



Fiscal Committee - Board of Representatives

Sean Boeger, Co-Chair

Lindsey Miller, Co-Chair

Committee Report

Date: Monday, July 24, 2023
Time: 7:00 p.m.
Place: *This meeting was held in the Democratic Caucus Room, 888 Washington Blvd, Stamford, CT, 4th Floor and remotely.*

The Fiscal Committee met as indicated above. In attendance in person were Co-Chair Miller and Committee Member Reps. Goldberg, Morson, and Shaw. In attendance remotely were Co-Chair Boeger and Committee Member Reps. Coleman, Fedeli, Garst, Pierre-Louis. Absent or excused were Committee Member Reps. Figueroa and Tomas. Also present in person were Bridget Fox, Chief of Staff; Chief Tim Shaw, Stamford Police Department; Lou DeRubeis, Director of Public Safety, Health, and Welfare; and Frank Lagoe, Public Safety Statistician. Also present remotely were Reps. Matheny and Sherwood; Anita Carpenter, Grants Officer; Jody Bishop-Pullan, Director of Health; David Yanik, Controller; Elda Sinani, OPM Director; Lou Casolo, City Engineer, Greg Stackpole, Assessor; Al Cava, HR Director; Thomas Cassone, Corporation Counsel; Kevin Murray, Director of Parks and Recreation; and Erin McKenna; Senior Parks Planner.

Co-Chair Boeger called the meeting to order at 7:01.

Co-Chair Boeger stated that the Committee would take up Item Nos. 1 and 7 later in the meeting, to accommodate Rep. de la Cruz, who had a conflict for the beginning of the meeting.

| Item No. | Description | Committee Action |
|----------------------------|---|-------------------------|
| 2. F31.239 | RESOLUTION; Regarding the Capital Budget for FY23/24 Appropriation and Bond Authorization for the Davenport School Bathroom Renovation Project Financing and for School Construction Grant (Source of Funds: FY24 Capital Budget). 07/03/23 – Submitted by Anita Carpenter | Approved 9-0-0 |

Ms. Carpenter stated that this is a non-priority school construction project to make a bathroom facility at Davenport School ADA accessible. It is a \$1,668,412 project, of which general obligation bonds of the City in the amount of \$667,364.80 have been authorized and \$1,001,047.20 is anticipated to be funded by grants from the State of Connecticut.

A motion to approve Item No. 2 was made, seconded, and approved by unanimous voice vote (Reps. Boeger, Miller, Coleman, Fedeli, Garst, Goldberg, Morson, Pierre-Louis, and Shaw in favor).

3. [F31.240](#) RESOLUTION; Regarding the Capital Budget for FY 23/24 Appropriation and Bond Authorization for the Newfield School Roof Renovation Project Financing and for School Construction Grant (Source of Funds: FY24 Capital Budget). 07/03/23 – Submitted by Anita Carpenter **Approved 9-0-0**

Ms. Carpenter stated that this is a non-priority school grant application to the State to renovate the oldest part of the Newfield School roof. The total amount of the project is \$350,000. The City is requesting \$210,000 in grant funds from the State and City bonds in the amount of \$140,000. The money has already been appropriated in the capital budget. The application for the grant for school construction is being approved.

A motion to approve Item No. 3 was made, seconded, and approved by unanimous voice vote (Reps. Boeger, Miller, Coleman, Fedeli, Garst, Goldberg, Morson, Pierre-Louis, and Shaw in favor).

4. [F31.244](#) \$179,517.00 ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION (Operating Budget); Employee Benefits; Nurses Wage Payout FY23/24 for Current Year Wage Settlements (Source of Funds: Contingency). 06/29/23 – Submitted by Mayor Simmons 07/13/23 – Approved by Board of Finance 6-0-0 **Approved 9-0-0**

Mr. Cava explained that this is the funding needed to implement the recently negotiated contract with the school nurses, which was approved by the Personnel Committee.

A motion to approve Item No. 4 was made, seconded, and approved by unanimous voice vote (Reps. Boeger, Miller, Coleman, Fedeli, Garst, Goldberg, Morson, Pierre-Louis, and Shaw in favor).

5. [F31.246](#) \$510,394.00 ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION (Operating Budget); Emergency Communications Reorganization 23/24 (Source of Funds: Contingency). 07/06/23 – Submitted by Mayor Simmons 07/13/23 – Approved by Board of Finance 6-0-0 **Recommended to Fiscal 9-0-0**

Committee members discussed Item No. 5 with the invited guests. Items discussed included the following:

- The origin of this item was the prior administration which proposed it as a cost savings, but this item is not a continuation of that item.
- This program affects two different unions. The public safety dispatchers are in the UAW and the civilian supervisors will be in the MAA. A dispatcher in a grade-level 2 position from the UAW will be able to fill in for supervisors.
- Rep. Boeger stated that he has been told by union leadership that if a supervisor needs to act as a dispatcher, unless it is a dire emergency, the UAW will file a grievance and that the MAA has not agreed that the members of the UAW may fill in for the supervisors. There should be an agreement by the unions in place before this is implemented.
- Mr. Cava stated that the the job description adopted indicates that an MAA supervisor could only perform public safety dispatcher bargaining unit work on an emergency basis.

The administration has had discussions regarding this with the UAW clarifying the meaning of “on an emergency basis” and as of this morning, the president of the UAW has stated in an email that they are satisfied with the explanation that an emergency is only when a public safety dispatcher is not available to answer the call. On the issue of when an MAA supervisor is not available, and a public safety dispatcher would perform that duty on an out of class basis, there is nothing in writing. It is common practice for a lower level employee to fill in for an MAA position, even across unions when needed.

- Mr. Cassone stated that MOUs clarifying the unions’ positions could be obtained by the August Board meeting.
- Ms. Fox stated that the administration has been working toward a September start date and it would be ideal to get this wrapped up in August in order to be able to recruit and hire.

A motion to recommit Item No. 5 to Fiscal, with the intention to reconvene on the night of the Board meeting, was made, seconded and approved by unanimous voice vote (Reps. Boeger, Miller, Coleman, Fedeli, Garst, Goldberg, Morson, Pierre-Louis, and Shaw in favor).

6. [F31.231](#) ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION (Capital Budget); **Approved 9-0-0**
\$25,000.00 CP0122; Park Amenities Upgrade; Private Donation to Remove the Bleachers at Cubeta Stadium and the Power Wash and Paint the Stadium Seating (Source of Funds: Private Donation (to be approved by Parks & Recreation Committee)).
05/30/23 – Submitted by Mayor Simmons
05/23/23 – Approved by [Planning Board](#)
06/08/23 – Approved by Board of Finance 6-0-0
06/12/23 – Held at Steering

It was noted that this work has already been completed and the Parks & Recreation Committee approved the donation. Money that was appropriated for the care and maintenance of courts was used for the bleacher repair, in anticipation of the approval of this donation.

A motion to approve Item No. 6 was made, seconded, and approved by unanimous voice vote (Reps. Boeger, Miller, Coleman, Fedeli, Garst, Goldberg, Morson, Pierre-Louis, and Shaw in favor).

8. [F31.242](#) ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION (Capital Budget); **Approved 9-0-0**
\$598,125.00 Toilsome Brook Flood Resilience Plan; Overlaps with Engineering Bureau’s Citywide Drainage Assessment; Focuses on Chronically Flood Prone Area (Source of Funds: 100% State Grant).
07/06/23 – Submitted by Mayor Simmons
06/27/23 – Approved by [Planning Board](#)
07/13/23 – Approved by Board of Finance 6-0-0

A motion to approve Item No. 8 was made, seconded, and approved by unanimous voice vote (Reps. Boeger, Miller, Coleman, Fedeli, Garst, Goldberg, Morson, Pierre-Louis, and Shaw in favor).

9. [F31.243](#) \$481,125.00 ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION (Capital Budget); Cummings Pond Area Flood & Ecological Resilience Plan; Drainage Structures Attached to Stormwater Outfall that Empties into Cummings Pond are out of Proportion to Capacity; Hydrologic and Hydraulic Analysis as basis to Develop Concept Level Plans; Prioritizing Nature-Based Solutions (Source of Funds: 100% State Grant). 07/06/23 – Submitted by Mayor Simmons 06/27/23 – Approved by [Planning Board](#) 07/13/23 – Approved by Board of Finance 6-0-0 **Approved 9-0-0**

A motion to approve Item No. 9 was made, seconded, and approved by unanimous voice vote (Reps. Boeger, Miller, Coleman, Fedeli, Garst, Goldberg, Morson, Pierre-Louis, and Shaw in favor).

10. [F31.218](#) MOTION TO AMEND SOMETHING PREVIOUSLY ADOPTED; Appropriation of Prior Year General Fund Balance (FY21-22) - Approved by Board on 06/05/23; Amending Allocation to City/Capital Non-Recurring from \$2,000,000 to \$2,025,000 to be consistent with allocation approved by Board of Finance. 07/06/23 – Submitted by OPM **Approved 9-0-0**

This item was previously approved by the Board, but there was an error in the numbers so that the appropriation was \$25,000 short.

A motion to approve Item No. 10 to amend something previously adopted was made, seconded, and approved by unanimous voice vote (Reps. Boeger, Miller, Coleman, Fedeli, Garst, Goldberg, Morson, Pierre-Louis, and Shaw in favor).

11. [F31.238](#) APPROVAL; Agreement between the City of Stamford and Tax Management Associates Inc. for Property Tax Audits under RFP No. 890. 06/28/23 – Submitted by Mayor Simmons 07/13/23 – Approved by Board of Finance 6-0-0 **Approved 9-0-0**

This is a 3 year agreement, with the option of a 2 year extension. The contract price can range anywhere between \$80,000 to over \$100,000 plus, which would require further approval from the fiscal boards. The City can contract with other vendors of this type of service.

Mr. Stackpole explained that this is a program to audit the businesses in Stamford required to submit their business assets each year. For every dollar the City spends, it typically receives \$4 in return.

A motion to approve Item No. 11 was made, seconded, and approved by unanimous voice vote (Reps. Boeger, Miller, Coleman, Fedeli, Garst, Goldberg, Morson, Pierre-Louis, and Shaw in favor).

12. [F31.236](#) REVIEW: Methodology for Establishing Valuation of Commercial Properties for Real Estate Tax Purposes and Comparison of Actual Sale Amounts Versus Appraised Value Amounts for the Last 10 Years.
06/07/23 – Submitted by Reps. de la Cruz, Sherwood, Patterson, Bewkes, Stella, Watkins, and Figueroa
06/26/23 – Held by Committee 9-0-0 **Recommitted to Steering 9-0-0**

Co-Chair Boeger noted that none of the representatives who submitted this item were present. A motion to recommit Item No. 12 to Steering was made, seconded, and approved by unanimous voice vote (Reps. Boeger, Miller, Coleman, Fedeli, Garst, Goldberg, Morson, Pierre-Louis, and Shaw in favor).

13. [F31.245](#) REVIEW: Audit Status Review **Report Made**
07/06/06 – Submitted by Reps. Boeger, Miller and Watkins

Committee Members discussed Item No. 13 with the invited guests. Items discussed included the following:

- The Board of Finance has taken the lead on this item. There have been deficiencies in the way documents have been provided to the outside auditors and the audits are not completed as a result.
- Mr. Yanik stated that a draft with near-complete exhibits was received today. As a result the City can prepare the MDNA and provide provisional information to the rating agencies this week, and the current draft will be provided to the BOF audit committee and the Fiscal Committee.
- The control issues will be addressed, but the issuance of the financials is taking priority. The control aspects will be addressed in accordance with the Mayor's timetable.
- In addition to the ACFR a single audit and the pension audits need to be issued so that the whole reporting cycle is complete.
- The Fiscal 23 audit is about to begin.
- Maybe the committee should review the status of the audit on a quarterly basis so that the committee is not caught off guard.
- Mr. Napoletano should be encouraged to attend these meetings.
- This has been an issue for the last few years.
- The BOF Audit Committee had requested the auditor to come up with their own recommendations, which may interfere with the ability to comply with the timeline of the Mayor's memo.
- In part, this is a resource issue; an employee took a different position.
- Implementing the ERP system has been disruptive. The department did receive funding for additional resources for next year, particularly since the current fiscal year is split between the old and new systems.
- Dr. Sinani stated that they are working to resolve these issues. It will be challenging to make the transition from HTE to ERP

The Committee next took up Item Nos. 1 and 7.

1. [F31.228](#) ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION (Grants Budget); **Approved 9-0-0**
\$68,755.00 EPA Air Quality; 31 Month Air Quality Monitoring
Grant from the EPA; Program will focus on NO₂,
Particulate Matter and Ozone (100% grant funded).
05/30/23 – Submitted by Mayor Simmons
06/08/23 – Held by Board of Finance 6-0-0
06/12/23 – Held at Steering
07/13/23 – Approved by Board of Finance 6-0-0

Ms. Bishop-Pullan stated that this is a grant for 3 additional monitors of higher quality than the current monitors, which will include technical assistance and a way to get the data to the public. This will require a lot of work from her department. The program was very successful during the recent event. This grant is for equipment.

A motion to approve Item No. 1 was made, seconded, and approved by unanimous voice vote (Reps. Boeger, Miller, Coleman, Fedeli, Garst, Goldberg, Morson, Pierre-Louis, and Shaw in favor).

7. [F31.241](#) ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION (Capital Budget); **Approved 9-0-0**
\$210,750.00 Resiliency and Climate Adaptation Implementation;
Identify Actionable Next Steps and Potential
Funding Mechanisms; Includes West Side,
Waterside and Downtown Neighborhoods; GIS-
based Tree Inventories will be Included (Source of
Funds: 100% State Grant).
07/06/23 – Submitted by Mayor Simmons
06/27/23 – Approved by [Planning Board](#)
07/13/23 – Approved by Board of Finance 6-0-0

Ms. McKenna stated that she looks forward to collaborating with Rep. de la Cruz on this item. The scope of this project includes Waterside and she will be meeting with him tomorrow.

A motion to approve Item No. 7 was made, seconded, and approved by unanimous voice vote (Reps. Boeger, Miller, Coleman, Fedeli, Garst, Goldberg, Morson, Pierre-Louis, and Shaw in favor).

Co-Chair Boeger adjourned the meeting at 8:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Sean Boeger, Co-Chair

This meeting is on [video](#).