

**Fiscal Committee - Board of Representatives**

Monica Di Costanzo, Chair

Lindsey Miller, Vice Chair



**Committee Report**

**Date:** Monday, December 17, 2018  
**Time:** 7:00 p.m.  
**Place:** Democratic Caucus Room, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, 888 Washington Boulevard, Stamford, CT 06905-2098

The Fiscal Committee met as indicated above. In attendance were Chair Di Costanzo, Vice Chair Miller and Committee Member Reps. Coleman, Fedeli, Figueroa, Jacobson, McMullen, Morson and Nabel. Absent or excused were Committee Member Reps. Pendell and Pia. Also present were Rep. Watkins; Jay Fountain, OPM Director; Greg Stackpole and Bill Jessa, Assessor’s Office; Jim Travers, Transportation Bureau Chief, and Karen Cammarota, Grants Office.

Chair Di Costanzo called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Item No.	Description	Committee Action
1. <a href="#">F30.121</a> \$487,496.00	ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION (Capital Budget); West Avenue @ West Main Street Intersection Improvements (increased grant authorization). 12/05/18 - Submitted by Mayor Martin 12/11/18 - To be considered by Planning Board 12/13/18 – Approved by Board of Finance	<b>Approved 8-0-0</b>

Mr. Travers explained that the City had received a grant and the project [CP6815] has been started. This appropriation changes the grant authorization to fund the balance of the construction costs. A motion to approve this item was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 8-0-0 (Reps. Di Costanzo, Miller, Coleman, Fedeli, Figueroa, Jacobson, McMullen and Morson in favor).

2. <a href="#">F30.122</a> \$41,637.00	ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION (Grants Budget); Justice Assistance Grant 17/18; Funds to be used for Additional Hours for Narcotic Investigators to Investigate Street-Level Narcotic Activity on an Overtime Basis and to Enhance Less Lethal Options of the Police Department by Purchasing 12 Tasers and 2 Tactical Defense Launchers. 12/05/18 - Submitted by Mayor Martin 12/13/18 – FAILED in Board of Finance	<b>NO ACTION TAKEN</b>
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3. [F30.123](#) ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION: Funds from General Fund to Grants Fund 24 where Funds were already Appropriated from Contingency for Mold Remediation in Stamford Public Schools. **Approved 8-0-0**  
\$500,000.00  
12/05/18 - Submitted by Mayor Martin  
12/13/18 – Approved by Board of Finance

Mr. Fountain explained that these funds were appropriated last month from contingency in the General Fund to transfer to the Grant Fund. The appropriation of the Grant Fund was not done last month. This is not additional money but an appropriation of the funds into the account for mold remediation. It was appropriated into the Grant Fund so that it does not terminate at the end of the year. There will probably be additional appropriations in the future. A motion to approve this item was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 8-0-0 (Reps. Di Costanzo, Miller, Coleman, Fedeli, Figueroa, Jacobson, McMullen and Morson in favor).

4. [F30.124](#) RESOLUTION; Authorizing an Agreement with the State Department of Energy & Environmental Protection for Improvements to Veterans Park. **Approved 8-0-0**  
12/05/18 - Submitted by Mayor Martin

Ms. Cammarota explained that the Connecticut Bond Commission approved \$2 million in July for rehabilitation of Veterans Park. The City just received the contract, this is a resolution authorizing the Mayor to sign the agreement. The City knew of the funding before they got the agreement. The City has no say over which agency administers the agreement. A motion to approve this item was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 8-0-0 (Reps. Di Costanzo, Miller, Coleman, Fedeli, Figueroa, Jacobson, McMullen and Morson in favor).

5. [F30.125](#) APPROVAL; Agreement with Municipal Tax Services LLC For Motor Vehicle Tax Compliance. **Approved 8-0-1**  
11/28/18 – Submitted by Mayor Martin  
12/13/18 – Approved by Board of Finance

Chair Di Costanzo pointed out that this agreement is an outcome of F30.033, a Review of 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 which was placed on the agenda by Representatives Morson, Roqueta and Graziosi.

Mr. Stackpole and Mr. Jessa discussed this agreement with the Committee. There was a selection committee which picked a vendor, but the vendor was a start-up which did not have the means to go forward, so they went forward with Municipal Tax Services (“MTS”).

MTS will have vehicles that will go throughout the City scanning license plates which will be compiled against a database of CT and NY DMV rolls and other databases. They have already built a tool to integrate with the City’s tax software. First the City will send a letter to the owner of the vehicle giving them time to dispute it with MTS. If they do not dispute it, then it will be sent to the tax office. It will be collected as part of the tax bill and the taxes will be split between MTS and the City. MTS will also get a \$50 fee. There is also a 25% penalty if a personal property declaration form is not filed.

The cost of the agreement is \$100,000 plus ½ of what MTS bills. The City believes it will recoup this amount in back taxes.

The City will have to come up with processes to deal with varying situations. A car domiciled in Stamford is subject to personal property tax in Stamford. These vehicles do not necessarily need to be registered in Stamford. MTS will not get vehicles parked in garages or in private lots. The image is combined with GPS coordinates. The assessor of Waterbury, which has been using them the longest, had only positive comments. The City will send out a press release and modify the website to inform the public if this contract is approved.

The City will probably not see any results for at least 6 months.

A motion to approve this item was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 8-0-1 (Reps. Di Costanzo, Miller, Fedeli, Figueroa, Jacobson, McMullen, Morson and Nabel in favor; Rep. Coleman abstaining).

Chair Di Costanzo adjourned the meeting at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Monica Di Costanzo, Chair

This meeting is on [video](#).