



Fiscal Committee - Board of Representatives

Monica Di Costanzo, Chair

Lindsey Miller, Vice Chair

Committee Report

Date: Monday, May 24, 2021
Time: 6:30 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, McMullen, Morson, and Nabel. Excused was Committee Member Rep. Figueroa. Also present were Reps. Adams, Cottrell, and Zelinsky; Mayor Martin; Dr. Jennifer Calder, Director of Health; Karen Cammarota and Anita Carpenter, Grants Office; Ted Jankowski, Director of Public Safety, Health and Welfare; Joe Gaudett, Director, 911 Emergency Communications Center; Ralph Blessing, Land Use Bureau Chief; Luke Bittenwieser, Transportation Bureau; Jay Fountain and Tony Romano, OPM; Sandra Dennies, Director of Administration; Thomas Madden, Director of Economic Development; Lou Casolo, City Engineer; Greg Stackpole, Tax Assessor; Cindy Grafstein, Special Assistant to the Mayor; Dr. Tamu Lucero, Superintendent of Schools; David Patnaude, Olympia Della Flora and Kendra Brown, Stamford Public Schools; Jeff Elliott and Christine O'Hare, JCJ Architecture; Glenn Gollenberg, S/L/A/M Collaborative.

Chair Di Costanzo called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m.

Item No.	Description	Committee Action
11. F30.435 \$466,405.00	ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION (Grants Budget); Upgrade of the FAPERN radio system; Stamford to Act as Fiduciary Agent; FAPERN provides interoperability during certain incidents (100% of funds from Fairfield County Chiefs of Police Association). 05/04/21 – Submitted by Mayor Martin 05/13/21 – Approved by Board of Finance 6-0-0	Approved 6-0-1

Mr. Jankowski explained that this grant is for a radio interoperative system which enables Fairfield County police departments to communicate with one another. The system has not been upgraded since 2010. Stamford acts as a fiduciary in connection with this grant.

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

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- ²2. [F30.450](#) GRANTS RESOLUTION; Authorizing the Mayor to File an Application with the State Department of Economic and Community Development for a Grant in the amount of \$150,000 for the Lathon-Wider Center Repurposing Project.
05/05/21 – Submitted by Mayor Martin **Approved 7-0-0**

Ms. Carpenter discussed Item No. 2 with the Committee. This is a resolution to hire a consultant for the repurposing of the Lathon Wider Center. There is no City funding involved. The consultant will be required to get input from current users and community members. Mr. Blessing explained that this came out of the South End Neighborhood Study, which recommended turning Lathon Wider into a community campus, to improve on what is there now and serve the needs of the community. There is no consultant at this point. The consultant would be tasked with coming up with any capital funds.

A motion to approve Item No. 2 was made, seconded, and approved by unanimous voice vote (Reps. Di Costanzo, Miller, Coleman, Fedeli, McMullen, Morson, and Nabel in favor).

The Committee next took up Item No. 16.

- ³16. [F30.449](#) APPROVAL; Declaration of Trust for Stamford Historic Preservation Trust Fund. **Lay on the Table 7-0-0**
04/21/21 – Submitted by Ralph Blessing

Mr. Blessing explained that this is the Declaration of Trust as required under the ordinance creating the Stamford Historic Preservation Trust Fund. The Trustees are 5 ex officio members and 2 members of the community with either historic preservation credentials or who reside in or own an historic property. Any expenditure over \$10,000 requires Board of Representatives approval. Currently there is no solid funding source for the trust fund. The fund can apply for grants and will get funds from fees. Currently the fund has \$1000. A trustee who is an owner of an historic property would not be able to ask for funds or would have to recuse themselves. It was felt it was important to have someone on the Board who understood the problems of owning an historic property. It is unlikely that the trust would give money to individual properties. An historic property would be on the national or state register or on the City's list of cultural resources. The wording in Section IV (c) regarding ceasing to have historic preservation experience is unclear. There was no one from the law department present to address whether the Board could amend this declaration of trust to delete this language. The wording in Section IV (d) only applies to someone who is brought on because they own historic property and should be clarified. Does Section V, subsection (h) apply per property or in aggregate. This will apply in the aggregate.

A motion to lay Item No. 16 on the table until an attorney is present was made, seconded, and approved by unanimous voice vote (Reps. Di Costanzo, Miller, Coleman, Fedeli, McMullen, Morson, and Nabel in favor).

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- ⁴³. [F30.436](#) \$1,842,720.00 ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION (Grants Budget); Vaccine Equity Partnership; Funding from CT Department of Health to Implement Community Partnerships to Provide COVID 19 Vaccine Resources to High Social Vulnerability Index Communities (100% grant funded). **Approved 7-0-0**
05/04/21 – Submitted by Mayor Martin
05/13/21 – Approved by Board of Finance 6-0-0

Dr. Calder stated that the State has recognized that there are areas where they are not seeing the level of vaccine coverage they would like; this is in neighborhoods which have high social vulnerability indexes. The grant period is May 1st to August 31st. This is a very intensive initiative. The City is required to partner with a healthcare provider which is not the local health department and a community-based organization and has partnered with CHC and Family Centers. The state will provide vans. The funds will be used for 4 nurses, 25 community health workers, onsite interpreters, a centralized call center for people without internet, and an aggressive education program.

A motion to approve Item No. 3 was made, seconded, and approved by unanimous voice vote (Reps. Di Costanzo, Miller, Coleman, Fedeli, McMullen, Morson, and Nabel in favor).

- ⁵⁴. [F30.451](#) \$654,500.00 ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION (Grants Budget); CARES Act Funds; 75% Reimbursement of COVID-related Expenditures for March – June 2020 Tentatively Approved by FEMA. **Approved 7-0-0**
05/04/21 – Submitted by Mayor Martin
05/13/21 – Approved by Board of Finance 6-0-0

Ms. Carpenter explained that the City submitted the March to June expenses in October 2020. The State grant manager required them to rework the submission to \$654,500. This amount was then reduced to \$460,580, but the City is appealing this reduction and expects to true up this amount. The funds were used for police, firefighters, equipment, and supply rental. The supplies are mostly PPE. If the City does not get the full amount, there will be reconciliation with the next appropriation.

A motion to approve Item No. 4 was made, seconded, and approved by unanimous voice vote (Reps. Di Costanzo, Miller, Coleman, Fedeli, McMullen, Morson, and Nabel in favor).

- ⁶⁵. [F30.448](#) \$7,400.00 ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION (Grants Budget); COVID 19 Vaccine Clinic Supplies Reimbursement from the CDC; Funding Passed through CT DPH (100% Grant Funded) **Approved 7-0-0**
05/04/21 – Submitted by Mayor Martin
05/13/21 – Approved by Board of Finance 6-0-0

Ms. Carpenter explained that Item No. 5 is for funds that have already been spent but need to be appropriated. These are federal funds passed through the state Department of Public Health.

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A motion to approve Item No. 5 was made, seconded, and approved by unanimous voice vote (Reps. Di Costanzo, Miller, Coleman, Fedeli, McMullen, Morson, and Nabel in favor).

⁷6. [F30.442](#) ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION (Capital Budget); **Approved 6-0-1**
\$2,482,680.00 001234: 360 Degree Video Detection System; Provides for
Video Detection at 70 of the City's 211 Signalized
Intersections; Replaces Induction Loop Detection System
in Pavement.
05/04/21 – Submitted by Mayor Martin
04/27/21 – Approved by [Planning Board](#)
05/13/21 – Approved by Board of Finance 6-0-0

Mr. Buttenwieser stated that this appropriation is a grant through WestCOG to replace the old induction loop technology with 360 degree GRIDSMART cameras. The cameras do not require cutting into the street to be repaired and are more reliable and easier to control. There is no ability to record data with these cameras. The Traffic Bureau has been advocating with the state and developers to have them install these cameras. These cameras change light phases and collect traffic data. Replacement of the induction loops requires crews in the road, cutting into the road. This improves maintenance costs and is safer for crews.

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

⁸7. [F30.443](#) ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION (Capital Budget); **Approved 6-0-1**
\$600,000.00 001235; Lower Summer Street Improvements; Creation of
Promenade to Facilitate more Foot Traffic for Local
Businesses.
05/04/21 – Submitted by Mayor Martin
04/27/21 – Approved by [Planning Board](#)
05/13/21 – Approved by Board of Finance 6-0-0

Mr. Buttenwieser stated that this appropriation is a grant from CT DOT for lower Summer Street between Broad and Main Streets. This is the same grant used for Boxer Square. The City and community have input on this design, which will widen the sidewalks, improve lighting, increase activity, safety, and ADA accessibility. There will still be a lane of traffic. There may be parking taken away on the west side of the street. There is very little parking there now since there is outside dining. There is always capacity in the garages.

A motion to approve Item No. 7 was made, seconded, and approved by voice vote of 6-0-1 (Reps. Di Costanzo, Miller, Fedeli, McMullen, Morson, and Nabel in favor; Rep. Coleman abstaining).

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⁸ Video Time Stamp 00:57:56

^{98.} [F30.444](#) ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION (Capital Budget); **Approved 7-0-0**
\$1,363,847.00 CP0123; West Beach Boat Ramp Replacement;
Replacement of existing boat ramp, dredging, timber jetty
repair, and parking lot improvements at West Beach
05/04/21 – Submitted by Mayor Martin
05/11/21 - Approved by [Planning Board](#)
05/13/21 – Approved by Board of Finance 6-0-0

Mr. Casolo stated that his department has been working with a coastal engineer to finalize this design to replace the boat ramp. This is a state grant from the CT Port Authority.

A motion to approve Item No. 8 was made, seconded, and approved by unanimous voice vote (Reps. Di Costanzo, Miller, Coleman, Fedeli, McMullen, Morson, and Nabel in favor).

^{109.} [F30.445](#) ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION (Capital Budget); **Approved 6-0-1**
\$1,064,300.42 CP8701; John Boccuzzi Park at Southfield; Boccuzzi Park
Phase One includes Utility Connections for Education
Center; Relocation of Parking Lot out of Floodplain;
Relocation of Entrance; Driveway Turnaround; Pathways,
Sidewalks, Waterfront Improvements; (Funding Source:
Private Contributions).
05/04/21 – Submitted by Mayor Martin
05/11/21 - Approved by [Planning Board](#)
05/13/21 – Approved by Board of Finance 6-0-0

Mr. Casolo explained that Item 9 is funded from 2 outside contributions. The design is finished to facilitate the new Soundwaters building. The City is to provide utility and access into the park and connect the utilities to the building. The work must be done by the fall so that work on the building can continue in the colder months. This is in addition to the amount in the capital budget.

A motion to approve Item No. 9 was made, seconded, and approved by voice vote of 6-0-1 (Reps. Di Costanzo, Miller, Coleman, Fedeli, Morson, and Nabel in favor; Rep. McMullen abstaining).

^{110.} [F30.447](#) REJECTION; Partial Capital Closeout Recommendation - **Failed 0-7-0**
\$475,000.00 CP9051 - HVAC Upgrade.
05/04/21 – Submitted by Mayor Martin
04/27/21 – Approved by [Planning Board](#)
05/13/21 – Recommended by Board of Finance

A motion to reject Item No. 10 was made, seconded, and failed by a vote of 0-7-0 (Reps. Di Costanzo, Miller, Coleman, Fedeli, McMullen, Morson, and Nabel opposed).

⁹ Video Time Stamp 01:05:50

¹⁰ Video Time Stamp 01:08:10

¹¹ Video Time Stamp 01:12:43

¹²11. [F30.446](#) ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION (Capital Budget); **Approved 6-1-0**
\$475,000.00 CP9051; Old Town Hall HVAC upgrade 1-3 Floors.
05/04/21 – Submitted by Mayor Martin
04/27/21 – Approved by [Planning Board](#)
05/13/21 – Approved by Board of Finance 6-0-0

Mr. Romano explained that the funding source is being switched from bonds to capital non-recurring. The money in the fund balance will be used.

A motion to reject Item No. 11 was made, seconded, and approved by a vote of 6-1-0 (Reps. Di Costanzo, Miller, Coleman, Fedeli, Morson, and Nabel in favor; Rep. McMullen opposed).

12. [F30.437](#) ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION (Capital Budget); **Approved 7-0-0**
\$52,626,728.00 001233; Stamford Early Childhood Education Center
Replacement Project.
05/04/21 – Submitted by Mayor Martin
05/11/21 – Approved by [Planning Board](#)
05/13/21 – Approved by Board of Finance 5-1-0

13. [F30.438](#) RESOLUTION; Amending the Capital budget for Fiscal **Approved 7-0-0**
Year 2020-2021 by adding an appropriation of
\$52,626,728 for Stamford Early Childhood Education
Center Replacement Project.
05/04/21 – Submitted by Mayor Martin
05/13/21 – Approved by Board of Finance 5-1-0

14. [F30.439](#) ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION (Capital Budget); **Approved 7-0-0**
\$261,038,536.00 001232; Westhill High School Replacement Project
05/04/21 – Submitted by Mayor Martin
05/11/21 – Approved by [Planning Board](#)
05/13/21 – Approved by Board of Finance 6-0-0

15. [F30.440](#) RESOLUTION; Amending the Capital Budget for Fiscal **Approved 7-0-0**
Year 2020-2021 by Adding an Appropriation of
\$261,038,536 for the Westhill High School Replacement
Project and Authorizing \$261,038,536 General Obligation
Bonds of the City to Meet Said Appropriation; and
Resolution For School Construction Grant
05/04/21 – Submitted by Mayor Martin
05/13/21 – Approved by Board of Finance 6-0-0

Committee members discussed Items 12 through 15 together.

¹³Mayor Martin presented the [attached PowerPoint presentation](#) regarding School Facilities Planning for both Items 12 and 14.

Mr. Casolo explained that over the past 5 months, the City has been developing grant applications for Items 12 and 14. Funding authorizations by the Boards are needed before June

¹² Video Time Stamp 01:14:18

¹³ Video Time Stamp 01:16:20

30th in order for the City to apply for these grants. They have had to attend pre-application meetings with the State, which requires both renovate as new and new design concepts.

¹⁴Mr. Casolo and Mr. Gollenberg presented the [attached PowerPoint presentation](#) regarding the Stamford Early Childhood Education Center Replacement Project. Committee members discussed the proposals and the importance of pre-K with the invited guests.

- There are approximately 400 students in portables that are 25 years old at the site
- It is a good site for a preschool
- Combining it with the Apples program will reduce bussing inconvenience
- This could be a model program for other parts of the state
- Due to Covid, 13 out of 39 pre-K programs have closed and won't reopen
- The city needs to help families struggling to provide day care or pre-K
- This is an example of collaboration between SPS and pre-K programs
- Each option would have a capacity of 676 students; the current total capacity of Apples (215 students; 190 with IEPs; 16 students in school readiness), CLC at Lockwood has about 200-250 students ; the Apples program increases about 8% per year
- The finger option is the preferred option because of the small clusters of students within the larger area
- The current Apples space would be used for something else, possibly a middle school special ed program or an AITE extension
- The incoming kindergarten class is projected at slightly at 1426 students, but since 200 students were kept out of school due to Covid, it is not clear if these students will go into kindergarten or first grade.

¹⁵Mr. Casolo and Mr. Elliott presented the [attached PowerPoint presentation](#) regarding the Westhill High School Replacement Project. Committee members discussed the proposals with the invited guests.

- The projected number of students 8 years out is 2458
- The current enrollment is 2183
- The AgScience program is not included, as it is state run and this building is not moving; the greenhouses would be maintained

A motion to approve Item No. 12 was made, seconded, and approved by unanimous voice vote (Reps. Di Costanzo, Miller, Coleman, Fedeli, McMullen, Morson, and Nabel in favor).

A motion to approve Item No. 13 was made, seconded, and approved by unanimous voice vote (Reps. Di Costanzo, Miller, Coleman, Fedeli, McMullen, Morson, and Nabel in favor).

A motion to approve Item No. 14 was made, seconded, and approved by unanimous voice vote (Reps. Di Costanzo, Miller, Coleman, Fedeli, McMullen, Morson, and Nabel in favor).

A motion to approve Item No. 15 was made, seconded, and approved by unanimous voice vote (Reps. Di Costanzo, Miller, Coleman, Fedeli, McMullen, Morson, and Nabel in favor).

¹⁴ Video Time Stamp 01:35:40

¹⁵ Video Time Stamp 02:07:10

- ¹⁶16. [F30.449](#) APPROVAL; Declaration of Trust for Stamford Historic Preservation Trust Fund. **Held 7-0-0**
04/21/21 – Submitted by Ralph Blessing

A motion to hold Item No. 16 was made, seconded, and approved by unanimous voice vote (Reps. Di Costanzo, Miller, Coleman, Fedeli, McMullen, Morson, and Nabel in favor). Item initially laid on the table as above, then held pending availability of Legal Department for committee questions.

17. F30.441 REVIEW; Fiscal Year 20/21 Third Quarter Projections. **Held**
05/04/21 – Submitted by Jay Fountain

Under a Suspension of the Rules:

A motion to suspend the rules to take up Item No. 18 was made, seconded, and approved by a voice vote of 6-1-0 (Reps. Di Costanzo, Miller, Coleman, Fedeli, Morson, and Nabel in favor; Rep. McMullen opposed).

- ¹⁷18. [F30.453](#) APPROVAL; Agreement with Municipal Valuation Services LLC for Citywide Property Revaluation under RFP No. 809 **Held 7-0-0 until 6/7/21 at 6pm**
(Cost of Agreement: \$910,000; See Backup for Additional Terms).
05/24/21 – Submitted by Sandra Dennies
05/25/21 – Approved by Board of Finance 6-0-0

Mr. Stackpole explained that the City will be doing a full revaluation of all 38,000 parcels in the City. This requires reinspection. MVS did the revaluation in 2017 and 2007 and is familiar with Stamford. The cost of this contract is \$910,000, with a few other additional services. The City would like to get a notice out to residents in the tax bill being sent in June of the door-to-door inspection. Committee members requested more time to review backup material before voting.

A motion to hold Item No. 18 until Monday, June 7th at 6:00 p.m. was made, seconded, and approved by unanimous voice vote (Reps. Di Costanzo, Miller, Coleman, Fedeli, McMullen, Morson, and Nabel in favor).

Chair Di Costanzo adjourned the meeting at 9:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Monica Di Costanzo, Chair

This meeting is on [video](#).

¹⁶ Video Time Stamp 02:31:20

¹⁷ Video Time Stamp 02:31:47