

MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING HELD AUGUST 29, 1972  
12th BOARD OF REPRESENTATIVES  
STAMFORD, CONNECTICUT

A Special Meeting of the Board of Representatives of the City of Stamford was held on Tuesday, August 29, 1972 pursuant to a "Call" from the President, George V. Connors, in the Meeting Room of the Board, 2nd floor, Municipal Office Building, 429 Atlantic Street, Stamford, Connecticut.

The meeting was called to order by the President at 8.20 P.M. after a Democratic Caucus.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO FLAG: The President led the members in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

ROLL CALL was taken by the Clerk. There were 30 present and 10 absent at the calling of the roll. However, one Member arrived shortly after the meeting had started, resulting in a final roll call of 31 present and 9 absent.

The absent Members were:

Frederick Lenz (D) 1st District  
Handy Dixon (D) 2nd District  
Matthew Rose (D) 3rd District  
Philip Gambino (D) 6th District  
Armen Guroian (D) 7th District  
Theodore Boccuzzi (D) 9th District  
John Colasso (D) 14th District  
William Caporizzo (R) 15th District  
Daniel Russbach (I) 17th District

There were 15 Democrats present and 16 Republicans.

PAGE: Robert Gaffney

The President announced the Page for this evening would be ROBERT GAFFNEY.

Concerning Absentee Member:

MR. MORRIS said he had been contacted by Mr. Russbach, who requested that he be recorded as being present.

MR. TRUGLIA objected, saying that he does not see how we could "bend" any rule to fit this particular occasion and that he could not be included as being present unless he is bodily present.

MR. HEINZER MOVED that Mr. Russbach, for the purpose of attendance only, and for the record of attendance only, be counted present.

MR. JOHN BOCCUZZI said he recalls a few months back when a Republican member of this Board was in the hospital and did not request being recorded as present at Board Meetings. He said he thinks it is unfortunate that Mr. Russbach is in the hospital but does not think anyone should be counted as being present when they are not here.

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MR. RUSSELL said he has an unfortunate problem when he has to be in the hospital once a year and although he tries not to miss any meetings, this is one time when he has to be absent and has never been counted as being in attendance.

MR. HEINZER withdrew his motion.

MRS. PONT BRIANT MOVED that Mr. Heinzer's motion be reinstated for Special Meetings only, for the reason that a Member can have no knowledge of a special meeting being called with very short notice. Seconded by Mr. Ravallese.

MR. LIVINGSTON MOVED THE QUESTION.

MR. ROOS said he thinks this has a legal aspect and when you count anyone as being present, it means that they are bodily here.

MR. RUSSELL said another occasion might be when you lack a quorum - the Charter states that a quorum is 21 and suppose only 20 are there and you try to declare a quorum by counting someone present who is not bodily present. He said when he was out of the country in July, he doubts that he was marked present.

MRS. PONT BRIANT said she will withdraw the motion.

"CALL" OF MEETING:

THE PRESIDENT read the following "Call" of the Meeting:

August 25, 1972

TO: All Members of 12th Board of Representatives

FROM: George V. Connors, President

SUBJECT: "CALL" of Special Meeting to consider setting up new District lines under recent Court mandate concerning boundaries for State Legislative Districts

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I, GEORGE V. CONNORS, President of the 12th Board of Representatives of the City of Stamford, pursuant to Section 202 of the Stamford Charter, hereby call a SPECIAL MEETING of said Board of Representatives, for

TUESDAY, AUGUST 29, 1972

At the Municipal Office Building, second floor,  
 429 Atlantic Street, Stamford, Connecticut

at 8.00 P.M.

for the following purpose:

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To consider and act upon an Ordinance setting up District lines for boundaries for State Legislative Districts under recent Court ruling.

George V. Connors, President  
12th Board of Representatives

GVC:vf

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THE PRESIDENT said the Majority Leader and the Minority Leader have requested that the two Registrars of Voters sit up in front in case the Members have any questions.

MR. BOCCUZZI asked if we have any alternative to this plan -- in other words, do we have to accept it?

THE PRESIDENT said in conversations he has had with Hartford, we have to proceed with it even if it's wrong. He said as Acting Mayor, he held a meeting in the Mayor's office with the Registrars of Voters present, along with others, and the consensus of opinion was that we should go ahead, even though they might appeal the ruling up to the Supreme Court. However, he said, at the present time we have to proceed.

MR. BOCCUZZI said if that's the case, he MOVES that we accept the lines. Seconded.

MR. HEINZER spoke but he could not be heard, as he did not have his "mike" on.

MR. FOX said he does not like the wording of the proposed resolution where it says "under the Saden Plan only, from November 1972 and thereafter ....." He said the Saden Plan speaks for itself and it should not be exclusive in that regard. He said he thinks the resolution should be limited only to the elections on November 7th and the primaries immediately prior thereto and should be of no force and effect AFTER November 7th.

THE PRESIDENT said the reason Hartford ruled this way is because we cannot "hamstring" the Registrars due to the primaries - in other words, we had to come up with something, whether or not it turns out to be wrong, but we couldn't put the Registrars into a bind.

Several people asked questions of the Registrars, with the Board's permission.

THE REGISTRARS explained that the old polling areas have been eliminated, and the new Saden Plan only eliminated the old voting districts - the new voting districts which we use for Municipal elections only, have not been touched, but the old voting districts are now replaced by the Saden Plan.

MRS. SHERMAN asked who drew up the resolution which has been given to all Board members.

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THE PRESIDENT said it came out of the Corporation Counsel's office.

MRS. SHERMAN questioned the wisdom of changing the resolution and said by changing the one that was given to us by the office of the Corporation Counsel, we might be making it illegal.

THE REGISTRARS informed the Speaker that the memorandum they received from Judge Sidor specifies that these District lines be used ONLY for the November 7, 1972 election and says nothing about thereafter.

MR. HEINZER questioned the fact that if there is a Primary in October, that is in error if it is for one of these seats, so likewise it is also in error when it states "from November 1972 and thereafter". HE MOVED to amend the resolution to say "only under the Saden Plan, for so long as it shall be in effect." Seconded.

MRS. PERKINS asked a question as to what happens to an election on the Board of Education.

MRS. TATANO said what Mrs. Perkins is asking is --- ---the Board of Education in the City of Stamford, by a Special Act, with the State ticket every two years, as they will be doing this year. She said what she is asking is will the Board of Education come under this plan, the same as the Members of the Senate and House, Registrars or J.P's. She said she would say "yes" to this question.

MR. MORRIS asked if the Board can proceed with discussion as to the resolution.

MR. SHERMAN MOVED the question on the Resolution as amended. Seconded and CARRIED by a vote of 22 yes and 9 no. The Resolution follows:

RESOLUTION NO. 839

APPROVING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF VOTING POLLING PLACE  
DISTRICTS TO BE USED FOR THE SADEN PLAN ONLY

BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Representatives of the City of Stamford that, in accordance with the ruling of Judge Sidor of the Superior Court of the State of Connecticut, that the establishment of voting polling place districts in the City of Stamford to be used for all State and National elections and for all primaries for the State of Connecticut only under the Saden Plan, for so long as it shall be in effect.

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VOTE taken on Mr. Heinzer's amendment. CARRIED by a machine vote of 25 in favor and 5 opposed.

MR. MORRIS MOVED we vote on Resolution No. 839 as amended. Seconded.

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MR. MILLER said he would like to speak on this. He said he realizes that we are only meeting because of a Court directive by setting up Districts for the purpose of voting ONLY and also realizes that our Registrars have done their best in trying to comply with the Court's order under very difficult circumstances. However, he said he wishes to voice his strong objection to the Saden reapportionment plan which is obviously the result of gerrymandering at its worst.

MR. HEINZER rose to a POINT OF ORDER and said the Speaker's remarks are not within the call of the meeting.

MR. MORRIS said he objects to the Speaker's remarks - that we are here to vote on the polling places and not to criticize or approve the Judge's decision.

MR. MILLER asked if he could continue. THE PRESIDENT said "no".

MR. FOX said he disagrees - that we are here to set up polling places on the basis of a plan which is almost unconscionably draw.

MR. MORRIS said then we will have to confine our remarks to the polling places and not to the Districts, as they are drawn by this Judge.

MR. HEINZER MOVED THE QUESTION on the resolution. Seconded and CARRIED by a vote of 16 in favor and 15 opposed,

VOTE taken on the resolution. CARRIED by a vote of 25 in favor and 6 opposed.

ADJOURNMENT:

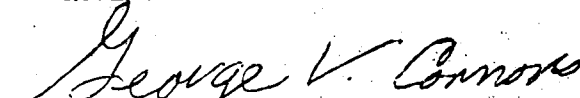
There being no further business to come before the Board, ON MOTION, duly seconded and CARRIED, the Meeting was adjourned at 9 P.M.



Velma Farrell  
Administrative Assistant  
(Recording Secretary)

VF

APPROVED:



George V. Connors, President  
12th Board of Representatives