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**City deals with lean budget**

**Further trims may be hard to find**  
 By Magdalene Perez  
 STAFF WRITER  
 STAMFORD — City representatives said they see little room for further budget cuts after the Board of Finance passed a \$449.6 million combined budget Tuesday.  
 The board reduced Mayor Michael Pavia's budget by \$1.5

a 3.4 percent increase in 2009 and 8.2 percent in 2008.  
 Now as the Board of Representatives prepares for a final budget vote in May, several members of its Fiscal Committee said they are hard-pressed to find areas that could sustain further cuts in the \$226 million municipal operating budget, which pro-

**Police, fire unions decry overtime cuts**  
 By Jeff Morganteen  
 STAFF WRITER  
 STAMFORD — Two days after the city's finance board cut hundreds of thousands of dollars from the police and fire departments' overtime budget for next fiscal year, they must go before elected officials Thursday and ask for six-figure sums to cover deficits in the overtime accounts for this year.  
 Union officials from the police and fire departments, where shortfalls in overtime accounts are said to be driven by their union contracts, said

the overtime cuts made by the Board of Finance Tuesday were symbolic or political posturing, rather than actual cost-saving measures.  
 At Stamford Fire & Rescue, the department's \$2 million overtime account for the

**A JOB TO DO**

**FORGING A PATH**



Ryan Tucker, a volunteer with Friends of Mianus River Park, helps other volunteers clear a new trail in the Stamford park.

**OUR VOLUNTEERS**  
 To mark National Volunteer Month, The Advocate is taking a look at some of the people who make our communities better by donating their time.

**Volunteers rebuild trails in Stamford's Mianus River Park**  
 By Elizabeth Kim  
 STAFF WRITER  
 STAMFORD — In the northern reaches of Mianus River Park, not far from a glistening river, a cluster of T-shirt-clad outdoor lovers stood in a small clearing with their backs bent and legs muddied.  
 After a series of drenching March rains, blue skies and mild temperatures came as a well-deserved reprieve last weekend, offering a perfect opportunity to roam the nearly 300 acres of forest tucked in North Stamford. On Saturday morning, there were the usual string of hikers, both casual and serious-minded, as well as a long parade of energetic dogs attached to bleary-eyed owners.  
 But for the eight individuals wielding hoes and shovels, there was a job

**Pavia adds to his duties**

**Board OKs mayor to lead public safety, health and welfare**

By Elizabeth Kim  
 STAFF WRITER  
 STAMFORD — Despite concerns raised by two Democrats and significant opposition, the Board of Representatives has approved Mayor Michael Pavia as the new director of public safety, health and welfare.  
 The vote carried 25-9 at the board's monthly meeting Tuesday night, with four members abstaining from deciding whether Pavia should step into a role that has traditionally been separate the office of mayor. The director oversees Stamford police, fire and emergency medical services among other departments related to health and social services.  
 "This is a position that needs 100 percent attention," said City Rep. Terry Adams, D-3.  
 Adams cited the ongoing problem of contamination in Scofieldtown as one of the major health issues currently before the administration. Pavia has said the matter is one of his priorities.  
 "I don't see how it is possible for the mayor to do both with a learning curve from a new position," Adams said. "I know the mayor has good intentions but I don't see how

**Governor candidates vow to help increase job growth**

By Ken Dixon  
 STAFF WRITER  
 STAMFORD — Republican and Democratic candidates for governor on Wednesday promised an audience of high-tech executives that they would help business in a state that's rated last in job growth.  
 So most of the 12 gubernatorial candidates — including a few late arrivals because of traffic snarls after a fatal accident in Orange — found themselves



**HIGH FIVE**  
 UConn's Maya Moore, right, greets fans at a victory rally for the women's basketball team in Storrs on Wednesday — one day after the Huskies won their second straight NCAA crown. Story on B1 and slideshow at www.stamfordadvocate.com

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**Weather**

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Former Stamford Mayor Dannel Malloy joins a host of other candidates, including Juan Figueroa, Mary Glassman, Ned Lamont and Rudy Marconi as they participate in the 2010 Connecticut Gubernatorial Forum on Jobs, Innovation & Technology at the GE edgelab at UConn Stamford on Wednesday.

## Governor hopefuls propose solutions

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forum before about 130 people in the GE EdgeLab on the UConn campus here. Dan Malloy, the Democratic former Stamford mayor, said he would cut the state work force and combine agencies to save money. Democrat Ned Lamont and Republicans Tom Foley and R. Nelson Griebel agreed on similar strategies during the event, sponsored by the Connecticut Technology Council.

"We need to take some drastic steps and we need some leadership taken by the governor," Malloy said, promising that he would work to cut state employee costs by 15 percent and to combine the 220 state agencies to cut the number by a third. "We live in a state that has been governed by a bipartisan train wreck," Malloy said.

"You can win in this marketplace, but you have to be smart about it," said Malloy, who would try to attract more small business. "You have to be involved in the colleges and universities in your midst."

Most of the candidates either tried to distance themselves from the partisan gridlock in the state Capitol, blame majority Democrats, or point the finger at nearly 20 years of Republican governors for the state's massive budget deficits.

Foley, Lamont and Malloy, who was mayor of Stamford for 14 years, blamed everyone. "Both parties are equally to blame," Malloy said. "We need change. We need leadership."

"We need to address the fringe benefits of state employees," said Foley, who, like Lamont, is ahead in the latest political polls among registered voters. Foley, a Greenwich millionaire businessman and former ambassador to Ireland, is seeking his first elective office.

"Businesses and individuals in Connecticut are scared that the way to reduce that budget deficit is on our backs," Foley said, blaming Democratic majorities in the General Assembly for the state's massive deficit and languishing economy.

"Young people don't perceive that Connecticut offers the same opportunities of other states," said Foley, who supports the forgiveness of college loans for young adults who remain in the state after graduation. But the key is to foster cluster industries that lag behind.

"It's because there's no long-term economic development strategy in this state,"

Foley said, adding that executives want to know what tax policy looks like for the next 10 years. "Business needs to plan before they make an investment in a state."

Lamont said that states including Massachusetts and North Carolina that have fostered emerging industries saw the future, while Connecticut is last in job growth nationwide.

"These states are out-hustling us," Lamont said. "We have to think where we have a competitive advantage. It's the small entrepreneurial companies that do create the good paying jobs." Lamont said that while the state spends hundreds of thousands of dollars attracting large companies, the potential of smaller companies is overlooked.

"Focusing on small and mid-size entrepreneurial companies, that's our future," said Lamont, a Greenwich tech millionaire who lost to U.S. Sen. Joe Lieberman in the 2006 general election.

"We haven't earned the right to raise anyone's taxes," said Lamont, pointing the finger at the last 20 years of Republican governors and Democratic legislatures. He would "chop down layers of management" and "bring in strong executives" to cut state spending.

Republican Lt. Gov. Michael Fedele, behind Foley in the polls, said that the state has sent mixed signals by offering tax incentives one year, then ending them a year or two later. "We can't offer something today, then take it away and cripple them," Fedele said, stressing that, if elected, his administration would become known for "consistency and friendliness" to business.

Fedele said he would "freeze spending, freeze bonding," retain social safety nets, consolidate state departments and relieve towns and cities from expensive state mandates. "Unfortunately, because of the majority party, those things haven't happened," Fedele said.

Simsbury First Selectman Mary Glassman, who ran for lieutenant governor in 2006, took a shot at the administrations of Gov. M. Jodi Rell and her predecessor, John G. Rowland, who increased the state's per-capita indebtedness to the highest in the country. She also labeled Foley's assessment of state government's inability to change as "naïve."

Griebel, who like Lamont and Foley is not participating in the state's voluntary public funding for the cam-



Republican candidate Tom Foley participates in the 2010 Connecticut Gubernatorial Forum on Jobs, Innovation & Technology on Wednesday at UConn, in Stamford

aign, said that if business perceives a friendly environment, then capital will flow into the state. "If the jobs are here," young people will stay here," he said. "It's critical that the government provide that pro-business atmosphere."

"It sounds like we're all Republican today," Foley quipped. "Where are the Democrats?" Lamont saw the debate otherwise, with Republicans talking like Democrats.

"Maybe we should play a little musical chairs up here," Lamont remarked.

The program was also attended by Democrats including Ridgefield First Selectman Rudy Marconi and Juan Figueroa, a Meriden health care activist. Republicans included Chester First Selectman Tom Marsh and Christopher Duffy Acevedo, of Branford.

Marconi said Connecticut has a reputation as slow-acting.

"One of the major issues we have in our state is that we have a reactive government, not a proactive government," said Marconi. "We need to be able to develop better incentive programs to attract jobs to Connecticut." He noted that in recent years the General Assembly developed tax incentives for

the film industry, but then pulled them back.

"That is a sign that Connecticut is not a business-friendly state," Marconi said, warning that next year there will be a \$4 billion state deficit. That's why automatic tolls on the state's borders are needed for the added funding, he said. "We cannot simply cut our way out of this," Marconi said. "We need to bring revenues back and tolls will do that."

Acevedo and Griebel came in late but made most of the session, but Republican Larry DeNardis, of Hamden, got caught in the Interstate 95 traffic and didn't get to the forum until the last five minutes. He apologized and said he had detailed positions that he would speak about to anyone who wanted to talk with him.

Danbury Mayor Mark Boughton did not attend, citing previous city commitments.

The event was co-sponsored by the Angel Investor Forum; Connecticut Digital Media; Connecticut United for Research Excellence; Connecticut Venture Group; Connecticut Society for Information Managers; GE EdgeLab at UConn; AT&T Connecticut; First Experience Communications; Pfizer; and NuRide.

## City deals with lean budget

Continued from A1

vides funding for all city services other than schools.

Fewer ruled out cuts to the \$223 million Board of Education spending plan, but none said they expect to seek major reductions there either. The Fiscal Committee sets a tone for the board, as often in previous years, the board has passed the committee's recommendations without changes.

Fiscal Committee Chair John Mallozzi said he doesn't foresee the committee taking many liberties.

"Maybe there will be little cuts here and there, but I don't see cutting just for the sake of cutting," he said. "The Board of Reps is going to look at everything. We're not going to try to make some artificial cuts to feel good."

Both Democrats and Republicans on the 11-member committee said further budget savings will be difficult to find. Board Minority Leader Robert "Gabe" DeLuca, R-14, said both the Board of Finance and Pavia administration have already gone too far in their quest to keep the tax increase down.

Under the Pavia budget, the city planned to eliminate 49 full-time employees and some city services. The Board of Finance further reduced the budget by felling one additional job, a vehicle maintenance fleet manager, for \$64,000; eliminating money for police and firefighter overtime spending totaling \$580,000; and removing \$750,000 from the city's reserve for medical and life insurance claims.

"I really don't see where there's more room to cut," DeLuca said. "They talk about the economy, but people are still looking for vital services."

Of six Fiscal Committee members reached Wednesday, five similarly said it would be difficult to reduce the budget further.

Only City Rep. Scott Mirkin, R-13, one of the board's fiscal conservatives, said he could not comment on what's ahead, but applauded the mayor for "a great

first step in trying to bring fiscal discipline to the city."

"On the city side, I think the mayor presented a budget that really addressed problems that had been building for years," Mirkin said.

Mirkin was surprised the finance board chose to reduce the municipal operating budget while leaving education spending untouched, though he emphasized that he was "not endorsing more cuts to either side," he said.

DeLuca supported leaving the school budget untouched, saying it "would have been a disaster," if the finance board had chopped more from schools. With Board of Finance Chair Joe Tarzia threatening to go after the Board of Education budget, many parents had feared steep reductions could have led to the closing of Turn of Middle School.

Board of Representatives President Randy Skigen, D-19, said "the majority" of the board "was pleased" city schools escaped further cuts Tuesday.

Some, including Skigen, said they hope to see the finance board restore financing for overtime and other expenses in the city's contingency fund.

DeLuca said he would like to see money returned for some eliminated, or reduced services, such as the city library system, the Cove Island tram, and Project Music, a program that provides instruments and lessons to low income children. But only the Board of Finance has power to set the contingency fund, meaning the city representatives can only indirectly seek an increase to the fund.

Skigen said he believes setting aside some money for police and fire overtime and city employee medical claims will be necessary.

"Otherwise I think you're going to have an irresponsible budget and the city is not going to be able to meet its obligations," Skigen said.

## Unions decry cuts

Continued from A1

2010-11 fiscal year was cut by \$280,000. On Thursday, it will ask the finance board for \$343,800 to cover a shortfall in this year's budget. Last month, the department was given \$450,000 to cover the growing deficit in the overtime account.

"The only thing I can say is, is it reasonable?" Firefighter Brendan Keatley, president of the professional firefighters union, said of the cuts to the department's overtime accounts. "When they, time after time, cut salary lines and don't allow us to hire more people, and then they cut the overtime, I think it's symbolic."

This fiscal year, the police department was budgeted \$2.8 million for overtime, yet it expects to spend \$4.2 million — a \$1.4 million difference that must be covered by additional appropriations from the finance board.

On Tuesday, the finance board cut \$300,000 from the department's \$3 million overtime budget for 2010-11, about \$1.3 million less than the department requested.

This week's budget cuts come a year after the firefighters' union complained to the state that the finance board's cuts to their raises violated state labor laws. The cuts forced the fire union — and several other city unions — to negotiate concessions in order to avoid widespread layoffs of city employees, including firefighters and police officers.

According to a settlement agreement struck on March 17, the city agreed to comply with the state Municipal Employee Relations Act, which requires municipalities to fund collective bargaining agreements approved by city lawmakers.

The fire union had complained to the state Department of Labor that the city violated the law by failing to

fund its contract — which contained the 3-percent raises cut by the finance board shortly after the contract was approved.

"You can't do that with a car loan or a mortgage," Keatley said. The finance board "shouldn't be allowed to do that either. They like to think that they're an all-encompassing power, but the law is the law."

Rather than gain back its concessions from the last round of contract negotiations, Keatley said the fire union filed the complaint in the hopes a resolution would set a precedent for future budget cycles and collective bargaining.

Joseph Tarzia, the Republican finance board chairman, could not be reached for comment Wednesday. At Tuesday's finance board meeting, when members voted on budget cuts, Tarzia said the overtime spending at the police department seems to be driven by individual groups.

"You've got these little fiefdoms," Tarzia said. "They take care of each other, and it's no coincidence that the one who is in charge always makes the most overtime."

Kathleen Murphy, an independent on the finance board, said at the meeting she didn't know whether the board could put conditions on overtime, since it is driven by work rules in union contracts.

Police Sgt. Joseph Kennedy, president of the police union, said he believes the finance board cuts were political posturing and efforts to set the tone for contract negotiations that are months away.

The city is saving more money by keeping police department staffing levels at their lowest since the 1990s, rather than filling those vacancies and having to pay for salaries in addition to benefits, Kennedy said.

### LOTTERY

Wednesday drawing  
Connecticut  
Play 3 Day: 8-9-8  
Play 4 Day: 5-6-5-4  
Play 3 Night: 2-1-3

Play 4 Night: 0-8-2-8  
Cash 5: 3-22-12-34-7  
Powerball: 21-36-40-44-52  
(Power Ball: 33)  
(Power Play: 2)

New York  
Mid-Day Daily: 0-6-3, LS9  
Mid-Day Win 4: 4-7-9-9,  
LS29  
Evening Daily: 9-1-4, LS14

Evening Win 4: 3-0-2-6,  
LS11  
Pick 10: 01-05-09-11-15-16-  
18-21-26-29-40-43-52-55-  
57-59-60-62-71-76