



Fiscal Committee - Board of Representatives

Monica Di Costanzo, Chair Lindsey Miller, Vice Chair

Committee Report

Date: Monday, January 27, 2020
Time: 7:00 p.m.
Place: Public Safety Training Room, 6th Floor, 888 Washington Boulevard, Stamford, CT 06905-2098

The Fiscal Committee met as indicated above. In attendance were Chair Di Costanzo and Committee Member Reps. Miller, Coleman, Fedeli, Figueroa, McMullen, Morson, Nabel and Pendell. Also present were Education Committee Members Cottrell, de la Cruz, Di Costanzo, Graziosi and Stella; Reps. Lee and Sherwood; Jay Fountain, Director of OPM, Chief Wuennemann, Stamford Police Department; Karen Cammarota, Grants Office; Chief Roach, Stamford Fire Department; Mark McGrath, Director of Operations; Thomas Turk, Supervisor, Traffic & Road Maintenance; Anthony McCray, Fleet Manager; Michael Handler, Director of Administration; and Dr. Tamu Lucero, Superintendent of Schools.

Chair Di Costanzo called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m.

Item No.	Description	Committee Action
1. F30.281 \$43,821.00	ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION (Grants Budget); Justice Assistance Grant FY18-19; Extra Walking Police Patrols in City Parks on Overtime Basis; Purchase of 29 IT Computer Workstations to Replace Old Computers at Police Headquarters. (100% grant funded) 01/07/20 – Submitted by Mayor Martin 01/09/20 – Approved by Board of Finance	\$20,650 approved 6-1-2 \$23,171 approved 8-0-1

Chief Wuennemann explained that \$23,171 of this grant will be used for computers and \$20,650 will be used for extra walking police patrols for the parks. This walking program was very successful last year. A motion to divide the question into \$23,171 and \$20,650 will be used for extra walking police patrols was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 8-0-1 (Reps. Di Costanzo, Miller, Coleman, Figueroa, McMullen, Morson, Nabel and Pendell in favor; Rep. Fedeli abstaining).

A motion to approve \$20,650 for extra walking police patrols for the parks was made seconded and approved by a vote of 6-1-2 (Reps. Di Costanzo, Miller, McMullen, Morson, Nabel and Pendell in favor; Rep. Coleman opposed; Reps. Fedeli and Figueroa abstaining).

A motion to approve \$23,171 for computers was approved by a vote of 8-0-1 (Reps. Di Costanzo, Miller, Coleman, Figueroa, McMullen, Morson, Nabel and Pendell in favor; Rep. Fedeli abstaining).

2. [F30.282](#) ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION (Grants Budget); **Approved 9-0-0**
\$41,884.00 Justice Assistance Grant FY19-20; Purchase of Equipment to Enhance Tactical, In-Field and Training Operations for Specialty Investigative and Patrol Operations in Police Dept. (100% grant funded)
01/07/20 – Submitted by Mayor Martin
01/09/20 – Approved by Board of Finance

Chief Wuennemann provided the [attached list](#) of equipment to be purchased with this grant. A motion to approve Item No. 2 was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 9-0-0 (Reps. Di Costanzo, Miller, Coleman, Fedeli, Figueroa, McMullen, Morson, Nabel and Pendell in favor).

3. [F30.284](#) ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION (Grants Budget); **Approved 8-0-1**
\$14,812.00 Non-Motorized Enforcement; Reduce Fatalities and Injuries from Pedestrian & Bicycle Involved Crashes; Police Patrols on Overtime Basis. (100% grant funded).
01/07/20 – Submitted by Mayor Martin
01/09/20 – Approved by Board of Finance

Chief Wuennemann explained that the City was asked to apply for this grant due to its history of addressing pedestrian accidents. Committee members discussed enforcement issues with Chief Wuennemann. A motion to approve Item No. 3 was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 8-0-1 (Reps. Di Costanzo, Miller, Coleman, Figueroa, McMullen, Morson, Nabel and Pendell in favor; Rep. Fedeli abstaining).

4. [F30.283](#) ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION (Grants Budget); **Approved 9-0-0**
\$373,659.00 Homeland Security Grant FY19-20; Equipment, Training and Maintenance of Assets to Enhance Preparedness and Response Capabilities to First Responders in Lower Fairfield County; City receives \$50,000 to act as Fiduciary Agent. (100% grant funded).
01/07/20 – Submitted by Mayor Martin
01/09/20 – Approved by Board of Finance

Ms. Cammarota explained that this is the 6th year Stamford has acted as a fiduciary on this regional grant. All of the assets are available to the entire region. A motion to approve Item No. 4 was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 9-0-0 (Reps. Di Costanzo, Miller, Coleman, Fedeli, Figueroa, McMullen, Morson, Nabel and Pendell in favor).

5. [F30.276](#) ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION (Capital Budget); **Approved 9-0-0**
\$240,812.00 C63005; Fire Apparatus; Belltown's Private Contribution Towards Purchase of New Fire Engine; City to Contribute \$250,000.00 Toward the Total Purchase Price; City will be Record Owner and Hold Title.
01/07/20 – Submitted by Mayor Martin
01/07/20 – Approved by [Planning Board](#)
01/09/20 – Approved by Board of Finance

Chief Roach explained that it is difficult to buy fire apparatus. Belltown has never received city apparatus before. The City will be paying for ½ of this and will maintain and own the equipment. The apparatus currently owned by Belltown will become part of the city reserve. A motion to approve Item No. 5 was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 9-0-0 (Reps. Di Costanzo, Miller, Coleman, Fedeli, Figueroa, McMullen, Morson, Nabel and Pendell in favor).

6. [F30.277](#) ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION (Capital Budget); **Approved 9-0-0**
\$5,000,000.00 C56182; Street Patch & Resurfacing; Patch and Resurface Stamford's Roadway Infrastructure; Milling, Overlay, Reconstruction, Associated Fixes to Public Streets and Associated Subsurface Replacements for Drainage System.
01/07/20 – Submitted by Mayor Martin
01/07/20 – Approved by [Planning Board](#)
01/09/20 – Approved by Board of Finance

Mr. Turk explained that this money will be used to patch roads which have degraded faster than expected due to heavier rains in the past years. He distributed the [attached list](#) with the surplus roads listed. His goal is to have all of these roads done by the end of the year. A motion to approve Item No. 6 was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 9-0-0 (Reps. Di Costanzo, Miller, Coleman, Fedeli, Figueroa, McMullen, Morson, Nabel and Pendell in favor).

7. [F30.278](#) ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION (Capital Budget); **Approved 9-0-0**
\$625,000.00 C65202; Citywide Equipment Replacement & Upgrade; Replacement of Truck Bodies Rusted beyond Point of Repair; Removal and Replacement of Existing Bodies with Steel Bodies; Replacement of PTO and Valve Tank controls and Undercoating.
01/07/20 – Submitted by Mayor Martin
01/07/20 – Approved by [Planning Board](#)
01/09/20 – Held by Board of Finance until 1/14
01/14/20 – Approved by Board of Finance

Mr. Turk & Mr. McCray explained that 10 trucks have rusted out bodies and conveyer systems, but the trucks themselves will work. It is more efficient to replace the bodies and conveyers than to buy new trucks. This amount covers material and labor for all the trucks. A motion to approve Item No. 7 was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 9-0-0 (Reps. Di Costanzo, Miller, Coleman, Fedeli, Figueroa, McMullen, Morson, Nabel and Pendell in favor).

8. [F30.279](#) ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION (Capital Budget); **Approved 9-0-0**
\$152,000.00 C65202; Citywide Equipment Replacement & Upgrade; Alamo Mowing Package; Brush Cutting Equipment.
01/07/20 – Submitted by Mayor Martin
01/07/20 – Approved by [Planning Board](#)
01/09/20 – Held by Board of Finance until 1/14
01/14/20 – Approved by Board of Finance

Mr. Turk explained that the current equipment is at the end of its life. The new equipment should last for 20 years. A motion to approve Item No. 8 was made,

seconded and approved by a vote of 9-0-0 (Reps. Di Costanzo, Miller, Coleman, Fedeli, Figueroa, McMullen, Morson, Nabel and Pendell in favor).

9. [F30.280](#) APPROVAL; Appropriation of Prior Year General Fund Balance as follows : \$500,000 Rainy Day Fund; \$1,500,000 Risk Management Fund; \$3,000 Board of Education/Short Term Capital; \$11,500,000 City/Capital Non-Recurring.
12/27/19– Submitted by Mayor Martin
01/09/20 – Approved by Board of Finance **Approved 9-0-0**

Mr. Fountain reviewed the [attached handout](#) with the committee. He explained that the City seeks to allocate \$13,503,000 of the current \$14.4 surplus. The remainder will go into the unassigned fund balance.

A motion to approve Item No. 9 was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 9-0-0 (Reps. Di Costanzo, Miller, Coleman, Fedeli, Figueroa, McMullen, Morson, Nabel and Pendell in favor).

10. [F30.285](#) REVIEW; FY 2018-19 Certified Annual Financial Report.
01/08/20 – Submitted by David Yanik **HELD**
11. [F30.273](#) REVIEW; Discussion of Stamford Public Schools Long-Term Facilities Plan.
01/03/20 – Submitted by Director Handler
01/14/20 – Held by Board of Representatives **Report Made**

Secondary Committee: Education Committee

Committee members had an extensive discussion with Mr. Handler and Dr. Lucero regarding Item No. 11 (also includes Item Nos. 12 and 13). Items discussed and points raised included the following (this is not an exhaustive list, please review the [video](#) for details):

- The RFQ was amended based upon requests made at the Education Committee meeting to include knowledge of prefabricated construction
- Nothing in the RFQ precludes asking the consultant chosen to consider other options
- ¼ of the expected savings of the P3 plan are from construction and the rest from maintenance
- If the savings from prefabricated construction are sufficient, the City might be able to maintain its own buildings
- The Engineering Department should be consulted to see if the City can build at lower costs and what differences neighboring communities have to be able to build at lower costs
- The current end stage is for an RFP to go out to market with the P3 option
- Could the desire for the end stage be multiple courses of action?
- The Board of Education should be coming up with the Long Term Facilities Plan
- The Board of Education voted to have a joint Asset Management Group come up with a plan ([BOE Regular Meeting May 28, 2019 Resolution 05-28-19:47](#))
- In Canada the P3 model was shown to be more expensive

- If the City were to borrow for more than 20 years in order to build 5 schools, the credit rating would likely go down and there would be a reduction in services and an increase in taxes
- The private sector is able to predict the costs of maintenance and life expectancy
- The City is currently developing a maintenance plan for the schools
- This idea came out of the initial investigation of leasing private office buildings; this option would be on City land and the City could pick the partner
- Multiple plans should be evaluated at once
- The focus should be on the qualitative experiences of students and staff
- Of the 21 schools, 5 need significant capital improvements
- This is vetting an idea in order to get more information
- The Engineering Bureau can identify the constraints in Stamford that may increase costs over neighboring districts
- After a consultant is selected, additional services can be requested in the contract
- Facilities management has been both outsourced and done in-house in the past
- The Board of Education has never developed a long term plan
- The consultant's findings should be presented to all 3 boards
- The Board of Education endorsed the SAMG and exploring this plan
- Modular construction is a construction method, not a plan
- The privatization of Smith House has been very successful
- The economics of this model will not work because of the debt service and the impact on the credit rating; it is unrealistic to expect the private sector to maintain or make capital improvements on property they won't own
- The City won't control the buildings, which will be profit centers for the private sector
- Construction methods are not addressed in the RFQ
- The Engineering Department could send out RFPs for alternate methods
- Why isn't there a facilities director over the facilities managers?

12. [F30.274](#) ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION (Capital Budget); **Approved 6-2-1**
 Not to Exceed Project 001213: BOE Long Term Facilities
 \$250,000.00 Implementation; Appropriation in the Amount not to
 Exceed \$250,000 for Professional Services in Support
 of Drafting, Evaluating and Managing Requests for
 Qualifications (RFQ) and Requests for Proposals
 (RFP) for Private Partners to Design, Construct and
 Manage Public School Facilities.
 01/03/20 – Submitted by Director Handler
 01/14/20 – Held by Board of Representatives
 01/21/20 – Approved by [Planning Board](#)
 01/27/20 – Approved by Board of Finance

Secondary Committee: Education Committee (Failed 2-3-0)

A motion to approve Item No. 12 was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 6-2-1 (Reps. Di Costanzo, Fedeli, Figueroa, McMullen, Morson and Nabel in favor; Reps. Coleman and Miller opposed; Rep. Pendell abstaining).

The Education Committee voted on Item No 12 and it failed by a vote of 2-3-0 (Reps. Di Costanzo and Graziosi in favor; Reps. Cottrell, de la Cruz and Stella opposed)

13. [F30.275](#) ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION (Operating Budget); **Approved 6-1-2**
Not to Exceed Appropriation in the Amount not to Exceed \$750,000
\$750,000.00 for Preliminary Design, Engineering and Purchasing
of Long Lead Construction Items for Educational
Swing Space.
01/03/20 – Submitted by Director Handler
01/14/20 – Approved by Board of Finance
01/14/20 – Held by Board of Representatives

Secondary Committee: Education Committee (Failed 2-3-0)

Mr. Handler and Dr. Lucero explained that regardless of the plan chosen, unless the City does nothing, swing space will be needed while schools are rebuilt or repaired. The Board of Education has not identified a space because a design needs assessment needs to be done first. If no space is needed, then the City will not spend this money.

A motion to approve Item No. 13 was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 6-1-2 (Reps. Di Costanzo, Coleman, Figueroa, McMullen, Morson and Pendell in favor; Rep. Miller opposed; Reps. Fedeli and Nabel abstaining).

The Education Committee voted on Item No 12 and it failed by a vote of 2-3-0 (Reps. Di Costanzo and Graziosi in favor; Reps. Cottrell, de la Cruz and Stella opposed)

Chair Di Costanzo adjourned the meeting at 10:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Monica Di Costanzo, Chair

This meeting is on [video](#).