



Fiscal Committee - Board of Representatives

Jay Fountain, Chair Frank Cerasoli, Vice Chair

Committee Report

Date: Monday, February 23, 2015
Time: 7:00 p.m.
Place: Democratic Caucus Room, 888 Washington Boulevard, Stamford, CT 06905-2098

The Fiscal Committee met as indicated above. In attendance were Chair Fountain and Committee Member Reps. Coleman, Day, DeLuca, Di Costanzo, Fedeli and Figueroa. Absent or excused were Committee Member Reps. Cerasoli, Kooris, Mitchell and Silver. Also present were Reps. Coppola, Nabel, Okun and Ryan; Nancy Ormsby-Flynn, Engineering; Eric Newman, Controller's Office; Lou Orsone, Curtain Call; Lieutenant Scott Duckworth, Stamford Police Department; David Yanik, Controller; Nikoleta McTigue, Blum Shapiro; Assistant Chief Trevor Roach, Stamford Fire Department; Jim Hricay, OPM; Karen Cammarota, Grants; Milton Puryear, Mill River Collaborative; Michael Handler, Director of Administration and Ernie Orgera, Director of Operations.

Chair Fountain called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

Item No.	Description	Committee Action
¹ 1. F29.254	RESOLUTION; Enabling The City Of Stamford To Receive \$303,795 In Grant Funds From The State Of Connecticut Department Of Housing For Generator Upgrades And Replacement As Part Of The Community Development Block Grant- Disaster Relief Program. 01/12/15 – Submitted by Mayor Martin	Approved 6-0-0

Karen Cammarota explained that this item consists of 2 grants: \$111,795 for the generator upgrade on the 4th floor of the Government Center garage and \$192,000 for the Smith House generator upgrade. There will not be an additional appropriation for the garage generator because there is already a capital fund for generator replacement that has grant funding and city funding in it for that generator. A motion to approve this resolution was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 6-0-0 (Reps. Fountain, Coleman, Day, DeLuca, Di Costanzo and Fedeli in favor.)

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- ²5. [F29.259](#) ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION (Capital Budget); Approved 6-0-1
\$192,000.00 Smith House Generator Replacement (100% grant
funded).
02/03/15 – Submitted by Mayor Martin
02/12/15 – Approved by Board of Finance

The committee next considered this item, which is the appropriation for the generator at Smith House. A motion to approve this item was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 6-0-1 (Reps. Fountain, Coleman, Day, DeLuca, Di Costanzo and Fedeli in favor; Rep. Figueroa abstaining.)

- ³2. [F29.256](#) ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION (Grants Budget); Approved 7-0-0
\$3,500.00 Medical Reserve Corp. NACCHO, Office Supplies
and Training Materials (100% grant funded).
02/03/15 – Submitted by Mayor Martin
02/12/15 – Approved by Board of Finance

Ms. Cammarota explained that this is something the Board approves twice a year from 2 different funding sources. The funds are to train and equip the Citizens Service Corp who would service in the case of a medical or public health emergency. A motion to approve this item was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 7-0-0 (Reps. Fountain, Coleman, Day, DeLuca, Di Costanzo, Fedeli and Figueroa in favor).

- ⁴3. [F29.263](#) REVIEW and APPROVAL of agreement between Approved 7-0-0
the CT Department of Energy and Environmental
Protection and the City of Stamford for an Open
Space grant for 205 Magee Avenue per Resolution
3692.
02/04/15 – Submitted by K. Cammarota

Chair Fountain explained that the Committee had previously approved this agreement with the requirement that the City would provide the Board with the detailed language of the grant. Ms. Cammarota explained that this is the standard open space grant agreement. The City will keep the land as open space in perpetuity and would have to conduct a swap if it were ever not to keep the property as open space. A motion to approve this item was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 7-0-0 (Reps. Fountain, Coleman, Day, DeLuca, Di Costanzo, Fedeli and Figueroa in favor).

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- ⁵4. [F29.258](#) ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION (Capital Budget); Approved 6-0-1
\$12,000,000.00 Mill River Park Collaborative grants to the City of Stamford in 2015 for the construction of the Carousel Pavilion, the Sculptural Trellis, the Ice Skating Rink and Fountain and Discovery Center Park building (source of funds: Mill River Collaborative).
01/20/15 – Approved by [Planning Board](#)
02/03/15 – Submitted by Mayor Martin
02/12/15 – Approved by Board of Finance

Mr. Puryear explained that the source of these funds will all be private donations. The City will not appropriate funds or enter into a contract for the work until the Collaborative has provided the City with the funds. They have bids for the carousel. They are not moving forward on the trellis yet. They anticipate raising a total of approximately \$18 million. The collaborative is to provide the Fiscal Committee with estimates of the ongoing operating and maintenance costs for the facilities. A motion to approve this item was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 6-0-1 (Reps. Fountain, Coleman, Day, DeLuca, Di Costanzo and Fedeli in favor; Rep. Figueroa abstaining).

- ⁶6. [F29.260](#) ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION (Capital Budget); Approved 5-0-2
\$200,000.00 Curtain Call Interior Renovations, to fund CP3416 - Addition to the Dressing Room Theatre at Curtain Call.
02/03/15 – Submitted by Mayor Martin
02/03/15 – Approved by [Planning Board](#)
02/12/15 – Approved by Board of Finance

Mr. Hricay explained that this is an increase in the appropriation amount for unissued bonded debt. The Nothing is being closed out. These funds will come from funds for other capital projects identified by the Engineering Department because this project is of greater priority at this time. It is an additional appropriation because this project came in \$200,000 over budget. This will not disrupt any approved projects, because they will go back to the capital markets to fund projects later in the timeline. The Board of Finance will have to approve any repurposing of any bond issue over 10%. This item has already gone out to bid. Ms. Ormsby-Flynn will provide a breakdown of the bids. The lowest bidder also gave the City a courtesy discount, which brought the price even lower. They are required to accept the lowest bid. A motion to approve this item was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 5-0-2 (Reps. Fountain, Coleman, DeLuca, Di Costanzo and Fedeli in favor; Reps. Day and Figueroa abstaining).

- ⁷7. [F29.255](#) ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION (Operating Budget); Funding for Police Hiring and Background investigations. Approved 7-0-0
\$65,000.00
02/03/15 – Submitted by Mayor Martin
02/12/15 – Approved by Board of Finance

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Lieutenant Duckworth explained that this \$65,000 is required for background exams for the new applicants after the recent police exam. There are 64 applicants in the top 3 bands and 68 applicants in Band 4 and they must do background checks on all of them. It costs approximately \$1,500 per background check. A motion to approve this item was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 7-0-0 (Reps. Fountain, Coleman, Day, DeLuca, Di Costanzo, Fedeli and Figueroa in favor).

⁸8. [F29.262](#) ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION (Operating Budget); Stamford Fire Department - To Cover Expected Shortfall in Overtime Account due to training of recruits, confined space training, Hazmat Technician Training; and EMT costs; long term sick and minimum manpower overtime. Approved 7-0-0
\$400,000.00
02/03/15 – Submitted by Mayor Martin
02/12/15 – Approved by Board of Finance

Assistant Chief Roach explained that this goes back to the overtime shortfall he described in December. They are trying to pay for training with overtime rather than comp days. 83% of the overtime budget goes toward minimum manpower. Comp days are 12-14 hours and overtime is in 8 hour increments. They should start seeing a reduction in overtime by next summer. A motion to approve this item was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 7-0-0 (Reps. Fountain, Coleman, Day, DeLuca, Di Costanzo, Fedeli and Figueroa in favor).

⁹9. [F29.257](#) ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION (Operating Budget); To Cover the Incremental Expense in Salaries resulting from the new CBA with UAW; wage rate increases covering full-year FY 2014/2015 and incremental FICA payroll tax expense. Approved 7-0-0
\$1,192,862.00
02/03/15 – Submitted by Mayor Martin
02/12/15 – Approved by Board of Finance

Mr. Hricay explained that this is due to the new collective bargaining agreement with UAW to bring salaries of employees up to current levels for FY 2104-15. This does not include back wages for the years without a contract. Appropriations for these prior year amounts will be brought to the Boards when their calculation is completed. They will be funded from resources set aside for this purpose and not affect the current year budget. These amounts have been reserved. A motion to approve this item was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 7-0-0 (Reps. Fountain, Coleman, Day, DeLuca, Di Costanzo, Fedeli and Figueroa in favor).

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⁹ Video Time Stamp 00:36:39

10. F29.116 REVIEW; Financial Controls, Reporting Requirements and Other Contractual Obligations between the City of Stamford and Funded Third-Party Organizations Held in Committee
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
11/17/14 – Held in Committee
12/22/14 – Held in Committee
01/12/15 – Held at Steering

Secondary Committee – Legislative & Rules

Chair Fountain explained that this item is being held because Ms. Emmett has not been able to meet with Rep. Buckman.

- ¹⁰11. [F29.250](#) REVIEW; of the City’s Comprehensive Annual Financial Report, FY 2013-14. Report Made
12/30/14 – Submitted by Rep. Fountain

Mr. Yanik distributed excerpts from the [CAFR](#), which he reviewed with the Committee. There was a great deal more capital grant money this year than the previous year. The net position changed substantially from last year because of how things were recorded, including the Rainy Day Fund and the Energy Reserve Fund and the Low Income Housing Loans.

- ¹¹12. [F29.252](#) REVIEW; Pension and OPEB Rates of Return. Report Made
01/07/15 – Submitted by Rep. Fountain

Mr. Newman reviewed the Pension Funds rates of return over the last several years. The Fire pension fund generates higher asset management fees than the other funds , because of the way it is structured and the fact that it is actively managed. He compared the performance of the four funds to the 2008 high water mark and against the assured rate of return (7.75%) and a benchmark composite rate. The benchmark composite has outperformed the funds

- ¹²13. F29.253 REVIEW; YTD Overtime in the Operations Department. Report Made
01/07/15 – Submitted by Reps. Fedeli and Coppola

Mr. Orgera stated that the worst account is the snow account. They will not make it through the winter if the storms continue. He believes they will make it through the year for the Transfer Station. He reviewed the overtime of the various units within the department. They have spent 75% of the overtime budget in Parks already. They will probably come to the Board for additional funds for Parks and Maintenance. They will

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need additional people in order to avoid this happening next year. They are also looking at outsourcing. They currently have 1 plumber for 80 buildings. He described the procedure used to bring in staff during snow storms; nobody is started before the snow begins to stick.

- ¹³14. [F29.261](#) REVIEW; Second Quarter Quarterly Report - Report Made
Budget vs. Actual.
01/30/15 – Submitted by Rep. Fountain

Mr. Hricay reviewed the cover memo of the Second Quarter Report. At the end of the first quarter, they budget projection was a shortfall of \$1.5 million. Through the second quarter they have seen that improve and are now projecting a shortfall of \$904,000. They believe that they will manage the budget so that there will not be a deficit at year end. Tax revenues are coming in on target. Intergovernment revenue came in strong and the increase in the conveyance tax has generated additional revenue. He is projecting shortfalls in several departments due to the UAW contract. The additional appropriation (item F29.259) considered by the committee will correct this situation. The police department has also had additional training expenses due to Ebola; a state change in ticketing which required training of all officers. Fire department shortfalls are due to an increase in overtime which was discussed previously during this meeting (Item F29.262). They are expecting an increase in the deficit for Smith House due to overtime and contracted services for food and a significant shortfall in revenue.

As a Secondary Committee:

1. [T29.029](#) ORDINANCE for publication; Amending Chapter 231, Article I, Miscellaneous Provisions, Section 231-7, Parking Violation Penalties, to Provide for New Fines for Parking Violations.
11/20/14 – Submitted by Reps. DeLuca and Franzetti
01/22/15 –Held in Committee

Chair Fountain adjourned the meeting at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jay Fountain, Chair

This meeting is on [video](#).

¹³ Video Time Stamp 01:38:09