



Fiscal Committee - Board of Representatives

Monica Di Costanzo, Chair

Frank Cerasoli, Vice Chair

Committee Report

Date: Monday, May 23, 2016

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Place: Democratic Caucus Room, 888 Washington Boulevard, Stamford, CT 06905-2098

The Fiscal Committee met as indicated above. In attendance were Chair Di Costanzo and Committee Member Reps. DeLuca, Fedeli, Mitchell, Quinones and Silver. Absent or excused were Committee Member Reps. Cerasoli, Day, Figueroa and Miller. Also present were Rep. Ryan; Jay Fountain, Interim OPM Director; and Karen Cammarota, Grants.

Chair Di Costanzo called the meeting to order at 6:52 p.m.

The Committee first took up Item No. 6.

Item No.	Description	Committee Action
6. F29.418	REVIEW; 3 rd Quarter FY 2015-16 Status Report. 05/04/16 – Submitted by Jay Fountain	Report Made

Mr. Fountain reviewed the 3rd quarter projections and stated he would send the written report after the meeting. (The written report is linked [here](#).) He stated that:

- The projection for the end of the year is a shortfall of \$1,367,000
- This projected shortfall is less than that projected at the end of the second quarter by \$1.5 million
- The main reasons the shortfall is down are
 - the projection of Smith House as having a shortfall of \$700,00 less than budgeted (because Smith House was closed on 1/4/16)
 - an adjustment in the City OPEB contribution of approximately \$1,000,000
 - an increase in anticipated revenue for Building Permits from \$6.25 million to \$7.8 million
 - These were partially offset by reduction from second quarter projections in anticipated revenue from Current Levy of \$671,084 (due to tax credits carried forward from tax appeals; tax appeals that came in higher than anticipated; slow payments from bankruptcies; and prior year tax collections are down about \$793,000)
- General Fund revenues are projected to be about \$7.4 million below budget (\$4.6 million from Smith House)
 - Parking fund was overestimated last year. They believe next year's estimate is more reasonable
 - The increase in fees probably won't increase revenue; the online app will probably reduce the number of fines
- The Senior Tax Abatement program did go over the limit by \$50-100 thousand and will be pro-rated

- Intergovernmental revenues were about \$600,000 below the budget due to State cuts to 2 pilot programs in the middle of the year
- They are anticipating \$1.262 million less than budgeted for next year, but still more than was received last year due to municipal sales tax revenue sharing
 - The schools will receive about \$600,000 less
 - They are concerned that the State will cut grant programs mid-year
- Departmental revenue is below budget primarily because of Smith House
- They are expecting at least \$200,000 more from conveyance taxes than budgeted
- Bulky Waste revenue is expected to be \$340,000 over that budgeted for this year (there are also increased expenses)
- Multi-family dwelling fees were \$100,000 higher than projected (they increased it for next year)
- Tipping fees were under budget (they are concerned about tipping fees and bulky waste for next year because the floor needs to be replaced)
- Excluding Smith House departmental revenue is projected to be \$1.7 million above budget
- Other Revenue, which is expected to be \$100,000 under budget includes: Sale of Surplus Property (\$95,000), Recycling Mixed Metals (\$100,000), and other Miscellaneous Revenue (\$150,000). This is offset by Claims & Settlements, which is \$200,000 over budget (this may not be accurate)
- They are expecting the State issue the license to Smith House any day, which will save the City \$200,000 in insurance premiums
- Due to Smith House, they are expecting \$712,000 less of a deficit in expenditures than anticipated, resulting in revenue less than expenditures of \$5.5 million which is less than the \$6.2 million anticipated
- They anticipate a savings of about \$270,000 in Debt Service due to the refunding of the bond issue
- The Board of Education is now estimating a surplus of \$236,000
- The City is tight and they are holding positions open. They are trying to find money for seasonals, since the parks need to open. In addition, police overtime is up due to the recent shootings
- Mr. Fountain expects a positive budget, but he does not know by how much.

1. [F29.410](#)
\$738,000.00

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION (Grants Budget);
Award from the US Bureau of Justice Assistance for acquisition of body-worn cameras for police officers and development and implementation of a policy governing their use (\$338,000 grant with 1:1 match; \$262,000 for Bridgeport; \$138,000 AA (operating) request (see Item 2); Additional \$200,000 in FY16/17 budget).
04/06/16 – Submitted by Mayor Martin
04/14/16 – Held by the Board of Finance
04/25/16 – Held in Committee
05/12/16 – Held by Board of Finance

Held in Committee

2. [F29.406](#) ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION (Operating Budget); Appropriation from contingency for a portion of City's 50/50 share of project for acquisition of police body-worn cameras and implementation of use policy. **Held in Committee**
\$138,000.00
04/06/16 – Submitted by Mayor Martin
04/14/16 – Held by the Board of Finance
04/25/16 – Held in Committee
05/12/16 – Held by Board of Finance

Item Nos. 1 and 2 were not taken up as they had been held by the Board of Finance.

- ¹3. [F29.416](#) ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION (Grants Budget); **Approved 6-0-0**
\$585,525.00 School Readiness Grant; to match larger than anticipated award. (100% grant funded)
04/29/16 – Submitted by Mayor Martin
05/12/16 – Approved by Board of Finance

Ms. Cammarota explained that the State increased the number of slots and the reimbursement for the slots, all of which are at the Childcare Learning Center. A motion to approve this item was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 6-0-0 (Representatives Di Costanzo, DeLuca, Fedeli, Mitchell, Quinones and Silver in favor).

4. [F29.417](#) ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION (Grants Budget); **Approved 6-0-0**
\$34,275.00 Distracted Driving; Federal Highway Safety Program Award; Police Enforcement will be increased on an overtime basis; 25% project cost share will come from an existing police overtime account. (100% grant funded)
04/29/16 – Submitted by Mayor Martin
05/12/16 – Approved by Board of Finance

Ms. Cammarota stated that this is a federal grant that comes through the State. The State determines when the details take place. A motion to approve this item was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 6-0-0 (Representatives Di Costanzo, DeLuca, Fedeli, Mitchell, Quinones and Silver in favor).

5. [F29.420](#) ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION (Operating Budget); Retroactive Salary funds for employees of Stamford Police Department/Stamford Police Association per Contract Settlement. **Approved 6-0-0**
\$6,780,000.00
05/09/16 – Submitted by Mayor Martin
05/12/16 – Approved by Board of Finance

Mr. Fountain explained that the City has done a complete calculation of the retroactive rate. The 14-15 and previous years amount will come from assigned funds balance. The 15-16 amount will come from 2015-2016 contingency. The 16-17 amount was budgeted in next year's contingency, which they will be transferring to the salary account and overtime. The future amounts will be included in salary and overtime accounts. Anyone

¹ Video Time Stamp 00:19:06

who was fired or left the City (not retired) does not get the retroactive pay. A motion to approve this item was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 6-0-0 (Representatives Di Costanzo, DeLuca, Fedeli, Mitchell, Quinones and Silver in favor).

7. F29.419	REVIEW; Budget Process and Possible Changes for Next Year. 05/06/16 – Submitted by Rep. Di Costanzo	Report Made & Held 6-0-0
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Committee members discussed the immediately past budget process. Items discussed included:

- Information provided to members of the Committee should be shared with the entire Board
- There should be a tighter time frame between the Board of Finance deliberations and the end of the Committee’s deliberations
- Departmental presentations should be shorter
- They are interested in changes from previous years
- The presentations should focus on major issues
- City departments should present before non-profits
- There needs to be a better report regarding the outside agencies
- They liked doing the deliberations on Saturday
- The Board of Education budget should not have been taken up first at the Special meeting

A motion to approve this item was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 6-0-0 (Representatives Di Costanzo, DeLuca, Fedeli, Mitchell, Quinones and Silver in favor).

Chair Di Costanzo adjourned the meeting at 7:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Monica Di Costanzo, Chair

This meeting is on [video](#).