



Fiscal Committee - Board of Representatives

Jay Fountain, Chair

Frank Cerasoli, Vice Chair

Committee Report

Date: Monday, November 17, 2014
Time: 7:00 p.m.
Place: Democratic Caucus Room, 888 Washington Boulevard, Stamford, CT 06905-2098

The Fiscal Committee met at the above time and place. In attendance were Chair Fountain; Vice Chair Cerasoli and Committee Member Reps. Coleman, Day, DeLuca, Di Costanzo, Fedeli, Figueroa, Kooris, Mitchell and Silver. Also present were Reps. Heaphy, McMullen, Okun, Ryan, Watkins and Zelinsky; Jim Hricay, OPM; Erin McKenna, Land Use Bureau; David Yanik, Controller; Karen Cammarota, Grants Office; Teresa Drew, Youth Services Bureau; Dana Lee, Law Department; Ted Jankowski, Director of Public Safety, Health and Welfare; Michael Handler, Director of Administration; Jon Hoch and Hedy Siegel, DOMUS, and several members of the public.

Chair Fountain called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

Item No.	Description	Committee Action
¹ 1. F29.219 \$5,000.00	ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION (Operating Budget); Use of funds received due to a wetlands violation for the preservation of wetlands at Mianus Park. 09/29/14 – Submitted by Mayor Martin 10/14/14 – Held at Steering 11/13/14 – Approved by Board of Finance	Approved 10-0-0

Erin McKenna explained that these funds are to be used for the ongoing restoration of Mianus River Park. The money comes from a payment for a violation. She will provide the committee with the total amount of the fine and its uses. A motion to approve this item was made, seconded and approved by unanimous vote (Reps. Fountain, Cerasoli, Coleman, Day, DeLuca, Di Costanzo, Fedeli, Figueroa, Kooris and Silver in favor.)

¹ Video Time Stamp 00:00:18

- ²2. [F29.202](#) RESOLUTION for final adoption; Amending the **Approved 7-4-0**
Local Real Estate Conveyance Tax Rate.
08/06/14 – Submitted by Mayor Martin
08/18/14 – Approved by Committee as amended
08/18/14 – Approved by Committee for public
hearing
09/29/14 – Public Hearing Held & Held in
Committee
10/14/14 – Held at Steering

Members of the Committee discussed whether or not this tax should be raised from .35% to .50% on the value of property over \$1 million. The discussion focused on:

- whether it is good for the real estate market
- whether it will unfairly burden seniors
- the increased revenue the City will receive from the commercial share of this tax
- the recommendation by the Board of Finance that this tax be used to help fund the proposed Senior Citizen Tax Abatement pilot program
- the legality of the graduated tax
- whether this is too large an increase
- whether there is a different way to address the revenue from commercial sales
- this will be built into home sale prices

A motion to approve this Resolution was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 7-4-0 (Reps. Fountain, DeLuca, Di Costanzo, Fedeli, Figueroa and Silver in favor; Reps. Cerasoli, Coleman, Day and Kooris opposed.)

- ³3. [F29.223](#) ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION (Grants Budget); **Approved 10-0-0**
\$231,843.00 Education Through Adventure program; staff
seasonal, trained adventure facilitators and program
supplies (100% donations).
10/28/14 – Submitted by Mayor Martin
11/13/14 – Approved by Board of Finance

A motion to approve this item was made, seconded and approved by unanimous vote (Reps. Fountain, Cerasoli, Coleman, Day, DeLuca, Di Costanzo, Fedeli, Figueroa, Kooris and Silver in favor.)

- ⁴4. [F29.224](#) ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION (Grants Budget) **Approved 10-0-0**
\$24,944.00 Cost Sharing Grant; to appropriate increase in grant
allocation; Part time Epidemiologist, Social Security
Costs, Educational materials, an iPad and mileage
reimbursement to attend training (100% grant
funded)
10/28/14 – Submitted by Mayor Martin
11/13/14 – Approved by Board of Finance

² Video Time Stamp 00:02:28

³ Video Time Stamp 00:27:11

A motion to approve this item was made, seconded and approved by unanimous vote (Reps. Fountain, Cerasoli, Coleman, Day, DeLuca, Di Costanzo, Fedeli, Figueroa, Kooris and Silver in favor.)

- ⁵5. [F29.225](#) ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION (Grants Budget); **Approved 10-0-0**
\$6,281.00 Health Risk Reduction; Skin Cancer Prevention;
Part-time Public Health Educator, social security
and office supplies (100% grant funded).
10/28/14 – Submitted by Mayor Martin
11/13/14 – Approved by Board of Finance

This represents an increase in the grant amount over what was originally budgeted. A motion to approve this item was made, seconded and approved by unanimous vote (Reps. Fountain, Cerasoli, Coleman, Day, DeLuca, Di Costanzo, Fedeli, Figueroa, Kooris and Silver in favor.)

- ⁶6. [F29.226](#) ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION (Operating **Approved 11-0-0**
\$22,000.00 Budget); Town Clerk; Historic Preservation/Office
Supplies; Appropriation from Land Recording
Fee/Historic Preservation Fund to Historic
Preservation/Office Supplies installation of 3 mobile
shelving systems for storage of land records and
large search table.
10/28/14 – Submitted by Mayor Martin
11/13/14 – Approved by Board of Finance

Jim Hricay explained that this comes out of the Historic Preservation fund and is from fees charged by the Town Clerk. A motion to approve this item was made, seconded and approved by unanimous vote (Reps. Fountain, Cerasoli, Coleman, Day, DeLuca, Di Costanzo, Fedeli, Figueroa, Kooris, Mitchell and Silver in favor.)

- ⁷7. [F29.227](#) ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION (Grants Budget); **Approved 11-0-0**
\$70,749.00 Port Security Grant; Contracted Services; Support
long-term sustainability and upgrades for public
safety marine vessels (75% grant funded/25% in
kind).
10/28/14 – Submitted by Mayor Martin
11/13/14 – Approved by Board of Finance

Ted Jankowski explained that the 25% in-kind funding will come from labor costs. A motion to approve this item was made, seconded and approved by unanimous vote (Reps. Fountain, Cerasoli, Coleman, Day, DeLuca, Di Costanzo, Fedeli, Figueroa, Kooris, Mitchell and Silver in favor.)

⁴ Video Time Stamp 00:28:50

⁵ Video Time Stamp 00:29:40

⁶ Video Time Stamp 00:30:13

⁷ Video Time Stamp 00:31:00

- ⁸8. [F29.228](#) ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION (Grants Budget); **Approved 11-0-0**
 \$15,000.00 Right Response; Implement agreement between
 School District, Police Department and DOMUS to
 identify policies and procedures for responding to
 non-emergency school disruptions. (100% grant
 funded).
 10/28/14 – Submitted by Mayor Martin
 11/13/14 – Approved by Board of Finance

Jon Hoch explained that the point of this program is to decrease school-based arrests throughout the State and provide interventions to avoid rearrests. He noted that the recidivism rate for students arrested is about 50%, but for students in this program statewide it is about 25%. The experience in Stamford has been a recidivism rate of about 11%. A motion to approve this item was made, seconded and approved by unanimous vote (Reps. Fountain, Cerasoli, Coleman, Day, DeLuca, Di Costanzo, Fedeli, Figueroa, Kooris, Mitchell and Silver in favor.)

- ⁹9. [F29.229](#) ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION (Operating **Approved 11-0-0**
 \$110,002.72 Budget); Ebola Protective Supplies & Equipment:
 Fund protective gear and supplies to protect first
 responders and City employees who may interact
 with patients diagnosed with Ebola.
 10/28/14 – Submitted by Mayor Martin
 11/13/14 – Approved by Board of Finance

The City has been trying to be proactive in developing a quarantine plan and has done preparedness exercises. This amount provides for 12 potential incidents. The materials can also be used for chemical and biological incidents. He believes Stamford is more prepared than other cities and towns in the area. The nearest hospital for quarantine would be Bellevue, but first the patient would go to Stamford Hospital before transfer. The City is working closely with Stamford Hospital.. There is training involved with the use of the equipment. He believes this would be funded from contingency A motion to approve this item was made, seconded and approved by unanimous vote (Reps. Fountain, Cerasoli, Coleman, Day, DeLuca, Di Costanzo, Fedeli, Figueroa, Kooris, Mitchell and Silver in favor).

10. F29.116 REVIEW; Financial Controls, Reporting **Held in**
 Requirements and Other Contractual Obligations **Committee**
 between the City of Stamford and Funded Third-
 Party Organizations
 06/03/14 – Submitted by Rep. Buckman
 06/09/14 – Held at Steering
 08/11/14 – Held at Steering
 09/29/14 – Report Made & Held in Committee
 10/14/14 – Held at Steering

⁸ Video Time Stamp 00:34:00

⁹ Video Time Stamp 00:39:35

Under a Suspension of Rules:

A motion to suspend the rules to take up the following item was made, seconded and approved by unanimous vote (Reps. Fountain, Cerasoli, Coleman, Day, DeLuca, Di Costanzo, Fedeli, Figueroa, Kooris, Mitchell and Silver in favor.)

- ¹⁰11. [F29.231](#) RESOLUTION; authorizing the Mayor to Submit an Application and to Execute Agreements with the State of Connecticut for Transit Oriented Development Planning Program Funding. **Approved 11-0-0**
11/04/14 – Submitted by Mayor Martin

Rep. Heaphy read a prior recommendation from SWRPA for a transit node on the East Side, including a possible rail station, in order to make it a transit-oriented community.

David Woods explained that

- this grant application is a pilot program from the State for planning studies beyond the scope of the local community
- the long term goal is a transportation platform on East Main Street

Committee members expressed concern about

- the study being used to justify a train station rather than a transportation node
- having short term goals for the study
- The desire of the East Side Partnership for a train station
- Whether the study will look at traffic patterns on the East Side

A motion to approve the resolution was made, seconded and approved by unanimous vote (Reps. Fountain, Cerasoli, Coleman, Day, DeLuca, Di Costanzo, Fedeli, Figueroa, Kooris, Mitchell and Silver in favor.)

- ¹¹12. F29.222 REVIEW; Initial Report on Status of 2014 Financial Statements and Results. **Report Made & Held**
10/22/14 – Submitted by Rep. Fountain

David Yanik distributed a draft of the CAFR and the outline of the auditor's presentation to the Board of Finance and noted that:

- the auditors' made a presentation to the Audit Committee of the Board of Finance on November 10 and said there were no financial reporting issues that merited the attention of the Board of Finance
- the auditors expect to issue a clean opinion on the CAFR
- the Rainy Day fund is now reported as part of the general fund although it is still restricted

¹⁰ Video Time Stamp 00:50:30

¹¹ Video Time Stamp 01:13:49

- Some audits are still in process , as are the WPCA and Pension financial statements

He reviewed the draft CAFR excerpt in detail.

¹²13. F29.230 REVIEW; Status of 2014-15 Budget.
10/29/14 – Submitted by Rep. Fountain

Report Made

Jim Hricay and Mike Handler reviewed the attached [first quarter projections](#).

They noted that:

- on an annualized basis, if the City continued on the same course, they are projecting a shortfall of \$1.48 million by June 30
- the building permit and conveyance tax revenue are above budget for this year; they are projecting building permit revenue to exceed budget by \$160,000 and conveyance tax revenue to exceed budget by \$1,150,000
- tax collections are coming in about 1% higher than last year
- they are projecting a \$100,000 shortfall in interest income, but the amount projected to be received is still much greater than last year
- some of the salary attrition assumptions are not occurring
- they are projecting a \$400,000 shortfall in the Fire Department, due to overtime, even considering the new hires
- they are assuming full utilization of the Contingency Reserve for the projection
- Smith House has a projected \$900,000 revenue shortfall primarily due to its census – patient shortfall and the mix of Medicaid and private pay patients
- they are taking steps, such as holding positions open, to address the projected shortfall
- the Committee will ask certain departments that are not meeting their budgets to discuss those issues at future meetings

Chair Fountain adjourned the meeting at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jay Fountain, Chair

This meeting is on [video](#).

¹² Video Time Stamp 01:28:13