



Fiscal Committee - Board of Representatives

Monica Di Costanzo, Chair

Frank Cerasoli, Vice Chair

Committee Report

Date: Monday, July 25, 2016

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 Di Costanzo, Vice Chair Cerasoli and Committee Member Reps. Fedeli, Figueroa, Miller, Mitchell, Quinones and Silver. Absent or excused were Committee Member Reps. Coleman, Day and DeLuca. Also present were Reps. McMullen and Ryan; Jay Fountain, OPM Director; Karen Cammarota, Grants Officer; Ted Jankowski, Director of Public Safety, Health & Welfare; Cheryl Bader, Board of Ethics; Reverend Tommie Jackson, URC; Michael Pollard, Chief of Staff; and Edward V. O'Hanlan, Esq., Robinson & Cole.

Chair Di Costanzo called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

Item No.	Description	Committee Action
The Committee first considered Item No. 3.		
3. F29.434 \$1,715.00	ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION (Grant Budget); Emergency Management/Salaries; Grant Larger than Anticipated (match funded by City pre-existing operating funds). 06/29/16 – Submitted by Mayor Martin 07/14/16 – Approved by Board of Finance	Approved 8-0-0

Ms. Cammarota and Mr. Jankowski advised that they had received \$1,715 more than anticipated. There is a dollar-for-dollar match which was already in the FY15-16 and FY16-17 general operating budgets as salaries. A motion to approve this item was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 8-0-0 (Reps. Di Costanzo, Cerasoli, Fedeli, Figueroa, Miller, Mitchell, Quinones and Silver in favor).

A motion to take up item F29.436 out of order was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 8-0-0 (Reps. Di Costanzo, Cerasoli, Fedeli, Figueroa, Miller, Mitchell, Quinones and Silver in favor).

The Committee then considered item No. F29.436.

In Executive Session:

- ¹6. F29.436 ~~ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION~~ APPROVAL; Loan to Settle a Claim Against the Urban Redevelopment Commission (URC) and the City of Stamford. **Held in Committee**
07/06/16 – Submitted by Mayor Martin
07/14/16 – Approved by Board of Finance

Mr. Pollard, Mr. O’Hanlan and Reverend Jackson explained the background for this item:

- The Board had previously approved a secured loan to the URC to repay a loan to Trinity, conditioned on the securing of the loan with URC assets
- At that time it was recognized that there was a claim against the URC which impacted the ability to restructure the URC
- Also at the time there was a question about the assets of the URC, which have since been confirmed by 2 separate audits to confirm the assets and cash flow of the URC.
- Mr. O’Hanlan has been hired by the City to attempt to settle this claim as a way to restructure the URC
- The two major assets of the URC are the Trinity parcel and the parcel next to the “hole in the ground”. These assets are quite substantial and would be more valuable than the two loans combined (one of these properties is in negotiation now and the other is being marketed)
- There is a time limit on the settlement of this claim
- Upon approval of this agreement, \$10,000 currently being paid to the URC would instead flow to the City as repayment of the loan

Chair Di Costanzo noted that this item should read “Loan”, not “Additional Appropriation”

A motion to go into executive session was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 8-0-0 (Reps. Di Costanzo, Cerasoli, Fedeli, Figueroa, Miller, Mitchell, Quinones and Silver in favor).

Rep. McMullen stated that he is an ex-officio member of any Board Committee and he believes he is entitled to stay in the executive session. The Committee did not go into executive session.

A motion to hold this item until August 1, 2016 was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 7-1-0 (Reps. Di Costanzo, Cerasoli, Fedeli, Figueroa, Mitchell, Quinones and Silver in favor; Rep. Miller opposed).

- ²1. [F29.426](#) ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION (Operating Budget); Board of Ethics/Professional Legal Services; Reinstate funds cut from FY16/17 budget to allow Board of Ethics to initiate investigations. **Failed 4-4-0**
\$7,500.00
05/27/16 – Submitted by Mayor Martin
06/09/16 – Approved by Board of Finance
06/27/16 – Held by Committee 9-0-0

¹ Video Time Stamp 00:04:15

² Video Time Stamp 00:39:00

Mr. Fountain stated that Ms. Bader needed to leave the meeting in order to go to another meeting. She had told him that there are two reasons the Board of Ethics would use these funds: 1) to investigate whether there is evidence or 2) give them information about whether or not they should proceed after information is gathered. This amount would give the Board about 33 hours of legal work.

There was a previous understanding regarding this funding, but there is nothing in writing about this.

A motion to approve this item was made, seconded and failed by a vote of 4-4-0 (Reps. Di Costanzo, Figueroa, Miller and Mitchell in favor; Reps. Cerasoli, Fedeli, Quinones and Silver opposed).

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| 2. F29.433
\$6,457.60 | ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION (Capital Budget);
Citywide Signals; Replace damages to Traffic
Signal at the Intersection of Washington Boulevard
@ Main Street due to Construction Activity and
Associated Incident of February 25, 2016.
06/16/16 – Submitted by Mayor Martin
07/14/16 - to be considered by Board of Finance
07/17/16 – Withdrawn by the Administration | WITHDRAWN |
| ³ 4. F29.435
\$25,000.00 | ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION (Operating
Budget); Funding for Yerwood Center Open Gym
Summer Evening Hours Operated by Boys & Girls
Club.
07/06/16 – Submitted by Mayor Martin
07/14/16 – Approved by Board of Finance | Approved 8-0-0 |

Mr. Jankowski stated that the City has been meeting with Community leaders regarding the ongoing violence on the West Side and the lack of activities for young people in the area. One of the plans was to start evening center hours for young people. So far 130 people ages 15 to 26 are registered and over 50 individuals are there every night. They work in the open gym, on job skills. The program ends August 31st. There is police outreach as part of this program

A motion to approve this item was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 8-0-0 (Reps. Di Costanzo, Cerasoli, Fedeli, Figueroa, Miller, Mitchell Quinones and Silver in favor).

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| ⁴ 5. F29.437 | REVIEW; The Issuance and Sale of \$45,000,000
General Obligation Bonds of the City of
Stamford.
07/06/16 – Submitted by President Skigen
07/14/16 – Approved by Board of Finance | Report Made |
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Mr. Handler and Mr. Fountain explained that:

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- This is a typical general obligation bond offering being planned for August
- They reviewed the specific items being funded, including the complete funding of the construction of the new police department
- A request for a list of specific roads for patch/resurfacing funds was made
- Some of these funds are contributions to housing development projects
- Director Handler indicated that next year's bonding would be very tight

As a Secondary Committee:

1. [LR29.069](#) ORDINANCE for publication; Granting a Previously Denied Tax Exemption to A&E Television Networks for the 2015 Grand List pursuant to [CGS §12-94e](#).
07/06/16 – Submitted by President Skigen

Chair Di Costanzo adjourned the meeting at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Monica Di Costanzo, Chair

This meeting is on [video](#).