

## MINUTES

New Haven Democracy Fund Board  
Special Meeting  
September 13, 2007

Present: Maria Lamberto (chair), Dennis Curtis, Jennifer James, Caleb Kleppner, Stephen H. Kovel, Lori Kozlowski; Kevin Diadamo (not yet approved by Board of Aldermen), Robert Wechsler (Administrator); two member of news media and two members of DeStefano campaign also attended.

Call to order and unanimous approval of August 16 minutes.

Public comments were requested, but none were offered.

Discussion of Newton campaign's non-participation in the general election. Decided that no need for action.

Discussion of the deadline for requesting primary matching funds. Maria Lamberto said that Newton did participate in the primary and could get matching funds.

Caleb Kleppner moved that the board set the date of October 12 for requests of matching funds, with documentation, relating to this year's primary campaign. Passed unanimously.

Dennis Curtis suggested that the administrator notify the Democratic candidates immediately about this motion.

Discussion of unspent primary matching funds. Maria Lamberto noted that the DeStefano campaign spent \$60,000 of the \$96,850 it raised, including the \$11,850 in public matching funds. She said that she liked the Connecticut approach: that public funds are spent first. In this case, there would be no unspent funds in the primary.

Maria Lamberto moved that, when determining whether there are any surplus public matching funds to be returned, the Board will consider the first funds spent to be public funds.

The Administrator spoke about the difference between the state and New Haven public financing programs, and made the argument that perhaps the surplus funds provision in the Democracy Fund Ordinance did not apply to the current situation. He also expressed a concern with setting a precedent for all situations, because there might be other instances with fewer expenditures, and because our situation was unusual.

Maria Lamberto said that she wants to encourage participation.

Dennis Curtis suggested that there might be no need to apply the provision in this instance.

The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion of looking at the Newton campaign's records. The Newton Campaign has possible rule violations including accepting more than \$300 from one person and the candidate giving more than is allowed to his own campaign. They said that they would correct the problems before applying for Matching funds. They still have not applied.

They've submitted the candidate card but have not submitted the proof (copies of checks etc.) required. They must submit it by October 12<sup>th</sup>.

Determination of whether the election is contested. Robert says that no candidate besides DeStefano (and that's not determined) have raised or spent \$5,000 in the election. At this point we do not have a contested general election.

There was a decision made last month that the primary ended on August 12<sup>th</sup> and the general began on August 13<sup>th</sup>.

There were two motions that failed not to roll everything over into the general.

According to the ordinance, if a candidate submitted a contract for the primary election, it carries over into the general election unless they express a desire not to participate. So we would assume that DeStefano is continuing to participate.

Discussion of the letter from the DeStefano lawyer:

The board does not need to worry about it

Based on decisions made previously this meeting, he really no longer has qualms with the board about the matching funds

Robert will write a letter in response.

Meeting Adjourned.