

MINUTES OF SPECIAL BUDGET MEETING - MONDAY, MAY 6, 1996

FOR FISCAL YEAR 1996/1997

24th BOARD OF REPRESENTATIVES

STAMFORD, CONNECTICUT

A Special Meeting of the 24th Board of Representatives of the City of Stamford, Connecticut was held on Monday, May 6, 1996, pursuant to a "Call" issued by President Carmen Domonkos. The meeting was held in the Legislative Chambers of the Board of Representatives, Government Center, 888 Washington Boulevard, Stamford, Connecticut. The "Call" was for 8:00 p.m.

The meeting was called to order at 9:27 p.m. by President Carmen Domonkos after both political parties had met in Caucus.

The "Call" of the Special Meeting was read by President Carmen Domonkos.

"I, Carmen Domonkos, President of the 24th Board of Representatives of the City of Stamford, Connecticut, and pursuant to Section 2-10-4 of the Stamford Charter, hereby call a Special Meeting of said Board of Representatives to consider and act upon the Operating and Capital budgets for the fiscal year 1996/1997 as transmitted by the Board of Finance on April 12, 1996, pursuant to provisions of Section 8-30-5 of the Stamford Charter."

INVOCATION was given by Representative Jeffrey T. Curtis, Sr., D-9.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG was led by President Carmen Domonkos.

ROLL CALL was taken by Clerk Annie M. Summerville. There were 37 members present and three absent. Absent were Reps. Gloria DePina, Russell Davis and George Johnson.

The Clerk declared a quorum.

MACHINE TEST VOTE was taken by President Carmen Domonkos. The machine was in good working order.

PRESIDENT DOMONKOS reviewed the process. She said that the Chair of the Fiscal Committee will make a report and then a motion to approve the operating and the capital projects budget; the motion will be Seconded. She said that after that there will be a rolling motion; it is a motion that is used going through the budget book, page by page, the Fiscal Chair will make the recommendations by the Committee. If any member wishes to make a reduction or has any question on the page, they should raise their hand to make a motion or to ask a question. Rep. Domonkos stated that if the Fiscal Committee makes no reduction on a page and there are no motions or questions by any members, we will proceed to the next page indicating that all members concurred with the recommendation; once a page is considered, there will be no returning to a prior page.

BUDGET PRESENTATION

PRESIDENT DOMONKOS said that two Board members from each side of the aisle will be keeping a running tally of the cuts and section totals; Republicans Ron Sabia and Rachel Drucker; Democrats Timothy Abbazia and Joseph Gergle.

President Domonkos stated that after the budget is completed, Chairman Martin will read the resolution with the totals and a vote on the resolution will be taken.

CLERK SUMMERVILLE announced that Rep. DePina joined the meeting; 38 members present and two absent.

PRESIDENT DOMONKOS thanked the Fiscal Committee for their hard work. She said that she has been through the process and knows it is a grueling duty but is rewarding as you learn about all aspects of the city. She said that she takes her "hat off" to David for his hard work and to the subcommittees and all the members of the Fiscal Committee. Rep. Domonkos said that their work is appreciated.

FISCAL COMMITTEE - David Martin, Chairman

REP. MARTIN said that the Committee and those appearing before the Committee were put to a very hard challenge. He said that the Committee met on March 28 for the joint public hearing; meetings were held on April 15, 17, 18, 22 and 25. He said that many of the meetings were long, lasting from 7 to 11 p.m.

Rep. Martin said that subcommittees were established to focus on particular budget areas and this evening, the subcommittee chairs may be answering questions. He said that Ellen Mellis served as the Chair of Education, Ralph Loglisci served as Vice Chair; Ellen also Chaired Social Services; John Ponzini Chaired Public Safety and Health with Don Sherer serving as Vice Chair; on the Administration side, he served as Chair; on Legal Affairs, Don Sherer served as Chair; Bobby Owens Chaired Operations with Robert DeLuca serving as Vice Chair.

Rep. Martin said that the subcommittees were requested to invite the Chairs of the Standing Committee to attend the meetings.

Rep. Martin stated that on Saturday, May 3, the Committee met to determine and recommend the amendments to the operating and capital budgets. Rep. Martin said that he would make motions on the particular pages where applicable. He said that a cut of \$758,000 to the operating budget was recommended. He said that the budgets were very lean and there were very little additional areas to find significant cost-savings. Rep. Martin said that recommended was a .26% cut of the city's budget and .28% of the Board of Education's total budget.

Rep. Martin said that there was a great deal of forthrightness and honesty in the way the budgets were prepared and presented.

Rep. Martin Moved to approve the budget as submitted by the Board of Finance. Seconded.

Rep. Martin proceeded to present the budget page by page.

Note: If there are no motions made or recommendations by the Committee for reductions, the bottom line is what was recommended by the Fiscal Committee and transmitted by the Board of Finance. All motions made will be recorded in the Minutes.

ADMINISTRATION

119 Board of Assessment Appeals - bottom line \$10,000.

207 Economic Development - bottom line \$259,433.

240 Director of Administration - bottom line \$787,578.

241 Treasurer - no budget submitted.

242 Controller - bottom line \$382,009.

243 Bureau of Purchases - bottom line \$185,719.

244 Central Services Department - bottom line \$113,984.

245 Bureau of Data Processing - bottom line \$630,794.

246 Payroll Department - bottom line \$387,850.

249 Risk Management - bottom line \$108,147.

250 Assessors Office - bottom line \$700,314.

260 Tax Collector - bottom line \$475,260.

Section total for Administration - \$4,041,088 - no cuts.

OPERATIONS

104 Planning Board - bottom line \$372,867.

107 Zoning Board - bottom line \$150,041.

108 Zoning Board of Appeals - bottom line \$54,801.

110 Environmental Protection Board - bottom line \$156,176.

280 Department of Traffic - bottom line \$919,197.

281 Dept. of Traffic Parking Division - bottom line \$996,572.

284 Stamford Railroad Station - bottom line \$749,384.

286 Transportation Center Garage - bottom line \$295,500.

301 Public Works Administration - bottom line \$790,034.

302 Weights & Measures - no budget submitted.

310 Bureau of Highways & Maint. Div. Highways - bottom line \$2,133,465.

- 311 Div. of Equipment Maintenance - bottom line \$1,144,421.
- 314 Snow Removal & Flood Emergency - bottom line \$818,764.
- 315 Leaf Pick-up - bottom line - \$163,024.
- 320 Div. of Bldgs. & Grounds - bottom line \$2,796,201.
- 321 Gasoline - bottom line \$142,905.
- 330 Bureau of Engineering - bottom line \$2,432,384.
- 332 Div. of Building Inspection - bottom line \$726,068.
- 340 Bureau of Sanitation - bottom line - \$267,775.
- 341 Sewage Treatment Plant - bottom line \$2,031,683.
- 343 Solid Waste Transfer Facility - bottom line \$1,247,185.
- 344 Recycling - bottom line \$905,737.
- 346 Div. of Equipment & Building Maint. - bottom line \$815,655.
- 350 Division of Collection - bottom line \$2,836,596.

REP. ZELINSKY asked if this Division of Collection was where the money for refuse collection is funded and where the Mayor is proposing to reduce single family refuse collections from twice a week to once a week pickup?

REP. MARTIN replied that it was in this division.

REP. ZELINSKY said that he believed this was a serious mistake, and with all due respect to the Mayor as he has the best interest of Stamford residents in mind, to ask the residential homeowners to suffer by only having once a week refuse collection would be a hardship. Rep. Zelinsky stated that to keep the trash for seven day is not fair especially with the high property taxes being paid. He said that a serious health hazard is being created.

Rep. Zelinsky stated that he understood that the city will be collecting refuse from condos where private haulers collected two or more times a week. He said if the condo owners want more than twice a week collection, they will have to pay a private collector; he wondered if the condo owners are aware of that fact. Rep. Zelinsky said that he calls on and implores the Mayor to restore the necessary funds for the collection of the present two days a week.

REP. MARTIN said that bench marks were reviewed in the entire operation under Director Hamilton and comparisons made with other cities in Connecticut. Rep. Martin said that the number of employees in this area will be reduced.

- 351 Land Fill & Refuse Removal - bottom line \$7,660,266.
- 601 Parks & Recreation Administration - bottom line \$414,059.
- 620 Parks & Recreation/Terry Conners - bottom line \$499,157.

630 Parks & Recreation Oper. & Maint. G - bottom line \$1,810,909.

640 Parks & Recreation Programs - bottom line \$736,797.

641 Projects Music - bottom line \$36,381.

642 Sterling Theatres - bottom line \$48,870.

645 Fee Supported Programs - bottom line \$199,764.

649 July 4th Fireworks - bottom line \$61,240.

670 Brennan Golf Course - bottom line \$604,239.

Section total for Operations - \$35,018,117 - no cuts.

PUBLIC SAFETY, HEALTH & WELFARE

117 Commission on Aging Outreach Grant G - bottom line \$64,727.

118 Dial-A-Ride Grant GP - bottom line \$314,729.

401 Public Safety, Health & Welfare Administration - bottom line \$131,010.

410 Police Department - bottom line \$22,277,992.

REP. MARTIN said that the Police Department is the largest organization within the city budget and is very complex. He said that better progress has to be made with the new financial system in terms of how the budget is allocated. Rep. Martin said that the plans for enlarging the police force seem to be on target. He said that no cuts were recommended in this large and important department.

417 Safe Neighborhood Grant-12 G - bottom line \$467,796.

421 Dog Warden - bottom line \$119,101.

433 Public Safety Dispatch - bottom line \$3,018,595.

450 Fire Department - bottom line \$16,340,783.

REP. MARTIN said that the Fiscal Committee recommended a reduction of \$100,000. He said that the department has a 3.4% increase; the Committee believes that the downtown paid fire department should be challenged to meet the same budget increase as the volunteers are being held to, 2%. Rep. Martin stated that the \$100,000 cut is a compromise between what the volunteers are being held to vs the paid city department. He said that the budget is very tight and with the \$100,000 cut, it will be difficult to manage this department. The motion was Moved and Seconded.

REP. SUMMERVILLE Moved to restore the \$100,000 cut recommended by Fiscal. Seconded.

REP. SUMMERVILLE said that she sat in on the deliberations on the Fire Department. She said that she respected the work done by the Committee but disagreed with the cut. Rep. Summerville said that the cut is one that cannot be afforded at this time. She said that the problems discussed will be resolved if everyone works together. She asked for the Board's support to restore the \$100,000.

PRESIDENT DOMONKOS proceeded to a vote to restore \$100,000 to the Fire Department's budget. APPROVED by 33 yes and five no votes.

452 Emergency Management GP - bottom line \$54,084.

453 Alarm Administration - bottom line \$46,532.

470 Volunteer Fire & Ambulance - bottom line \$4,747,442

482 Harbormaster - bottom line \$1,051.

485 Stamford Emergency Services - bottom line \$650,000

510 Social Services Department - bottom line \$2,524,782.

521 Administration SNF - bottom line \$706,621.

522 Nursing Services SNF - bottom line \$3,883,861.

523 Dietary Services SNF - bottom line \$910,646.

524 Plant Maintenance SNF - bottom line \$671,486.

525 Housekeeping SNF - bottom line \$224,737.

526 Laundry SNF - bottom line \$162,215.

527 Recreation SNF - bottom line \$176,723.

528 Social Services SNF - bottom line \$93,135.

529 Physical Therapy SNF - bottom line \$121,222

540 Crime Prevention GP - bottom line \$75,961.

550 Health Department - \$879,766.

REP. MARTIN said that there was a concern that in the consolidation plans, there may have been underbudgeting for the sanitarians.

551 Inspection Services Division - bottom line \$558,430.

553 Cost Sharing Grant From State G - bottom line \$56,716.

554 VD Clinic Grant State G - bottom line \$28,400.

557 Maternal & Child Health Grant G - bottom line \$121,850.

558 Health Risk Reduction Grant G - bottom line \$22,177.

559 TB Control Grant G - bottom line \$61,924.  
560 Public School Health Program - bottom line \$1,031,532.  
561 Health Program For Parocial & Private Schools GP - bottom line \$375,659.  
565 Farmers Market - WIC G - bottom line \$1,095.  
566 Smoking Cessation G - bottom line \$9,437.  
567 Senior Health Program G - bottom line \$48,029.  
568 Immunization Services G - bottom line \$101,514.  
570 Lead Paint Poisoning Program G - bottom line \$102,352.  
572 Lead Hazard Control-CDP G - bottom line \$189,913.  
573 Womens Infants & Childrens G - bottom line \$316,086.  
574 CADAC AIDS Outreach/Arrows G - no budget submitted.  
577 AIDS Educ/Risk Reduction Grant G - bottom line \$536,382.  
578 Housing Code Inspector G - bottom line \$49,160.  
581 Non City Health Agencies - bottom line \$100,000.  
590 Shellfish Commission - bottom line \$1,000.  
Section total for Public Safety, Health - \$62,376,653 - no cuts.

LEGAL AFFAIRS

Department of Law - bottom line \$1,112,736.  
270 Personnel Department - bottom line \$492,378.  
271 Labor Negotiations - bottom line \$194,998.  
272 Benefits - bottom line \$94,225.  
Section total for Legal Affairs - \$1,894,337 - no cuts.

GOVERNMENT SERVICES

101 Registrar of Voters - bottom line \$397,208.  
102 Board of Representatives - bottom line \$152,161.  
103 Board of Finance - bottom line \$331,006.  
106 Stamford Partnership - bottom line \$55,000.

116 Patriotic Observances Comm. - bottom line \$25,000.

134 Board of Ethics - bottom line \$15,000.

201 Mayors Office - bottom line \$293,013.

REP. LOGLISCI Moved to make a reduction of \$4,500 on line 7905 budget reduction line. Seconded.

PRESIDENT DOMONKOS called for a vote to reduce the Mayor's budget by \$4,500. DEFEATED by a voice vote.

208 Youth Service Bureau Grant GP - bottom line \$126,552.

210 Town & City Clerk - bottom line \$572,240.

220 Probate Court - bottom line \$48,800.

295 Professional Organizations - bottom line \$105,654.

666 Youth Service Bureau Grant G - no budget submitted.

667 Summer Youth Initiative G bottom line \$65,000.

668 Mayors Comm. Alcohol & Drug A G - bottom line \$7,130.

Section total for Government Services - \$2,193,764 - no cuts.

COMMUNITY GRANTS

725 Emergency Shelter - bottom line \$105,000.

743 Neighborhood Youth Ctr Grant G - bottom line \$77,506.

745 Community Services - bottom line \$244,901.

750 Stamford Day Care Admin G - bottom line \$1,414,509.

Section total for Community Grants - \$1,841,916 - no cuts.

STAMFORD MUSEUM

720 Stamford Museum - bottom line \$1,001,144.

Section total for Stamford Museum - \$1,001,144 - no cuts.

FERGUSON LIBRARY

710 Ferguson Library - bottom line \$5,215,000.

REP. MARTIN said that the unsettled labor contract for the library is not included in this budget nor in the city's contingency for labor settlements. He said that there may be a possibility for additional expenditures once the contract is settled.

Section total for Stamford Museum - \$5,215,000 - no cuts.

BOARD OF EDUCATION

The record will note that Rep. Patrick White left the Floor and did not participate or vote on the Board of Education budget.

810 7110 Board of Education - bottom line with cut \$116,255,961.

REP. MARTIN said that the Committee recommended a reduction of \$275,000. He said that the \$275,000 reflects a number of changes in the Board of Education's position since the budget was submitted. He said that savings were obtained in transportation, reduction in garbage services and a reflection of an additional grant. Rep. Martin said that the Board of Finance cut \$250,000. He said that additional grant revenues may be coming into the budget, but at the same time, a commitment was made to the Board of Finance, and the Committee joins in to try to expand the reading recovery program partly with the grant.

815 Non-public Health/Welfare - bottom line \$1,041,757.

820 B/E Non-public Trans G - bottom line with cut \$1,175,340.

REP. MARTIN said that the Committee recommended a \$58,000 reduction. He said that this reflects savings in the transportation contract which was rebid.

823 Student Health Centers - bottom line \$65,000.

Section total for Board of Education - \$118,538,058 - total cuts \$333,000.

DEBT SERVICE

900 Debt Service - bottom line \$21,628,623.

Section total for Debt Service - \$21,628,623.

LABOR SETTLEMENTS CITY

997 Labor Contract Estimate - bottom line \$159,768.

REP. MARTIN said that the Committee made a reduction in the labor contract estimates area but will move the reduction under employees taxes and insurance.

Section total for Labor Settlements City - \$159,768.

EMPLOYEE TAXES & INSURANCE

290 Employee Taxes & Insurance - bottom line with cuts \$22,775,108 - total cuts \$325,000.

REP. MARTIN said that on line 1392 self-insurance management fund, the Committee recommended a cut of \$100,000. He said that the cut represented expected savings which can be accomplished in workers compensation. He said that the fund is a mix of several things but the workers comp exposure in the city for the medical side alone is \$4 million and there is salary that may be almost as large that's hidden in salary items throughout the budget. Rep. Martin stated that the city does not know its total workers comp exposure at this time.

REP. MARTIN said that Mr. Hamilton and the Administration is moving forward to get greater control of the line item.

Rep. Martin said that the Committee recommended a reduction of \$225,000 on line .7905, the budget reduction line. He said that part of the complexity of the budget is the early retirement program which makes it difficult to know exactly what the salaries are going to be. He said because of the uncertainty at the time of budget preparation, the salaries were budgeted at the current level; when the people who chose early retirement are replaced, it is presumed that the replacements will come in at a lower salary level. He said that between \$150,000 and \$300,00 should come as savings.

REP. ESPOSITO wanted the record to note that he did not vote or participate in any discussion on line 290.1330 medical insurance & life.

293 Pensions & Retirees Benefits - bottom line \$4,505,000.

REP. MARTIN said that medical expenses continue to spiral upward and increases in the managed care plan. He said that the Committee felt that contracts with employees eliminate free health benefits, early pension plans or those that give too much money and the accumulation of sick and vacation pay. Rep. Martin said that in some cases of workers comp, the city workers get paid more after taxes if they stay home than if they were working on the job. He said that the hope is that the administration, in both the labor contracts and in the management of the work force can come to grips to make certain that there isn't excessive medical cost inflation and excessive workers comp.

Section total for Employee Taxes & Insurance - \$27,280,108 - total cuts \$325,000.

PRESIDENT DOMONKOS proceeded to a vote to approve the total operating budget of \$281,188,576. APPROVED by a vote of 38 yes votes. Total cuts in the operating budget \$658,000.

#### CAPITAL BUDGET

REP. MARTIN Moved to approve the capital budget as submitted by the Board of Finance. Seconded.

104 Planning - bottom line \$175,000.

110 Environmental Protection Board - no budget submitted.

112 Sewer Commission - bottom line \$810,000.

201 Mayor's Office - bottom line \$300,000.

240 Administration - bottom line \$940,200.

280 Traffic and Parking - bottom line \$1,174,000.

301 Public Works - Administration - bottom line \$25,000.

310 Public Works - Highways - bottom line \$848,000.

320 Public Works - Bldgs. & Grounds - bottom line \$676,600.

330 Public Works - Engineering - bottom line \$3,567,000.

341 Public Works - WPCD - bottom line \$50,000.

346 Public Works - Sanitation - bottom line with cut \$1,383,700 - \$29,000 cut.

REP. MARTIN said that on line .385 Refuse Collection Equipment, the Committee recommended a \$109,000 reduction. Moved. Seconded. Rep. Martin said that \$80,000 of the cut was examined to insure it was appropriate. He said that the \$80,000 for the purchase of dumpsters for the Board of Education is still intended to be done despite the fact that the city probably will not be picking up the Board of Education's garbage. Rep. Martin Moved to restore \$80,000 to the prior motion; the reduction would be \$29,000. 346-385 line total is \$698,000.

410 Police Department - bottom line \$338,000.

450 Stamford Fire Department - bottom line with cut \$769,000 - \$50,000 cut.

REP. MARTIN said that on project 450 Facilities Assessment, the Committee recommended a \$50,000 cut, line total is \$50,000. Moved. Seconded. Rep. Martin said that Chief Graner admitted that the \$100,000 was an estimate prepared by someone in the prior administration, and perhaps, even \$25,000 may be enough.

Rep. Martin stated that on 450-484 Heart Defibrillators, the \$15,000 capital expenditure may someday saves someone's life.

472 Glenbrook Fire Department - no budget submitted.

473 Long Ridge Fire Department - bottom line \$190,000.

474 Turn of River Fire Department - bottom line \$149,500.

476 Springdale Fire Company - bottom line \$40,000.

520 Smith House Skilled Nursing - bottom line \$317,000.

530 Smith House Residence - bottom line \$70,000.

610 Parks & Recreation - bottom line \$979,000.

670 Brennan Municipal Golf Course - bottom line \$240,000.

710 Ferguson Library - bottom line \$300,000.

720 Stamford Museum & Nature Center - bottom line \$119,000.

810 Board of Education - bottom line total \$25,738,325 - no cuts.

REP. MARTIN said that the Committee recommended a cut on line 810-332 New Westover School of \$4,088,513 leaving that line zero. Moved. Seconded.

REP. PONZINI Moved to reinstate the \$4,088,513. Seconded.

REP. MARTIN said that the Committee made the cut without prejudice and it should not be concluded that the new Westover School should not be done. He said that the Committee was requesting the Board of Education to re-examine the Westover School project in light of the recently surfaced information.

Rep. Martin said that he was concerned about the project in the doubling of the size of the Westover Magnet program. He said that Westover is the most successful magnet program as a small school and the type of education may be jeopardized. Rep. Martin said that he, personally, would like to see two magnet schools constructed so that more people can attend and at the same time, avoid the risks that accompany a larger school.

Rep. Martin said that he hoped that the Board of Education would review and examine this in light of the educational issues as well as the capital costs surrounding alternatives and primarily, the Riverbank School. He said that after the review, the Committee would look at the matter without a prejudicial standpoint.

REP. PONZINI said that it was his understanding that the project has been in development for several years and the architectural plans are now with the state. He said that the plans have been examined by the city boards and experts and have been approved. He said that the fact that the project is denied without prejudice as pointed out earlier, does not mean that the project would immediately come before the Board; the project would have to go through the entire process again.

Rep. Ponzini said that speaking for himself, did not believe that the city as a whole or the welfare or the rights of the school children should be subject to or dictated by the special interests of a hand full of individuals. He said that the Board should move forward with the project not only for the good of the school children but for the City of Stamford as a whole.

REP. LOGLISCI he said that there will be a very large number of students, approximately 900, in the school; the school will be a six classroom model meaning there will be six kindergartens, six first grades, etc. He said that magnet schools seem to work best in smaller and more personal environments.

Rep. Loglisci said that now at the estimated cost of \$20 million to build Westover, alternatives should be examined. He said that an error may have been made in not considering size as an important component in the education of the children. He said that many people are afraid to re-evaluate what has been done, and if any error has been made, it can be stopped before it becomes effective. Rep. Loglisci said the project should be re-examined.

REP. MARTIN said that he believed it was unwise to proceed with the plan in light of the new information. He said that across the country, the opinion is that a small school size is very important. He said that he wished that he had been aware of smaller school sizes years ago because he believed that the community would be better served by two or three more smaller schools rather than the approach to enlarge the schools. Rep. Martin said that the city would be better served with the construction of an additional school whether it be Riverbank or at another location; this would also relieve the sizes of other schools. Rep. Martin said that he did not want to go further with Westover until the project is examined further.

REP. SUMMERVILLE said that she disagreed with Rep. Martin. She said that she is not sure that there will be 900 students as she was told the number is different. Rep. Summerville said that she supported the Westover School proposal for a lot of reasons. She said that magnet schools are wonderful and no one has proven that numbers have anything to do with the method of teaching. Rep. Summerville said that she felt it an honor to have a magnet school that will give more children the opportunity to have that type of an education. She said that Westover School was a pilot project and it has been a success.

Rep. Summerville said that to those saying that we should have smaller schools, the public schools are alive and doing well in the city and there are more than 900 students. She said that if there are going to be spot schools for everybody because of the want for a smaller setting, rethinking must be done throughout the city.

Rep. Summerville hoped that the Board would support the proposal as it is a good one and everyone will be proud of what will be seen. She said that we should not be frightened of the numbers but excited of what we will get for our dollar.

REP. PONZINI said that he echoed what Rep. Summerville said. He said that he went to a small grammar school but there were 60 children in a class. He said that the issue is not the size of the school but the size of the class. Rep. Ponzini said that the proposal was a school within a school proposal here. He said that there were a lot of ways to deal with the size and as pointed out by Rep. Summerville, 800 students is not appreciatively larger or smaller than any of the other schools. He said that Stamford has an excellent school system and we should move forward on the proposal.

REP. BOCCUZZI said that he was in favor of the appropriation for the new Westover School. He said that a large school does not mean that education will not be at its best; what must be looked at is the size of the classrooms, the curriculum offered and how many people are involved in teaching the children.

Rep. Boccuzzi said that on the subject of smaller schools throughout the city, the operating budget would be way out of proportion. He said that more principals, more assistant principals, custodians, etc. would be needed. Rep. Boccuzzi said that you may save money now on the capital project but the operating budget would be much higher. He asked that the Board support the motion to reinstate the money for Westover School.

REP. MELLIS Moved the question. Seconded.

PRESIDENT DOMONKOS called for a vote to Move the question. APPROVED by voice vote.

PRESIDENT DOMONKOS proceeded to a vote to restore \$4,088,513 for the new Westover School. APPROVED by 29 yes and nine no votes. 810-332 line total \$4,088,513.

PRESIDENT DOMONKOS said that \$79,000 was cut from the capital projects budget. The final total of the capital projects budget is \$29,199,325.

PRESIDENT DOMONKOS proceeded to a vote to approve \$29,199,325 for the capital projects budget. APPROVED by 35 yes and three no votes.

REP. MARTIN said that the budget brought forth this evening was reviewed very carefully and irresponsible cuts were not made. He said that in the cuts made, the actions were responsible. Rep. Martin hoped that in the next year, there will not be a wave of additional appropriations as seen in the past. He believed the budget was solid.

Rep. Martin thanked the members of the Fiscal Committee. He said that he has made a sincere effort to move the debate on fiscal items and particularly, the detail issues off the floor of the Board. Rep. Martin said that his desire is to work things out and discuss things as fully as needed in Committee and to invite any members of the Board to attend the meetings to raise issues. He said that the Fiscal Committee reports have been moving smoothly as shown this evening. He again thanked his members and members of the Board for making a lot of progress. He said that his members put in a herculean effort in order to present the budget this evening.

PRESIDENT DOMONKOS thanked the office staff for their help in preparing for the budget.

REP. MARTIN also thanked the staff. He said that he wishes that the votes brought to the Board, become policy issues that the Board has an opinion on one way or the other, and the detail issues are oned worked out in Committee. He said that this reflected in the debated this evening.

REP. MARTIN read the resolution (copy attached with Exhibit A). The operating budget is \$281,188,576 and the capital projects budget is \$29,199,325. He Moved for approval. Seconded.

PRESIDENT DOMONKOS called for a vote to approve the operating and capital budgets for fiscal year from July 1, 1996 to June 30, 1997. APPROVED by voice vote.

President Domonkos thanked everyone for their cooperation.

ADJOURNMENT - Upon a motion duly made and Seconded and Approved by voice vote, the meeting was adjourned at 10:55 p.m.

Note: The budget as approved by the Board of Representatives is on file in the office of the Town and City Clerk's office and the Board of Representatives and can be review during regular business hours.

By Anne A. Kachaluba  
Anne A. Kachaluba, Administrative Assistant  
and Recording Secretary  
23rd Board of Representatives

APPROVED:

Carmen L. Domonkos  
Carmen L. Domonkos, President  
24th Board of Representatives

CLD:ak  
Enclosures