



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

Monica Di Costanzo, Chair      Lindsey Miller, Vice Chair

# **Committee Report**

**Date:** Monday, March 25, 2019  
**Time:** 6:30 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. Figueroa, Jacobson, McMullen, Morson, Nabel, Pendell and Pia. Absent or excused were Reps. Coleman and Fedeli. Also present were Reps. Lion, Summerville and Zelinsky; Thomas Lombardo, Stamford Police Department Captain; Clarence Zachery, Board of Education Chief Financial Officer; Jay Fountain, Director OPM; Mark McGrath, Director of Operations; Jim Travers, Transportation Bureau Chief; Kathy Emmett, Corporation Counsel; Kevin Murry, Parks/Facilities; Trevor Roach, Stamford Fire Department; Karen Cammarota, Grants Officer; and Terri Drew, Youth Services Bureau.

Chair Di Costanzo called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

| <b>Item No.</b> | <b>Description</b> | <b>Committee Action</b> |
|-----------------|--------------------|-------------------------|
|-----------------|--------------------|-------------------------|

A motion to suspend the rules to take up Item No.10 was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 7-1-0 (Reps. Di Costanzo, Figueroa, Jacobson, Morson, Nabel, Pendell and Pia in favor; Rep. Miller opposed).

### ***Under a Suspension of the Rules:***

|   |   |                |
|---|---|----------------|
| 10. <a href="#">F30.150</a><br>\$600,000.00 | ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION (Operating Budget);<br>To Assist With Mold-Related Costs.<br>03/26/19 – Submitted by Clarence Zachery<br>03/14/19 – Approved by Board of Finance (reduced<br>from \$702,593) | Approved 7-0-0 |
|---|---|----------------|

Mr. Zachery discussed this item with the Committee. He distributed the [attached handout](#) detailing the payments to the three vendors.

- Right now the Board of Education has more than a \$1 million deficit due to mold remediation expenses up until the time the Mold Task Force took over. These invoices are coming out of the current budget.
- When the mold issue arose, the BOE focused on getting school open so that they would not be in violation of state law
- He will provide a breakdown of the information by school of cost and custodial overtime

- The original request was \$702,000; \$43,000 was for work that occurred prior to 7/1/18 and so comes out of the prior fiscal year. The BOE is determining how to pay for the remaining \$67,000
- The vendor pricing is based off the State bid list
- Expenses incurred after 11/5/18 go to the Mold Task Force budget

A motion to approve this item was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 7-0-0 (Reps. Di Costanzo, Miller, Figueroa, Jacobson, Nabel, Pendell and Pia in favor).

1. [F30.143](#) ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION (Grants Budget); Approved 6-0-1  
 \$58,500.00 Distracted Driving Grant; Overtime (100% Grant Funded).  
 02/22/19 – Submitted by Mayor Martin  
 03/14/19 – Approved by Board of Finance

Ms. Cammarota explained that this is for spotter enforcement in April and August.

A motion to approve this item was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 6-0-1 (Reps. Di Costanzo, Miller, Jacobson, Nabel, Pendell and Pia in favor; Rep. Figueroa abstaining).

2. [F30.144](#) ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION (Grants Budget); Approved 7-0-0  
 \$100,000.00 Homeland Security Grant (Additional Grant Funding);  
 Equipment for Stamford Bomb Squad and Regional Hazmat Team (100% Grant Funded).  
 02/22/19 – Submitted by Mayor Martin  
 03/14/19 – Approved by Board of Finance

Ms. Cammarota explained that this money is being used for the Stamford Bomb Squad and Regional Hazmat Team.

A motion to approve this item was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 7-0-0 (Reps. Di Costanzo, Miller, Figueroa, Jacobson, Nabel, Pendell and Pia in favor).

3. [F30.131](#) ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION (Operating Budget); Approved 6-0-1  
 \$32,300.00 Funding to Fill the Assistant Director of Human Resources Position for the Remainder of this Fiscal Year.  
 02/04/19 – Submitted by Mayor Martin  
 02/19/19 – Held by Board of Finance  
 02/25/19 – Held by Committee  
 03/14/19 – Approved by Board of Finance 3-2-1

Ms. Emmett distributed the attached [job description](#). She explained that this is a position that did exist in 2017-18, but was not funded in the 2018-19 budget and the Human Resources Department is now down an essential function, critical for automation functions and other projects surrounding benefits & sharing of information both internally and externally. The City is hopeful to find candidates to fill this position while filling the more strategic HR Director position. The City would also like to be able to tell HR Director candidates that they will have an assistant. The Labor Relations Specialist will be retiring in July, which will leave another essential position to be filled. The current Interim Director will not be staying for a long period. This amount is for the remainder of the fiscal year.

A motion to approve this item was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 6-0-1 (Reps. Di Costanzo, Miller, Figueroa, Jacobson, Nabel and Pendell in favor; Rep. Pia abstaining).

4. [F30.134](#)      ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION (Operating Budget);      Approved 8-0-1  
\$15,355.00      to Fund the Salary of a Traffic Analyst.  
02/04/19 – Submitted by Mayor Martin  
02/19/19 – Held by Board of Finance  
02/25/19 – Held by Committee  
03/14/19 – Approved by Board of Finance 6-0-0

Mr. Travers explained that:

- This position will help the department complete the grants necessary to make the Department function
- The Department sought 20 grants this year for a total of \$40 million
- The grants are very technical and time consuming
- The Department also needs someone to help analyze data so they can make better decisions about use of resources
- The Department reviews plans for every development that comes before the Zoning Board and provides a written report; this year, those reports help generate an additional \$4 million of investment in the City
- This position did exist but was cut by the Pavia administration
- The yearly salary is \$54,337; the Department would look for a data specialist; the person does not need a traffic background; there is currently no one in the Department who could fill this function
- This past year, there has been a 55% reduction in traffic accidents in Stamford and a 77% reduction in the injuries due to accidents
- The Human Resources Department looked at comparable salaries in WestCOG, Norwalk, Bridgeport and White Plains to determine the appropriate salary for this position

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

The Committee then took up Item No. 8

8. [F30.148](#)      REVIEW: Cost of all Traffic Signals and Signs      Report Made  
Installed Since Hiring of Current Traffic Bureau Chief  
and FY2019-20 Budget for Traffic Signals and Signs.  
03/06/19 – Submitted by Rep. Zelinsky

Mr. Travers discussed this item with the Committee:

- All traffic signal designs are reviewed and approved by an outside agency and designs comply with federal requirements as set forth in the Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices
- The Department installed 895 signs in FY 17-18 and 943 signs in FY 18-19
- Traffic signals have all been installed as part of state/federal projects and numbers are reported in an end of year summary report – no signals have been paid for by the City of Stamford this year

- Every investment has returns - there has been a 55% reduction in traffic accidents in Stamford and a 77% reduction in the injuries due to accidents; there have been no injuries at the Washington Boulevard/Tresser Boulevard intersection this year
- The Department has done \$26 million worth of projects, mostly covered by grants; the City often pays only for the design work
- Director Travers said we can always do better at communication; they attend community meetings and invite public comment on proposals; since Fix-It Stamford started, the Transportation Department has received more than 2,000 citizen inquiries. For sign installation, we review all signage when making investments to our roadways (i.e. paving) and check things like reflectivity and repair and replace for safety measures.

5. [F30.147](#)      ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION (Operating Budget);      Approved 6-0-2  
 \$8,000.00      Park Police Overtime; Beach Enforcement; Additional  
                          Enforcement/Coverage for City Parks after April 1st.  
                          03/05/19 – Submitted by Mayor Martin  
                          03/14/19 – Approved by Board of Finance

Captain Lombardo and Mr. McGrath discussed this item with the Committee:

- They want to be able to offer additional shifts to Park Police until the end of the Fiscal Year. There is additional money included in the FY19-20 budget for this
- It is not definite that the officers will do the overtime, but this way it will be funded

A motion to approve this item was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 6-0-2 (Reps. Di Costanzo, Miller, Jacobson, Morson, Nabel and Pia in favor; Reps. Figueroa and Pendell abstaining).

6. [F30.145](#)      ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION (Capital Budget);      No Action Taken  
 \$35,000.00      CP3809: Central Fire Headquarters Renovation -  
                          Elevator Upgrade.  
                          02/22/19 – Submitted by Mayor Martin  
                          03/05/19 – Approved by [Planning Board](#)  
                          03/14/19 – REJECTED by Board of Finance

7. [F30.146](#)      RESOLUTION; Amending the Capital Budget for FY      No Action Taken  
                          2018-19 by Adding an Appropriation of \$35,000 for  
                          the Central Fire Headquarters Renovation and  
                          Authorizing \$35,000 General Obligation Bonds of the  
                          City to Meet Said Appropriation.  
                          02/22/19 – Submitted by Mayor Martin  
                          03/14/19 – REJECTED by Board of Finance

***Under a Suspension of the Rules:***

9. [F30.149](#)      ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION (Operating Budget);      No Action Taken  
 \$201,840.00      To Board of Education Operating Budget from Board  
                          of Education Energy Reserve Account to Assist with  
                          Electricity Costs.  
                          03/13/19 – Submitted by Clarence Zachery  
                          03/14/19 – HELD by Board of Finance

Chair Di Costanzo adjourned the meeting at 7:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Monica Di Costanzo, Chair

This meeting is on [video](#).