



## ***Fiscal Committee - Board of Representatives***

Monica Di Costanzo, Co-Chair

Lindsey Miller, Co-Chair

# **Committee Report**

**Date:** Monday, February 28, 2022  
**Time:** 7:00 p.m.  
**Place:** *This meeting was held remotely*

The Fiscal Committee met as indicated above. In attendance were Co-Chairs Di Costanzo and Miller and Committee Member Reps. Boeger, Figueroa, Florio, Morson, Nabel, Pierre-Louis, and Tomas. Excused was Rep. Fedeli. Absent was Rep. Coleman. Also present were Reps. Baxter, Cottrell, Goldberg, Sherwood, and Summerville. Also present were Anita Carpenter, Grants Officer; Kevin McCarthy, Director of Facilities, Operating, SPS; Dan Colleluori, Director of Recycling and Sanitation; Frank Petise, Acting Transportation Bureau Chief; Lee Berta, OPM; Sandra Dennies, Director of Administration; Cindy Grafstein, Special Assistant to the Mayor; Alice Knapp, Executive Director, Ferguson Library; and Doug Dalena, Corporation Counsel.

Co-Chair Miller called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

<b>Item No.</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Committee Action</b>
1. <a href="#">F31.003</a> \$350,000.00	ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION (Operating Budget); Director of Law; Unanticipated Expenses Incurred After the FY 21/22 Budget was Adopted (Source of funds: Contingency). 12/01/21 – Submitted by Mayor Simmons 11/10/21 – Approved by Board of Finance 5-0-0 12/27/21 – Held by Committee 11-0-0 <b>02/07/22 – Held by Full Board</b>	Approved 6-2-1

Mr. Dalena discussed this item with the Committee. Items discussed included the following;

- In the expense breakdown for representation to seek compensation or damages for the City, the department had paid \$6,000 for specialized counsel in the negotiations with Disney, resulting in \$172,000 for the City. The remainder of that line item relates to the mold crisis, in which the City is seeking to recover tens of millions. They had discovered a scrivener's error so the total for the line item was \$107,212.84 rather than \$176,404.84 as stated on the earlier breakdown.
- The prior breakdown did not include the \$24,000 which had been previously described to the Committee for the representation of BOE members after the conclusion of the investigation in order to permit them to respond to the report.
- Since the last meeting, the Law Department has received \$146,542.19 in invoices from outside counsel
- The current total is \$957,000
- This appropriation is to address outside counsel costs through the end of the fiscal year
- The City is required by contract to hire outside counsel for employee disciplinary matters
- The reality of municipal government is that not all matters can be handled in-house; Stamford is the second largest city in the state in terms of population and has more land area and

greater development than other cities in the State; Hartford's budget for outside counsel if \$1.4 million

- The department can't predict everything that will come in and tries to use outside counsel strategically so the City pays out less and recovers more
- The BOE investigation was of pervasive and repeated conduct; conducting it in-house may have been perceived as a witch hunt by a Democratic administration; a preeminent law firm and their resources were needed; this investigation potentially saved the City millions of dollars; this was an extraordinary situation and not representative of what the office typically pays.

A motion to approve Item No. 1 was made, seconded, and approved by a vote of 6-2-1 (Reps. Di Costanzo, Miller, Florio, Morson, Nabel, and Pierre-Louis in favor; Reps. Boeger and Tomas opposed; Rep. Figueroa abstaining).

2. [F31.020](#) ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION (Grants Budget); Approved 9-0-0  
\$2,785,756.00 COVID-19 FEMA; To Cover Expenses Submitted and Approved by FEMA and Expenses through December 2021. (100% Grant Funded)  
02/09/22 – Submitted by Mayor Simmons  
02/10/22 – Approved by Board of Finance 6-0-0

Ms. Carpenter explained that Item No. 2 is to Cover Covid-19 Expenses Submitted and Approved by FEMA and Expenses through December 2021. A motion to approve Item No. 2 was made, seconded, and approved by unanimous voice vote (Reps. Di Costanzo, Miller, Boeger, Figueroa, Florio, Morson, Nabel, Pierre-Louis, and Tomas in favor).

3. [F31.021](#) ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION (Grants Budget); Approved 9-0-0  
\$60,000.00 USDA Composting Grant; To Implement a Pilot Food Waste Reduction Program in Partnership with the Bartlett Arboretum; including Purchase of a Composting Machine, Printed Informational Material and Contracting with Vendor to Collect and Dispose of Waste Beyond 500 lbs. per day (Source of Funds: 75% Grant Funded)  
02/09/22 – Submitted by Mayor Simmons  
02/10/22 – Approved by Board of Finance 6-0-0

Mr. Colleluori explained that the composting pilot program at Katrina Mygatt has been very successful. Item No. 3 is to expand the program to the Bartlett Arboretum so that residents of North Stamford can participate. A motion to approve Item No. 3 was made, seconded, and approved by unanimous voice vote (Reps. Di Costanzo, Miller, Boeger, Figueroa, Florio, Morson, Nabel, Pierre-Louis, and Tomas in favor).

4. [F31.022](#) ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION (Grants Budget); Approved 9-0-0  
\$100,000.00 Ferguson Library Roof Repair; Repair of Roof at Weed Branch of Ferguson Library (Source of Funds: 100% State Bond Grant Funded; any extra costs to be assumed by Library)  
01/25/22 – Submitted by Mayor Simmons  
02/10/22 – Approved by Board of Finance 6-0-0

Ms. Carpenter explained that Item No. 4 is a direct pass-through to the Ferguson Library. Ms. Knapp stated that this will permit the library to replace the entire roof, which is at the end of its

useful life. A motion to approve Item No. 4 was made, seconded, and approved by unanimous voice vote (Reps. Di Costanzo, Miller, Boeger, Figueroa, Florio, Morson, Nabel, Pierre-Louis, and Tomas in favor).

5. [F31.024](#)                      ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION (Grants Budget);      Approved 8-0-1  
\$550,000.00                      Justice & Mental Health Grant; Funds to be Utilized  
to Enhance the Mental Health Collaboration  
between the Police Department and the Recovery  
Network of Program, Inc.; including hiring an  
additional MSW to embed in the PD, conducting a  
systems-wide needs assessment; assigning a  
Project Manager to manage the program; and an  
outreach campaign (Source of Funds: 100% Grant  
Funded; local match of \$241,667 budgeted)  
02/09/22 – Submitted by Mayor Simmons  
02/10/22 – Approved by Board of Finance 6-0-0

Ms. Carpenter explained that Item No. 5 is a new grant to expand the mental health program. This is a 3 year grant and the match is already budgeted. The existing budgeted amount will be used for the MSW and the additional MSW will be hired in year 2 of the grant to focus in youth and juvenile services and provide night and weekend coverage. They will be pursuing options for continuation funding. A motion to approve Item No. 5 was made, seconded, and approved by unanimous voice vote (Reps. Di Costanzo, Miller, Figueroa, Florio, Morson, Nabel, Pierre-Louis, and Tomas in favor; Rep. Boeger abstaining).

6. [F31.027](#)                      ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION (Capital Budget);      Approved 9-0-0  
\$150,000.00                      C5B218; BOE District Wide Renovation  
Assessment; Prepare education specifications,  
concept planning, layout, and cost estimating for  
"New Construction" related to Northern School to  
be utilized to submit applications to the State for  
grant fund reimbursements.  
01/25/22 – Submitted by Mayor Simmons  
02/08/22 – Approved by [Planning Board](#)  
02/10/22 – Approved by Board of Finance 6-0-0

***As a Secondary Committee: Education***

Mr. McCarthy explained that this appropriation is for the grant submission for a potential new building at the Roxbury site. This appropriation would fund the hiring of an architect and engineer to do concept planning to submit the grant application; hire a firm for the educational specifications for the grant; and perform a Phase 1 environmental site assessment. Under State law, the City must look at both new construction and a renovate as new scenario, and the State will determine which it wants to fund. The site assessment is necessary and is reimbursable. They have issued RFPs for the architectural and engineering firm and for the firm to develop educational specifications and are in the process of reviewing applicants. Ms. Grafstein explained that there will also be a process of community engagement prior to going forward. A motion to approve Item No. 6 was made, seconded, and approved by unanimous voice vote (Reps. Di Costanzo, Miller, Boeger, Figueroa, Florio, Morson, Nabel, Pierre-Louis, and Tomas in favor).

7. [F31.019](#) ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION (Capital Budget); Approved 9-0-0  
 \$14,700.00 CP1463; BOE – 229 North Street; Eversource Energy Efficiency Incentive Received for the Anchor Program Project at 229 North Street (Source of Funds: Eversource Incentive).  
 01/26/22 – Submitted by Mayor Simmons  
 02/08/22 – Approved by [Planning Board](#)  
 02/10/22 – Approved by Board of Finance 6-0-0

Mr. Casolo explained that in conjunction with the design and construction project for the Anchor program, the City was able to obtain almost \$15,000 in energy incentives, which are going to be redirected back into the capital account for projects at the location. A motion to approve Item No. 7 was made, seconded, and approved by unanimous voice vote (Reps. Di Costanzo, Miller, Boeger, Figueroa, Florio, Morson, Nabel, Pierre-Louis, and Tomas in favor).

8. [F31.029](#) ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION (Capital Budget); Approved 9-0-0  
 \$106,000.00 C56174; Citywide Signals; Traffic Signal Improvements in the Vicinity of 1315 Washington Blvd. (source of funds: \$100,000 private contribution per Zoning Appl. 217-03-04) and Traffic Signal Safety Upgrades at Intersection of West Main St. and Stillwater Ave. (source of funds: \$6,000 private contribution per Zoning Requirements for 57 Stillwater Avenue).  
 01/25/22 – Submitted by Mayor Simmons  
 02/08/22 – Approved by [Planning Board](#)  
 02/10/22 – Approved by Board of Finance 5-0-0

Mr. Petise explained that these are private contributions from 2 separate developments per Zoning Board requirements and will be used for traffic upgrades. A motion to approve Item No. 8 was made, seconded, and approved by unanimous voice vote (Reps. Di Costanzo, Miller, Boeger, Figueroa, Florio, Morson, Nabel, Pierre-Louis, and Tomas in favor).

9. [F31.030](#) APPROVAL; Reappropriation of OTHRA Reserve Approved 9-0-0, as  
 \$2,735,268.78 Balance from ~~Capital Projects Fund 10~~ to Capital amended  
 Nonrecurring Fund 12 to Capital Projects Fund 10.  
 01/06/22 – Submitted by Mayor Simmons  
 02/10/22 – Approved by Board of Finance 5-0-1

Ms. Denise explained that this is the total amount remaining after the close-out of OTHRA. The amount was previously moved from Capital Projects Fund 10 to Capital Nonrecurring Fund 12. However, in 2007, the City had funded Old Town Hall in the amount of \$5,681,538.21. The \$2.7 million should have been used to offset that amount and the balance would be written off. There should be sufficient funds in Fund 10 to offset the receivable. The amount should now be transferred back in order to offset the amount. She will provide written detail of the 2007 amount.

It was noted that the description of the item on the agenda was incorrect. A motion to amend the description to show that the transfer is from Fund 12 to Fund 10 was made, seconded, and approved by unanimous voice vote (Reps. Di Costanzo, Miller, Boeger, Figueroa, Florio, Morson, Nabel, Pierre-Louis, and Tomas in favor). A motion to approve Item No. 9, as amended, was made, seconded, and approved by unanimous voice vote (Reps. Di Costanzo, Miller, Boeger, Figueroa, Florio, Morson, Nabel, Pierre-Louis, and Tomas in favor).

10. [F31.026](#)

REVIEW; FY2021-22 Second Quarter Projections. Held 9-0-0  
02/09/22 – Submitted by Lee Berta

Ms. Berta reviewed the [attached draft projections](#) with the Committee. She will provide final second quarter numbers next month. A motion to hold this item was made, seconded, and approved by unanimous voice vote (Reps. Di Costanzo, Miller, Boeger, Figueroa, Florio, Morson, Nabel, Pierre-Louis, and Tomas in favor).

Co-Chair Miller adjourned the meeting at 8:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lindsey Miller, Co-Chair

This meeting is on [video](#).