

TO: Mayor Gene F. Eriquez and Members of the Common Council

RE: Minutes of the Special Meeting held August 19, 1993.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 P.M. by Mayor Eriquez. The Pledge of Allegiance and Prayer were recited. The members were recorded as:

PRESENT - Scalzo, Falzone, Roth, Arconti, Coladarci, Boynton, Setaro, DaSilva, John Esposito, Outlaw, Cassano, Charles, Cipriani, Yamin

ABSENT - Fazio, Dennehy, Gogliettino, Dean Esposito, Butera, Scozzafava, Trocolla

14 Present - 7 Absent

NOTICE OF THE SPECIAL MEETING - To be held on the 19th day of August, 1993 at 7:00 P.M. in the Common Council Chambers in City Hall for the purpose of acting upon the items listed below. Mr. DaSilva made a motion that the call and the return of service be accepted. Seconded by Mr. Setaro. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC SPEAKING - Joseph Rosato, 7 Long Ridge Road - Would not say that the BSI proposal was good or bad there just are not enough details. Council Members need to understand what they are voting on. Additional figures are needed regarding cost per day. What is to stop BSI from hiring an administrator at additional cost. Council should take its time. Waiting another month will not hurt.

Thomas St. Jean, 14 Deerfield Avenue - read from a prepared statement and stated that he would not be intimidated to keep him from speaking out on this issue and it would be a cold day in held before he apologized to any public official for his remarks on this subject.

At 7:10 P.M. Mr. Fazio and Mr. Trocolla arrived and were marked present.

Janet Gershwin, 93 Boulevard Drive - Why is the City putting up three quarters of a million dollars for this business to operate. They should do their own billing. Why is there a five year contract.

Mark O'Masta, 16 Driftway Point Road - Vice President of the Firefighters Union. Proposals have been submitted by the Fire Department over the past two years. BSI gave a nice presentation at the Committee of the Whole meeting. It was too bad that it was the only proposal presented. The Fire Department has been doing this for over 50 years and has adjusted to the needs of the City. This is nothing to do with BSI but the Fire Department would like to have had the opportunity to offer a proposal.

At 7:15 P.M. Dean Esposito and Mr. Scozzafava arrived and were marked present.

Lynn Waller, 83 Highland Avenue - Doesn't understand the rush. Doesn't understand buying the ambulances and stocking them. Doesn't understand why the City is turning its back on the Firefighters. Be honest with the taxpayers.

Barbara Monsky, 14 Shepard Road - Believes the administration has done very well in keeping taxes down. Wonders about competitive bidding. Does not question anyone's honesty.

1 - REPORT - Proposed Agreement between the City and Danbury Hospital/BSI for Ambulance and Paramedic Service and budget adjustments

Mr. DaSilva submitted the following report:

The Common Council met as a committee of the whole at 7:30 P.M. on August 11, 1993 to consider a proposed agreement between the City of Danbury and Business Systems Inc. (B.S.I.) for ambulance and paramedic service for the City. The meeting began with the Chairman explaining the ground rules for the meeting and that he had invited all appropriate parties to present pertinent information.

Mayor Enriquez made an opening statement giving the history of the development of the agreement with BSI. He then gave a specific presentation addressing the background of the Emergency Medical System (E.M.S.), features of the current system, features of the proposed agreement and a comparison of both.

Director of Finance Dominic Setaro discussed the costs of the BSI agreement, financial management of BSI, rate comparisons and billing procedures. Mayor Enriquez added additional information on the longevity of BSI and their relationship to the City.

CEO of Danbury Hospital and Danbury Health Systems Frank Kelly explained BSI's relationship with the hospital, the purpose of BSI and the EMS service. He stated that BSI was established to enable the establishment of a pharmacy at the hospital in accordance with State law. This makes BSI a taxable entity. All other services of BSI are operated on a not for profit basis (at cost).

Manager of Outpatient/E.R. Department of Danbury Hospital Keith Ritchie spoke of the current activity of BSI. He stated that BSI has filed for a certificate to upgrade service, the staff makeup of BSI and the process for determining ambulance usage and staffing schedules.

Corporation Counsel Eric Gottschalk passed out copies of the agreement with BSI, reviewing all provisions including revisions mutually agreed to by the Fire Department, the Corporation Counsel and BSI.

He then explained that the Common Council has the right and responsibility to enter into contracts for provision of essential services for the City. He said that in all his years working for the City this procedure has always been followed.

Following these presentations, members of the Common Council asked numerous questions regarding all aspects of the proposed agreement and related issues. Mr. Cassano moved to open discussion to the public for expert input at the discretion of the Chair. The motion was seconded by Mr. Scozzafava and passed 12-8. The Chair, in accordance with the motion to allow public input, called on Attorney Martin Stillman, representing Danbury Ambulance Service (D.A.S.) He stated that there was no contract for backup service with DAS. He also expressed concern regarding a licensing problem with BSI. He asked for two additional weeks to make another proposal to the City for ambulance and paramedic service.

Firefighters Union Local 801 President Louis DeMici spoke of the Fire Union's position. He also asked for two additional weeks for the Union to make another proposal on emergency services.

Following questions to City and hospital officials, Mr. Cassano moved to table further discussion of the proposed agreement. The motion was seconded by Mr. Fazio and was defeated.

Mr. Boynton moved to recommend adoption of the proposed agreement for ambulance and paramedic service as presented. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Outlaw. After discussion the motion carried 17-3 with Council Members Fazio, Cassano and Yamin voting in the negative.

Mr. Boynton made a motion that the report be accepted, and the Mayor be authorized to enter into the agreement with BSI/Danbury Hospital for Ambulance and Paramedic Services and that all budgetary adjustments as outlined be made. Seconded by Mr. Falzone.

Mayor Eriquez gave an outline of the process taken by which this agreement was made. He answered questions that had arisen during the public hearing portion of this meeting in his remarks.

Mr. Trocolla stated that this was not a quick decision. Mr. Scozzafava stated that the Fire Department has always given quality care and hopes that BSI will do the same. Mayor Eriquez stated that Danbury Hospital has always had medical control. Mr. Scozzafava then asked the Mayor to address issues that were raised in the Fire Department proposal that had been delivered to Common Council Members. The Mayor answered each issue in the proposal.

Mr. Boynton stated that he was in favor of the proposal and gave his reasons for doing so and also stated that he was sorry that this issue had become so politicized and that so much misinformation had been given out.

Mr. Scalzo asked how many firefighters were on disability because of ambulance related service. Director of Finance Dominic Setaro stated that 2 out of the last 3 pensions were due to this reason.

Mr. Cassano urged the Council Members to approach this agreement with extreme concern and caution. Look at it carefully. The battle is not between Danbury Hospital and the Fire Department. He stated his concerns with the proposal. Mrs. Coladarci stated that she had looked at the proposal carefully, made it a point to have all her questions answered and had done her homework and everyone else had the opportunity to do the same. Mr. DaSilva stated that this was not a new issue. Meetings were held and everyone in attendance had an opportunity to have their questions answered.

Mr. Boynton moved the question. Seconded by Mr. Falzone. Motion carried unanimously.

The Motion carried with the members voting as follows:

Yes - Scalzo, Falzone, Roth, Arconti, Coladarci, Boynton, Setaro, DaSilva, Dean Esposito, Outlaw, Charles, Cipriani, Scozzafava, Trocolla

No - Fazio, Cassano, Yamin

Abstain - John Esposito

14 yes - 3 no - 1 abstention

2 - COMMUNICATION - Report from City Engineer Jack Schweitzer stating that all concerns previously stated regarding Premium Point Lane had now been addressed and it is recommended that Premium Point Lane be accepted as a City Road. Mr. Setaro made a motion that the communication be accepted and Premium Point Lane be accepted as a City Road. Secodned by Mr. Charles. Motion carried unanimously.

3 - CERTIFICATION - Letter from Director of Finance Dominic Setaro stating that the City must accept the sum of \$7,500 from the Housing Authority and amend the appropriate line item in the Police Department budget in a like amount. This is for one police officer to patrol Ives Manor.

Mr. DaSilva made a motion to accept the communication and accept the sum of \$7,500 from the Housing Authority and amend the appropriate line item. Seconded by Mr. Setaro. The motion carried unanimously.

4 - COMMUNICATION - Reports from the Planning Commission, the Director of Public Works regarding the installation of a traffic light on Kenosia Avenue. The report outlined the reasons why this should not be done at this time. Mr. Falzone made a motion to accept the communication and take no action at this time. Seconded by Mr. Boynton. Motion carried unanimously.

The Mayor extended all committees.

There being no further business to come before the Common Council a motion was made by Mr. Setaro for the meeting to be adjourned at 8:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Jimmie L. Samaha
JIMMETTA L. SAMAHA
Assistant City Clerk

ATTEST:

Elizabeth Crudginton
Elizabeth Crudginton
City Clerk