



Fiscal Committee - Board of Representatives

Monica Di Costanzo, Co-Chair Lindsey Miller, Co-Chair

Committee Report

Date: Monday, May 23, 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, Coleman, Fedeli, Figueroa, Florio, Morson, Nabel, Pierre-Louis, and Tomas. Also present were Reps. Adams, Baxter, Berns, Bewkes, Campbell, Cottrell, Curtis, de la Cruz, Di Costanzo, Gilbride, Goldberg, Grunberger, Jacobson, Jean-Louis, Ley, Matheny, Mays, Miller, Moore, Patterson, Pavia, Pollack, Roqueta, Saftic, Sandford, Shaw, Sherwood, Stella, Walston, and Watkins; Mayor Caroline Simmons; Luke Buttenwieser, Transportation Bureau; Anita Carpenter, Grants Officer; Jody Bishop-Pullan, Director of Health; Ted Jankowski, Director of Public Safety, Health and Welfare, Loren Nadres and Leah Kagan, Economic Development; Sandy Dennies, Director of Administration; Elda Sinani, OPM Director; Lee Berta and Anthony Romano, OPM; Doug Dalena, Corporation Counsel; Dr. Tamu Lucero, Kevin McCarthy and Michael Fernandez, and Cindy Grafstein; Stamford Public Schools; Lou Casolo, City Engineer; Richard Freedman, Mary Lou Rinaldi, David Mannis, Geoff Alswanger, JR McMullen and Dennis Mahoney, Board of Finance; and Jeff Wyszynski, Tecton Architects.

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

A motion to take up Item No. 8 was made, seconded and approved by unanimous voice vote (Reps. Di Costanzo, Miller, Boeger, Coleman, Fedeli, Figueroa, Florio, Morson, Nabel, and Tomas in favor).

Item No.	Description	Committee Action
8. F31.061 \$2,816,530.22	ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION (Capital Budget); 001266; Greenwich Avenue at Pulaski Street Roundabout; Construction of Roundabout at the Intersection of Greenwich Avenue, Pulaski Street, Davenport Street, and Waterside Place. (Source of Funds: 100% State Grant Funded). 04/29/22 – Submitted by Mayor Simmons 04/26/22 – To be Considered by Planning Board 05/12/22 – Approved by Board of Finance 6-0-0	Approved 10-0-0

Mr. Buttenwieser explained that this appropriation is for the construction of a roundabout at the Intersection of Greenwich Avenue, Pulaski Street, Davenport Street, and Waterside Place. This project is fully funded by the State of Connecticut Department of Transportation. This is the final step in the construction and the City has gone out to bid for a contractor. \$2,816,530.22 is the full amount for the construction costs of the project. The design for the project was already funded.

A motion to approve Item No. 8 was made, seconded and approved by unanimous voice vote (Reps. Di Costanzo, Miller, Boeger, Coleman, Fedeli, Figueroa, Florio, Morson, Nabel, and Tomas in favor).

1. [F31.054](#) ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION (Grants Budget); **Approved 10-0-0**
 \$50,000.00 Medical Reserve Corps – COVID; MRC-COVID-19
 RISE Award; Supplemental Funding to Support
 MRC as a Result of the Pandemic; Improve
 Volunteer Capacity to Respond to Public Health
 Emergencies.
 04/29/22 – Submitted by Mayor Simmons
 05/12/22 – Approved by Board of Finance 6-0-0

Ms. Carpenter explained that this additional appropriation was received as a result of a national competition. The funds will be used for additional COVID support for the Medical Reserve Corps to hire a part time seasonal employee to run this program, provide training for volunteers and supplies.

A motion to approve Item No. 1 was made, seconded and approved by unanimous voice vote (Reps. Di Costanzo, Miller, Boeger, Coleman, Fedeli, Figueroa, Florio, Morson, Nabel, and Tomas in favor).

2. [F31.055](#) ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION (Grants Budget); **Approved 8-0-2**
 \$15,000.00 JAG Local VCP Grant; Funds to be used to
 Support Implementation of the PAL program on the
 West Side of the City. Funding will be Subawarded
 to Stamford PAL Foundation to be used for
 Administrative, Outreach, and Operating Purposes.
 They will administer the PAL program out of the
 Chester Addison Community Center. (Source of
 Funds: 100% Grant Funded)
 04/29/22 – Submitted by Mayor Simmons
 05/12/22 – Approved by Board of Finance 6-0-0

Ms. Carpenter explained Item Nos. 2 and 3 are for the PAL program run through the Police Department and the PAL Foundation. This additional appropriation was also received as a result of a national competition. The Board of Finance had certain conditions which were placed into the agreement – 1) that the PAL program will never come back to the City to be put into any budget in any capacity, and 2) none of these funds from these grants will be used to support police stipends or police overtime. These grants were awarded to the Stamford Police Department, and will be subawarded to the PAL foundation.

A motion to approve Item No. 2 was made, seconded and approved by unanimous voice vote (Reps. Di Costanzo, Miller, Coleman, Fedeli, Florio, Morson, Nabel, and Tomas in favor; Reps. Boeger and Figueroa abstaining).

3. [F31.065](#) **Approved 8-0-2**
 \$124,994.00 ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION (Grants Budget); Stamford PAL Grant; Grant from the COPS Agency to Start Pilot PAL Program on the West Side; Goal of Program is to Reduce Violent Behavior Among Youth Through Building a Mentoring Type Positive Relationship with Police Officers; Funds to be used to Hire Administrative Staff to Manage the Program, Conduct Outreach and Awareness to Recruit Youth and Officers, Purchase Supplies and Maintain Insurance Coverage. (Source of Funds: 100% Grant Funded)
 04/29/22 – Submitted by Mayor Simmons
 05/12/22 – Approved by Board of Finance 6-0-0

Ms. Carpenter explained that the conditions imposed on Item No. 2 also apply to Item No. 3. The Grants office will assist the Foundation in finding funding in order to be self-sustaining and will provide the Board of Finance and Board of Representatives with a six month report. Mr. Jankowski explained that this is a pilot program that will be run out of Chester Addison, but will be available to all children.

A motion to approve Item No. 3 was made, seconded and approved by unanimous voice vote (Reps. Di Costanzo, Miller, Coleman, Fedeli, Florio, Morson, Nabel, and Tomas in favor; Reps. Boeger and Figueroa abstaining).

4. [F31.056](#) **Approved 11-0-0**
 \$1,500,000.00 ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION (Grants Budget); Economic Development; Funds to Support Small Businesses that Suffered a Negative Economic Impact due to COVID 19; through Grant Assistance of up to \$7500 (Source of Funds: 100% ARP Funded).
 04/29/22 – Submitted by Mayor Simmons
 05/12/22 – Approved by Board of Finance 6-0-0

Mayor Simmons stated that this initiative to support small business in Stamford is a focus of her administration and the economic development team. Small business creates 2/3 of the jobs within the City and were hit very hard during the pandemic. Current inflation and supply chain issues are also impacting them. Ms. Nadres reviewed the attached [PowerPoint presentation](#) with the Committee. In response to questions from the Committee, Ms. Nadres stated that:

- They arrived at the number of \$7,500 based on what they thought was needed to keep small business doors open and keep employees, as well as other ways to help create new revenue
- Expect to support 150-200 small businesses using a selection process with weighted indicators and document supported application process
- The businesses must have exhausted their PPP loans
- There are 16,914 small businesses in Stamford
- The grant funds can be used to pay an operating partner to administer this program
- The program will be administered on a first come, first served basis, but the administration will reach out to businesses to put in applications and the grants administrator will assist businesses in filling out the applications, etc.
- The Economic Development team is hoping this process will also help them assess what other support small businesses need (technology assistance, digital marketing, ideas for new revenue streams, etc.)

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

5. [F31.043](#) ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION (Operating Budget); F300726; Public Health Emergency (COVID-19); Transfer to Grants Fund to Cover COVID-19 Expenses not covered by the CARES Act or Reimbursed by FEMA (Funding Source: Contingency). **Approved 11-0-0**
\$1,100,000.00
04/06/22 – Submitted by Mayor Simmons
04/13/22 - Held by Board of Finance
04/25/22 – Held by Committee 10-0-0
05/12/22 - Approved by Board of Finance 4-1-1

6. [F31.048](#) ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION (Grants Budget); F300726; Public Health Emergency Management; Transfer from General Fund to Cover COVID-19 Expenses not covered by the CARES Act or Reimbursed by FEMA. (100% City Funded). **Approved 11-0-0**
\$1,100,000.00
04/06/22 – Submitted by Mayor Simmons
04/25/22 – Held by Committee 10-0-0
05/12/22 - Approved by Board of Finance 4-1-1

The Committee discussed Items 5 and 6 together. These appropriations are for remaining COVID expense that will not be covered by FEMA.

A motion to approve Item No. 5 was made, seconded and approved by unanimous voice vote (Reps. Di Costanzo, Miller, Boeger, Coleman, Fedeli, Figueroa, Florio, Morson, Nabel, Pierre-Louis, and Tomas in favor).

A motion to approve Item No. 6 was made, seconded and approved by unanimous voice vote (Reps. Di Costanzo, Miller, Boeger, Coleman, Fedeli, Figueroa, Florio, Morson, Nabel, Pierre-Louis, and Tomas in favor).

7. [F31.047](#) ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION (Operating Budget); Appropriation of Conveyance Tax to Various Line Items Projected to go Over Budget. **Approved 11-0-0**
\$1,975,000.00
03/16/22 – Submitted by Mayor Simmons
04/13/22 - Approved by Board of Finance 6-0-0
04/11/22 – Held at Steering

Ms. Berta explained that this appropriation will permit the City to fund items that were projected in December to go over budget by the end of the year. This is not a usual practice, but will use the excess conveyance tax revenue.

A motion to approve Item No. 7 was made, seconded and approved by unanimous voice vote (Reps. Di Costanzo, Miller, Boeger, Coleman, Fedeli, Figueroa, Florio, Morson, Nabel, Pierre-Louis, and Tomas in favor).

9. [F31.063](#) \$4,122,491.00 ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION (Capital Budget); **Approved 10-0-1**
 001267; Stamford High Plaster Ceiling & Floor
 Removal; Submit to OSCGR in June 2022 for a
 Summer 2024 Start; if Approved Stamford will be
 Eligible for Approximately ~~29%~~ 60%
 Reimbursement; Work Will Continue Through the
 School Year; Expected Completion Is End of
 August 2025.
 04/29/22 – Submitted by Mayor Simmons
 05/10/22 – Approved by Planning Board
 05/12/22 – Approved by Board of Finance 6-0-0

Mr. Casolo explained that this appropriation is for the replacement of the plaster ceiling and asbestos floor tile in several classrooms on the second floor of the 1927 building. He noted that since the agenda was published that State passed special legislation increasing the reimbursement rate to 60%. This is a removal of plaster ceilings located above the suspended drop ceiling. The ceilings are deteriorated due to leaks in the roof, which is scheduled to be replaced under a different project. The work will be done in contained areas, so the asbestos floor tiles will be removed and the floors will be repaired. In addition, the walls will go higher than the suspended ceilings at the request of the Board of Ed for acoustic reasons. This work will be monitored and will be done in off hours.

A motion to approve Item No. 9 was made, seconded and approved by unanimous voice vote (Reps. Miller, Boeger, Coleman, Fedeli, Figueroa, Florio, Morson, Nabel, Pierre-Louis, and Tomas in favor; Rep. Di Costanzo abstaining).

10. [F31.058](#) RESOLUTION; Amending the Capital Budget for **Approved 10-0-1**
 Fiscal Year 2021-2022 by Adding an Appropriation
 of \$4,122,491 for the Stamford High Plaster Ceiling
 & Floor Project and Authorizing \$4,122,491
 General Obligation Bonds of the City to meet said
 Appropriation; and Resolution for School
 Construction Grant.
 05/03/22 – Submitted by Mayor Simmons
 05/12/22 – Approved by Board of Finance 5-0-1

Mr. Romano stated that the paperwork will be adjusted to reflect the new reimbursement rate once he receives the grant paperwork. Only the City portion will be bonded.

A motion to approve Item No. 10 was made, seconded and approved by unanimous voice vote (Reps. Miller, Boeger, Coleman, Fedeli, Figueroa, Florio, Morson, Nabel, Pierre-Louis, and Tomas in favor; Rep. Di Costanzo abstaining).

11. [F31.062](#) \$86,000,000.00 ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION (Capital Budget); **Approved 11-0-0**
 001268; Roxbury School Replacement Project;
 Construction of a new K-8 School at 751 West Hill
 Road; School Construction Application will be
 Submitted to the State OSCGR in June 2022; if
 Approved Stamford will be Eligible for
 Approximately 49% 60% Reimbursement.
 04/29/22 – Submitted by Mayor Simmons
 05/10/22 – Approved by Planning Board
 05/12/22 – Approved by Board of Finance 6-0-0

Mr. Casolo stated that this is similar to the request made last year for Westhill High School. The grant application is due on or before June 30th in order to be considered for the priority list by the State. As part of the application, the municipality must have authorized the funding prior to making the application.

Mr. Wyszynski reviewed the attached [PowerPoint presentation](#). In voting on this appropriation, the choice between renovate as new and new is not being made. The recommendation is for new, but both options must be included in the analysis. There was a public information session held with a similar presentation. \$35.7M is the estimated cost to the City.

A motion to approve Item No. 11 was made, seconded and approved by unanimous voice vote (Reps. Di Costanzo, Miller, Boeger, Coleman, Fedeli, Figueroa, Florio, Morson, Nabel, Pierre-Louis, and Tomas in favor).

12. [F31.059](#) RESOLUTION; Amending the Capital Budget for **Approved 11-0-0**
 Fiscal Year 2021-2022 by Adding an Appropriation
 of \$86,000,000 for the Roxbury School
 Replacement Project and Authorizing \$86,000,000
 General Obligation Bonds of the City to meet said
 Appropriation.
 05/03/22 – Submitted by Mayor Simmons
 05/12/22 – Approved by Board of Finance 5-0-1

A motion to approve Item No. 12 was made, seconded and approved by unanimous voice vote (Reps. Di Costanzo, Miller, Boeger, Coleman, Fedeli, Figueroa, Florio, Morson, Nabel, Pierre-Louis, and Tomas in favor).

13. [F31.057](#) REVIEW; FY2021-22 Third Quarter Projections. **Held 11-0-0**
 05/04/22 – Submitted by Lee Berta

14. F31.032 REVIEW; Additional Appropriations- Administration **Held 11-0-0**
 Procedures in Place to Anticipate Potential Budget
 Overruns in Order to Request Additional Funding
 Before Spending Beyond Authorized Budgeted
 Amounts.
 03/08/22 - Submitted by Reps de la Cruz,
 Sherwood, Boeger, Grunberger and Tomas
 03/28/22 – Held by Committee
 04/11/22 – Held at Steering

A motion to hold Item Nos. 13 and 14 was made, seconded and approved by unanimous voice vote (Reps. Di Costanzo, Miller, Boeger, Coleman, Fedeli, Figueroa, Florio, Morson, Nabel, Pierre-Louis, and Tomas in favor).

Under a Suspension of the Rules:

A motion to suspend the rules to take up Item No. 15 was made, seconded and approved by unanimous voice vote (Reps. Di Costanzo, Miller, Boeger, Coleman, Fedeli, Figueroa, Florio, Morson, Nabel, Pierre-Louis, and Tomas in favor).

15. [F31.066](#) RESOLUTION; Approving an Additional Tax Rate to Provide Funds to A Reserve Fund for Capital Nonrecurring Expenditures to Support the Funding of Future Capital Projects Under CGS §7-361 As Recommended by The Board of Finance for Fiscal Year 2022-2023. **Approved 10-1-0**
05/19/22 – Submitted by Board of Finance
05/17/22 – Approved by Board of Finance 6-0-0

Mr. Freedman stated that the Board of Finance has accepted that the bill has come due to pay for our schools. The cost for the Westhill project was \$250,000,000 and the Board of Finance has discussed how to pay for these projects. The Board reviewed the Long Term Facilities plan and discussed two possible ways of financing, one was bonding and the other was setting aside a capital reserve in the tax rate. When the Mayor proposed a budget that came in at 1%, it presented a unique opportunity to set aside a capital reserve in the tax rate. The Board of Finance set the mill rate and ended up with a \$20 million reserve at a 1% tax increase, which was approved unanimously.

Mr. Freedman reviewed the attached [PowerPoint presentation](#). Committee members discussed the proposed resolution with Mr. Freedman. Items discussed included the following:

- Why not set up a larger reserve?
- This amount could go into a subaccount of the Capital Reserve
- State statute requires the purpose of this additional tax to be specified and it can only be used for capital reserve
- This tax is only for this year
- This is not enough savings to justify the cost to taxpayers
- The average taxpayer will have an increase of \$370

A motion to amend Item No. 15 was to add the language “, and further that such proceeds shall be deposited into a subaccount for school construction” to the end of the resolution was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 11-0-0 (Reps. Di Costanzo, Miller, Boeger, Coleman, Fedeli, Figueroa, Florio, Morson, Nabel, Pierre-Louis, and Tomas in favor).

A motion to approve Item No. 15 as amended was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 10-1-0 (Reps. Di Costanzo, Boeger, Coleman, Fedeli, Figueroa, Florio, Morson, Nabel, Pierre-Louis, and Tomas in favor; Rep. Miller opposed).

Co-Chair Di Costanzo adjourned the meeting at 10:19 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Monica Di Costanzo, Co-Chair

This meeting is on [video](#).