



Fiscal Committee - Board of Representatives

Sean Boeger, Co-Chair

Lindsey Miller, Co-Chair

Committee Report

Date: Monday, August 28, 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. Fedeli, and Morson. In attendance remotely were Co-Chair Boeger and Committee Member Reps. Coleman, Figueroa, Garst, Goldberg, Pierre-Louis, Shaw, and Tomas. Also present in person were Also present remotely were Reps. Summerville, and de la Cruz; Bridget Fox, Chief of Staff; Chief Tim Shaw, Stamford Police Department; Lou DeRubeis, Director of Public Safety, Health, and Welfare; Joseph Gaudett, Emergency Communications Center Director; and Frank Lagoe, Public Safety Statistician. Anita Carpenter, Grants Officer; Jody Bishop-Pullan, Director of Health; Elda Sinani and Anthony Romano, OPM; Lou Casolo, City Engineer; and Al Cava, HR Director. Rep. Coleman joined the meeting at 7:08 p.m. Rep. Shaw left the meeting at 7:28 p.m.

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

Item No.	Description	Invitee(s) or Designees
1. F31.246 \$510,394.00	ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION (Operating Budget); Emergency Communications Center Reorganization; Creation of 5 Civilian Dispatch Supervisor Positions (Source of Funds: Contingency). 07/06/23 – Submitted by Mayor Simmons 07/13/23 – Approved by Board of Finance 6-0-0 07/24/23 – Recommitted to Fiscal 9-0-0	Approved 9-0-0

Mr. Cava stated that there had been a request to negotiate with the MAA and UAW. The MOUs were obtained. The UAW agreed that the MAA people can do bargaining unit work during emergencies, and also to the extent necessary for them to get their hours and maintain their certification. The MAA agreed that there was no need for a one for one replacement in all situations and there are situations in which a replacement for a PS Dispatcher 2 would work out of class as a supervisor.

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

2. [F31.259](#) ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION (Grants Budget); **Approved 9-0-1**
 \$6,000.00 DECD Certified Local Government Grant; Grant from Historic Preservation Council to Stamford HPAC to Develop an Informational Brochure Summarizing Regulations and Incentives for Historic Preservation Projects; Funds to be used for Graphic Designer, Office Supplies; Printing and Copying Expenses [Source of Funds: 100% Grant Funded]
 08/03/23 – Submitted by Mayor Simmons
 08/10/23 – Approved by Board of Finance 5-0-0

Ms. Carpenter explained that this is a \$6,000 grant from DECD for the Historic Preservation Council to increase awareness and information regarding regulations, and set incentives for historic projects.

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

3. [F31.257](#) ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION (Capital Budget); **Approved 11-0-0**
 \$3,095,520.00 CP0231; FY22/23; Citywide Dredging; Cove Marina and Channel Dredging [Source of Funds: 100% State Grant]
 08/04/23 – Submitted by Mayor Simmons
 08/07/23 – Approved by Planning Board
 08/10/23 – Approved by Board of Finance 5-0-0

Mr. Casolo explained that this is a 100% grant from SHIPP to support the second phase of the dredging at Cove Island. This dredge is more complicated than the first dredge. This material is unsuitable for open water disposal. The floating docks and piles will be removed for the dredging and funds will need to be approved for new piles and docks. The City can seek grant funds for these projects. An additional 20% local match is required under the grant. These funds are already available and the total cost will be \$3.9 million. Dredging is only permitted between October and the end of January, and the company who removes the material will not be available until 2024. The anticipated start is October 2024.

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

4. [F31.260](#) RESOLUTION; Regarding the Capital Budget for **Approved 11-0-0**
 Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Appropriation and Bond Authorization for the Springdale School Flooring Renovation Project Financing and for School Construction Grant.
 08/08/23 – Submitted by Anita Carpenter

This resolution is for funds that are already budgeted.

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

5. [F31.261](#) RESOLUTION; Regarding the Capital Budget for Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Appropriation and Bond Authorization for the Northeast School Flooring Renovation Project Financing and for School Construction Grant. **Approved 11-0-0**
08/08/23 – Submitted by Anita Carpenter

This resolution is for funds that are already budgeted.

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

6. [F31.255](#) ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION (Operating Budget); UAW Wage Increase FY23/24 Per Recent Contract Settlement [Source of Funds: Contingency] **Approved 11-0-0**
\$1,359,408.00
07/28/23 – Submitted by Mayor Simmons
08/10/23 – Approved by Board of Finance 5-0-0

The BOF approved the UAW contract, which was also considered by the Personnel Committee, which did not reject it. This appropriation is to fund the increases to implement the terms of the bargaining agreement.

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

7. [F31.256](#) ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION (Operating Budget); UAW Retroactive Wage Payout per Recent Contract Settlement [Source of Funds: Fund Balance] **Approved 11-0-0**
\$565,862.00
07/26/23 – Submitted by Mayor Simmons
08/10/23 – Approved by Board of Finance 5-0-0

This appropriation is to fund the retroactive salary increases to implement the terms of the bargaining agreement.

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

8. [F31.254](#) ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION (Capital Budget); CP4000007; Davenport Ridge LTFP DM/AR; Increase grant appropriation to support Davenport roof application for school construction (Source of Funds: 100% State Grant) **Approved 11-0-0**
\$770,930.00
08/03/23 – Submitted by Mayor Simmons
08/07/23 – Approved by Planning Board
08/10/23 – Approved by Board of Finance 5-0-0

Mr. Casolo explained this is a request to increase the grant amount. The grant provides 60% state funding with a 40% local match.

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

- 9. [F31.253](#) RESOLUTION; Amending the Capital Budget for Fiscal Year 2023-2024 by Adding an Appropriation of \$770,930 for the Davenport Ridge School Roof Project and Approving the Acceptance of a State Grant to Meet Said Appropriation
08/03/23 – Submitted by Mayor Simmons **Approved 11-0-0**

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

- 10. [F31.258](#) REJECTION; Capital Project Closeout Recommendation; CP1471; Westhill High School
\$200,775,758.00
07/28/23 – Submitted by Mayor Simmons
08/07/23 – Approved by Planning Board
08/10/23 – No Action Taken by Board of Finance **No Action Taken**

- 11. [F31.250](#) ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION (Capital Budget); CP1471; Westhill High School Replacement Project; State recently approved project escalation cost for the construction of new Westhill High School; Total Authorization for project is \$301,313,888 (\$241,051,110 grant funds, \$60,262,778 bond funds) [Source of Funds: State Grant] **Approved 10-0-0**
\$241,051,110.00
08/03/23 – Submitted by Mayor Simmons
08/07/23 – Approved by Planning Board
08/10/23 – Approved by Board of Finance 5-0-0

Mr. Casolo explained that Items 10, 11 and 12 all relate to the same project, the Westhill HS replacement. This project is in accordance with the SPS Master Plan. The project was originally approved at \$261,000,000 as bonds. The State was receiving inquiries regarding escalations from other districts due to Covid and the State requested that Stamford increase its request. The total amount is now \$301,313,888.

Mr. Romano provided the following chart to show how the funding structure has changed:

1	2	3	4	5
Fund Type	Current Authorization	Agenda	Amendments	Final Authorization
Grants	-	11	241,051,110.00	241,051,110.00
Bonds	261,038,536.00	10	(200,775,758.00)	60,262,778.00
Total	261,038,536.00		40,275,352.00	301,313,888.00

Mr. Romano explained that in June, 2021, \$261,038,536.00 was approved in bonds to finance this project. The bond authorization is being reduced by \$200,775,758 (Item 10), leaving a bond authorization of \$60,262,778 and the remaining grant authorization of \$241,051,110.

These costs are estimated are based on construction cost estimators' estimates. There will be many eyes on this project. The Board has previously approved a contract for the Owner's representative for this project. An RFQ has been written for an architect and there have been many responses. After the architect is hired, then project design will begin.

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

12. [F31.249](#) RESOLUTION; Amending the Resolution Entitled **Approved 10-0-0**
"Amending The Capital Budget For Fiscal Year
2020-2021 by Adding An Appropriation of
\$261,038,536 for the Westhill High School
Replacement Project and Authorizing
\$261,038,536 General Obligation Bonds of the City
to Meet Said Appropriation" by Increasing the
Appropriation by \$40,275,352
08/03/23 – Submitted by Mayor Simmons

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

13. [F31.228](#) ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION (Grants Budget); **Approved 10-0-0**
\$68,755.00 EPA Air Quality; 31 Month Air Quality Monitoring
Grant from the EPA; Program will focus on NO₂,
Particulate Matter and Ozone (Source of Funds:
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
07/24/23 – Approved by Committee 9-0-0
08/07/23 – Recommitted to Steering by Full Board

As a Secondary Committee: Public Safety & Health

Ms. Bishop-Pullan explained that this is an EPA federal grant which provides enough money for 3 air quality monitoring sensors that monitor particulate matter to .5, Ozone, and NO₂. They are higher quality than the current monitors and this data is closer to the State data. Some of the funds will go to outreach, a website for the data to go to and technical support for the installation.

Rep. de la Cruz expressed concerns that the City is approving without a plan or state approval and that this is too much work for the pollutants and area covered. He does not believe the work proposed can be done for the amount of the grant. He suggested that the grant be returned to be expanded to include more neighborhoods and pollutants.

Ms. Bishop-Pullan stated that there was a program implemented with State DEP technical assistance. This is an enhancement to the current program. DEP has committed to provide

additional technical support. There are still questions regarding how to proceed for other pollutants. These federal grants are very difficult to get. DPH has put out a fact sheet and has no recommendations regarding indoor air quality testing because there are no set standards.

Mr. DeRubeis noted that the resolution is based on the legal opinion provided, and the program implemented (the purple air monitoring program) was with the assistance of the State. This program may not hit all the areas desired, but it was a starting point. The plan was to work with the State. This grant is a step in the right direction to enhance the program. Currently the State only has monitors in Greenwich and Bridgeport. This monitoring will provide the City with additional data, so that residents can make decisions. This will provide more data in line with the State. To have a comprehensive air quality monitoring system for indoor air, the City would have to hire a consultant.

Committee members discussed taking these funds and then pursuing other options for additional monitoring.

Ms. Bishop-Pullan stated that there have been no decisions yet regarding where the monitors will be placed. That will depend on community input and the consultant's advice.

This is an EPA federal grant and is for the amount and deliverables as described in the grant. They will continue to look for additional grants. The bigger challenge is not collecting the data, but what steps the City takes to remedy air quality issues. The data will also assist the State in making policy decisions. Moving the monitors too often would compromise the data.

This grant was applied for with technical assistance from the State and the federal lobbyist. The grant had parameters for what could be monitored.

A motion to approve Item No. 13 was made, seconded, and approved by unanimous voice vote (Reps. Miller, Boeger, Coleman, Fedeli, Figueroa, Garst, Goldberg, Morson, Pierre-Louis, and Tomas in favor).

14. F31.241 \$210,750.00	ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION (Capital Budget); 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 07/24/23 – Approved by Committee 9-0-0 08/07/23 – Recommended to Steering by Full Board	RECOMMENDED TO STEERING 10-0-0
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A motion to recommit Item No. 14 to Steering was made, seconded, and approved by unanimous voice vote (Reps. Miller, Boeger, Coleman, Fedeli, Figueroa, Garst, Goldberg, Morson, Pierre-Louis, and Tomas in favor).

15. [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.

RECOMMITTED TO STEERING 10-0-0

06/07/23 – Submitted by Reps. de la Cruz, Sherwood, Patterson, Bewkes, Stella, Watkins, Tomas, and Figueroa
06/26/23 – Held by Committee 9-0-0
07/24/23 – Recommitted to Steering 9-0-0

A motion to recommit Item No. 15 to Steering was made, seconded, and approved by unanimous voice vote (Reps. Miller, Boeger, Coleman, Fedeli, Figueroa, Garst, Goldberg, Morson, Pierre-Louis, and Tomas in favor).

Co-Chair Miller adjourned the meeting at 8:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Lindsey Miller, Co-Chair

This meeting is on [video](#).