to it. She said that she could not believe that there is no third party oversight for the hundreds of millions of dollars that the State gives to the City. Co-chair Curwen concurred with her.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia stated that she was in agreement with many of the issues already stated. She stated that there were a lot of positions that were overlapping and that some positions needed to be cut. She stated that she did not want to see a large increase, or any at all. She suggested that the Council consider a full page ad in the papers to explain to the public what the Committees and the Council are working towards. Co-chair Curwen stated that he had no problem with that being done

collectively. She stated that she felt there was more accountability needed. Employees that are not doing their jobs and reaping benefits need to be removed. As a parent with a child in the system, Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia stated that she would like to see more money to the students, but there are some teachers who just coast.

Council Member Pivrotto stated that she felt the Committee need to be more proactive about the various contracts that come before them for approval. She asked if the Committee would consider asking for a ten year projections were being done when tax forgiveness was being proposed. That way, Council Member Pivrotto said, if a time sensitive proposal comes before the Committee without the projection, the Committee could refuse to vote on it.

Co-chair Curwen agreed, stating that it was the Committee's job to legislate. He also proposed that an additional agenda heading of "General Discussion" be included on all future agendas to enable the Committee to being consideration of various issues.

Council Member dePara agreed with the position switch from reactive to proactive. He pointed out that the dollars are shrinking and times are financially difficult.

Mr. Sherwood commented that he had two meetings with department heads and will be formating them differently in the future. From now on, he will be asking the department heads to explain what is blocking them from reducing overtime.

Council Member Curran commented that perhaps the Committee should expect the various departments to build their budgets up from zero to the requested amount and to justify every dollar. Mr. Sherwood assured her that this was being done and the systems are in place for Mr. Feeney to supervise the project.

Co-chair Curwen commented for the record that everyone in the room takes the budget process seriously, so he did not know why one of the Council members made remarks about the budget process being a joke.

*Council Member Pivrotto left the meeting at 11:51 a.m.*

### **OPED**

Council Member dePara stated that he felt the Economic Development and Community Development Committee needed to set a time frame for OPED projects so they don't go on indefinitely. Council Member Curran commented that one of the audits had found that the OPED department was not sophisticated enough to take advantage of opportunities that arise. A discussion about the pros and cons of this statement followed.

### **HEALTH SERVICES**

Co-chair Curwen reviewed the various positions in the Health Services Department and stated that he was recommending that the Senior Health Aide Officer position, which has been unfilled for a long period of time, be unfunded. He also remarked that the Dental Hygienists, Public Health Nurses, and SBHC's line items all show zero balances. This will change after the Council vote and Mr. Sherwood will shift the funds back to the City budget.

### **VITAL RECORDS**

There will be no changes made in this budget.

### **COMMUNICABLE DISEASES**

There had been some questions about line 6155 - Medical Supplies. There will be no changes to this item

### **ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH**

No changes will be made in this budget request. Co-chair Curwen commented that three years ago, some changes had been made in collection fees and the department is now generating income. There was a drop this year in the income because Council Member Blunt, who is a registered sanitarian, was out due to illness.

### **HOUSING CODE**

Co-chair Curwen stated that it behooves the Committee to realign the positions regarding registered sanitarians, which have the same qualifications as the housing code inspectors. However housing code inspectors only can inspect housing, but not barber shops and nail salons. Therefore, it would be prudent for the City to allow the attrition of all housing code inspectors and replace them with sanitarians.

### **LABS**

This line item is zeroed out because the funding comes from grants.

### **LEAD**

This program is grant funded. They are also outsourcing their billing.

### **CLINICS**

The Committee needs to continue to look at privatizing the clinics. When the Public Health Nurses or the SBHCs have vacancies, it was suggested that clinic staff be move to fill the positions. There will be no change in the budget for the clinics at this time.

Mr. Sherwood reviewed the voting procedure for transferring the SBHCs, Public Health Nurses and Dental Hygienists back to the City Budget for the Committee Members. He stressed that a two thirds Super Majority will be needed when the vote is on the floor.

### **HUMAN SERVICES**

This was a grant funded position.

Co-chair Curwen suggested that he and Co-chair Mojica briefly review the personnel cuts that they had compiled for the Committee's consideration. This was agreeable to all. He reviewed the list for everyone.

*Council Member Walsh left the meeting at 1:06 p.m., stating that it was clear that the decisions had already been made by others.*

Co-chair Curwen stated that no final decisions had been made by the Committee or by the Council and would not be finalized until the Council voted on Monday or Tuesday.

A discussion about the line items listed for the Mayor's Office followed. Co-chair Curwen reviewed the various requests with Council Member Mulligan.

Council Member dePara stated that he would like to see more 'eGovernment' with laptops for all the Council Members that would be retained by the Council seat. He felt that this would reduce mailing costs.

*Council Member Mulligan left the meeting at 1:30 p.m.*

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia stated that it was important to enforce a hiring freeze. She asked how the decisions to defund a position were made. Co-chair Curwen reviewed the procedure with her.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia stated for the record that many people want money for education but do not want to see the taxes increase. She stated that the Committee will have to figure out ways to make cuts, which is the Committee's job as elected officials. The cuts may cost the City some revenue, but the Committee is obligated to do the right thing.

Mr. Sherwood then began to review some of the proposed budget reductions with the Committee Members.

At 2:35 p.m. Co-chair Curwen called for a recess. The meeting reconvened at 2:41 p.m.

Mr. Sherwood continued to work with the budget reductions numbers and the Committee's suggestions.

*Council Member Baker left the meeting at 3:30 p.m.*

Co-chair Curwen asked Mr. Sherwood where the budget stood. Mr. Sherwood stated that the Committee had done some significant work and that he needed to put things on the computer and run figures to give an accurate standing. However, Mr. Sherwood felt that the budget was well on the way to reconciliation and approval.

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

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER CURRAN SECONDED.**

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

The meeting adjourned at 3:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon L. Soltes  
Telesco Secretarial Services

CITY OF BRIDGEPORT  
BUDGET and APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE  
MAY 8, 2006

ATTENDANCE: COUNCILMEMBERS: CURWEN, MOJICA, McCARTHY,  
SILVA, WALSH, CURRAN, VIZZO-PANICCIA

OTHER COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:  
MULLIGAN, RODGERSON, BAKER, COLON

OTHER(s): TOM SHERWOOD; OPM DIRECTOR,  
FRANK CLEARY; PULLMAN & COMLEY, MIKE LUPKUS;  
FINANCE DIRECTOR

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

**100-05** Budget Transfer for Public Facilities, From: Municipal Tipping Fees  
account To: Refuse Services account

Mr. Sherwood said they had several lines in which they process payments and because they were in two different accounts, they needed to move the monies between the two accounts to pay the wire transfers off.

Council member Curwen asked if there was ample funding in the account. Mr. Sherwood said yes.

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER McCARTHY MOVED TO APPROVE**  
**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER MOJICA SECONDED**  
**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**\*Consent Calendar**

**138-05** Approval of General Obligation Tax Anticipation Notes to pay  
current expenses and obligations of the city

Council member Curwen asked if this was the first time they were going out for TAN (Tax Anticipation Note). Mr. Lupkus said yes.

Council member Curwen commented and noted for the record that this part of the recommendation was to include some of the revenue as part of the budget process to close the gap.

Mr. Sherwood said they reduced the number down and adjusted it to \$684k. He referred to page 5 of the budget report relating to TAN and he pointed out where they picked up the extra dollars.

Mr. Lupkus referred to the resolution and the 2-page cash flow summary for this year and what was anticipated for next year, as well as the interest expense potential over the last five years. He explained that they used the fund balance as part of the budget that was physical cash. He further explained that during low points in cash flow months June & July, the revenue was seasonal. He said between the fund balance use and reserve, they have been required to borrow on a temporary basis to from capital projects, but then they paid it back the following month. Right now for monies in the capital budget, they are not able to borrow because it is a segregated fund. He went to say that during July they borrowed \$6.8 million and in December they borrowed \$30 million+, but it was extrapolated out, so now it's in the \$9 to \$10 million deficit range. But they were expecting the cast to be \$10 million lower moving into the fiscal year. He stated that starting in July, he expected it would be in the \$30 to \$40 million range, but it's all on a short term basis. Furthermore, the IRS requirements require that they pay back within the fiscal year, but he anticipated they would make an agreement with the lender to pay it back by September 15, 2006. Mr. Lupkus said they could see what's in the cash position is what's there on the 30<sup>th</sup> of the month, so they are short term borrowings, but the issue had to be brought forth for a resolution to approve the borrowing.

Council member McCarthy asked if the issue was that they were \$10 million in debt and were borrowing to cover that. Mr. Lupkus said no, he explained that right now they were forecasting a shortfall of \$10 million that meant the revenues were \$10 million less than expenses. And the fund balance use is cash sitting in the Treasurer's Office. They are spending it without taking in any other debts. H He said that although there is a fallacy of a doomsday scenario, it's not. He explained that if the budget was to the penny, they would still see rise and falls in cash flow during the year.

Mr. Lupkus referred to the last page of the estimation, indicating where they would repay the amount in August and February as it was outlined.

Council member Walsh asked if the most they could borrow was \$45 million. He further questioned why not borrow \$50 million over \$5 million. Mr. Lupkus explained that the amount that they can borrow was up to \$65 million (*as outlined in the first column of the handout*) that results in a cumulative authorization.

Council member Walsh questioned why not do \$50 million then. Mr. Frank Cleary of Pullman Comley responded that once they borrowed, the authorization was gone. Mr. Lupkus added that when they repay, they will then have authorization of \$55 million.

Council member Walsh asked if they could cap it at \$50 million. Mr. Lupkus said it would be an ongoing event.

Council member Walsh asked if they would then ask for \$100 million next year. Mr. Lupkus said no, once they do an amount, it's done. He said the authorization would die with this fiscal year because it has to be paid off by June 30, 2007.

*The committee members took a few minutes to review the resolution.*

Council member Walsh referred to page 1 of the resolution indication that read: **“in an amount not to exceed ten percent (10%) of such authorization....** He asked if they were approving for up to \$7.5 million. Mr. Cleary said that was the standard, but it was unlikely it would ever get that high. He noted that they could reduce the percentage if they felt more comfortable.

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER WALSH MOVED TO AMEND THE TEN PERCENT (10%) TO ONE PERCENT (1%) AS OUTLINED ON PAGE 1 OF THE RESOLUTION (copy attached)**  
**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER McCARTHY SECONDED**  
**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Council member Walsh asked the mechanics of the agreement. Mr. Lupkus explained they would go out as a negotiated deal or they would go competitive to see the lowest rate.

Council member Walsh asked what cash comes in. Mr. Lupkus estimated it would be at \$16.8 million in July; \$20 million in November and \$25 million in December and repaid in February.

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER MOJICA MOVED TO APPROVE AS AMENDED**  
**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA SECONDED**  
**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**114-05** Proposed General Fund Budget for Fiscal Year 2006-2007, (Final Committee vote if not already taken)

Mr. Sherwood updated that as a result from the Saturday session, they took the work sheets from the easel to determine how they would vote. He referred to the police pension-B item where they took the savings from plan-B and incorporated it into the document that they worked on Saturday. So all told with the changes the amount came to \$4,000,015.00.

Mr. Sherwood reviewed the voting process as follows:

City of Bridgeport  
Budget and Appropriations Committee  
May 8, 2006  
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- One vote to approve the revenue increases
- One vote to approve all the unchanged revenues
- One vote for those items being decreased

He clarified the votes break out:

- vote #1 – **a two-thirds vote was required**
- vote #2 – **a majority vote was required**
- vote #3 – **a majority vote was required**  
*and*
  - a vote to increase the appropriation – **a two-thirds vote was required**

Council member Curwen asked if there were any comments on the cuts and request they addressed.

Mr. Sherwood reviewed the following:

Page 1: state aid changes

Page 2- re-modified to governor for state aid

Council member Walsh asked about the current taxes real estate item. Mr. Sherwood said this reflected the effect for supplemental motor vehicle, noting they normally receive 76%.

Mr. Sherwood referred to **pages 3, 4 and 5** noting all the decreases were made to the budget. The brackets denoted the line item changes and reflected a reduction of the co-pays. And the reduction to the health expense for the Board of Education. He referred to **page 4** regarding the removal of dental, nursing and school-based health centers from the BOE, but it went back into the health services category. He referred to **page 5** indicating where they reduced the nutrition center employee health co-pays. He referred to **page 6 and 7** indicating the appropriation increases for purchasing and the carousel move. The page also reflected where hygiene, school nursing and school-based health services were put back in. He stated that all of these changes resulted in \$4 million total.

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER MOJICA MOVED APPROVE ALL INCREASED REVENUES ON PAGE 1 OF THE BUDGET REPORT**  
**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER McCARTHY SECONDED**  
**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**\*Consent Calendar**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER MOJICA MOVED TO APPROVE ALL UNCHANGED REVENUES LINES AND THOSE BEING DECREASED ON PAGE 2 OF THE BUDGET REPORT**  
**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA SECONDED**  
**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

City of Bridgeport  
 Budget and Appropriations Committee  
 May 8, 2006  
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**\*Consent Calendar**

- \*\* COUNCIL MEMBER CURRAN MOVED TO APPROVE ALL UNCHANGED APPROPRIATION LINES AND THOSE BEING DECREASED ON PAGES 3-5 OF THE BUDGET REPORT**
- \*\* COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA SECONDED**
- \*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**\*Consent Calendar**

- \*\* COUNCIL MEMBER MOJICA MOVED TO APPROVE ALL APPROPRIATION INCREASES ON PAGES 6-7 OF THE BUDGET REPORT**
- \*\* COUNCIL MEMBER SILVA SECONDED**
- \*\* MOTION PASSED WITH SIX VOTES IN FAVOR AND ONE VOTE IN OPPOSITION (COUNCIL MEMBER WALSH)**

Council member Curwen summed up that the truly appreciated the countless hours and effort by everyone to do the right thing for the City of Bridgeport. And although it was a long process, it was good to work as a collective team. He stressed that making the changes for the Bridgeport would entail a lot of work to do their job, and again, everyone needed to come together to accomplish that. He thanked everyone for their time.

**ADJOURNED**

- \*\* COUNCILMEMBER McCARTHY MOVED TO ADJOURN**
- \*\* COUNCILMEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA SECONDED**
- \*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Graham  
Telesco Secretarial Services

City of Bridgeport  
Budget and Appropriations Committee  
May 8, 2006  
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**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT  
BUDGET and APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE  
of the CITY COUNCIL  
MONDAY - JUNE 12, 2006**

**ATTENDANCE:** Council members: Curwen, Mojica, McCarthy, Silva, Walsh,  
Vizzo-Paniccia, Curran

**OTHER:** Council members: Ayala, Lyons, Mulligan

**OTHER(s) PRESENT:** Mayor John Fabrizi

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Council member Curwen called the meeting to order at 6:40 p.m.

**165-05 Budget Transfer BOE From: Reserve Account (\$800,000) To: School  
Supplies (\$400,000) & Textbooks (\$400,000)**

Mr. Sherwood said this was a request from the Mayor for fiscal year 2004-2005; the Board of Education overspent their allocation appropriation. And what happened is when they closed out the year-end audit, they had to close out encumbrances and take away from the fiscal funds for this year and this affected the pre-buy for the new season. So the transfer request was for \$400k for school supplies and \$400k for textbooks.

Council member McCarthy asked how this would affect the MER and MBR. Mr. Sherwood said there wouldn't be any effect on the MBR and it helps the MER if they get above it for 2005-2006 fiscal years.

Council member Walsh asked what was meant by dedicated use of textbooks and supplies. Mr. Sherwood said there were monies in the line item in the string with education with codes for textbooks and supplies. But there will be no interference with buying; the allocation is just for that use.

Council member Walsh asked the reason they overspent. Mr. Sherwood said payroll and accruals were miscalculated that resulted in basically overspending at a cost of \$1.3 million.

Council member Curwen asked what they could do to ensure that the BOE wouldn't overspend every year. Mr. Sherwood said that state statute assures that. Again, the BOE underestimated accruals intended for payroll.

Mayor Fabrizi said that with all the changes in the formulas, they plan to meet with the BOE continually, where reports will be disbursed regularly and to allow things to move forward more efficiently.

Council member Curran asked about the dedicated use. Mr. Sherwood said the monies had to be used for supplies and textbooks, but there is some flexibility.

Mr. Carroll asked if a brief summary was provided to show the numbers and background for what was stated during this meeting. Council member Mojica said that they could refer to the minutes or the information the city clerk has on file.

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER CURWEN MOVED TO APPROVE**

Council member Mulligan asked about the claim for last year, where the MER hadn't been met in the amount of \$2 million. He asked if there would be any attempt to resolve the MER issue of the \$800k. Mr. Sherwood said that matter had no affect on the MER for this fiscal year. They were only addressing fiscal year 2005-2006.

Council member Mulligan asked if there was any attempt to try to resolve all the MER issues, due to the city shortfall of \$2 million. Mr. Sherwood said it could be considered a good faith effort by the city to help the BOE with their financial problems, but that had no bearing on the shortfall.

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

Council member Walsh questioned how they could be assured that the overspending wouldn't happen in the future. Mr. Sherwood replied that it was always possible that could happen, but he didn't expect it to, as long as they kept on top of expenditures. Mr. Lupkas added that they were able to get out of the shortfall because they had encumbrances to cover it.

Council member Walsh asked the time frame for the transaction to be completed. Mr. Sherwood said it would be done before the school year begins in September.

Council member Ayala asked if there was a representative present from the BOE tonight to address the matter. A BOE representative stated that this was the first time it happened due to it being an unusual year. But he didn't expect it to happen again.

**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**\*Consent Calendar**

**174-05 Budget Modification for use of Fund Balance reserve not to exceed \$100,000,000 for the purposes of offsetting FY 05-06 forecasted budgetary Shortfall of \$8,000,000 and FY 06-07 \$2,000,000 for BOE Dedicated Use**

Mayor Fabrizi addressed this item. He offered some background information to explain the situation. He said that last fiscal year, when they did the 2005-2006 budgets, he passed to the city council, a budget of \$4.5 million of anticipated revenue from the state, but they didn't approve the budget at that time and he found out it never happened. In addition, the city council added \$1 million that added up to \$4.2 million during September to October according to the financial reports. But healthcare and other costs drove that amount up to \$5 million. So in discussions with the bond rating agencies, that changed the outlook but not the principal. He let the state know that he would never put anticipated revenues in the budget again and that they had a plan for repaying bills and replenishing the account in the city. Then, he told them that based on the tax lien sales, properties were sold and the city received the monies, but the tax lien company went bankrupt and they were held up in legal matters for seven or eight years. Ultimately, they bought back the original tax liens at a cost of .15 cents on the dollar in excess of (300) properties and told the bond agency that was money that should go to the city. And that they would use \$10 million of that money to pay off bills and replenish the fund to the sale of the properties primarily. Now they are in the midst of closing proceedings to own the properties free and clear and then they will go to auction to replenish the fund.

Mayor Fabrizi went on to say that since the last quarter of the fiscal year, the \$9.4 million deficit was now under \$8 million, so with the issue of the BOE needing more money; they had people looking to use the \$2 million to put towards education. He thought it would be best to pull that down from the \$10 million reserve and pay off the 2005-2006 bills and shift the \$2 million to the BOE for next year. He emphasized that this was a one-shot deal and it will be a dedicated use, with some flexibility in their own budget. As far as the bond agencies, the next bond sale will stick to the plan and the BOE will get an additional \$2 million to spend on education. He further stated that they had a rescheduled date of June 28 to resolve the matter, although it may be done before then. But he stressed the city was **not** in violation of the MER and he said that a special service fund will be set up, but if they are hit with a MER violation, the \$2 million will count towards that. He noted that historically, when a city is in violation of the MER a fine is imposed, but they don't anticipate they will be in violation. He further stated that they had a plan to replenish the fund over the next year.

Council member Mulligan asked why not link the two together to have the claim of \$2 million withdrawn. Mr. Sherwood said it didn't work like that, noting this was done on a good faith basis.

Council member Mulligan asked if the \$2 million issue related to fiscal year 2004-2005 and the matter being discussed tonight was for fiscal year 2006-2007. Mr. Sherwood said that was correct.

Council member Mulligan asked if there was any arrangement to have the MER withdrawn. Mayor Fabrizi said they could and if pushed, they will address it. He stressed that they believed that they met the MER. Mr. Sherwood added that they didn't receive a letter regarding this until May 8 when the budget process was already concluded. So he thought there was an oversight in the state's claim that they didn't meet the MER.

Mayor Fabrizi said the problem was that they had the intent to move the \$10 million.

Council member Lyons asked about the \$4.5 million. Mayor Fabrizi explained that the city council cut \$4.5 million out of the recommended budget. Mr. Sherwood clarified that amount applied to last fiscal year.

Council member Lyons asked if there was reserve monies in the budget in the event of a disaster. Mr. Lupkus said they had a little over \$200 million in the budget. And as far as payroll, they would have a two to three week emergency plan.

Council member Walsh stated they did cut the \$4.5 million in spending, but after the cut, he felt the Mayor could have vetoed the matter, but he didn't. Mayor Fabrizi repeated he anticipated the \$4.5 million from the state. Council member Walsh asked if he thought the \$4.5 million was legitimate. Mayor Fabrizi said yes.

Council member Walsh questioned when the Mayor approached the city council about this matter. Mayor Fabrizi said he informed the city council following the bond agency meeting.

Council member Walsh commented it would be good in the future to approach the city council before going to the bond agency. Mayor Fabrizi said if he did that, there might have a chance of taxes being raised.

Council member Walsh questioned if the number one priority was to buy back properties in view of the bond matter. Mr. Lupkus said yes, the first priority was to retire the bonds.

Council member Mulligan asked about the property in relation to the bankrupt company, noting that if they paid .98 cents on the dollar, what kind of claim was there. Mr. Lupkus said in the contract, the City of Bridgeport has a policy that when properties are sold, they have no recourse to the city. And the first lien holder has the first option to buy that property; but in this case, they refused to buy the taxes for the following year. So then it became an issue of who had top priority. Subsequently, they bought them back to go out to auction.

It was asked how they were handling foreclosures. Mr. Feeney said they were working on a summary now consisting of forty (40) properties and eight (80) more properties in six months. Also, single foreclosures were in process and Attorney Liskov is handling those.

Mr. Lupkus explained that the matter was presented very broadly to the bond agency. And they realized they had to live up to the plan. But everything will be tracked going forward.

Mayor Fabrizi stated that they tried to everything they could to collect back taxes.

Council member Curwen stated that he would like to be updated on a regular basis regarding what is done with the \$10 million. He felt this was necessary to give the city council members a comfort level.

Council member Curran asked about the assessed value of the thirty (30) properties. Mr. Lupkus said the value was under \$37 million. Mayor Fabrizi clarified that number shouldn't be misrepresented due to how the properties are actually assessed. He noted that since the year 2006, some properties were assessed at the prior year's rate. Mr. Lupkus corrected his answer, noting that the taxes due was approximately \$17 million.

Mayor Fabrizi expressed that they were looking to realize as much as the value of the properties as possible and that's were the auctions come in.

Council member Ayala asked with the auctions planned, if they were forecasting where they were going with the properties, i.e., what schedule were they looking at. Mayor Fabrizi said they were waiting for the final report that they should have by July 15 outlining the status of the foreclosures.

Council member Ayala agreed that the city council should be kept apprised of the pay down of the monies coming out of the fund balance.

Council member Curwen said he was concerned about the amount of properties being sold and how to keep some level of control on those being sold to non-profit agencies that don't generate taxes. Mayor Fabrizi said the plan is to hold a public auction, including (26) properties represented by Fannie Mae. However, he said he would bring that matter up to the city council, pointing out however, that they can't exclude anyone from the auction. He reiterated they are looking to maximize taxes.

\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER CURWEN MOVED TO APPROVE  
\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER SILVA SECONDED  
\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

#### \*Consent Calendar

Council member Walsh thanked Mayor Fabrizi for the additional \$2 million allocated to the Board of Education.

#### **180-05 Capital Plan Modifications for School Construction Work**

Mr. Sherwood explained this was a modification proposed by the Budget Committee. He noted that they just got the information from the city clerk's office and he asked if it could be reviewed before it was actually modified. He further explained that they were modifying the current authorizations, where there will be a net benefit to the city and no bond authorization required. They were just looking to modify the capital plan section.

Council member Mojica asked if the listing included work done at Columbus School. Mr. Sherwood said yes.

Council member Mojica asked if any new grants were put in. Mr. Sherwood said yes, he stated this was a new grant they were applying for and the others were only grant revisions as was outlined in the document.

Council member Mulligan asked if there was any other paperwork to review. Council member Mojica gave him a copy of the *"Bridgeport Public Schools 2007 Capital Plan Revisions"*.

Mr. Sherwood noted they had a deadline of June 30, 2006 to submit the application.

Mr. Lupkus asked about the school roof for \$75 and what work was being done currently. Mr. Butkus of the BOE said work on the main facility on Madison Avenue was in progress. Mr. Lupkus asked if they would be coming back for a new project in the future. Mr. Butkus said they wouldn't ask the city to support that. Mr. Lupkus clarified the item may have to come off then and be paid out of their operating budget.

Council member Pivrotto commented that Columbus School was the first project for the swing space at the University of Bridgeport.

\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER CURWEN MOVED TO APPROVE  
\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER McCARTHY SECONDED  
\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

\*Consent Calendar

### ADJOURNED

\*\* COMMISSIONER CURWEN MADE A MOTION TO ADJOURN  
\*\* COMMISSIONER McCARTHY SECONDED  
\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Graham  
Telesco Secretarial Services

City of Bridgeport  
Budget and Appropriations Committee  
of the City Council  
June 12 , 2006  
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**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT  
BUDGET AND  
APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE  
JULY 10, 2006**

**ATTENDANCE:** Raphael Mojica, Co-Chair; Robert Curwen, Co-Chair; Carlos Silva; Council President Andres Ayala; Angel DePara.

**STAFF:**

**OTHERS:** Michael Anastasi, City Attorney; M. Lupkas, Director of Finance; Thomas Mulligan; Elaine Pivrotti; J. Strafstrom, Esquire/Pullman & Comley, LLC.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Curwen called the meeting to order at 6:47 p.m. and introduced the Committee members.

Mr. Curwen said he would entertain a motion to add something to the agenda, which required a two-thirds vote from the sitting body. Mr. Mojica said the item was submitted Monday at the full council meeting. He said it was approved by the full council to be referred to this committee and for whatever reason it did not get onto tonight's agenda.

- \*\* MR. MOJICA MOTIONED TO ADD A THIRD ITEM TO THE MEETING AGENDA.**
- \*\* COUNCIL PRESIDENT AYALA SECONDED.**
- \*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Mr. Curwen said that Communications #222-05 has been added to the agenda. He asked Mr. Anastasia to comment. Mr. Anastasia said that he wasn't there when the item was referred, but since this is the regular monthly meeting, all they need is a two-thirds vote.

**MINUTES**

**Approval of committee meeting minutes: June 12, 2006.**

- \*\* MR. SILVA MOTIONED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JUNE 12, 2006 MEETING AS PRESENTED.**
- \*\* COUNCIL PRESIDENT AYALA SECONDED.**
- \*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**202-05 GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS TO FUND CERTAIN CAPITAL  
IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS (LAND MANAGEMENT ACQUISITION STEELPOINT  
\$4,600,000)**

The speaker giving the presentation stated that a few weeks ago this item has already been gone through with the Council in caucus. The City has been trying to negotiate a deal with UI for many years for this property. When they reached the point where they could go no farther and the project needed to begin, Council asked for Eminent Domain power, and moved forward to file an Eminent Domain proceeding. As part of that proceeding, they had to also get permission from the DPUC to say that the property is no longer used or useful for utility. The settlement discussions with UI were continued, but the settlement discussions always broke down when the City said they were unable to pay everything UI was asking for the property.

As they got down to the final negotiations a few weeks ago, there was a \$4.6 million dollar shortfall. They agreed to pay UI \$14.9 million, which is the total price we agreed to pay. This is for the purchase of the UI property, which is about 15 acres, plus or minus. The settlement of the Eminent Domain case is for the settlement of a separate injunction case that UI brought against the City to keep them from Eminent Domain on this property, and also to settle a very likely litigation of \$10 million dollars or more for the cost of relocating the substation, which the City has asked UI to do. As well as rebuilding the bulkhead, which the City did not ask them to do, but there is an agreement where the City agreed to pay for it. The agreement is questionable but it exists.

At the time this figure was being discussed, the \$4.6 million dollar shortfall came up. There were \$3.2 million that was the appraised value of the property from the City's appraiser, which had already been deposited in court. There is a \$7.1 million dollar commitment from the State Bonding Commission to help pay for it. Which leaves them \$4.6 million dollars short. They have asked the State for an additional \$4.6 million which Nancy Hadley is already working on. They are also going to use City bonds if necessary, and bond the \$4.6 million if that's what they end up owing on this property acquisition. And if they don't succeed with either of these two methods, then they will have the City Council appropriate \$4.6 million.

UI still isn't satisfied with this arrangement and countered by saying that if the City paid the \$4.6 million by June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2007, the taxes they normally pay the City under a settlement agreement from a prior tax litigation would be put into escrow up to \$4.6 million and would act as security to UI in case the City is not able to raise the \$4.6 million. Once it was agreed that UI could take that tax money that would normally have paid over to the City, the City was satisfied because it knew it had several sources to fund the \$4.6 million dollars, and UI was satisfied that it had some security that it would be paid the balance of the money. The settlement agreement was approved between the parties that day and it will be before the DPUC this week for a final decision. There is no reason to think that the DPUC will not accept the settlement, and with that, all the other litigation and potential litigation will be settled. They are asking for the \$4.6 million dollar authorization as one of the several different ways to get the money for the UI settlement.

A discussion followed.

Mr. Curwen requested that they spell out all options in a summary for the Committee and for the next Council by the next meeting. He recapped that this particular agreement handles the purchase of the land; handles the settlement of Eminent Domain; handles the settlement of the injunction case and the settled litigation value of \$10 million dollars for the relocation of the substation, and also settles the bulkhead litigation.

Councilman Mulligan asked where the new substation would be constructed, and was told in the South End in the area of Hanneford House.

**\*\* MR. MOJICA MOTIONED TO APPROVE ITEM 202-05 APPROPRIATION OF \$4.6 MILLION DOLLARS.**

**\*\* MR. SILVA SECONDED.**

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

Mr. Mojica stated that he did not want this as part of the resolution but wanted it stated for the record that the approval of the appropriation was conditioned on the receipt of the general summary that Mr. Curwen requested.

The item was placed on the consent calendar.

### **222-05 APPROVAL OF GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS – AUTHORIZATION TO FUND CERTAIN CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS**

Mr. Lupkas said this is a request by the City for three school programs that have pending grants at the State level. The Governor has signed off on her portion of the grant in early June. This is for three projects: the magnet high school; the science and tech magnet, and the addition to Skane School. These are items that are on the approved Capital plan but they have not been authorized for borrowing. Mr. Lupkas said there are some time constraints as to when construction starts and grant paperwork is filed. At this point in time they are asking for authorization to borrow to fund these three projects. Mr. Lupkas said that Councilwoman Pivirotti, who is on the School Building Committee, submitted this to the Council last week.

Ms. Pivirotti thanked the Committee for adding this item to their agenda. She said that they did get these grants at a 95% reimbursement rate from the State, but wanted them to know that the Legislature recently passed something that would reduce the interdistrict schools to a 90% reimbursement. They are going for grants for high school #4 and the new Harding High School. It is important that they get these grants off to the quickest start possible.

Mr. Coley said there is a very short period of time to solicit a design from an architect and get it out to bid, and the City has a notoriety at the State level for not being able to meet their two-year deadlines and for asking for grant extensions. They don't want to stall this, they want to get going on it.

Mr. Curwen asked about Councilman Holloway's concern about showing diversity with project managers and minority involvement with school construction and other projects. He and Council President Ayala had a brief discussion about Councilman Holloway's issue, which Mr. Curwen said did have overwhelming support on the floor along with Mr. DePara, Mr. Anastasia and Ms. Pivirotti. Mr. Mojica stated that the issue had been tabled and he didn't see it being reinstated at this time.

Mr. Strafstrom said the resolution requires approval in order for them to apply for the grant.

**\*\* MR. MOJICA MOTIONED TO APPROVE 222-05 GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS.**  
**\*\* COUNCIL PRESIDENT AYALA SECONDED.**  
**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The item was placed on the consent calendar.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

**\*\* MR. SILVA MOTIONED TO ADJOURN.**  
**\*\* MR. MOJICA SECONDED.**  
**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda J. Hayes  
Telesco Secretarial Services

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT  
BUDGET and APPROPRIATIONS  
COMMITTEE of the CITY COUNCIL  
MONDAY - AUGUST 14, 2006**

**ATTENDANCE:** Council members: Curwen, Silva, Walsh, Curran, Vizzo-Paniccia

**ABSENT:** Council members: Mojica and McCarthy

**OTHERS :** Council members: Pivrotto and Mulligan  
M. Lupkus; Director of Finance, Tom Sherwood; OPM,  
J. Butkus; Director Construction Services, D. Cody, H. Aaron; O&G

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:40 p.m.

**202-05 General Obligation Bonds to Fund Certain Capital Improvement Projects (Land Management Acquisition Steelpoint \$4,600,000)**

**222-05 Approval of General Obligations Bonds-Authorization to Fund Certain Capital Improvement Projects (\$16,050,000) for Various School Construction Projects**

Mr. Sherwood stated that these two items were already approved by the city council at the last meeting.

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER CURRAN MOVED TO REMOVE THE ITEMS FROM THE AGENDA  
\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA SECONDED  
\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Council member Walsh asked whether or not the person that submitted the items should withdraw them. Mr. Sherwood explained the items involved a clerical error by the city clerk. Council member Pivrotto further clarified that the items were submitted from the floor, but they didn't make the printed agenda. And because they weren't on the regular agenda, there was a two-thirds vote to add them to the agenda.

**236-05 Budget Transfer From: Fiscal Year 2006-2007 General Fund Budget To: Central Grants: full time pay and OPED: full time pay**

Mr. Sherwood said there were several requests and questions about the salary adjustments. He explained that they don't put anything in department budgets that hasn't been approved yet. The

standard practice is to get the approvals first and then do the budget adjustments. He noted the Mayor indicated there needs to be a line item created, but that's what it involves to show what the fiscal amount will be.

Council member Walsh asked the name of the account. Mr. Sherwood said it was named required reserve.

Council member Walsh asked if the two pay raises were included. Mr. Sherwood said yes. Council member Walsh asked if he could guarantee they wouldn't see another amount included for pay raises. Mr. Sherwood said he could only submit what the Mayor puts forward. He noted they will have discretionary monies however.

Council member Walsh stated that he would speak against both pay raises, because he thought they were totally excessive. He noted that the Director of Grants received a raise between \$7k and \$8k eighteen months ago and now there was another request for \$8k. He thought there could be a chance it could be bumped up again in the future. He expressed that a salary raise is to equate a job to a salary, it's not given for merely doing a good job. He further pointed out that the Director of Grants had five people reporting to her and if the increase is approved, it ups the job to that of a Librarian, Director of Public Facilities etc.

Council member Silva asked what the Director of Grants current salary was. Mr. Sherwood said it was between \$64k and \$74k and the request was made to move it to the \$84k-94k range.

Mr. Sherwood stated he would take questions back regarding a plan to regulate other city salaries. *There was further open discussion regarding the salary of the LUCR Director in terms of equitable salary in view of his newly created responsibilities.*

Council member Mulligan asked what competitors pay for a Central Grants Director. Mr. Sherwood said it varied from city to city. Council member Mulligan commented that if a person in a position performed above and beyond their duties, then he thought a salary increase was warranted. Mr. Sherwood thought denial of the raise increase could involve the loss of the Director of Grants.

Council member Walsh commented that sometimes it called for reorganization in conjunction with a raise.

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER WALSH MOVED TO TABLE**

Mr. Sherwood said the matter wouldn't pass immediately, so by the next meeting that will be on September 11, he would gather more information regarding what new positions in the city would involve and report back.

Council member Curran commented that there was prior discussion of putting a freeze on salaries. She mentioned that certain jobs are worth but so much, noting that if a job stagnates at some point, then it might be a good time to flush out people and fill the positions with new blood.

\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA SECONDED  
\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

#### 244-05 Proposed Amendments to 2007 Capital Plan and Authorization for Bond Sale

Mr. Sherwood stated they needed to amend the plan and authorization. The first step was the modification to the capital plan for the Barnum Elementary School project (*see document attached*). He said there was a need to amend the plan first and then approve the authorization.

Council member Curwen requested a report from the school building committee member. Council member Pivrotto stated that the constructions costs escalated and anything tied to metal materials has tripled. So when the school went out to bid, all the bids came in that put them over budget. They intend to request more grant money from the state and a portion allocated will be approximately \$1 million from the city.

Council member Curwen asked the overall overage on the project. Council member Pivrotto said it was \$5 million.

Mr. Sherwood referred to page 6 of the document, indicating the original amounts that went from \$15.2 million to \$16.331 million.

Council member Pivrotto explained this project involved two schools; Waltersville School and Barnum School. She recommended approval of the request noting they didn't want to cut down on programs for the schools that are inclusive of labs, an auditorium, desks etc.

Mr. Sherwood stated they needed approval to resubmit the application to the state and get their approval. He explained they need to show the local commitment before the state gives their share.

Council member Curwen questioned if there is a commitment of \$1.3 million from the city, was there any guarantee the state would pick up the balance. Mr. Sherwood said there wasn't any guarantee, but he never heard of a case of them turning anyone down, especially Bridgeport. Mr. Cody added this involved an administrative acceptance.

Council member Walsh asked if this was the last increase they could expect to see. Mr. Cody replied yes. Council member Pivrotto added that this would be the last chance to amend the grant, so she concurred that it would be the last increase request.

Mr. Cody said the amount would get them through construction and contingency at 5% for the change orders.

\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER WALSH MOVED TO APPROVE  
\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA SECONDED

Council member Mulligan asked if the city's share was 20%. Mr. Cody said yes.

Council member Mulligan asked if there would be gymnasium in the school. Council member Pivrotto said yes.

Council member Mulligan asked if they would rename the school. Council member Pivrotto said she wasn't sure.

Mr. Sherwood asked as a protocol, should they name the item 244-05A. Council member Curwen said they should name them separately.

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER WALSH AMENDED THE MOTION TO NAME AND APPROVE  
ITEM 244-05A, AS IT RELATED TO THE CHANGE IN THE CAPTIAL PLAN**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA**

**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**\*Consent calendar**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER WALSH MOVED TO CREATE A DOCUMENT NAMED  
ITEM 244-05B**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER CURRAN SECONDED**

**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER WALSH MOVED TO AMEND PAGE 5 OF THE RESOLUTION AND  
TO STRIKE THE 2<sup>ND</sup> TO LAST PARAGRAPH *that reads:***

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the City Council hereby authorizes the Officials in connection with the issuance of the Bonds to allocate any unused bond proceeds, consistent with the applicable tax and other laws, as deemed to be necessary or advisable and in the best interests of the City by the Officials; and

Mr. Lupkas stated that the language was basically required language for bonding and borrowing. The statement indicates that any excess funds have to be spent according to the IRS requirements. He recalled that the paragraph was stricken months ago and there was a discussion whether it should re re-pass, but it was recommended they don't do that. He noted they would present the case again at Monday night's Bond Council meeting if necessary.

Council member Curwen said the Bond Council made it clear that it would jeopardize going out doing bonds for certain projects, so it was relayed to him that the Bond Council was insisting on the language. He further noted that approving the language wouldn't compromise any other projects in the city. And although he understood Council member Walsh's concern, he urged that they sit down and discuss the matter further at some point. But he didn't want to hold up any project that were currently in the works.

Council member Silva asked if the language could be rewritten that would be acceptable to the Bond Council. Mr. Lupkas said the issue was that the matter was brought up a few times to the City of Bridgeport

Budget & Appropriations Committee  
of the City Council

August 14, 2006

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Bond Council before, but again, per the IRS regulations, they can't jeopardize that status.

Council member Walsh stated that without a limit or city council oversight, he thought the amount was way too much to give away. He further noted that on \$16 million, up to \$800k was in bond that may end up being excess money. He felt this would result in taking away the city council's right to give the money away and thus, the money could possibly be used for an entirely new project.

Council member Curwen commented that it was inaccurate that the city council didn't have any oversight. He stressed that they did make an attempt to approve all projects, but by creating an Oversight Committee, this would give them the opportunity to keep their finger on the pulse for projects that never come to fruition. So he will recommend the creation of an Oversight Committee for future projects. However, he once again, expressed his concern of holding up projects.

Council member Curwen asked how many projects there have been in the last five to ten years that have come in under bid. Mr. Lupkas said there weren't many. He explained that what might end up happening is that if at the end of the day, they had say \$5k to \$6k left, the Board of Education would try to spend it, but if there is excess money, they have the opportunity to put it toward another BOE project. However, if it doesn't go there, they can retire their debt with it.

Mr. Sherwood commented that for projects done in the past for ADA improvements etc., they didn't need additional borrowing, he said this to point out that they haven't done large projects in a long time.

Council member Curwen suggested drafting language to submit to the City Council President to create a sub-committee to review the project. Council member Walsh said he wouldn't agree to do that with the language still included. He clarified that his amendment to strike that paragraph remained.

Council member Mulligan asked if the paragraph language meant they were driven by the IRS regulations. Mr. Lupkas said they were regulated by the IRS tax laws. Council member Walsh thought the paragraph really meant that if they had excess funds, those funds must be used in accordance with the IRS guidelines. He added that he didn't think the state would have a problem with deleting the paragraph.

A vote was taken on Council member Walsh's previous motion:

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER WALSH MOVED TO AMEND PAGE 5 OF THE RESOLUTION AND TO STRIKE THE 2<sup>ND</sup> TO LAST PARAGRAPH**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER CURRAN SECONDED**

**\*\* MOTION FAILED WITH TWO VOTES IN FAVOR AND THREE VOTES IN OPPOSITION (COUNCIL MEMBERS: CURWEN, SILVA and VIZZO-PANICCIA)**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA MOVED TO APPROVE ITEM 244-05B**

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

**\*\* MOTION PASSED WITH THREE VOTES IN FAVOR AND ONE VOTE IN OPPOSITION  
(COUNCIL MEMBER WALSH)**

**\*Consent calendar**

**247-05 Amendment to Golf Course Capital Account #389-030-P506**

Mr. Sherwood stated they needed to set this item out of the capital budget line to cover the water trucks, but no action was required. He said they weren't looking to amend the capital plan.

Council member Curwen said he received a call from Phil Handy who requested that this item be removed from the agenda, because the company withdrew the contract.

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER SILVA MOVED TO REMOVE THE ITEM FROM THE AGENDA  
\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA SECONDED  
\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Council member Curran asked if the \$5,000.00 was for the irrigation work. Mr. Sherwood said yes.

Mr. Cody explained they had a contract with the irrigation contractor to perform the installation. The deal has been worked out to supply the driver, again, it will end up being an irrigation contract.

**ADJOURNED**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA MADE A MOTION TO ADJOURN  
\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER WALSH SECONDED  
\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Graham  
Telesco Secretarial Services

City of Bridgeport  
Budget & Appropriations Committee  
of the City Council  
August 14, 2006  
Page 6 of 6

CITY OF BRIDGEPORT  
BUDGET and APPROPRIATIONS  
COMMITTEE *of the CITY COUNCIL*  
MONDAY - SEPTEMBER 11, 2006

**ATTENDANCE:** Council members: Curwen, Mojica, Silva, McCarthy, Walsh, Curran, Vizzo-Paniccia

**OTHER** Council member: Mulligan

**OTHER(s):** Tom Sherwood; OPM, George Estrada, Mike Lupkas, Director of Finance, Dick Hewitt; BOE

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Council member Mojica called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

**Approval of committee minutes: August 14, 2006**

Corrections

Page 1; under Attendance should read under Absent: Council members McCarthy and Mojica

\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER CURWEN MOVED TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES AS CORRECTED  
\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER McCARTHY SECONDED  
\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

**236-05 Budget Transfer From: Fiscal Year 2006-2007 General Fund Budget To: Central Grants: full time pay and OPED: full time pay**

Mr. Sherwood explained this item was submitted, because the ordinance called for a budget. There were three positions proposed for a salary adjustment that were, the Central Grants Director, the LUCR Director and the Tax Collector, but the city council moved to change the ordinance. So there wasn't a need to do a salary adjustment, because it's not in the ordinance.

Council member McCarthy stated that it was mentioned that the administration had the ability to make the move. Mr. Sherwood said that if they didn't approve it, it wouldn't take away the position monetarily.

Council member Curwen suggested a motion be made to remove the item from the agenda.

Mr. Sherwood said if the item was budgeted and provided for, then the ordinance could have gone forward, but the matter died, so he suggested removing it.

Council member Mojica mentioned that the maker of the ordinance needed to go through Town Hall to finalize withdrawal of the item. Mr. Sherwood stated he would make sure that was done.

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER CURWEN MOVED TO WITHDRAW THE ITEM FROM THE AGENDA WITH THE PROVISION THAT TOM SHERWOOD, of OPM FINALIZE THE WITHDRAWAL THROUGH THE TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE**  
**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER SILVA SECONDED**  
**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**\*\*271-05 Budget Transfer to the Fiscal Year 2006-07 General Fund Budget From: Health and Social Services Full Time Earned Pay To: Security Services for security coverage at the Health Department**

Mr. Sherwood stated that in the budget, they had two part-time security positions and both positions were now vacant. So they went through the contract process to seek out security firms to implement security at the facility. He said there wasn't any problem moving to contract services that will eliminate the two part-time positions.

Council member Walsh asked how the two positions came to be terminated. Mr. Sherwood said one person was terminated and the other one left.

Council member Walsh asked if this was part of the bargaining agreement. Mr. Sherwood said no.

It was stated that if there was a grievance and it was settled, the city would honor the settlement by means for an offer of another job.

Council member Walsh said he understood a grievance was filed. He stressed that he didn't want to be drawn into that matter, so he said he wouldn't support approval of the item.

Mr. Sherwood clarified they were both part-time positions, but they weren't part of any bargaining agreement.

Council member Mojica asked what the positions paid before vs. what the position would pay now. Mr. Sherwood said it was \$23,893 for both positions, but with the budget transfer, the position will now pay \$28,900.

Council member Curwen stated that as co-chair of the committee, he has observed that security has been an issue for years. He said that after the discussion with Dr. Evans, it was found that there was a bigger problem in the building due to undesirables randomly walking in and out of the building. So he thought they owed it to city employees to protect them. He questioned whether the

request was to eliminate both positions. Mr. Sherwood said yes, there will now be one security person. He further noted the position would be off the state contract. Valerie further mentioned that it would be a SOS security system through the state contract. She agreed that security in the building was a bad situation.

Council member Curran asked the number of hours the person would cover. The response was that the hours would be from 8:0 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. with some flexibility with no weekend hours. And it will be a uniformed guard. The position provides social security benefits, but no health coverage.

Council member Curran asked if there would be one person working security. Mr. Sherwood explained that it was a security service, but there wouldn't necessarily be the same person there all the time.

Council member McCarthy said he had personal knowledge of the security issues at the Health Department, noting that he felt people were at significant risk. So he supported approval of the item.

Council member Walsh asked if the outside security service person carried a firearm. The response was no. Council member Walsh thought the position was equivalent to low-grade security then.

Council member Walsh asked how they advertised for the vacant positions. Mr. Sherwood said they didn't advertise. Council member Walsh thought that the city council was asking to be the fall guy for the administration. Mr. Sherwood said they opted to go with an outside service to ensure reliability, but they didn't re-advertise to fill the positions. Council member Walsh felt there would have been many people interested in the positions.

Council member Curwen asked how long the contract was for. Mr. Sherwood said it was on an annual basis from June 30 to June 30. He noted that he would provide a copy of the contract to the committee per Council member Curwen's request.

Council member Curwen stressed the security aspect at the building. Again, he thought some type of security was needed.

Council member Curwen asked if part-time employees had union rights. Council McCarthy said he wasn't sure. But he spoke from an attorney's perspective to say a person could be a part-time employee and also part of a union.

Council member Mojica recapped that the committee needed to decide on funding or not funding the two part-time positions. He expressed that every time the matter of whether to fund or not comes up, there will always be an issue, but that wasn't the matter at hand. As for the security person not being armed, he thought that was probably wise from a safety standpoint.

Council member Curran asked who the two part-time positions reported to. Mr. Sherwood said they reported to Dr. Evans.

Council member Curran asked if they had difficulty getting people to work security in the building. Valerie said yes, noting that the people that previously worked there weren't formally trained. This resulted in people coming in and out of the building and not signing in.

Council member Curran said that due to what she heard regarding the matter, she was in support of approving the item.

Council member Curwen asked the total amount of the contract. Mr. Sherwood said it was \$28,893.

Council member Curwen asked if this was expected to reflect in the budget. Mr. Sherwood said yes, when budget time comes around again.

\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER SILVA MOVED TO APPROVE  
\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER CURWEN SECONDED  
\*\* MOTION PASSED WITH FIVE VOTES IN FAVOR AND ONE VOTE IN OPPOSITION  
(COUNCIL MEMBER WALSH)

\*Not on consent calendar

**273-05 Budget Modification to the Fiscal Year 2006-07 Five Year Capital Plan BOE  
Dedicated Use \$2,000,000; State School Construction granted \$500,000 for  
Maintenance Projects, amounts to \$2,500,000 for Minimum Expenditure Requirement**

Mr. Sherwood said he spoke to the city clerk last Friday regarding this item and he was informed that the title description was incorrect. He stated that the item was **"strictly to modify the capital plan and approve it through city bond authorization"**. He said it had nothing to do with maintenance or the MER.

\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER CURWEN MOVED TO *DELETE THE VERBAGE*: BOE  
DEDICATED USE \$2,000,000; STATE SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION GRANTED \$500,000  
FOR MAINTENANCE PROJECTS, AMOUNTS TO \$2,500,000 FOR MINIMUM  
EXPENDITURE REQUIREMENT FROM THE ITEM DESCRIPTION *and REPLACE WITH  
THE VERBAGE*: BUDGET MODIFICATION TO THE FISCAL YEAR 2006-07 FIVE YEAR  
CAPITAL PLAN  
\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER SILVA SECONDED  
\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Mr. Sherwood stated the matter was discussed in May for the request. He turned discussion of the item over to Mr. Hewitt of the BOE.

Mr. Hewitt said there were seven (7) items requested. He reviewed the items as they were outlined in the handout:

1. class room furniture
2. replacement of the special education buses
3. replacement of the security vehicles
4. replacement of technology
5. replacement of the Superintendent's vehicle
6. maintenance projects
7. replacement of 12 or 13 public address systems

Council member Curwen asked what they were doing with the old furniture they were replacing. Mr. Hewitt said the value of the old furniture was valued at approximately \$2,500, but they planned to scrap the old furniture.

Council member Curwen said he was aware that the schools needed new furniture, but he said he had a problem with not trying to salvage some of the furniture. He pointed out that taxpayer's money was involved.

Council member Curwen asked if the purchase of the furniture would count toward the MER. Mr. Sherwood said no, if it was brought through the general fund it would be MER eligible, but bonding isn't MER eligible. Mr. Hewitt said there was a clause in the law that says the city's portion of \$500 goes in.

Council member Curwen asked how the city gets credit then for the \$2million that goes to the BOE. Mr. Sherwood said it could be crafted as being support for the BOE.

Council member Curwen asked if the item was approved, could the money come out of the BOE account and shifted, resulting in the city getting credit. Mr. Hewitt said he doubted there was enough money in the BOE budget to do that.

Council member Curwen expressed that he was looking to avoid having the city council being ignored, because they're not generally recognized for all they do. He suggested that perhaps the Superintendent could make an informal statement that the money was forthcoming from the city council. Mr. Hewitt said that shouldn't be problem.

Mr. Lupkus mentioned the special education buses. He noted that the BOE would reimburse the city.

Council member McCarthy approached the matter of privatizing the special education buses and if there was any talking of doing that. Mr. Hewitt replied no, he explained they had twenty-five buses and they replaced four this year. But when they analyzed the cost, they realized they could save \$500k by privatizing. However, by running their own fleet, he thought that eventually it would be more cost effective by replacing the vehicles.

Council member Walsh requested that any surplus equipment be given to the public schools for their use. Mr. Lupkus said that matter needed to go through the Purchasing Department. Council member Vizzo-Paniccia added that any surplus equipment and furniture should be distributed city wide.

Council member Curran questioned the replacement of six (6) vehicles, as well as the Superintendent's vehicle. She also questioned the age of the vehicle he currently had. Mr. Hewitt said the Superintendent's vehicle was a 1998 or 1999 Buick Park Avenue model.

Council member Curwen spoke about the concern of the replacement vehicles. He thought the old vehicle should trickle down to someone else in a department that could use it. It was stated that it wasn't cost effective to repair the vehicles.

Council member Curwen asked if they were moving towards replacing the police cars fleet. Mr. Sherwood said yes and there is an option to salvage those vehicles or there are companies interested in buying the parts, so the entire fleet may be sold off.

Council member Curwen questioned (6) vehicles at a cost of \$150k, but he pointed out the document indicated a cost of \$250k including the Superintendent's vehicle. Mr. Hewitt clarified that the letter dated May 5, 2006 was the revised request outlining the correct dollar amounts.

Council member Mulligan asked if the BOE was self insured. Mr. Sherwood said that was correct. Council member Mulligan asked if there would be a payout in the case of a claim ever being submitted. Mr. Sherwood said the city would pay annually.

Council member Curwen asked what type of vehicles they were purchasing. The response was they would purchase Ford Crown Victoria vehicles because they are a safe vehicle and cost approximately \$19k. It was further stated that they would pay back the city through the state contract.

Council member Curwen stated that in light of gas prices and fuel, he didn't feel the school vehicles would see a lot of wear and tear like they would with police vehicles, so he questioned why they were considering purchasing Crown Victoria vehicles. The response was that they looked at other vehicles, but thought this car would be cost effective. However, it was said that another type of vehicle could be researched.

Council member Curran asked about the \$5,000 fee for the transfer of lights and logos came from. The response was that it came from the State Police Department. They have some equipment they will transfer, but they also need to purchase some.

Council member Curran asked about driver accountability in regard to take home vehicles. She asked if the driver would sign a waiver that if they get into trouble while driving the vehicle, that they will lose their privileges. The response was they don't have take home vehicles, only two are take home vehicles.

Council member Curran asked what type of reports they get from the police department to oversee accidents. The response was that if there is an accident, the matter gets forwarded to the city attorney's office after the police department investigates, and a copy of the report is maintained on file.

Council member McCarthy asked the age groups of the classes that have computers. Mr. Hewitt said they are distributed on a pupil basis. They currently have Pentium 3 hard drives, but they will be upgraded.

Council member Curwen asked if they got the prices off the bid list. Mr. Hewitt said yes, they bid annually, but they stay away from state bids because the prices are too competitive. Mr. Lupkus commented that any excess funds come back to the city per IRS regulations and goes toward debt.

Council member Walsh asked about the matter of BOE vehicles being involved in an accident. He asked if the police would be notified and if there is a written policy. The response was no, there wasn't a written policy, but they do it anyway. Council member Walsh asked if that would also apply to investigating a potential accident by the Superintendent. The response was that they would enact the police department to investigate to avoid any conflict of interest.

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER CURWEN MOVED TO AMEND THE BUDGET CONTINGENT UPON TAKING ANY EXCESS FURNITURE OR EQUIPMENT TO BE DONATED CITY WIDE STUDENTS MADE AVAILABLE THROUGH THE PURCHASING AGENT**

\*Mr. Sherwood noted this would depend on the laws for salvaging items.

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA SECONDED  
\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Council member Curran questioned what was wrong with a six-year old computer being used by students in the lower grades. Mr. Hewitt explained that processing on older computers was very slow. He added that they planned to do video streaming that requires more updated equipment to accommodate accessing of tutorials etc. Council member McCarthy added it was also more expensive to maintain older computer systems.

Council member Vizzo-Paniccia asked if the smart boards previously purchased would still be used in conjunction with the new computers. Mr. Hewitt said yes, they can digitally capture what was on the smart board and show it on the computer screen, so it should be compatible.

Mr. John Lee, a Bridgeport taxpayer was present. He returned to the topic of the special education vehicles and the question of privatization. He asked for clarification about the statement made that if they privatized, there would be a \$500k difference in cost. Mr. Hewitt explained that to take twenty-seven people that manage the buses and to lay them off, would add up to \$17,000 per person over the course of six months. Mr. Lee figured out the cost for that would be comparable to

what it would be to privatize. Council member McCarthy stated that you can't replace labored work with privatized work.

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER CURWEN MOVED TO REMOVE PAGE 3 OF THE CAPITAL REQUEST DOCUMENT DATED OCTOBER 4, 2006**  
**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA SECONDED**  
**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Mr. Sherwood distributed copies of the capital plan as it was currently outlined. He reviewed the (7) items and the amounts associated as:

• classroom furniture	\$250k
• special education buses	\$305k
• security vehicles replacements	\$150k
• replacement of Superintendent vehicle	\$35k
• replacement technology	\$410k
• maintenance projects	\$500k
• replacement of public address systems	\$350k
<i>Total Capital Request &gt;</i>	<i>\$2,000,000.00</i>

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER CURRAN MOVED TO REMOVE THE ORIGINAL REQUEST ITEM # 4 SUPERINTENDENT'S VEHICLE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$35,000 AS IT WAS OUTLINED IN THE CAPITAL PLAN**

*\*It was noted the new total would be > \$1,965,000.00*

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

Council member McCarthy asked if they removed the Superintendent's vehicle, what was the alternative plan. Mr. Hewitt said they would have to see what the board wanted to do.

**\*\* MOTION FAILED WITH TWO VOTES IN FAVOR AND FOUR VOTES IN OPPOSITION**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER CURRAN MOVED TO REMOVE ITEM #3, ONE (1) SECURITY VEHICLE AT A COST OF \$125K**

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

**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

*\*It was noted that the new total would be > \$1,875,000*

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER CURWEN MOVED TO SEPARATE ITEM 273-05 INTO TWO CATEGORIES A and B AS 273-05A MODIFICATION TO CAPITAL PLAN**

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

**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER CURWEN MOVED TO CREATE ITEM 273-05B AS GENERAL  
AUTHORIZATION OBLIGATION BOND  
\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER McCARTHY SECONDED  
\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Mr. Sherwood recapped what item 273-05A entailed. Mr. Estrada said they submitted the package outlining the version of stabilization for the ballpark. But during construction, they recognized there were design shortcomings that have plagued the facility. They started to experience water penetration damage and mold issues, as well as damage to the ceiling tiles, locker rooms etc., so it is a growing problem and getting worse. He went on to say this will be a shared expense between the city and the operator of the facility. They also had other capital expenses they were responsible for. So there was a request for \$300k to do the waterproofing.

Council member Mojica asked if he was here tonight just to present the item. Mr. Estrada said he was asking the committee to consider adding \$1.3 million that would be capitalized over 3-years to stabilize the ball park.

Council member Silva asked if any monies were be coming from the operator. Mr. Estrada said they already did many improvements, but there are repairs needed beyond what was done.

Council member Silva stated that the scoreboard wasn't functional. He pointed out that since another group has taken over operation of the ball park, he felt they could do the improvements required. He further asked if the city has made any money since the new owners came on board. Mr. Sherwood said they have for parking and as far as he knew, there were no back taxes issues.

Mr. Estrada explained that TransLux could reuse the structure for the scoreboard and then they would just have to replace the mechanism that will result in a lesser cost.

Council member Mojica asked for clarification and if they were here tonight to deal with the \$2 million request approval. He asked if the matter was time sensitive in terms of requiring another authorization. Mr. Sherwood said the document was modified in the capital plan. But as far as being time sensitive, there is an issue due to the wanting to have the work done before the baseball season begins.

Mr. Estrada said he would like to have the contractor on board by January to allow them to open in April 2007.

Council member Curran questioned where the amount of \$750k came from. She expressed she wasn't comfortable responding to the numbers that were outlined. Mr. Sherwood referred to the page of the document related to the details of the firm that will be doing the construction, Hoffman Architects Inc.

Council member Walsh stated that if they were asked to act on this request tonight, he urged the committee to deal with year one only. He said that as far as the scoreboard, he asked if the city

took ownership of that in the past. Mr. Estrada said yes. Council member Walsh said if that was the case, he questioned why the city was being approached now to do the repairs. He added that the owners were responsible for putting money in the capital fund. Mr. Estrada agreed, noting that the new owner puts in \$15,000 per year. Council asked if the prior owner did that. Mr. Estrada said no.

Council member Walsh asked about the design flaws and why nothing was done before. Mr. Estrada said the matter was in the city attorney's office pursuing litigation, but they were here tonight strictly to report on the conditions at the facility.

Mr. Sherwood said he had a concern about the bidding aspect. He wondered whether they should table the matter to determine if they need to bid out the entire phase. Mr. Estrada said they will try to use a conservative estimate as possible, but the scoreboard will be the priority.

Council member Curwen stated he had an issue with the item not having a communication number per the city clerk's policy. Mr. Sherwood said it would be an amendment from the floor to include the item. Council member Curwen thought they should approve it then in its entirety and not only year one.

Council member Vizzo-Paniccia questioned whether they should go with the process to take all the steps to make the improvements, rather than doing it piecemeal. Mr. Estrada agreed.

Council member Vizzo-Paniccia asked if anyone was overseeing maintenance of the equipment on a regular basis. Mr. Estrada said yes and he emphasized that the new ownership was vigilant about doing that, noting maintenance helps extend the equipments life.

Council member Vizzo-Paniccia asked if it was cost effective to pitch the roof, rather than installing a flat roof. Mr. Estrada said no, it would be a couple of million dollars to do that.

Council member Vizzo-Paniccia asked once everything was done, was there any way for the new owners to assume the responsibility of any maintenance issues. Mr. Estrada said there was a contract in place for them to adhere to.

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER CURWEN MOVED TO APPROVE AND ADD HARBOR YARD BALLPARK FOR MODIFICATION TO THE CAPITAL PLAN FOR A TOTAL OF \$1,165,000 THAT SHALL INCLUDE THE SCOREBAORD REPAIRS INTO YEAR 2007 (SEE ATTACHEMENT 2) – TO BE PROVIDED TO THE CITY CLERK'S OFFICE**

Council member Walsh reiterated that he couldn't support anything more than year one

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

Council member McCarthy requested that the following information be submitted to the committee. Mr. Estrada acknowledged that he would submit the information.

1. A breakdown of the dollar amounts for the improvements
2. A breakdown of how the \$750k was derived

\*\* MOTION PASSED WITH FIVE VOTES IN FAVOR AND ONE VOTE IN OPPOSITION  
(COUNCIL MEMBER WALSH)

\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER CURWEN MOVED TO APPROVE ITEM 273-05A AS AMENDED  
THAT WAS THE BUDGET MODIFICATION TO FISCAL YEAR 2006-07 TO THE  
CAPITAL PLAN

\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA SECONDED

\*\* MOTION PASSED WITH FOUR VOTES IN FAVOR AND TWO VOTES IN OPPOSITION  
(COUNCIL MEMBERS CURRAN AND WALSH)

Mr. Lupkus stated that item 273-05B related to the standard bond resolution authorization borrowing with the dollar amounts as outlined in the appendix attached that Mr. Sherwood will devise and submit.

Council member Vizzo-Paniccia suggested recessing this item to allow for the submittal of the bond package for review by the committee members. Mr. Sherwood said he would have the package available for submitting prior to the next city council meeting.

\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA MOVED TO HAVE THE INFORMATION  
SUBMITTED TO THE COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRIOR TO THE NEXT CITY COUNCIL  
MEETING ON MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2006

\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER CURRAN SECONDED

\*\* MOTION PASSED WITH FIVE VOTES IN FAVOR AND ONE VOTE IN OPPOSITION  
(COUNCIL MEMBER WALSH)

\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER CURWEN MOVED TO APPROVE 273-05B THAT IS THE  
GENERAL BOND OBLIGATION PENDING LANGUAGE THAT WILL BE SUBMITTED  
AND AUTHORIZED BY THE COMMITTEE PRIOR TO THE NEXT FULL CITY  
COUNCIL MEETING

\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA SECONDED

\*\* MOTION PASSED WITH FIVE VOTES IN FAVOR AND ONE VOTE IN OPPOSITION  
(COUNCIL MEMBER WALSH)

\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER CURWEN MADE A MOTION TO RECESS UNTIL 5:45 P.M. ON  
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2006 PRIOR TO THE SCHEDULED CITY COUNCIL  
MEETING

\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA SECONDED

\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Other Business:

Council member Curwen requested a complete update of the full capital plan outlining all the authorizations. Mr. Sherwood said he would supply that.

- Mr. John Lee thanked the committee for allowing him to sit in on the meeting. He asked if the committee receives reports through the city attorney's office regarding pending legal actions. The response was yes.

**ADJOURNED**

\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA MADE A MOTION TO RECESS  
\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER McCARTHY SECONDED  
\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

The meeting was recessed at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Graham  
Telesco Secretarial Services

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT  
BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE  
SEPTEMBER 18, 2006**

**ATTENDANCE:** Robert Curwen, Co-chair; Rafael Mojica, Co-Chair (6:14 p.m.), Donna Curwen, AmyMarie Vizzo-Paniccia, Thomas McCarthy, Carlos Silva (6:00 p.m.)

**OTHERS:** Richard Paoletto, Council Member, Thomas Mulligan, Council Member, George Estrada, Director of Public Facilities; Michael Lupkas, Director of Finance, Thomas Sherwood, OPM Director, Richard Huot, Business Director.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Curwen called the meeting to order at 5:53 p.m. and stated that this particular meeting was a continuation of the meeting held on September 11, 2006 to consider the matter of Agenda Item 273-05B - Approval of General Obligation Bond Issuance (Board of Education and Harboryard).

Council Member McCarthy said that as this was a continuation of a previous meeting, he had some additional information regarding the issue about security at the Health Department (Agenda Item # 271-05). Chairman Curwen stated that Item #271-05 was on the Council agenda for later in the evening but that it was not listed on the consent calendar.

**273-05B - Approval of General Obligation Bond Issuance (Board of Education and Harboryard) .**

Mr. Sherwood stated that during the previous portion of this meeting, the Council Members had asked for details regarding the replacement of the scoreboard. He also said that the amendment to the Capital budget had been completed and turned into the City Clerk.

Mr. Estrada greeted the Committee members and explained that that owners of the Bluefish had submitted a letter regarding the details of the scoreboard replacement. They also submitted an overview of the attendance at the events.

Council Member Curran noted that the request was for \$50,000 for the camera and technical equipment. Mr. Estrada confirmed that and explained that the original purpose was from Translux, but the equipment is now obsolete. The owners had explored the possibility of taking legal action against Translux. The contingency amount was needed for unexpected repairs or replacement parts. Council Member Curran commented that she noticed that Pinnacle One's numbers were \$5,000 short. Mr. Sherwood explained that the City would only bond the amount needed and noted that the Council authorizes a plan. The actual bond authorization will be a much more detailed document. Chairman

Curwen explained that any unused funds will go towards a project that the Council has previously approved but could not move forward for lack of funding.

Council Member Mulligan was recognized by the Chair. He had several questions about the moving of the scoreboard from the owners portion of the tax base to the City's. Mr. Estrada explained that the taxes on the scoreboard as a assess forced the owners to turn the scoreboard over to the City as part of the capital building. The Bluefish owners are negotiating with Datatronics and hope to keep the cost under \$275,000.

Council Member Curran asked about possibly locating sponsors for the scoreboard. Mr. Estrada replied that the Bluefish owners have the rights on that.

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER MCCARTHY MOVED TO APPROVE 273-05B - APPROVAL OF GENERAL OBLIGATION BOND ISSUANCE (BOARD OF EDUCATION AND HARBORYARD).**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER MOJICA SECONDED.**

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

Chairman Curwen stated that the item was not currently on the agenda for the full Council's consideration at the following meeting. However, the first portion of the proposed resolution (273-05A) was listed on the agenda. Mr. Estrada explained that because it takes 7-8 months for the production of a scoreboard, if the stadium was to have one by the spring, the timing is critical. Chairman Curwen then reviewed the procedure required in order to vote on the matter.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

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

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER MCCARTHY SECONDED.**

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

The meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon L. Soltes  
Telesco Secretarial Services

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT  
BUDGET AND APPROPRIATION COMMITTEE  
OCTOBER 30, 2006**

**ATTENDANCE:** Robert Curwen, Co-Chair; Rafael Mojica, Co-chair;  
Robert Walsh, Thomas McCarthy, Carlos Silva,  
AmyMarie Vizzo-Paniccia, Donna Curran

**OTHERS:** Andres Ayala, Council President; Elaine Pivrotto, Council Member; Thomas Mulligan, Council Member; Andre Baker, Council Member; Angel de Para, Council Member; Richard Paoletto, Council Member; Marie Valle, Council Member; Michelle Lyons, Council Member; Thomas Sherwood, OPM Manager, Thomas White, Legislative Office; Charles Carroll, Mayor's Office, Mike Lupkas, Finance; Police Chief Brian Norwood; Sgt. John Cueto, Bridgeport Mounted Police; George Estrada, Public Facilities Director; Deborah Caviness, Mayor's Office; Michael Goldrick, Head Librarian, Bridgeport Library.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Curwen called the meeting to order at 6:37 p.m.

**294-05 Capital Budget Modification for the purchase of a new Post police fleet.**

Mr. Sherwood greeted the Committee members and then reviewed the request for 63 POST patrol cars, 6 K-9 patrol cars and 10 unmarked cars. He pointed out that the vehicles have been tested by Michigan State Police on the Grattan Raceway and that the selected vehicles, the Dodge Charger 5.7L and the Dodge Magnum 5.7L were the two fastest vehicles. These vehicles will have yaw sensors to control fish tailing on tight turns, high performance, heavy duty braking system and a HEMI engine that will reduce from eight to four cylinders when the vehicle is idling. Mr. Sherwood pointed out that since the officers use their patrol vehicles as their mobile office, the idling feature will greatly reduce the amount of fuel used.

Chief Norwood reported that currently, the patrol cars in the fleet have no down time, which results in more expensive repairs sooner. This has resulted in a fleet that is in severe disrepair. Chief Norwood said that he was intending to have all the fleet patrol vehicles stationed at Congress Street, so that inspections and routine maintenance checks can be performed. Another important aspect of having the vehicles at Congress Street will be that shift change will occur at the same location and this will consolidate the

communications. Another aspect of this issue is that the patrol cars will be assigned to one of three officers for one shift. Accountability will be centralized.

Chief Norwood went on to explain that there were prisoner transport vehicles already on order and that this will significantly cut down on the officer's down time. Processing the paper work for an arrest requires about an hour and a half. Last year, there were over 9,700 arrests, which represents about \$403,520 in time spent processing paperwork. This roughly equals 8 officers annually. By centralizing all the transportation and paperwork, there will be an increase in efficiency for the department.

Chief Norwood commented that the Dodges are smaller than the currently Crown Vics, but also observed that the officers are dealing with city traffic, not highway patrol. There will be major modifications to the vehicles for the computer system, the lights and other equipment needed by the patrol officers.

Mr. Sherwood then reviewed the financing and bidding process with the Committee members. He explained that after two years, some of the vehicles would be removed from patrol duty and moved to the non-patrol sectors such as Supervisors, Traffic and possibly School Resource Officers. Those vehicles would be replaced with new ones, which would begin the renewal cycle for the patrol vehicles.

Council Member McCarthy wished to know how the parking would be handled at Congress Street. Chief Norwood replied that the lot would be configured and that the Department is also looking at additional surface lots in the area. Council Member Silva asked about the base price for the vehicle. Mr. Sherwood directed his attention to the specs sheet, which listed the base price as \$22,000 per vehicle.

Council Member Mojica asked when the inspections of the vehicles would be done and if the union was agreeable. Chief Norwood replied that the protocols are already in place for this and that the unions were agreeable to this task. Council Member Mojica then asked about the purchasing approval of a name brand. Mr. Sherwood directed the Committee member's attention to the letter in the packet from Attorney Trachtenburg regarding this matter. Council Member Mojica then asked if additional prisoner transport vehicles would be required at a future date. Chief Norwood explained that those vehicles were already ordered, paid for and the Department was waiting on delivery.

Council Member Walsh asked if the Board of Education would be receiving some of the retired Crown Vics. Mr. Sherwood stated that the oldest vehicles would be replaced with patrol cars. Council Member Walsh asked how many vehicles have been totaled while in service. Chief Norwood replied that he did not have that information immediately available, but that he would provide that information to Council Member Walsh. Sgt. Cueto reminded the Committee members that there are 21 patrol cars out in each of three shifts and reviewed the numbers of proposed vehicles to be ordered.

Council Member Curwen asked where the old Crown Vics would be parked. Chief Norwood replied that the vehicles would not arrive until the late spring and the current patrol cars will have been inspected and evaluated. When the new cars arrive, then the old vehicles will either be reassigned, sold or scrapped.

Council Member Curwen stated that accountable is important. He asked what would happen to those patrol officers who were careless with their vehicles. Chief Norwood reiterated that by consolidating the command to Congress Street, the vehicles can be inspected on site and damage noted.

Council Member Pivrotto asked if something had been eliminated to purchase these vehicles. Mr. Sherwood replied that the Local Capital Improvement Funds (LoCIP) do not allow the municipalities to purchase equipment, so the entitlement for the building will be used to purchase these vehicles.

Council Member Lyons asked why this number of vehicles was being purchased all at the same time. Mr. Sherwood stated that the Police Department needs about 120 vehicles and that as these vehicles age they will be moved from patrol to less active departments and replacing the Crown Vics. Council Member Lyons commented that she had observed police cruisers parked on the streets for lengthy periods of time. Chief Norwood reiterated that this was one of the many reasons why the cars will be assigned to Congress Street.

Council Member Baker wished to know if only 20 vehicles could be purchased at this time as a cost saving measure. Mr. Sherwood explained that the smaller number would not allow for down time and repairs. Chief Norwood commented that while city mileage was lower on the vehicles, the patrol cars run for a longer period of time. This results in major repairs starting after only three years of usage.

Council Member Curran asked what the life of these vehicles was. Mr. Sherwood explained that it was 9-12 years. Council Member Curran then asked if the City would be purchasing this same number of vehicles at a future date. Mr. Sherwood replied that they would be replacing the vehicles in smaller lots. He also commented that New York had just purchased 3,000 of these vehicles for their force. Patrol cars have a street life of about three years.

Council Member Mulligan asked about the warranty and bond specifications, which Mr. Sherwood reviewed with him. Sgt. Cueto commented that the last time the City had purchased Police vehicles had been in 1998. Since then, Local Block Enforcement grants had been used to keep the vehicles in repair, but those grants are no longer available. The new Homeland Security funds are not available for vehicles. Currently patrol vehicles are used 24/7, Sgt. Cueto said and added that take home vehicles generally last seven years.

Council Member Walsh asked about asset forfeiture funds. Chief Norwood replied that those funds had been used to purchase the prisoner transportation vehicles. Council Member Walsh then stated that he was in favor of having officers who are Bridgeport residents take home marked vehicles as it demonstrated a police presence. He also stated that he was in favor of this purchase in order to support Chief Norwood in his program.

Council Member Lyons had questions about the amortization schedule. Mr. Sherwood reviewed the figures with her.

Council Member Pivrotto asked if the vehicles needed to be idling all the time. Chief Norwood replied that they did, particularly in light of the fact that the electronic equipment inside the vehicle needs to be available. He reiterated the fact that these vehicles are designed to only use four cylinders while idling.

Council President Ayala commented that it sounded like Chief Norwood was planning on reducing the number of precincts in the City. Chief Norwood replied that he was not planning on doing so, but was simply centralizing the command center. Once this is done, he hopes to increase the number of precincts in the future.

### **RECESS**

Chairman Curwen announced that there would be a short recess to allow the members of the Committee to see one of the new police vehicles, which was parked outside the front door. The Committee went into recess at 7:40 p.m. and reconvened at 7:55 p.m.

### **294-05 Capital Budget Modification for the purchase of a new Post police fleet. CONT'D**

Chairman Curwen stated that he was very positive about this proposed purchase, but that he hoped that Chief Norwood would seriously evaluate the chase policy for the Department. Chief Norwood replied that he planned to do so.

Mr. White had some questions about the bonding issue. Mr. Sherwood replied that the City had lost its ability to bond a number of years ago and that the City had recovered this when they had bonded the Barnum Museum and paid the debt off in a timely fashion. He added that there was nothing to prevent the City from bonding on this issue and directed the Committee's attention to the letter of approval in their packets from the bond counsel, Pullman and Comley, Attorneys at Law. Mr. Lupkas then reviewed the bond process with Mr. White.

Chairman Curwen asked if the Chief intended to add cameras to the patrol cars. Chief Norwood replied that he had researched the item and found that it was more applicable to highway patrol rather than city patrol because most of the city officer's jobs happen out of the range of the cameras.

Council Member Lyons asked when the vehicles would be transferred out of patrol use. Mr. Sherwood reiterated that the first batch would be transferred out in two years.

Chairman Curwen asked if this would reduce overtime. Chief Norwood replied that by using the prisoner transport vehicles and putting the officers back on the street sooner, the overtime should be reduced significantly.

Council President Ayala asked if black box technology would be used. Chief Norwood explained that this was another piece of expensive technology and that he was not sure that it was appropriate for City patrol. Council President Ayala then asked if the vehicles would have GPS locators and Chief Norwood replied that they would.

Council Member Mojica asked if the officers would be required to take some driver training since the new vehicles will be quite powerful. Chief Norwood stated that there would be a four hour training session plus additional training on the use of the new electronic equipment. Mr. Lupkas then reviewed the bond process with Council Member Mojica, including the letter from Pullman and Comley, Sec. 7.374 regarding bonding indebtedness and both the Additional Capital Project and the General Obligation proposals.

Council Member dePara asked what the City's current indebtedness was. Mr. Lupkas replied that it was 603 million, of which 335 million was related to pensions.

Sgt. Cueto then reviewed the process for shift changes and the fact that there is only fifteen minutes for an officer to leave his street patrol, return to headquarters, remove any evidence from crime scenes from the vehicle, and return his equipment to his locker. The current patrol cars only have fifteen minutes of cool down time before they are back out on the street and this happens six times a day, seven days a week.

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER MOJICA MOVED TO AMEND 294-05 CAPITAL BUDGET MODIFICATION FOR THE PURCHASE OF A NEW POST POLICE FLEET INTO TWO SEPARATE DOCUMENTS BEING:**

**294-05A – APPROVAL OF ADDITIONAL CAPITAL PROJECT AUTHORIZATION TO THE 2007-2011 CAPITAL PLAN, AND;**

**204-05B - APPROVAL OF GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS – TO FUND CERTAIN CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER MCCARTHY SECONDED.  
\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER MOJICA MOVED TO APPROVE 294-05A – APPROVAL OF ADDITIONAL CAPITAL PROJECT AUTHORIZATION TO THE 2007-2011 CAPITAL PLAN.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER MCCARTHY SECONDED.**

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

Chairman Curwen requested that be moved to the consent calendar.

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER WALSH MOVED TO AMEND THE LANGUAGE OF 204-05B - APPROVAL OF GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS – TO FUND CERTAIN CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS ON PAGE 5, SECOND PARAGRAPH, FIRST LINE FROM**

**“RESOLVED, THAT THE CITY COUNCIL HEREBY AUTHORIZES THE OFFICIALS IN CONNECTION WITH” TO “RESOLVED, THAT THE CITY COUNCIL HEREBY ITS AUTHORITY IN CONNECTION WITH”.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER CURRAN SECONDED.**

**\*\* THE MOTION FAILED WITH THREE IN FAVOR (WALSH, CURRAN AND SILVA) AND FOUR AGAINST (MOJICA, VIZZO-PANNICCIA, MCCARTHY AND CURWEN)**

A question was then raised about the length of time as cited on page 4 of 204-05B - APPROVAL OF GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS – TO FUND CERTAIN CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS. Mr. Lupkas stated that he was willing to amend this if the Committee so desired.

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER MCCARTHY MOVED TO AMEND THE LANGUAGE OF 204-05B - APPROVAL OF GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS – TO FUND CERTAIN CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS ON PAGE FOUR, FIRST PARAGRAPH, LINE 2 FROM:**

**“DATE, MATURITY, PRICES, INTEREST RATES” TO:**

**“DATE, MATURITY NOT TO EXCEED FIVE YEARS, PRICES, INTEREST RATES”.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER CURRAN SECONDED.**

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED WITH FIVE FOR (CURRAN, SILVA, WALSH, VIZZO-PANNICCIA, AND MCCARTHY) AND ONE AGAINST (MOJICA).**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER SILVA MOVED TO APPROVE 204-05B - APPROVAL OF GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS – TO FUND CERTAIN CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS AS AMENDED.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER MCCARTHY SECONDED.**

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED WITH FOUR IN FAVOR (MOJICA, SILVA, MCCARTHY AND VIZZO-PANICCIA IN FAVOR) AND TWO OPPOSED (CURRAN AND WALSH).**

**295-05 Capital Budget Modification for use of LoCIP funds (Major Projects: Animal Shelter, ECO Center and Black Rock Library)**

Mr. Sherwood reiterated the story about the City using LoCIP funds for the Barnum Museum in lieu of bonding. He recommended that the Committee consider the use of LoCIP funds for the EOC, the Animal Shelter and the Black Rock Library. By using these funds, Mr. Sherwood stated there would be no additional cost to the taxpayer.

Council Member Curran asked if these were guaranteed funds. Mr. Sherwood assured her that they were. Council Member Curran then asked if the funds had been used for the Master Plan. Mr. Sherwood explained that the State had not approved their use for the Master Plan. He then reviewed the proposed projects for the Committee members and gave a brief overview of the costs. The closing on the Animal Shelter had taken place on the 26th.

When asked about the public parks, Mr. Sherwood indicated that Seaside Park was part of the project. He said that the plan was to repair the roads in the Grove area. He also reminded the Committee members that the State owns Beardsley Park. By having the City repair the backstops and making field improvements, Mr. Sherwood said that he hoped the State would repair the road system.

Council Member Mojica stated that the Black Rock Library had been closed for almost three years and that it was time for the library to reopen. He felt it was not right that the children from Black Rock had to go all the way downtown to use the library.

Council Member Mojica also said that he was in favor of completing the golf course project and that there are not many 36 hole courses in the state. He also remarked that the EOC project was a "Must" for the City.

Council Member Pivrotto had some questions about the former site for the Public Works garage, which Mr. Sherwood answered for her.

Council Member dePara asked what projects were on the list of items before these selected ones. Mr. Sherwood replied that these had been selected based on their potential, their need and their possible growth. Council Member dePara asked where the LoCIP money had come from. Mr. Sherwood explained that when the City had de-authorized the plans for the Public Facilities Garage, these funds had become available. LoCIP funds can pay for bricks and mortar but not furnishing and equipment. Additional grants will be used for those items.

Council Member Walsh was greatly disturbed by the fact that one million dollars would be used for improvements on a golf course. Mr. Sherwood explained that not only would the improvements benefit the residents, but that tournaments could be scheduled there at off peak times, which would bring in even more revenue. He also reiterated that this funding was not “found” money, as Council Member Walsh said, but the funds that were allocated for use for the Public Works garage, which had been de-authorized when the Animal Shelter site had been located. Council Member Walsh announced that the money should be returned to the residents. Mr. Sherwood pointed out that the money is from the State for Capital Improvements only.

Council Member dePara stated that he felt the Council should be reviewing the list of LoCIP projects and prioritizing them. A discussion regarding the procedure for doing this and the current structure of choosing projects followed. Council Member Mulligan stated that the Committee needed to be careful not let form overtake function by blocking these worthy projects because the Committee and other Council Members were unhappy with the process for choosing the project for LoCIP funding. Council Member dePara replied that the proposed projects were all good projects, but that it was an insult to the Council not to have input on which projects were being selected. Council Member dePara then suggested a system be instituted like the CDBG grants. Council Member Walsh reiterated his earlier objections. Council Member Mojica then commented that he could imagine the difficulty of sorting through 40 different proposed projects since the Committee was having difficulty with the currently proposed projects.

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER MCCARTHY MOVED TO APPROVE 295-05 CAPITAL BUDGET MODIFICATION FOR USE OF LOCIP FUNDS (MAJOR PROJECTS: ANIMAL SHELTER, ECO CENTER AND BLACK ROCK LIBRARY).**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER MOJICA SECONDED.**

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED WITH FIVE FOR (CURRAN, MOJICA, SILVA, MCCARTHY AND VIZZO-PANICCIA) AND ONE AGAINST (WALSH).**

### **ADJOURNMENT**

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

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

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon L. Soltes  
Telesco Secretarial Services

City of Bridgeport  
Budget and Appropriation Committee  
October 30, 2006  
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