

In considering the Budget, only those items passed by the Board of Representatives, which involved discussion and/or change, are recorded here. All other items of the Budget were approved, as approved by the Board of Finance.

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JUNE 20, 1949.

The Special Meeting of the Board of Representatives of Stamford, for the purpose of considering the complete Budget, was held at Burdick Junior High School, Stamford, Monday, June 20th, 1949, and was called to order at 8:18 P.M. by Samuel F. Pierson, President.

Upon Roll Call, all members were present except Patrick Scarella, Edward Ballo, Vito Longo, Sherman R. Hoyt, and Robert Shepherd, the latter being reported on vacation.

James N. Mulreed, 4th District, remarked, in part, that he had studied the Mayor's Budget and that this meeting was to consider the recommendations of the Board of Finance, which he had not been able to look over as yet. He thereupon moved that the order of business be as follows:

1. That the recommendations of the Board of Finance be submitted to each one of the Representatives present for their consideration.
2. That our Fiscal Committee make whatever recommendations they are prepared to make.
3. That since the Stamford Advocate published the Budget and stated that this would be a public meeting, an opportunity be given to the people present to be heard, if they so wish.
4. That we recess until a later date, to be determined by this body tonight, after the other order of business.

This motion was seconded by Clifford Waterbury, 4th District, and carried.

The Chairman then read the figures as approved by the Board of Finance and the Representatives marked the same into their individual sets.

During this process, James N. Mulreed, 4th District, inquired if there has been a communication from the Board of Finance, in writing, as to their recommendations. The Chairman stated that he had copied his figures from Louise T. Seeley's copy.

Louise T. Seeley, Chairman of the Fiscal Committee, further explained that the Board of Finance finished their work around 1:00 A.M. Sunday, and that she had picked up the Budget about 10:30 Sunday morning. The figures were penciled in, and had not yet been totaled by the Board of Finance. "We have not yet received a written report and I think they are not yet in a position to give us one. However, these figures have been checked twice against the Board of Finance figures."

Michael Wofsey, 1st District, stated that we are dealing with the Budget and we should have a more business-like method. "The Board of Finance should have placed their recommendations in writing and sent them to our Clerk," to which the Chair remarked that we have to abide by a time limit. Acting upon Mr. Wofsey's suggestion, the Clerk contacted the Comptroller and the official set was delivered to the meeting a short while later.

After the reading of the figures was completed, the Chairman of the Fiscal Committee stated that the only totals they have in the Budget are the ones they have run off themselves, but that they are sufficient for them to draw conclusions and make recommendations. She said further that the Comptroller telephoned her about five o'clock in the afternoon saying that his office had not been able to complete the totals and that he was checking totals at the time and was not sure they were accurate.

The Chair asked if the Board wished to hear the totals as run off by the Fiscal Committee, and the decision was in the negative.

Michael Wofsey, 1st District, made a motion that "We request of the Board of Finance an official communication and certification that this is the official Budget approved by them", which motion was seconded by Louise T. Seeley, 1st District, and carried.

Louise T. Seeley, Chairman, presented the report of the Fiscal Committee, which report is annexed hereto and made a part hereof.

During the course of the Fiscal Committee Chairman's report, the following remarks, questions, etc., were introduced:

In connection with Recommendation #2, Stephen Kelly, 12th District, discussed the Parking Meter Inspector situation as to whether the two inspectors are regular policemen, included in the regular police budget. The Chair stated that he would check into this matter.

Concerning the matter of the telephone requests for \$13,929.00, Daniel Miller, 16th District, stated that he had spoken to Walter Schubert of the Telephone Company about having a Switch Board installed and expected a report on the matter. At a later point in the meeting, Mr. Miller also made remarks about the Toms Road Improvement situation, calling attention to the danger involved for children walking up and down Toms Road to the new school, and questioned the advisability of taking the item out of the Budget.

Following the report, William Adriance, 18th District, inquired about the consideration of the item for the Board of Selectmen's salary, quoting from Section 402.1 of the Stamford Charter. The Corporation Counsel being present, his opinion was asked, and he stated:

"I believe that when they refer to the Board of Selectmen they are not necessarily considering them as a Board, but rather just Selectmen. I do not believe they intended that the Board of Selectmen would be considered in the nature of a Board. It is, rather, a name, I believe."

When asked if the Fiscal Committee was submitting its report as a recommendation to the Board, John L. Cameron, a member of the committee, stated that "we raised a question on some of these items in the form of something to be taken up by this Board and not necessarily as a Committee Report."

Louise T. Seeley, Chairman of the Fiscal Committee, stated that the Committee took no vote on these recommendations, and later suggested that a recess be declared for her Committee to meet and agree on a report if it is so desired. Mr. Cameron again explained the situation by saying "In making this report the Committee did it from the point of view that you would be interested in the items that any member of the Committee thought should be discussed. Since there were only ten recommendations it seemed it was better to present them to you as we thought, perhaps, it would point your attention to the ten things which were open to question and that the rest of the material was not open to question."

During the discussion, James N. Mulreed, 4th District, said that it was his understanding that the recommendations are not the recommendations of the Fiscal Committee, but rather the recommendations of the members of that committee. He said he felt that the Committee should, as a Committee, make recommendations to this Board, and explained that he says that because they have devoted some time to this report and the Representatives have not.

Michael Wofsey, 1st District, inquired of the Chairman if, in the course of their consideration, they had questioned whether we had any right to make certain appropriations and referred to page 15, the salary for the Deputy Tax Collector. Louise T. Seeley suggested that such matters be referred to the Corporation Counsel.

Helen Bromley, 20th District, referred to the Tree Warden item on Page 72,

Mosquito Control, and called the attention of the Board to the fact that it was raised from \$68.20 in 1947-48 to an appropriation of \$6,500.00 in 1948-49. She further remarked that the General Tree Work item was cut to \$15,000.00. She commented that she wanted \$3,000. of the Mosquito Control item for the Auxiliary Power Plant item of \$2,800.00 on page 77, for emergency lighting at Sunset Home, as they have only three months to meet the requirements of the State Fire Marshall in this respect.

Michael Wofsey, 1st District, asked what he termed a "basic question", "Are we to assume that the Committee has approved all of the actions of the Board of Finance on the theory that we have to approve, reject or reduce?"

Louise Seeley stated that the committee felt that they had no discretion in the matter and "as far as the rest was concerned, it was entirely out of the province of our committee."

Michael Wofsey, 1st District, asked permission of the Chair, which was granted, to question the Corporation Counsel, as follows:

"Have we the right to return to the Board of Finance our recommendations concerning specific portions of the Budget?"

The Corporation Counsel said his answer would be "Yes". "I do not believe that the Board of Finance would be in any way obligated. The Charter reads that the Board of Representatives may approve, reject or reduce any item approved by the Board of Finance \*\*\*\*. I do not see anything that would prohibit the Board of Representatives from making recommendations to the Board of Finance for further consideration of the Board of Finance. There could be nothing, however, controlling by any action of the Board of Representatives."

Babette S. Ransohoff, 15th District, inquired if there is any reason why the Board of Representatives cannot have the Welfare Department salary breakdown. Helen S. Bromley, Chairman of the Public Welfare and Recreation Committee, stated that she had been out of Stamford all the previous week, but now that she had returned the figures were available.

At this point the Chairman again outlined the procedure for this meeting and invited the public present to be heard.

Jack English referred to the Welfare Department and inquired if the Department at present does not have too much expenditure for bookkeeping already with 22 members on the staff of the Department, of whom only 10 are case workers. In answer to this Helen Bromley, Chairman of the Public Welfare and Recreation Committee, explained that the bookkeeping machines cannot be purchased outright, but must be rented.

A Mr. Oeffinger referred to the Fire Department Budget and inquired why there was a cut in the appropriation for the Assistant Superintendent of Fire Alarm from the requested \$3,567.30 to \$3,303.52. He stated that this job calls for \$3,567.30 and that the reason why the \$3,303.52 figure appears in the Appropriation for 1948-49 column is that the person holding the job now drew a salary for four months as a plain fireman and the rest of the time at the rate of \$3,567.30. The Chair stated that he would call this matter to the attention of the Board of Finance. Mr. Oeffinger also questioned the item for Mechanical Supervisor, which was a request for \$4,015.00, with \$3,847.70 approved by the Board of Finance.

John Cameron, 20th District, remarked that in his opinion the column for the 1948-49 appropriation has been in some cases open to question.

Dr. Paul Brown, Health Officer, remarked that no appropriation had been made to cover any person to take care of the extension of service, saying that "we cannot take on fifteen or twenty thousand more people."

Joseph Chanko, President of the Stamford Good Government Association, stated, in part, that this Board should ask the Board of Finance to rearrange all

of this Budget and resubmit to this Board a consolidated Budget, and not wait to the end of the year. "You should get a Budget which you can understand, I would suggest that you ask for a clarification of the entire Public Works Budget, subdivided into the various departments." He also referred to the \$65,000.00 request for reassessment, and said that this should be done as a matter of justice and that the item should be reconsidered, as well as any number of other items.

Frank Daley criticised the request of \$65,000.00 for reappraisal; stated that he would guess that Stamford has paid close to \$50,000.00 rental for the bookkeeping machine in the Welfare Department; and that he would rather see the \$5,000.00 a year rental go to the people who need help.

Mr. Matthew Nau, in connection with the Sunset Home, stated that he believed that the Board of Finance misinterpreted the requests in the Capital Expenditures and stressed the importance of the approval of the item for Auxiliary Power Plant for Emergency Lighting in the amount of \$2,800.00, saying that the State Fire Marshall has given them ninety days to install this system, and is insisting upon it.

Upon motion made by James N. Mulreed, 4th District, seconded by Daniel Miller, 16th District, the meeting was recessed at 12:02 A.M., June 21st, 1949; until that night at 8:00 o'clock at the same place.

Respectfully submitted,

Babette S. Ransohoff  
Clerk.

Following the business of the Special Meeting held June 20th, 1949, the Chair asked permission of the Board to read a letter from the Lions Club, being Petition #27, for a permit to sponsor the Hunt Brothers Circus at Tiger Field, in Woodside Park, on July 1st and 2nd, with an option for July 4th. The Chair explained that the President of the Lions Club was under the impression that the letter had been sent to this Board previously, and said he felt that the matter could be acted upon under Suspension of Rules unless someone objected.

Michael Lauren, 3rd District, moved the suspension of the rules; seconded by Joseph Zdanowicz, 13th District, and carried.

Michael Wofsey, 1st District, moved that permission be granted to the Lions Club to have the circus, seconded by James W. Harrington, 9th District, and carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Babette S. Ransohoff  
Clerk.

REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF  
THE FISCAL COMMITTEE

June 20th, 1949

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The Fiscal Committee could find only ten additional recommendations for reductions which we could submit, and we are perfectly willing to reconsider any of them:

1. Page 2, request for \$2,465.52, for File Clerk in Mayor's Office. We felt much of this information should be in the Department of Finance, and the Mayor's files should be confined to his personal correspondence. Much of this business should be referred to purchasing, personnel, planning, etc.
2. Page 2, reduce to one Parking Meter Inspector. Recommend reduction from \$6,900.00 to \$3,450.00.
3. In re Probate Court, page 11. \$50.00 for inspection of typewriters and

\$50.00 for repairs to typewriters, should come out of Probate Court income. Another item for cleaning of the rooms for \$530.00. No reason is given why these rooms should not be cleaned by the regular Town Hall staff, which payroll is over \$24,000.00. We recommend that \$630.00 be taken from this budget on page 11.

4. Page 28. Recommend change from \$15,000.00 to \$10,000.00, Reserve Fund - fund to care for Certificates of Errors, Abatements, Uncollectible Taxes and Refunds of Taxes paid in error. The City has made no such appropriation and the Town requested \$10,000.00 for 1948-49.

5. Page 30A. Reduce from \$9,000.00 to \$5,000.00 for bonds not yet issued. At the present interest rate we have been paying on our bonds we found that \$5,000.00 would cover all that was approved in the Capital Budget for the year.

6. Page 45, Dog Warden item - take out \$200.00 (Refer to page 51 for further appropriation for Dog Warden Department).

7. Page 54. Telephone item and cleaning offices for the former Town Planning Department. Telephone \$116.00 and Cleaning Offices \$450.00. Take out \$566.00 as this department becomes part of single engineering office.

8. Page 73. Re Parking Meters. Contract reads that they are to be paid off with half of the monthly collections. (The first six months after the installation of the parking meters all receipts are impounded and at the end of the six months one-half is given in part payment of the meters and half of all receipts monthly are paid for meters until they have been paid for.) We recommend that \$7,250.93 be taken out of the Capital Budget.

9. Page 79. Board of Finance reduced Toms Road Improvement. I checked with the Planning Board and found that this improvement had not been presented for their approval according to Section 523. I therefore recommend that the \$90,000.00 be removed from the Budget.

10. Re School Budget. Reduction in fuel for schools -- Item "02" on Page 9. The fuel item has been increased \$14,000.00 over last year. It was a great temptation to leave this entire budget intact, so well had it been prepared. We went into this \$14,000.00 increase and found that it was to cover the new Junior High School, and an increase in the price of fuel. The new school will need 60,000 gallons of oil, costing \$3,150.00. In addition the Budget allows for an expected increase in the price of oil and coal, this Winter, which seems now unlikely. If we take the \$10,000. out, and the price of fuel does go up, we shall have to give it back to them. This possibility seems quite unlikely to the Fiscal Committee at present.

These total recommended reductions amount to \$123,562.45.

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There was another item in the Budget which we could not total from the data given. This is the difference in laborers' wages in the former City and Town governments, from which this Budget was prepared. The City pays \$8.05 per day for labor. 108 men for 313 days in the year -- 52 weeks of six day weeks. The Town has 48 men who are paid \$1.16 per hour up to \$1.60 per hour. At any rate, they receive more than \$8.05 per day. I think this should be called to the attention of the Department of Service, and that we should have the same hourly or daily rate in the Department of Service in Stamford.

We couldn't recommend specific deductions in the Welfare Department as we did not have a breakdown of salaries. The Charter calls for all accounting and disbursing to be done by the Department of Finance. It was recommended that the people who administer Welfare Funds should not do their own accounting and disbursing. There is considerable personnel, as well as expensive machinery provided for this function in the Welfare Department. We recommend that as soon as it is practical for both the Welfare and Finance Departments there be a transfer of personnel and whatever facilities are necessary to transfer this function.

We recommend that State Aid for Road Materials hereafter be accounted for. That the Budget list certain specific amounts of road materials, with estimated mileage of roads to be repaired and built, and that from this total the State Aid materials be deducted, and the net amount be requested in the Budget.

We also felt that the Tax Collector's office having to get out one annual set of tax bills, instead of two, which will be mailed in October, and not again until September, 1950, should be able to do with fewer clerks after October, 1949.

Also we fail to see why a teletype in the City Police Department should cost \$480.00 and in the Town Police Department \$525.00.

There were many general items recurring frequently in the Budget which we think could be consolidated at a great saving to Stamford. An example of this is 23 different telephone requests, not including the Department of Education, for \$13,929.00. We suggest coordinating telephone service, many of these telephones being in the same or adjoining building.

We pay \$20,200.00 to private owners for municipal offices. A new municipal building will save this expenditure as well as centralizing the municipal functions.

There are recurring items for Repairs and Maintenance of Equipment, totaling \$16,950.00. In addition we maintain a repair shop and departmental repair men. We think all of this work should be centralized.

Gas, Oil, Grease and Tires occur over and over in many departments. Centralized purchasing and maintenance of automotive supplies would save greatly in this item.

While we had no power to increase the Budget as submitted to us by the Board of Finance, we thought that in at least two items the Board should reconsider its decision to eliminate the requested amounts:

1. On Page 35, all uniforms and equipment for the Fire Department were eliminated, which we think was mistaken for uniforms and equipment for the new men only.

2. The requested \$65,000.00 for an outside re-assessment, which we think would be a good investment for Stamford, producing not only an increased grand list, but a distribution of property values more nearly in accord with present actual values of the property. We think a periodic review of assessments by outside experts is as important as outside auditors for our accounts.

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Michael Laureno, a member of the Committee, supplemented the report by calling the attention of the Board to the matter of the Deputy Building Inspector, who is to replace the Town Zoning Enforcement Officer, stating that it was felt that he was not necessary.

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TUESDAY, JUNE 21st, 1949

The recessed meeting of the Board of Representatives of Stamford, was held at Burdick Junior High School, Stamford, Tuesday, June 21st, 1949, and was called to order at 8:26 by the President, Samuel F. Pierson.

Upon Roll Call, all members were present except John Gacher, Edward J. Wojciechowski, Vito Longo, Sherman R. Hoyt and Robert G. Shepherd.

The Chair announced that we now have a certified copy of the Budget from the Board of Finance, and read the following certification: