

# 29<sup>TH</sup> BOARD OF REPRESENTATIVES CITY OF STAMFORD

President  
**RANDALL M. SKIGEN**  
Clerk of the Board  
**ANNIE M. SUMMERVILLE**

Majority Leader  
**ELAINE MITCHELL**  
Minority Leader  
**MARY LISA FEDELI**

## MINUTES

President Skigen called the meeting to order at 7:45 p.m.

President Skigen read the call of the meeting: "I, Randall M. Skigen, President of the 29<sup>th</sup> Board of Representatives of the City of Stamford, Connecticut, and pursuant to Section C2-10-4 of the Stamford Charter, hereby call a Special Meeting of said Board of Representatives at the following time and place:

Wednesday, June 25, 2014

7:30 p.m.

Legislative Chambers, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Government Center  
888 Washington Boulevard  
Stamford, CT 06904-2152

to consider and act upon the following:

1. [LR29.020](#) [RESOLUTION](#) and PUBLIC HEARING; approving the Purchase of 200 Strawberry Hill Avenue.  
05/30/14 – Submitted by Mayor Martin  
06/10/14 – Approved by Planning Board  
06/12/14 – Approved by Board of Finance  
**06/17/14 – Approved by the Committee 7-0-0**

*Secondary Committee: Committee of the Whole*

2. [F29.114](#) **\$10,000,000.00** ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION (Capital Budget); 200 Strawberry Hill Acquisition; acquisition and related costs associated with the purchase of "200 Strawberry Hill Avenue" for an amount up to \$10,000,000.  
06/04/14 – Submitted by Mayor Martin  
06/10/14 – Approved by Planning Board  
06/12/14 – Approved by Board of Finance  
**06/17/14 – Approved by the Committee 10-0-1**

*Secondary Committee: Committee of the Whole*

3. [F29.115](#) [RESOLUTION](#); Amending the Capital Budget for FY \$10,000,000.00 2014-15 by adding an appropriation of up to \$10,000,000 for the Acquisition of 200 Strawberry Hill, Stamford, CT and authorizing General Obligation Bonds of the City up to \$10,000,000 to meet Said Appropriation.  
06/04/14 – Submitted by Mayor Martin  
06/12/14 – Approved by Board of Finance  
**06/17/14 – Approved by the Committee 10-0-1**

*Secondary Committee: Committee of the Whole*

4. [F29.159](#) ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION (Capital); Engineering; Construction Renovation of 200 Strawberry Hill; Planning, design, engineering, acquisition, furnishing and equipping of public school at 200 Strawberry Hill Avenue.  
06/10/14 – Approved by Planning Board  
06/11/14 – Submitted by Mayor Martin  
**06/17/14 – Approved by Committee 9-0-2**  
06/24/14 – Approved by Board of Finance

*Secondary Committee: Committee of the Whole*

5. [F29.160](#) [RESOLUTION](#); Amending the Capital Budget for Fiscal Year 2014-2015 by adding an Appropriation of \$55,000,000 for the Construction of an Elementary School at 200 Strawberry Hill Avenue, Stamford, Connecticut and Authorizing up to \$55,000,000.00 General Obligation Bonds depending upon federal and state grants-in-aid.  
06/11/14 – Submitted by Mayor Martin  
**06/17/14 – Approved by Committee 10-0-1**  
06/24/14 – Approved by Board of Finance

*Secondary Committee: Committee of the Whole”*

**INVOCATION:** Led by Rep. Mitchell.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG:** Led by President Randall M. Skigen.

**ROLL CALL:** Conducted by Acting Clerk of the Board Di Costanzo. There were 28 members present and 10 members absent/excused: Reps. Caterbone, Coleman, DeLuca, Doyle, Figueroa, Franzetti, Mahoney, McGarry, Quinones and Summerville. Rep. Pratt arrived at 8:00 p.m. There are 2 vacancies on the Board. [See Vote Record 1563.](#)

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

1. Representatives Velishka and Uva have resigned from the Board.

2. Representative Coleman will be coming off of the Transportation Committee and moving on to the Legislative & Rules Committee
3. Representative Pratt will serve on the Transportation, Parks & Recreation and State & Commerce Committees
4. Representative Fedeli will serve as the Board Representative to the Smith House Board of Directors

## **COMMITTEE PRESENTATIONS:**

### **LEGISLATIVE & RULES**

#### **COMMITTEE:**

[Attendance & Votes](#)  
Report & Video ([Pt. 1](#) & [Pt. 2](#))

**Eileen Heaphy, Chair**

Meeting: Tuesday, June 17, 2014  
7:30 p.m. – Legislative Chambers

Chair Heaphy reported that the Legislative & Rules Committee met as indicated above. In attendance were President Skigen, Chair Fountain, Chair Heaphy and Reps. Adams, Buckman, Cerasoli, Coleman, Coppola, Day, DeLuca, DePina, Di Costanzo, Fedeli, Figueroa, Franzetti, Giordano, Giraldo, Kolenberg, Kooris, Mahoney, McMullen, McNeil, Merritt, Mitchell, Moore, Nabel, Okun, Pratt, Reeder, Ryan, Savage, Silver, Summerville, Wallace and Zelinsky. Absent or excused were Reps. Caterbone, Doyle, McGarry, Quinones and Uva. Also present were Mayor Martin; Michael Handler, Director of Administration; Chris Dellaselva, Law Department; Michael Pollard, Chief of Staff; Cindy Grafstein, Special Assistant to the Mayor; Karen Cammarota, Grants Officer; Rick Redniss, Redniss & Meade; and several members of the public.

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| <p><sup>1</sup>1. <a href="#">LR29.020</a> RESOLUTION and PUBLIC HEARING; approving the Purchase of 200 Strawberry Hill Avenue.<br/>05/30/14 – Submitted by Mayor Martin<br/>06/10/14 – Approved by Planning Board<br/>06/12/14 – Approved by Board of Finance<br/><b>06/17/14 – Approved by the Committee 7-0-0</b></p> | <p><b>APPROVED BY<br/>UNANIMOUS<br/>VOICE VOTE</b></p> |
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*Secondary Committee: Committee of the Whole*

A motion to approve the above resolution was made and seconded. President Skigen reported that the Committee of the Whole concurred in the recommendation of the Legislative & Rules Committee to approve the resolution. The resolution was approved by unanimous voice vote.

#### **FISCAL COMMITTEE:**

[Attendance & Votes](#)  
Report & Video ([Pt. 1](#) & [Pt. 2](#))

**Jay Fountain, Chair**

**Frank Cerasoli, Vice Chair**

Meeting: Tuesday, June 17, 2014  
7:30 p.m. – Legislative Chambers

- and -

[Attendance](#)  
Report & Video

Meeting: Wednesday, June 25, 2014  
6:30 p.m. – Democratic Caucus Room

<sup>1</sup> Video Time Stamp 00:07:55

Chair Fountain reported that the Fiscal Committee met on June 17<sup>th</sup> as indicated above. In attendance were President Skigen, Chair Fountain, Chair Heaphy and Reps. Adams, Buckman, Cerasoli, Coleman, Coppola, Day, DeLuca, DePina, Di Costanzo, Fedeli, Figueroa, Franzetti, Giordano, Giraldo, Kolenberg, Kooris, Mahoney, McMullen, McNeil, Merritt, Mitchell, Moore, Nabel, Okun, Pratt, Reeder, Ryan, Savage, Silver, Summerville, Wallace and Zelinsky. Absent or excused were Reps. Caterbone, Doyle, McGarry, Quinones and Uva. Also present were Mayor Martin; Michael Handler, Director of Administration; Chris Dellaselva, Law Department; Michael Pollard, Chief of Staff; Cindy Grafstein, Special Assistant to the Mayor; Karen Cammarota, Grants Officer; Rick Redniss, Redniss & Meade; and several members of the public.

- <sup>2</sup>2. [F29.114](#)      ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION (Capital Budget);      **APPROVED BY**  
\$10,000,000.00      200 Strawberry Hill Acquisition; acquisition and      **UNANIMOUS**  
   related costs associated with the purchase of "200      **VOICE VOTE**  
   Strawberry Hill Avenue" for an amount up to  
   \$10,000,000.  
   06/04/14 – Submitted by Mayor Martin  
   06/10/14 – Approved by Planning Board  
   06/12/14 – Approved by Board of Finance  
   **06/17/14 – Approved by the Committee 10-0-1**

*Secondary Committee: Committee of the Whole*

A motion to approve Item No. 2 was made and seconded. President Skigen reported that the Committee of the Whole concurred in the recommendation of the Fiscal Committee to approve the additional appropriation. The item was approved by unanimous voice vote.

- <sup>3</sup>3. [F29.115](#)      RESOLUTION; Amending the Capital Budget for FY      **APPROVED BY**  
\$10,000,000.00      2014-15 by adding an appropriation of up to      **UNANIMOUS**  
   \$10,000,000 for the Acquisition of 200 Strawberry      **VOICE VOTE**  
   Hill, Stamford, CT and authorizing General  
   Obligation Bonds of the City up to \$10,000,000 to  
   meet Said Appropriation.  
   06/04/14 – Submitted by Mayor Martin  
   06/12/14 – Approved by Board of Finance  
   **06/17/14 – Approved by the Committee 10-0-1**

*Secondary Committee: Committee of the Whole*

A motion to approve the above resolution was made and seconded. President Skigen reported that the Committee of the Whole concurred in the recommendation of the Fiscal Committee to approve the resolution. The resolution was approved by unanimous voice vote.

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<sup>2</sup> Video Time Stamp 00:09:10

<sup>3</sup> Video Time Stamp 00:10:12

<sup>4</sup>4. [F29.159](#)  
\$55,000,000.00

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION (Capital);  
Engineering; Construction Renovation of 200  
Strawberry Hill; Planning, design, engineering,  
acquisition, furnishing and equipping of public  
school at 200 Strawberry Hill Avenue.  
06/10/14 – Approved by Planning Board  
06/11/14 – Submitted by Mayor Martin  
**06/17/14 – Approved by Committee 9-0-2**  
06/24/14 – Approved by Board of Finance

**APPROVED BY  
MACHINE VOTE  
25-3-0**

*Secondary Committee: Committee of the Whole*

A motion to approve Item No. 4 was made and seconded. President Skigen reported that the Committee of the Whole concurred in the recommendation of the Fiscal Committee to approve the resolution.

Rep. McMullen expressed concern about starting down the path to committing the City to spending \$55,000,000 based on the information we currently have.

Rep. Fedeli stated that she will be voting in favor and asked fellow representatives to vote in favor of this not just because of Springdale School, but because several schools are severely overcrowded and the children are suffering. As a representative who was involved in the Rogers School approval, there will be many meetings on the approval process for a new school. Postponing it for one year will have an adverse effect on the students in the schools.

Rep. Cerasoli, stated that while he believes that the school overcrowding needs to be addressed, \$55,000,000 is too large a figure to approve without certainty as to what the City cost is going to be. This amount would be competing with other capital needs of the City.

Rep. Day said he does not believe they should put a stop sign at the beginning of the road. This needs to be a collaborative effort between the Boards and the Mayor's office to explore all options available. The process can be stopped later.

Rep. Reeder stated that she concurs with Rep. Cerasoli that there are financial concerns with this. She feels that they need to do and see more analysis. They need to explore what the real options and solutions are. She is concerned about building what could be the largest school in Stamford in this district and in this congested area.

Rep. Zelinsky said that this property is in his district and a recent article in the Advocate said that many of the neighbors of the property were in support of this saying that Sacred Heart has always been a school and should be kept as such. He is concerned about traffic, but the Board of Representatives will be monitoring this and urges other representatives to support it.

Rep. Fountain stated that needs for school space are very prevalent; delaying for a year puts a risk on students. All the Board is doing is appropriating money and a resolution to apply for a grant, and will be approving many things over the next months. If the Board delays a year, it is almost a total stop sign and will delay a year and possibly two.

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<sup>4</sup> Video Time Stamp 00:10:45

Rep. Savage spoke “on behalf of the students.” This is 2014. She is said to hear that the same phenomena of students in broom closets is happening again today. Stamford children need a quality facility that will support their needs.

Rep. Coppola stated that he is conflicted. He can't vote against this because of the importance to the children of Stamford but he knows from experience that it will not be easy to stop a project once there is state funding. He will support this.

Rep. Silver said he will be supporting the resolution. He believes the Board will have opportunity to be sure that the City dollars are spent wisely. He recalls that there were similar concerns over the purchase of the Government Center. Have foresight for 20 to 30 years in the future.

Rep. Nabel pointed out that the City of Stamford has a track record of success in building inter-district programs. Both AITE and Rogers have waiting lists. The Board of Representatives worked in partnership with the Board of Education and the Board of Finance on these schools.

Rep. McMullen stated that our current schools are overcrowded as a result of a failure to plan. The Board is being asked to finance this without a plan.

Rep. Di Costanzo stated that she is excited about this vote and this topic. It is important to take a stance in the City. This is not a blank check; this is an opportunity to have the best options possible moving forward. If we limit the options, we may end up paying more because we may have to make different choices, which may cost more, particularly for the students. She would like to see a unanimous vote on this.

The item was approved by a machine vote of 25-3-0 (Reps. Adams, Buckman, Coppola, Day, DePina, Di Costanzo, Fedeli, Fountain, Giordano, Giraldo, Heaphy, Kolenberg, Kooris, McNeil, Mitchell, Moore, Nabel, Okun, Pratt, Ryan, Savage, Silver, Skigen, Wallace and Zelinsky in favor; Reps. Cerasoli, McMullen and Reeder opposed.) [See Vote Record 1564.](#)

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| <p><sup>5</sup>5. <a href="#">F29.160</a><br/>\$55,000,000.00</p> | <p>RESOLUTION; Amending the Capital Budget for Fiscal Year 2014-2015 by adding an Appropriation of \$55,000,000 for the Construction of an Elementary School at 200 Strawberry Hill Avenue, Stamford, Connecticut and Authorizing up to \$55,000,000.00 General Obligation Bonds depending upon federal and state grants-in-aid.<br/>06/11/14 – Submitted by Mayor Martin<br/><b>06/17/14 – Approved by Committee 10-0-1</b><br/>06/24/14 – Approved by Board of Finance</p> | <p><b>APPROVED BY<br/>MACHINE VOTE<br/>25-3-0</b></p> |
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*Secondary Committee: Committee of the Whole”*

A motion to approve the above resolution was made and seconded. President Skigen reported that the Committee of the Whole concurred in the recommendation of the Fiscal Committee to approve the resolution. The resolution was approved by a machine vote of 25-3-0 (Reps. Adams, Buckman, Coppola, Day, DePina, Di Costanzo, Fedeli, Fountain, Giordano, Giraldo, Heaphy, Kolenberg, Kooris, McNeil, Mitchell, Moore, Nabel, Okun, Pratt, Ryan, Savage, Silver,

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<sup>5</sup> Video Time Stamp 00:28:50

Skigen, Wallace and Zelinsky in favor; Reps. Cerasoli, McMullen and Reeder opposed.) [See Vote Record 1565.](#)

A [letter](#) dated June 23, 2014, from Mayor Martin to Mr. John Louizos, Chairman, Board of Finance; Randall M. Skigen, Esq., President, Board of Representatives; and Ms. Theresa Dell, Chair, Planning Board regarding "Concerns Regarding Bond Issuance for Use of 200 Strawberry Hill Avenue" was attached to the record of this meeting.

ADJOURNMENT: President Skigen adjourned the meeting at 8:15 p.m.

*This meeting is on [video](#).*