



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

Monica Di Costanzo, Chair

Lindsey Miller, Vice Chair

# **Committee Report**

**Date:** Monday, February 22, 2021  
**Time:** 7:00 p.m.  
**Place:** *This 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. Present from the Housing/Community Development & Social Services Committee were Chair DePina, Vice Chair Wallace and Committee Member Rep. Michelson. Also present were Rep. Sherwood; Jay Fountain, OPM Director; Lyda Ruijter, Town Clerk; Dr. Tamu Lucero, Superintendent of Schools; David Patanaude and Kevin McCarthy, SPS; Mike Toma, Law Department; Lucy Corelli, Registrar of Voters; Karen Cammarota, Grants Officer; David Woods, Land Use Bureau; Tom Turk, Traffic and Road Maintenance Supervisor; Sandra Dennies, Director of Administration; and David Panico, Esq., Robinson & Cole.

<b>Item No.</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Committee Action</b>
1. <a href="#">F30.406</a> \$25,450.00 \$17,750.00	ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION (Operating Budget); Town and City Clerk; To Cover the Cost of a Special Election for State Senate District 27 in March, <del>and State Representative Seat 145 in April, if Necessary.</del> 02/03/21 – Submitted by Mayor Martin 02/11/21 – Approved by Board of Finance 6-0-0	<b>Approved, as amended, 7-1-0</b>

Committee Members discussed Item No. 1 with Ms. Ruijter and Mr. Fountain. This appropriation is to cover the expenses for the special election to be held on March 2, 2021 and, if necessary, the special election to fill the state representative district 145 seat after that (coverage items in backup sheet, including postage.) The amount is based upon the ballots cast in the prior special election as well as the need for absentee ballots under the Governor's executive order, but it is an estimate. There will also be some overtime costs so people can vote in the office by appointment. The second election would cover fewer districts and so the costs would be lower. The cost for the second election would be about \$7,700. This election would take place approximately 6 weeks plus 10 days after a vacancy. Committee members expressed concern about appropriating funds for an election prior to a determined need based on the outcome of the March 2 election.

A motion to amend Item No. 1 to \$17,750 to only cover the election for State Senate District 27 was made, seconded, and approved by a vote of 7-1-0 (Reps. Di Costanzo, Miller, Fedeli, Figueroa, McMullen, Nabel, and Pendell in favor; Rep. Coleman opposed).

A motion to approve Item No. 1 as amended was made, seconded, and approved by a vote of 7-1-0 (Reps. Di Costanzo, Miller, Fedeli, Figueroa, McMullen, Nabel, and Pendell in favor; Rep. Coleman opposed).

<p>2. <a href="#">F30.408</a>          \$200,000.00          \$170,000.00</p>	<p>ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION (Operating Budget); Registrar of Voters; To Cover the Cost of a Special Election for State Senate District 27 in March, and State Representative Seat 145 in April, if Necessary.          02/03/21 – Submitted by Mayor Martin          02/11/21 – Approved by Board of Finance 5-0-1</p>	<p><b>Approved, as amended, 9-0-0</b></p>
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Ms. Corelli described the costs associated with the special election, including staffing of polling places, police at schools, rentals of private facilities, sanitizing, set-up, movers, and AB counters. The estimate of costs for the second election is \$30,000 given the smaller number of districts involved and no private facilities needed. \$170,000 would be needed for the first election. As with Item No. 1, committee members expressed concern about appropriating funds for an election prior to a determined need based on the outcome of the March 2 election.

A motion to amend Item No. 2 to \$170,000 to only cover the election for State Senate District 27 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).

A motion to approve Item No. 1 as amended 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).

<p>3. <a href="#">F30.407</a>          \$25,000.00</p>	<p>ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION (Operating Budget); Transfer to Grants; South End Historic Study Committee Grant.          02/03/21 – Submitted by Mayor Martin          02/11/21 – Approved by Board of Finance 6-0-0</p>	<p><b>Approved 9-0-0</b></p>
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<p>4. <a href="#">F30.411</a>          \$45,000.00</p>	<p>ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION (Operating Budget); Transfer to <del>Grants</del>-Fund 24; South End Historic Study Committee Grant; State Assistance; \$5,000 to Hire Consultant to Obtain SHPO Grant; Remainder for Required Expenses not Covered by Grant, Including Public Vote and Notices.          02/03/21 – Submitted by Mayor Martin          02/11/21 – Approved by Board of Finance 6-0-0</p>	<p><b>Approved 9-0-0</b></p>
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The Committee discussed Item Nos. 3 and 4 together with Mr. Woods. The Historic Study Committee approved by the Board will need \$5,000 to hire a consultant to write the grant application; will receive \$20,000 from the State if the grant is received and will need \$20,000 from the City for the back end advertising, public hearing, and vote.

A motion to approve Item No. 4 was made, seconded, and approved by unanimous voice vote.

A motion to approve Item No. 3 was made, seconded, and approved by unanimous voice vote.

5. [F30.410](#)                      ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION (Grants Budget);                      **Approved 9-0-0**  
\$608,287.00                      Homeland Security 20/21; Equipment and  
Maintenance of Assets to Enhance the  
Preparedness and Response Capabilities of First  
Responders Throughout Lower Fairfield County;  
Stamford to Receive \$50,000 to Act as Fiduciary  
Agent.  
02/03/21 – Submitted by Mayor Martin  
02/11/21 – Approved by Board of Finance 6-0-0

Ms. Cammarota explained that this is the 7<sup>th</sup> year Stamford has administered this grant. The Regional Planning Team votes as to how the funds are utilized, so long as there is an anti-terrorism nexus. Stamford also receives a \$65,000 allocation for having the regional bomb squad located within the city.

A motion to approve Item No. 5 was made, seconded, and approved by unanimous voice vote.

6. [F30.414](#)                      ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION (Capital Budget);                      **Approved 9-0-0**  
\$53,808.50                      CPBM14; Westover Magnet MTF; Rebate from  
Eversource for Installation of Two New HE Boilers  
at Westover School.  
02/03/21 – Submitted by Mayor Martin  
02/02/21 – Approved by [Planning Board](#)  
02/11/21 – Approved by Board of Finance 6-0-0

Mr. McCarthy explained that Item No. 6 is a reimbursement from Eversource for energy improvements at Westover Magnet School by the installation of two HE boilers.

A motion to approve Item No. 6 was made, seconded, and approved by unanimous voice vote.

7. [F30.409](#)                      ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION (Capital Budget);                      **Approved 9-0-0**  
\$215,704.50                      CPBM31; Stamford High MTF; Rebate from  
Eversource for Installation of New HE Boilers,  
Water Heaters and Unit Ventilator Controls at  
Stamford High School.  
02/03/21 – Submitted by Mayor Martin  
02/02/21 – Approved by [Planning Board](#)  
02/11/21 – Approved by Board of Finance 6-0-0

Mr. McCarthy explained that Item No. 7 is a reimbursement from Eversource for energy improvements at Stamford High School. This amount is greater than for Item No. 6 because there were more energy saving measures.

A motion to approve Item No. 7 was made, seconded, and approved by unanimous voice vote.

8. [F30.413](#)                      ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION (Capital Budget);      **Approved 9-0-0**  
 \$205,753.58                      C56182; Street Patch and Resurfacing;  
    Reimbursement from Aquarion for City to Perform  
    Final Paving on East Side of Stamford due to work  
    Performed by Aquarion.  
    02/03/21 – Submitted by Mayor Martin  
    02/02/21 – Approved by [Planning Board](#)  
    02/11/21 – Approved by Board of Finance 6-0-0

Mr. Turk explained that Item No. 8 is a reimbursement from Aquarion for street patch and resurfacing work done by the City. Aquarion prepared a cost estimate and the City performed the work on several streets including Lockwood and Williams. Mr. Turk advised that Eversource also performed work on the same streets and will also be reimbursing the City for work completed. This covers the costs for milling and paving and administrative costs.

A motion to approve Item No. 8 was made, seconded, and approved by unanimous voice vote.

9. [F30.415](#)                      APPROVAL; Stamford Affordable Housing Trust      **Approved 8-0-1**  
    Fund Declaration of Trust.  
    02/03/21 – Submitted by Ralph Blessing

***As a Secondary Committee: Housing/Community Development/Social Services***

Mr. Toma explained that the Board previously approved the ordinance creating the Affordable Housing Trust Fund, which provides for the creation and approval of a declaration of trust. The Law Department hired Mr. Panico, a municipal finance attorney, to prepare the declaration of trust. The document is faithful to the ordinance and also gives the trustees the authority needed to operate.

Mr. Panico explained that the ordinance is new in Connecticut and so there is no Connecticut precedent for the declaration of trust, but that Massachusetts has state legislation permitting municipalities to create such trusts. He reviewed those declarations of trust and used the best provisions from each. He added provisions as necessary to enable the trustees to achieve the goals of the trust.

The composition of the trust is set forth in the ordinance, as are procedures for expenditures and the approved purposes. Other necessary and desirable powers he included are the ability to accept and receive donated properties; manage property; sell property to developers for affordable housing; execute documents; employ others (such as accountants) or reimburse the City for services; borrow from the trust's assets, seek funding; and develop practices and procedures. Transactions over \$100,000 require board approval. The trust will also need to prepare a budget every year and post it to the City's website, as well as prepare the annual report required by the ordinance. The Director of Administration will be the custodian of funds and will invest conservatively. The Director of Administration and Controller will have check writing authority. Restricted funds will have to be segregated.

A motion to approve Item No. 9 was made, seconded, and approved by unanimous voice vote (Rep. Coleman abstaining).

There was no quorum of the Housing, Community Development & Social Service Committee present to vote on this item.

A motion to suspend the rules to take up Item No. 11 was made, seconded, and approved by unanimous voice vote (Rep. McMullen abstaining)

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

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| 11. <a href="#">F30.416</a><br>\$702,000.00 | ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION (Operating Budget); Increase Salt Due to Storms.<br>02/10/21 – Submitted by Mayor Martin<br>02/11/21 – Approved by Board of Finance | <b>Approved 9-0-0</b> |
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Mr. Turk explained that due to increased frequency of the recent storms, the City has been going through salt and needs to have the buying power to buy the salt now in order to have all three domes full at the beginning of next season.

A motion to approve Item No. 10 was made, seconded, and approved by unanimous voice vote.

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| 10. <a href="#">F30.412</a> | REVIEW; FY 2020-21 Second Quarter Projections.<br>02/03/21 – Submitted by Jay Fountain | <b>Report Made</b> |
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Mr. Fountain reviewed the [attached report](#). The anticipated shortfall has been reduced from the previous quarter to \$4.6 million primarily because the current tax levy collections are better than anticipated and general fund revenues, including property tax revenue, state grant revenue and department revenue are greater than budgeted. Some expenses, however, are greater than budgeted, such as snow removal and Benefits & Insurance.

Chair Di Costanzo adjourned the meeting at 9:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Monica Di Costanzo, Chair

This meeting is on [video](#).