



Fiscal Committee - Board of Representatives

Monica Di Costanzo, Chair

Lindsey Miller, Vice Chair

Committee Report

Date: Monday, August 24, 2020
Time: 7:00 p.m.
Place: The meeting was held remotely.

The Fiscal Committee met as indicated above. In attendance were Chair Di Costanzo, Vice Chair Miller and Committee Member Reps. Coleman, Fedeli, Figueroa, McMullen, Morson, Nabel and Pendell. Also present were Jay Fountain and Tony Romano, OPM; Sandy Dennies, Director of Administration; Ron Malloy and Lucy Corelli, Registrars of Voters; Bill Napoletano, Tax and Revenue Collector; Lyda Reuter, Town and City Clerk; Karen Cammarota, Grants Officer; Mike Pensiero and Mike Albanese, Information Technology; Mark McGrath, Director of Operations; Tom Turk, Traffic & Road Maintenance Supervisor and Erin McKenna, Associate Planner, Land Use Bureau

Chair DiCostanzo called the meeting to order at 7:06 pm.

Item No.	Description	Committee Action
1. F30.343	RESOLUTION; Authorizing the Mayor Enter Into An Agreement with the State of Connecticut Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection for a State Homeland Security Grant Program. 07/21/20 – Submitted by Mayor Martin	Approved 6-0-3

Ms. Cammarota explained that this is the 6th year the City will be acting as administration for this grant. Region 1 will receive approximately \$289,000 to distribute this year. Stamford will get \$65,000 for the regional bomb squad. \$43,000 of the grant is required by the State to be spent on a collapsible, moveable barricade system for the elections and any other city events Stamford wishes to use this equipment for, i.e. Alive at Five. Karen will send a photo to the committee. Stamford will receive \$50,000 to act as administrator. Allocations for the region will be presented at a regional meeting Sept. 2nd..

A motion to approve Item No. 1 was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 6-0-3 (Reps. Di Costanzo, Miller, Coleman, Figueroa, Morson and Nabel in favor; and Reps. Fedeli, McMullen and Pendell abstaining).

2. F30.348 \$15,000.00	ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION (Grants Budget); Sustainable CT Grant for Development of Pilot Food Scrap Recycling Project (100% grant funded; requires 100% community donation match). 08/05/20 – Submitted by Mayor Martin 08/13/20 – Approved by Board of Finance	Approved 7-1-1
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Ms. Cammarota and Ms. McKenna explained that Ms. McKenna and Mr. Colleluori have worked with SustainableCT for a food composting program. The City must raise \$7,500 in contributions to match the \$7,500 grant. To date \$3,700 have been pledged. The funds will pay for a contractor to haul the material and composting bins. The funds are raised on a platform on the SustainableCT website and every dollar raised is matched. This project was begun before Covid-19, and then put on hold. Bins will be supplied to residents at cost. This project is also being done in neighboring communities. Ms. McKenna will keep the board informed of the fundraising progress and OPM will monitor the match portion carefully. It will take approximately 6 months to implement. It will be \$20 for a kit, drop food collection at the recycling center, and it will be hauled for compost to be made offsite.

A motion to approve Item No. 2 was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 7-1-1 (Reps. Di Costanzo, Miller, Fedeli, McMullen, Morson, Nabel and Pendell in favor; Rep. Coleman opposed; and Rep. Figueroa abstaining).

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| 3. F30.350
\$183,095.00 | ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION (Grants Budget);
COVID Election Grant; Additional Estimated
Anticipated November Election Expenses related to
COVID-19.
08/05/20 – Submitted by Mayor Martin
08/13/20 – Approved by Board of Finance | Approved 7-1-1 |
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Committee members discussed this with Mr. Fountain, Ms. Corelli, Mr. Malloy and Ms. Reuter. This is an appropriation for the November election. \$97,000 is for the Registrar of Voters and \$86,095 is for the Town Clerk's office for absentee ballots. The administration is assuming there will be grant funding, but does not know how much at this point. All of these funds are to cover additional expenses related to Covid-19. The Registrars of Voters will have to have extended Election Day registration, per the State. The Town Clerk will be required to send out absentee ballots; the State sent them out for the primaries. They are mandated by DHS to have police at the polls. Rep. McMullen questioned whether this is legal and requested a legal opinion.

A motion to approve Item No. 3 was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 7-1-1 (Reps. Di Costanzo, Miller, Coleman, Fedeli, Morson, Nabel and Pendell in favor; Rep. McMullen opposed; and Rep. Figueroa abstaining).

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| 4. F30.344
\$48,074.00 | ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION (Operating Budget);
Mimecast Software Purchase; Purchase of 55
Licenses for Sending of Sensitive and HIPAA
compliant information (from Contingency).
08/05/20 – Submitted by Mayor Martin
08/13/20 – Approved by Board of Finance | Approved 8-1-0 |
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Mr. Pensiero and Mr. Albanese stated that this purchase is to permit the Law Department, the Health Department and the HR Department to send secure emails, as required by law. The system is both Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) and Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) compliant. The email is sent to the cloud and the recipient uses a password to retrieve the email. They will tightly restrict who gets a license. This is a yearly subscription and the City may decrease the number of licenses when it is renewed at no penalty.

A motion to approve Item No. 4 was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 8-1-0 (Reps. Di Costanzo, Miller, Fedeli, Figueroa, McMullen, Morson, Nabel and Pendell in favor; and Rep. Coleman opposed).

5. [F30.337](#) REJECTION; Capital Project Closeout **Failed 0-9-0**
 \$2,119,300.40 Recommendation; CP7209 EID; CP9053 Innovate
 Stamford; CP8500; Parking Improvements; C07352
 Czescik Home Demolition; CP7912 Specialty Police
 Vehicles; CP5215 Cove Island Barn Restoration;
 CP7043 Barrett Park Building Replacement; CP6811
 Cove Island Beach Resiliency Project; C56201
 Glenbrook Building Addition – New Hope.
 06/02/20 – Submitted by Mayor Martin
 06/09/20 – Approved by [Planning Board](#)
 06/08/20 – Held at Steering
 07/13/20 – Held at Steering
 08/13/20 – No Objection by Board of Finance

Mr. Romano reviewed the reasons each of these nine projects is being closed out: CP7209 EID will be switching funding sources; CP9053 Innovate Stamford is not a capital expense and will be moved to a different fund; CP8500; Parking Improvements will be funded from the Parking Fund; C07352 Czescik Home Demolition has been completed; CP7912 Specialty Police Vehicles was funded from funds raised independently; CP5215 Cove Island Barn Restoration has no activity or plans; CP7043 Barrett Park Building Replacement has no activity or plans; CP6811 Cove Island Beach Resiliency Project was supposed to piggyback on a dredging project, but will not be going forward due to contaminated soil ; C56201 Glenbrook Building Addition – New Hope has been completed.

A motion to reject the closeouts was made, seconded and failed by a vote of 0-9-0 (Reps. Di Costanzo, Miller, Coleman, Fedeli, Figueroa, McMullen, Morson, Nabel and Pendell opposed).

6. [F30.336](#) ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION (Capital Budget); **Failed 4-4-1**
 \$150,000.00 001218; Inspection and Assessment of City Property.
 06/02/20 – Submitted by Mayor Martin
 06/09/20 – Approved by [Planning Board](#)
 06/08/20 – Held at Steering
 07/13/20 – Held at Steering
 08/13/20 – Approved by Board of Finance

Mr. Romano and Mr. McGrath discussed this with the Committee. The goal of this is to get an idea of the capital status of the properties the City owns, such as roofs and HVAC of firehouses, government buildings, etc. This way the City will be able to prioritize its needs. This work will be done by outside consultants.

A motion to approve Item No. 6 was made, seconded and failed by a vote of 4-4-1 (Reps. Di Costanzo, Fedeli, Morson and Nabel in favor; Reps. Miller, Coleman, Figueroa and McMullen opposed and Rep. Pendell abstaining).

7. [F30.346](#) ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION (Capital Budget); **Approved 7-0-2**
 \$657,411.27 CP7209; Energy Improvement Project; Building
 Lighting Replacement.
 08/05/20 – Submitted by Mayor Martin
 06/09/20 – Approved by [Planning Board](#)
 08/13/20 – Approved by Board of Finance

Mr. Romano explained that the funding source for this project, which is being closed out, will be from rebates. This was a \$10 million project, most of which went to the schools, and included changing lightbulbs to LED bulbs, reducing energy costs.

A motion to approve Item No. 7 was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 7-0-2 (Reps. Di Costanzo, Miller, Fedeli, Figueroa, McMullen, Morson and Nabel in favor; and Reps. Coleman and Pendell abstaining).

8. [F30.347](#) ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION (Capital Budget); **Approved 9-0-0**
\$250,000.00 C65202; Citywide Equipment Replacement &
 Upgrade.
 08/05/20 – Submitted by Mayor Martin
 06/09/20 – Approved by [Planning Board](#)
 08/13/20 – Approved by Board of Finance

Mr. Romano and Mr. McGrath explained that the original capital request in the budget was reduced to \$450,000. This is a request to purchase additional equipment to replace equipment which is old and not working or has high maintenance costs.

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. [F30.345](#) ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION (Capital Budget); **Approved 9-0-0**
\$500,000.00 C56129; Citywide Manhole & Basin Reconstruction
 and Adjustment.
 08/05/20 – Submitted by Mayor Martin
 06/09/20 – Approved by [Planning Board](#)
 08/13/20 – Approved by Board of Finance

Mr. Turk stated that this amount is to try to repair manholes and catch basins that have failed. The average cost to repair one is \$10,000. This work is done by a contractor supervised by Tyler Theder and a Clerk of the Works. Priority is placed on safety issues. List provided.

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. [F30.349](#) RESOLUTION; Amending The Capital Budget for **Approved 9-0-0**
 Fiscal Year 2019-2020 by Adding an Appropriation of
 \$500,000 for Citywide Manhole & Basin and
 Authorizing \$500,000 General Obligation Bonds of
 The City To Meet Said Appropriation.
 08/05/20 – Submitted by Mayor Martin
 08/13/20 – Approved by Board of Finance

A motion to approve Item No. 10 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).

11. [F30.351](#) REVIEW; Status of Tax Revenue FY20/21. **Report Made**
 08/05/20 – Submitted by Reps. Di Costanzo and
 Zelinsky

Mr. Napoletano reviewed the [attached report](#) with the Committee. He noted that some people with deferrals paid anyway. The biggest concern is the taxes payable in the second half.

Under a Suspension of the Rules

A motion to suspend the rules to take up Item No. 12 was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 5-2-2 (Reps. Di Costanzo, Coleman, Fedeli, Morson and Nabel in favor; Reps. Miller and McMullen opposed; Reps. Figueroa and Pendell abstaining).

12. [F30.352](#) RESOLUTION; With Respect To The Authorization, **Approved 9-0-0**
Issuance And Sale Of Not Exceeding \$30,000,000
City Of Stamford General Obligation Refunding Bonds
08/21/20 – Submitted by Sandra Dennies

Ms. Dennies explained that she received this offering on August 18th and sent it to bond counsel and their financial advisor for their advice, who recommended it. This is an opportunity to receive an 11.8% savings on 2013 bonds callable on 2/1/2021. They can be refunded 90 days prior to the call date, which is 11/1/2020. This will result in a savings of \$3.4 M. She would like to put this on the market prior to the election and receive an almost \$3.5 M savings over the 13 year life of the bonds. Because of the recent issuance, the City will be able to piggyback on the last low rate and issuance costs. The current debt service on the bonds is \$33.68M and the debt service if they take advantage of the refunding opportunity will be \$30.21M.

A motion to approve Item No. 12 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).

Chair Di Costanzo adjourned the meeting at 9:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Monica Di Costanzo, Chair

This meeting is on [video](#).