



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

Monica Di Costanzo, Chair

Frank Cerasoli, Vice Chair

**Committee Report**

**Date:** Monday, January 30, 2017

**Time:** 7:00 p.m.

**Place:** Republican 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. Coleman, Day, Figueroa, Miller, Mitchell, Quinones and Silver. Absent or excused were Committee Member Reps. DeLuca and Fedeli. Also present were Reps. de la Cruz, Franzetti, Jacobson, McMullen, Pratt, Ryan and Summerville; Karen Cammarota, Grants; Dominic Tramontozzi, Engineering; Ellen Bromley, Social Services; Clemon Williams and Nancy Markey, Human Resources; Kathryn Emmett, Corporation Counsel; Anthony Romano, OPM; and Laura Burwick, Special Assistant to the Mayor.

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

<b>Item No.</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Committee Action</b>
<sup>1</sup> 1. <a href="#">F29.499</a> \$362,698.00	ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION (Grants Budget); Homeland Security: Enhancement of Preparedness and Response Capabilities of First Responders in Lower Fairfield County: Equipment, Training and Asset Maintenance; Stamford receives \$40,000 as fiduciary agent. 01/04/17 – Submitted by Mayor Martin 01/12/17 – Approved by Board of Finance	<b>APPROVED 8-0-0</b>

Ms. Cammarota explained that this is a grant from the federal government to the State to the regional group, which decides how to use the funds. The money is spent to benefit all of the towns in the group. A motion to approve this item was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 8-0-0 (Reps. Di Costanzo, Cerasoli, Coleman, Day, Miller, Mitchell, Quinones and Silver in favor).

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<sup>1</sup> Video Pt. 1 – 00:00:25

- <sup>2</sup>. [F29.496](#) ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION (Operating Budget); Contractual Obligation for contribution to Attorneys' 401(a) accounts based on hours worked on behalf of the WPCA and the BOE for FY 13/14, FY14/15 and FY15/16. **APPROVED 8-0-0**  
\$102,000.00  
01/04/17 – Submitted by Mayor Martin  
01/12/17 – Approved by Board of Finance

Ms. Emmet and Mr. Williams stated that this is an additional appropriation to fund the attorneys' 401(a) accounts as required under the existing collective bargaining agreement. The attorneys have money put into their accounts for each hour worked for the WPCA or the Board of Education. This work is done during their regular work hours. There is a chargeback to the WPCA and the Board of Education for the time spent by the attorneys. A motion to approve this item was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 8-0-0 (Reps. Di Costanzo, Cerasoli, Coleman, Day, Miller, Mitchell, Quinones and Silver in favor).

- <sup>3</sup>. [F29.494](#) ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION (Capital Budget); Affordable Housing Zoning Initiative; Payment from Developer for collecting market rate rents for 2 restricted BMR units at 11 Forest Street. **APPROVED 8-0-0**  
\$100,000.00  
12/14/17 – Submitted by Mayor Martin  
01/10/17 – Approved by [Planning Board](#)  
01/12/17 – Approved by Board of Finance

Ms. Bromley explained that the City discovered that a landlord was not charging BMR rents for 2 BMR units. This is the difference between what he should have charged and what he did charge. There are no penalties for this violation in the Zoning laws. The landlord made a settlement offer which was accepted. The City is currently monitoring other landlords to determine compliance with the BMR requirements. The City is notified when the Zoning Board approves BMR units, which are inspected to ensure that they are substantially similar to non-BMR units. These funds are going back into housing development. A motion to approve this item was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 8-0-0 (Reps. Di Costanzo, Cerasoli, Coleman, Day, Miller, Mitchell, Quinones and Silver in favor).

- <sup>4</sup>. [F29.497](#) REJECTION; of Capital Project Closeout Project **NO ACTION**  
\$1,700,000.00 No. CP7209, Energy Improvement Projects. **TAKEN**  
01/04/17 – Submitted by Mayor Martin  
01/10/17 – Approved by [Planning Board](#)  
01/12/17 – Approved by Board of Finance

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<sup>2</sup> Video Pt. 1 – 00:02:36

<sup>3</sup> Video Pt. 1 – 00:10:09

<sup>4</sup> Video Pt. 1 – 00:19:14

5. [F29.498](#)      ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION (Capital Budget);      **APPROVED 8-0-0**  
\$1,700,000.00      Energy Improvement Projects; Light Bulb  
Replacements in Schools and Government Center;  
Street Light Replacement; Cooling Tower and  
HVAC Compressor Replacement at Government  
Center and Repair of AITE HVAC System.  
01/04/17 – Submitted by Mayor Martin  
01/10/17 – Approved by [Planning Board](#)  
01/12/17 – Approved by Board of Finance

Mr. Romano explained that the Board has previously approved this funding. The City has decided to reduce the bond appropriation and use capital non-recurring funds instead. This will be a line in the next budget. A motion to approve this item was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 8-0-0 (Reps. Di Costanzo, Cerasoli, Coleman, Day, Miller, Mitchell, Quinones and Silver in favor).

- <sup>5</sup>6. [F29.495](#)      RESOLUTION; Amending the Capital Budget for FY      **APPROVED 8-0-0**  
2016-17 by adding an Appropriation of \$76,470 for  
the CLC Classroom and Playground Refurbishing  
and Renovation Project and Authorizing \$76,470  
General Obligation Bonds of the City to Meet Said  
Appropriation.  
12/13/16 – Submitted by Mayor Martin  
01/12/17 – Approved by Board of Finance

Mr. Romano explained that the Board has previously approved this appropriation and did not reject the close-out. A motion to approve this item was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 8-0-0 (Reps. Di Costanzo, Cerasoli, Coleman, Day, Miller, Mitchell, Quinones and Silver in favor).

- <sup>6</sup>7. F29.500      REVIEW; Board of Representatives' Budget      **REPORT MADE**  
Priorities.  
01/03/17 – Submitted by Rep. Quinones

Committee members discussed the role of the Board of Representatives in the budget process. Budget items put forth by the Mayor will be reviewed during the normal course of the budget deliberation process and Board members with questions can have them addressed when the Fiscal committee meets with the various department and agency representatives at budget hearings.

- <sup>7</sup>8. [F29.502](#)      ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION (Capital Budget);      **APPROVED 6-2-1**  
\$500,000.00      Czescik Home Demolition.  
01/09/17 – Submitted by Mayor Martin  
01/10/17 – Approved by [Planning Board](#)  
01/12/17 – Approved by Board of Finance

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<sup>5</sup> Video Pt. 1 – 00:22:30

<sup>6</sup> Video Pt. 1 – 00:26:00

<sup>7</sup> Video Pt. 1 – 00:40:19

9. F29.503            RESOLUTION; Amending the Capital Budget for FY    **APPROVED 6-2-1**  
 2016-17 by adding an Appropriation of \$500,000 for  
 the Czescik Home Demolition Project and  
 Authorizing \$500,000 General Obligation Bonds of  
 the City to Meet Said Appropriation.  
 01/09/17 – Submitted by Mayor Martin  
 01/12/17 – Approved by Board of Finance

Mr. Tramontozzi and Mr. Romano explained that under an agreement between the City and Charter Oak, Charter Oak is vacating the buildings and relocating the tenants to Summer Street by the end of February. Some residents moved earlier to other buildings and one building is already vacant. The City wants to demolish these buildings as soon as they are vacant, because they present a liability issue. The one currently vacant building has already been vandalized and all of the copper has been stolen. There is no close-out associated with this item and they do not want to wait until the next fiscal year. The property, which is in the 100 year flood plain, will become part of the Mill River. There are discussions regarding the Mill River offsetting these costs. The demolition will go out to bid, but this amount is based upon an estimate by the Engineering Department.

Committee members expressed concerns regarding the relocation of the current residents. Rep. Mitchell stated that she will put this item on the agenda for the next HCD/SS Committee meeting.

A motion to approve Item No. 8 was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 6-2-1 (Reps. Di Costanzo, Coleman, Day, Miller, Mitchell and Silver in favor; Reps. Cerasoli and Quinones opposed; Rep. Figueroa abstaining).

A motion to approve Item No. 9 was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 6-2-1 (Reps. Di Costanzo, Coleman, Day, Miller, Mitchell and Silver in favor; Reps. Cerasoli and Quinones opposed; Rep. Figueroa abstaining).

***Possibly in Executive Session:***

- <sup>8</sup>10. F29.501            APPROVAL; Letters to the Mayor, HR and Local            **NO ACTION**  
                                  #786 Regarding Settlement of Grievance Regarding            **TAKEN**  
                                  Late Payment of Retroactive Salary.  
                                  01/04/17 – Submitted by Rep. Coppola

***Secondary Committee: Committee of the Whole***

Ms. Emmet stated that she requested to appear before the Fiscal Committee to discuss this item. She explained that this arose from a provision in the tentative bargaining agreement which mirrored a provision in the agreement with the Police union, that the City would pay retroactive wages within 60 days of ratification. The City paid 12 to 13 days late, the Union filed a grievance and the City paid \$10,000 as a settlement of that grievance.

She explained that the police union members were able to use their pre-tax dollars from the retroactive salary payments to fund their high deductible HSA accounts. Local 786 expressed a desire to do the same, but this was more complicated because the

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<sup>8</sup> Video Pt. 1 – 01:10:42 & Video Pt. 2

retroactive wages were to be paid in 2016, but the HSA accounts would not go into effect until 1/1/17. After the contract was ratified, this was negotiated between the union, HR and the Law Department, in consultation with tax counsel. This process of discussion took several weeks.

At the same time, the amount of retroactive pay for each member needed to be calculated separately, which was more complicated than for the police union.

Also at the same time, members of Local 786 wanted pre-tax dollars to be put into 457 accounts. The City worked with members to set up the accounts, which was a long process and extended past the 60 day deadline. The members did put approximately \$907,000 into the accounts and saved \$22,000 in taxes and the City saved \$13,000 in Medicare taxes. Because they were accommodating these accounts, the City did not make the retroactive payments by 10/8.

Local 786 also asked whether some retroactive payments could be made in 2017. The union ultimately decided not to pursue this, but that was a long and involved process involving different classes of members.

She made the decision to pay the retroactive salary late because she thought it would not be fair/reasonable to cut off the process.

Mr. Williams noted that making retroactive payments in 2017 without getting tax advice would have exposed the City to substantial tax penalties. Under CGS §5-276(b), a payment made late due to fault is subject to 5% interest, which would have been approximately \$12,000.

A motion to go into Executive Session to discuss the contents of the union negotiations was made, seconded and approved without objection. The Committee went into executive session at 8:45 p.m. Invited into Executive Session was the Fiscal Committee, the Committee of the Whole, Kathy Emmett, Clemon Williams and Nancy Markey.

The Committee returned from Executive Session at 9:27 p.m. Chair Di Costanzo noted that the Committee had taken no votes during the Executive Session.

No motion was made on this item.

Chair Di Costanzo adjourned the meeting at 9:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Monica Di Costanzo, Chair

This meeting is on video ([Pt. 1](#) & [Pt. 2](#))