



Fiscal Committee - Board of Representatives

Monica Di Costanzo, Chair

Anzelmo Graziosi, Vice Chair

Committee Report

Date: Wednesday, February 21, 2018

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Place: Democratic Caucus Room, 4th Floor, 888 Washington Boulevard, Stamford, CT 06905-2098

The Fiscal Committee met as indicated above. In attendance were Chair Di Costanzo, Vice Chair Graziosi and Committee Member Reps. Coleman, Fedeli, Figueroa, McMullen, Miller, Morson, Nabel and Pendell. Absent or excused was Rep. Pia. Also present were Reps. de la Cruz and Roqueta; Karen Cammarota, Grants Officer; Lucy Corelli, Republican Registrar of Voters; Jay Fountain, OPM Director; Tyler Theder, Stormwater Management; and Greg Stackpole and Bill Jessa, Assessor's Office.

Chair Di Costanzo called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

Item No.	Description	Committee Action
1. F30.024	Overview of Department of Administration with Director Handler. 12/27/17 – Submitted by President Quinones 01/22/18 – Held in Committee	HELD
12. F30.040 \$101,204.00	ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION (Grants Budget); Homeland Security FY 16/17; Pre-determined Share of the Costs to Sustain UASI Interoperable Radio System; as Fiduciary, Stamford will issue payment to the vendor. 02/06/18 – Submitted by Mayor Martin 02/08/18 – Approved by Board of Finance	Approved 10-0-0

Ms. Cammarota discussed Items 2 and 3 together. She explained that:

- 10 years ago Stamford was the fiduciary for the UASI grant, which was a 3 year grant, and put in an interoperable radio system for lower Fairfield County
- Now, Stamford is part of the REPT (Regional Emergency Planning Team) which covers the same region covering 14 towns
- Towns must pay a certain amount to Motorola every year to sustain the system

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- As the grant goes on, the grant picks up less of the cost of the maintenance and the towns are paying more
- This is how the REPT Committee decided to divide the costs
- Stamford receives \$50,000 per year to act as a fiduciary
- The payment for calendar year 2017 is late

A motion to approve Item No. 2 was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 10-0-0 (Reps. Di Costanzo, Graziosi, Coleman, Fedeli, Figueroa, McMullen, Miller, Morson, Nabel and Pendell in favor).

3. [F30.041](#) ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION (Grants Budget); **Approved 10-0-0**
 \$101,204.00 Homeland Security FY 17/18; Pre-determined Share
 of the Costs to Sustain UASI Interoperable Radio
 System; as Fiduciary, Stamford will issue payment to
 the vendor.
 02/06/18 – Submitted by Mayor Martin
 02/08/18 – Approved by Board of Finance

A motion to approve Item No.3 was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 10-0-0 (Reps. Di Costanzo, Graziosi, Coleman, Fedeli, Figueroa, McMullen, Miller, Morson, Nabel and Pendell in favor).

4. [F30.042](#) ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION (Operating Budget); **HELD**
 \$86,842.00 Hiring of Seasonal Custodian Positions Upgraded to
 Full-Time per Settlement Agreement.
 02/06/18 – Submitted by Mayor Martin
 02/27/18 – To be Considered by Board of Finance

- ²5. [F30.043](#) ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION (Operating Budget); **Approved 9-0-1**
 \$60,000.00 Transfer Funds from Contingency to Registrar of
 \$45,000.00 Voters Primary Account; Funds Depleted During
 September 2017 Primary.
 02/06/18 – Submitted by Mayor Martin
 02/08/18 – Approved by Board of Finance

Ms. Corelli explained that these funds are needed for the March 6th primaries. The amount was reduced at the Board of Finance at her request because there are only 2 primaries, rather than 3. The State requires certain procedures and levels of staffing, regardless of how many people vote. A motion to approve this item was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 9-0-1 (Reps. Di Costanzo, Graziosi, Coleman, Fedeli, McMullen, Miller, Morson, Nabel and Pendell in favor; Rep. Figueroa abstaining).

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- ³6. [F30.044](#) ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION (Capital Budget); **Approved 10-0-0**
\$250,000.00 Citywide Manhole & Basin; Resconstruction and
Adjustments of Manholes and Basins; Work Is Critical
To Protect The Safety of the Public.
02/06/18 – Submitted by Mayor Martin
02/06/18 – Approved by Planning Board
02/08/18 – Approved by Board of Finance

Mr. Theder explained that:

- There are 11,000 catch basins and 5,000 storm water related manholes in Stamford (the City is not responsible for repairs on State Roads)
- The catch basins deteriorate over time and he gets daily requests for repairs.
- He distributed the [attached photos](#) showing basins in need of repair
- He submitted a budget request for \$300,000 last year which was cut by the Planning Board to \$200,000; those funds are used and this appropriation would allow repairs until July
- None of the currently proposed repairs are on roads to be paved in the near future
- The City uses 2 vendors, which were hired through the RFP process
- The replacement basins should be more durable than the current basins
- He inspects prior to any repair work being done, during the repair and before any payment is made
- Priority is given to repairs which present the greatest risk of liability to the City.

Mr. Fountain stated that these funds will be advanced and then replenished out of the July bond offering.

A motion to approve Item No.6 was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 10-0-0 (Reps. Di Costanzo, Graziosi, Coleman, Fedeli, Figueroa, McMullen, Miller, Morson, Nabel and Pendell in favor).

7. [F30.045](#) RESOLUTION; Amending the Capital Budget for **Approved 10-0-0**
Fiscal Year 17/18 by Adding an Appropriation of
\$250,000.00 for the Citywide Manhole and Basin
Project and Authorizing \$250,000 General Obligation
Bonds of the City to Meet Said Appropriation.
02/06/18 – Submitted by Mayor Martin
02/08/18 – Approved by Board of Finance

A motion to approve Item No.7 was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 10-0-0 (Reps. Di Costanzo, Graziosi, Coleman, Fedeli, Figueroa, McMullen, Miller, Morson, Nabel and Pendell in favor).

8. [F30.037](#) RESOLUTION; Changing the Date of the Special **Approved 9-0-1**
Budget Meeting from May 8, 2018 to May 1, 2018.
02/02/18 – Submitted by Rep. Di Costanzo

Chair Di Costanzo explained that she put this item on the agenda in order not to have too much time between the Committee's budget deliberations and the review of the

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recommendations by the full Board. A motion to approve this item was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 9-0-1 (Reps. Di Costanzo, Graziosi, Coleman, Fedeli, Figueroa, Miller, Morson, Nabel and Pendell in favor; Rep. McMullen abstaining).

- ⁴9. [F30.033](#) REVIEW; State Statutes & City Policies requiring residents to register motor vehicles and pay Personal Property Taxes in the municipality where they are primarily garaged and used. **Report Made**
01/03/18 - Submitted by Reps. Morson, Roqueta and Graziosi
01/22/18 – Held in Committee

Mr. Stackpole discussed this item with the Committee as follows:

- The assessor is required to assess vehicles, but there is an issue with vehicles which are either intentionally or unintentionally not registered in Stamford
- The City assesses 111,000 vehicles each year, based upon a list provided by the State on October 1 of registered vehicles and a list provided in December of vehicles registered after October 1
- He does not know how many out-of-City vehicles there are
- This is typically a problem in larger cities with lower incomes, regardless of where in the state they are located
- He did meet with a company in January to see what services they could offer and has put together an RFP (including failure to re-register, being registered in other municipalities, etc.); responses will be due by the end of March
- The RFP is for a 2 year contract with 2 one-year extensions
- It will take several months after a contract is signed before there will be any results
- There may be unintended consequences for snowbirds or college students which need to be addressed
- There is no ability to prorate from one town to another in a given year
- There is no significant penalty if a vehicle is not registered in the city and the owner refuses to pay the tax
- Parked cars are more visible in some districts than others
- This item should be placed back on the agenda in May

- ⁵10. F30.035 REVIEW; Real Property Revaluation. **Report Made**
02/01/18 – Submitted by Rep. Di Costanzo

Mr. Stackpole discussed this item with the Committee as follows:

- Revaluation notices, with the new form, went to residents on 12/11
- The database established value based upon current market conditions and on 2012 conditions (as a fallback in the event the revaluation was not done)
- There has been a 6.8% increase in the real estate market since 2012; the largest increase in lower multi-family homes (which is generally the most volatile market)
- The total grand list went up by 8% (1.6% due to new apartments)
- Stamford is a diversified market and having a commercial base is helpful; out of 30,000 parcels, 2-3,000 are commercial but commercial pay 1/3 of the taxes

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- February 20th was the last day to file an appeal; the City budgets for anticipated appeals
- The value of condominiums is based upon the sales of individual units

⁶11. [F30.036](#) REVIEW; BOR Budget Recommendations. **Report Made**
01/30/18 – Submitted by President Quinones

Chair Di Costanzo noted that there were 19 Board of Representatives members and 2 Board of Finance Members at the Mayor’s presentation. Mr. Fountain stated that the Administration will provide written responses to the items submitted by Board members.

The Committee next took up Item 13.

⁷13. [F30.039](#) REVIEW; FY 2017-2018 Second Quarter Financial **Report Made**
Projections.
02/02/18 – Submitted by Rep. Di Costanzo

Mr. Fountain reviewed the [attached handout](#) with the Committee.

⁸12. [F30.038](#) REVIEW; Budget Book Overview. **Report Made**
02/02/18 – Submitted by Rep. Di Costanzo

Mr. Fountain reviewed the [attached excerpts from prior budget books](#) with the Committee. The Board will receive 3 books: the Operating Budget Book, the Detail Book (which will only be available online); and the Capital Budget Book. He explained as follows:

- Transfer to other funds is separated out because they are grant funds which do not lapse at the end of the year
- BOE City Support Services includes school nurses, crossing guards
- The property tax line is not the general levy
- Reserve for Contingency has to be appropriated by both boards; it is for unexpected expenditures as well as costs due to labor negotiations
- The Gross Tax Levy, less the reserves, is the amount used for the budget
- The revenue is set by the Board of Finance
- Departments are broken down by program and expenditures per program
- Grant programs are a separate fund
- The capital budget does not guarantee that a project will occur
- The Mayor can increase items listed in the Planning Board recommendation, but can’t add new items

Chair Di Costanzo adjourned the meeting at 9:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Monica Di Costanzo, Chair

This meeting is on [video](#)

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⁷ Video Time Stamp 01:50:10

⁸ Video Time Stamp 02:04:50