



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

Sean Boeger, Co-Chair

Mary Fedeli, Co-Chair

# **Committee Report**

**Date:** Monday, June 23, 2025

**Time:** 6:30 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 were Co-Chair Fedeli, Co-Chair Boeger and Committee Member Reps. Figueroa, Goldberg, Graham (arrived after 3<sup>rd</sup> Item vote), Morson, Pierre-Louis, Shaw, Tomas and Vandervoort.

Also in attendance were Reps. Matheny, and Summerville; Nette Compton, President & Chief Executive Officer of the Mill River Park Collaborative; Anita Carpenter, Grants Officer; Tony Romano, Management Analyst; Katherine LoBalbo, Director of BOE School Construction; Michael Smith, Director of Facilities – Capital Projects; Thomas Turk, Operations Supervisor; Moira Sawch, Administrator, CDBG; and Janeene Freeman, Special Assistant to the Mayor.

Absent or excused: Rep. Camporeale.

Co-Chair Fedeli called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

Item No.	Description	Invitee(s) or Designees
1. <a href="#">F31.567</a> \$2,500.00	ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION (CAPITAL); Project C56129- allocates funds from a damage claim filed with Eversource after the City's Stormwater Mgmt. Dept. found utility pole work damaged City piping, which was repaired. The appropriation covers part of the reimbursement and was coordinated with Legal. 06/02/2025 – Submitted by Mayor Simmons <b>06/12/2025 – Approved by Board of Finance 6-0-0</b> <b>06/23/2025 – Approved by Committee 9-0-0</b>	<b>APPROVED BY COMMITTEE 9-0-0</b>

Mr. Romano reviewed this item, which allocates funds from a damage claim filed with Eversource after the City's stormwater management department found utility pole work damaged city piping, which was repaired. The appropriation covers part of the reimbursement and was coordinated with Legal. Both Mr. Turk and Mr. Romano were available to answer any questions from committee members, though there were no questions asked.

A motion to approve Item 1 was made, seconded, and approved by a unanimous voice vote 9-0-0 (Co-Chairs Boeger, Fedeli and Reps. Figueroa, Goldberg, Morson, Pierre-Louis, Shaw, Tomas and Vandervoort in favor).

2. <a href="#">F31.568</a> \$762,000.00	ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION (CAPITAL); Project 001435 - Turn of River HVAC Controls; Phase II replaces old pneumatic	<b>APPROVED BY COMMITTEE 9-0-0</b>
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controls with energy-efficient digital systems to cut heating costs. Savings should offset upgrade costs over time.

06/02/2025 – Submitted by Mayor Simmons

**06/12/2025 – Approved by Board of Finance 6-0-0**

**06/23/2025 – Approved by Committee 9-0-0**

Ms. LoBalbo reviewed this item; Turn of River HVAC Controls Phase 1 replaces two old pneumatic controls with energy efficient digital system to cut heating costs. The savings should offset upgrade costs over time. Phase One was started which was fully funded by federal dollars back in 2024. At the time, there was no scope from the design team for Phase Two, so this request is actually for Fiscal Year 24-25 as they were not able to include it in the capital request at the time. Once the design team flushed out the scope of what Phase Two would be, they went to bid to see if it could be fit in with existing ARP and federal dollars; the figure that came back to the department was \$1.2 million. With teamwork between the Director of Facilities Capital Projects (Mr. Smith) and the design team, the project was instead divided and rebid in two separate packages that actually brought a savings of about \$500,000. This \$762,000 is the request of the package they were able to reduce the final bid number on as they had a much more competitive environment with these packages as compared to the first bid back in the autumn of 2024. The importance of replacing these controls is not only because they are at the end of their life but they are also obsolete. These are legacy pieces of equipment that don't allow the facility to perform at its best.

Both Mr. Smith and Ms. LoBalbo were available to answer any questions from committee members, though no questions were asked at this time.

A motion to approve Item 2 was made, seconded, and approved by a unanimous voice vote 9-0-0 (Co-Chairs Boeger, Fedeli and Reps. Figueroa, Goldberg, Morson, Pierre-Louis, Shaw, Tomas and Vandervoort in favor).

3. [F31.569](#)      RESOLUTION; Amending The Capital Budget For Fiscal Year 2024-2025 By Adding An Appropriation Of \$762,000 For The Turn Of River HVAC Controls Project And Authorizing \$762,000 General Obligation Bonds Of The City To Meet Said Appropriation  
06/02/2025 – Submitted by Mayor Simmons  
**06/12/2025 – Approved by Board of Finance 6-0-0**  
**06/23/2025 – Approved by Committee 9-0-0**      **APPROVED BY COMMITTEE 9-0-0**

This item is directly related to Item No. 2 and did not require a presentation or review. Both Mr. Smith and Ms. LoBalbo were available to answer any questions from committee members, though no questions were asked at this time.

A motion to approve Item 3 was made, seconded, and approved by a unanimous voice vote 9-0-0 (Co-Chairs Boeger, Fedeli and Reps. Figueroa, Goldberg, Morson, Pierre-Louis, Shaw, Tomas and Vandervoort in favor).

4. [F31.570](#)      ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION (CAPITAL); Project 001436 -  
\$500,000.00      Mill River Community Commons Project Request \$500,000  
City match for \$12.5M in State/Federal funds for Community Commons — a downtown hub with event space, restrooms, greenspace, and more to support year-round activity and economic growth.  
06/02/2025 – Submitted by Mayor Simmons      **APPROVED BY COMMITTEE 10-0-0**

**06/12/2025 – Approved by Board of Finance 5-1-0**  
**06/23/2025 – Approved by Committee 10-0-0**

Ms. Compton presented a PowerPoint presentation of 18 slides that provided visuals of the Mill River Park project and gave a verbal summary of the slides to provide an overall view of what is planned. The portion of the park right along Washington Blvd, one of the last sections of the park to be acquired as parkland, will be built into the Community Commons. The idea is for this section to look like it's been part of a lush green space all along. Through an extensive community engagement process to review the design (primarily in 2022 and 2023) that allowed for involvement with a significant amount of people from the community, from local business owners, and UConn, this space will be intended to be the primary large event space. First responders such as the Police and Fire Departments, EMS and such also gave feedback on the concept of this space. The primary goal was to make this a park first and have it accessible to all, but also to allow it to be transformed for those large gathering purposes, such as concerts, civic engagement, or anything in between. As the design came together, they have been working on fundraising for this space. The core elements are a plaza anchored farther in the southern portion of the area that can handle a 40-foot stage but also be flexible for smaller types of performances as well. A pergola will be off the Winningham Discovery Center so we could have afterschool kids and campers or field trips with an outdoor classroom space, but also a work from the park space for others. Another important part of this development is dog parks, which is very important to a lot of people; a small and a large dog space would be placed in the park. Moving further north in this parcel, by where the sign for parking for the transit center is along Washington Blvd, would be permanent bathrooms to replace the temporary bathrooms currently in use at the park. Over 100 trees and a lot of traffic calming and raised beds would be placed along Washington Blvd after some pedestrians were struck and killed at the intersection just right off this area; this traffic calming plan was part of the state led safety audit of Washington Blvd that was conducted after the aforementioned pedestrian deaths.

The fundraising secured so far is:

- \$4.5 million from a federal HUD (Housing & Urban Development) grant.
- \$7.6 million from the Community Investment Fund (CIF) at the state level
- \$300,000 in private donations to pay for the initial design and community engagement process
- \$350,000 in TIF funds were also put towards this effort
- To proceed with construction using State & Federal funds, the Park must secure an additional \$500,000 for the Commons project.
- The project group is also seeking to establish an endowment to care for the space long-term via private donations
- This required \$500,000 City match would allow the group to pivot their private donation fundraising to focus on creating & funding the long term care endowment for the space.

A motion to approve Item 4 was made, seconded, and approved by a unanimous voice vote 10-0-0 (Co-Chairs Boeger, Fedeli and Reps. Figueroa, Goldberg, Graham, Morson, Pierre-Louis, Shaw, Tomas and Vandervoort in favor).

5. [F31.571](#) RESOLUTION; Amending The Capital Budget For Fiscal Year 2024-2025 By Adding An Appropriation Of \$500,000 For The Mill River Community Commons Project And Authorizing \$500,000 General Obligation Bonds Of The City To Meet Said Appropriation  
06/02/2025 – Submitted by Mayor Simmons  
**06/12/2025 – Approved by Board of Finance 5-1-0**  
**06/23/2025 – Approved by Committee 10-0-0**

**APPROVED BY  
COMMITTEE  
10-0-0**

This item is directly related to Item No. 4 and did not require a presentation or review. Ms. Compton was available to answer any questions from committee members, but none were asked.

A motion to approve Item 4 was made, seconded, and approved by a unanimous voice vote 10-0-0 (Co-Chairs Boeger, Fedeli and Reps. Figueroa, Goldberg, Graham, Morson, Pierre-Louis, Shaw, Tomas and Vandervoort in favor).

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| 6. <a href="#">F31.572</a> | RESOLUTION; Authorizing the Mayor to sign an Agreement with the Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for financial assistance for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME Investment Partnerships funding.<br>06/02/2025 – Submitted by Mayor Simmons<br><b>06/23/2025 – Approved by Committee 10-0-0</b> | <b>APPROVED BY<br/>COMMITTEE<br/>10-0-0</b> |
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Ms. Carpenter and Ms. Sawch reviewed this item. This is the annual appropriations for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME Investment Partnerships program funding. The resolution is required so the Mayor can sign the documents. It is for the total budget amounts the City was awarded by HUD. Both Ms. Carpenter & Ms. Sawch were available to answer questions from committee members but none were asked.

A motion to approve Item 4 was made, seconded, and approved by a unanimous voice vote 10-0-0 (Co-Chairs Boeger, Fedeli and Reps. Figueroa, Goldberg, Graham, Morson, Pierre-Louis, Shaw, Tomas and Vandervoort in favor).

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| 7. <a href="#">F31.573</a><br>\$989,095.00 | ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION (GRANT); Stamford Community Development received \$989,095 in FY26 CDBG funds—80% (\$791,276) for competitive subawards; 20% (\$197,819) for admin. Fully federal, no match required.<br>06/02/2025 – Submitted by Mayor Simmons<br><b>06/12/2025 – Approved by Board of Finance 6-0-0</b><br><b>06/23/2025 – Approved by Committee 10-0-0</b> | <b>APPROVED BY<br/>COMMITTEE<br/>10-0-0</b> |
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Ms. Carpenter and Ms. Sawch reviewed this item; this is an appropriation for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG); these are funds the City receives from HUD every year and they go to supporting low-income individuals and neighborhoods. This is 100% federal funds with no matching requirement. and fielded answers to questions from committee members.

A committee member had a question to confirm if this is a straight pass-through of these federal dollars; Ms. Sawch confirmed this to be true; the funds are received by the City and then the City grants the funds out to the various non-profits that have applied for the funding. This process is allocated by the Board's Housing/Community Development/Social Services (HCD/SS) committee. Ms. Carpenter told the committee that this additional appropriation accompanies the resolution in Item 6 (F31.572); it's the request for the total appropriation of those funds the HCD/SS committee will make their decisions on and then return their decisions to the Board for approval at their next full Board meeting. Normally these would have been put into the budget but they did not yet know the total amounts; this is why this the items for CDBG and HOME funding are before the Fiscal committee tonight. There were no additional committee questions at this time.

A motion to approve Item 4 was made, seconded, and approved by a unanimous voice vote 10-0-0 (Co-Chairs Boeger, Fedeli and Reps. Figueroa, Goldberg, Graham, Morson, Pierre-Louis, Shaw, Tomas and Vandervoort in favor).

<p>8. <a href="#">F31.574</a> \$502,968.00</p>	<p>ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION (GRANT); Stamford Community Development received \$502,968 in FY26 HOME funds—90% for subawards (e.g., HDF) supporting affordable housing and rehab; 10% (\$50,296) for admin. Fully federal, no match required. 06/02/2025 – Submitted by Mayor Simmons <b>06/12/2025 – Approved by Board of Finance 6-0-0</b> <b>06/23/2025 – Approved by Committee 10-0-0</b></p>	<p><b>APPROVED BY COMMITTEE 10-0-0</b></p>
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Ms. Carpenter and Ms. Sawch reviewed this item; this funding reflects the amount HUD awarded the City for the HOME Investment Partnership program, which is a separate program from the CDBG program. HOME funds go to prevent homelessness and support low-income individuals with their housing needs. This program is a pass-through, with the full amount funded by HUD and then given out to the various non-profits who apply for it and are approved. This amount also would have been in the budget if they had known the specific dollar amount HUD was allocating to the City.

There were no questions from committee members at this time.

A motion to approve Item 4 was made, seconded, and approved by a unanimous voice vote 10-0-0 (Co-Chairs Boeger, Fedeli and Reps. Figueroa, Goldberg, Graham, Morson, Pierre-Louis, Shaw, Tomas and Vandervoort in favor).

<p>9. <a href="#">F31.575</a> \$60,000.00</p>	<p>ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION (GRANT); Stamford is eligible for \$60,000 in state transition funding (June–Sept 2025) to support the Early Childhood Coordinator’s role shift to Local Governance Partner Liaison. Covers stipend, travel, provider event, and admin. 100% grant funded. 06/02/2025 – Submitted by Mayor Simmons <b>06/12/2025 – Approved by Board of Finance 6-0-0</b> <b>06/23/2025 – Approved by Committee 10-0-0</b></p>	<p><b>APPROVED BY COMMITTEE 10-0-0</b></p>
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Ms. Carpenter spoke to the programmatic pieces on the changes to the Office of Early Childhood. The City of Stamford will no longer be passing through the funding for childcare. This is a transition process, and this funding is for the transition. This is the second award for transition dollars and it primarily to support the position of the Early Childhood Coordinator as she transitions the child care providers. Her job is to get more signed up and to support them in improving and enhancing their capacity to become more providers as currently have CLC, All Our Kin, and Apple’s Preschool with Stamford’s BOE. This money is more transition money is until they get the final appropriation for our admin dollars in place.

There were no questions from committee members.

A motion to approve Item 4 was made, seconded, and approved by a unanimous voice vote 10-0-0 (Co-Chairs Boeger, Fedeli and Reps. Figueroa, Goldberg, Graham, Morson, Pierre-Louis, Shaw, Tomas and Vandervoort in favor).

<p>10. <a href="#">F31.576</a> \$157,237.00</p>	<p>ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION (GRANT); To fund Carried-over CT Per Capita grant funds to support essential public health services, including after-hours clinic overtime, FICA expenses, and contracted services for health programs. Fully state-funded with no matching requirements. 06/02/2025 – Submitted by Mayor Simmons <b>06/12/2025 – Approved by Board of Finance 5-0-1</b></p>	<p><b>APPROVED BY COMMITTEE 10-0-0</b></p>
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**06/23/2025 – Approved by Committee 10-0-0**

Ms. Carpenter explained this Per Capita grant is an annual public health grant from the state the City receives to promote public health initiatives for our Department of Health. During internal cleanup over the years, Grants Analyst Jane Love identified there's been a difference between what was appropriated in the budget versus what the Grants area actually received. Normally, the grants area would come to the Board to appropriate those differences but with the Per Capita grant, they did not. This amount is an accumulation of appropriation; additional appropriations that should have been coming back to the Board since around 2019. As Per Capita rolls forward, this money has just been hanging there. The Health Department has experienced budget cuts from other grants, such as they've lost the TB and the STD grants, so what is now happening is the department is able to use this funding to support some of the staff that's embedded within the Department of Health and continue to support initiatives and contractual work. This is just the appropriation of that funding that should have been appropriated in every one of those prior budgets; now it's come to our attention and it has been brought to the Board to appropriate these funds so the Health Department can actually spend it.

Ms. Carpenter answered two questions from committee members:

- Is this the funding matter we all discussed during the budget process and we were forewarned about as a coming clean-up item? (Response: Yes, it was one of those items)
- Requested confirmation that this is an accounting clean-up of existing funds that will now carry forward (Response: yes, this is accounting cleanup)

A motion to approve Item 4 was made, seconded, and approved by a unanimous voice vote 10-0-0 (Co-Chairs Boeger, Fedeli and Reps. Figueroa, Goldberg, Graham, Morson, Pierre-Louis, Shaw, Tomas and Vandervoort in favor).

A motion to adjourn was made, seconded, and approved via a unanimous voice vote. Co-Chair Fedeli adjourned the meeting at 7:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mary Fedeli, Co-Chair

This meeting is on video: [Part 1](#) and [Part 2](#).