



Fiscal Committee - Board of Representatives

Monica Di Costanzo, Co-Chair Lindsey Miller, Co-Chair

Committee Report

Date: Wednesday, September 21, 2022
Time: 7:00 p.m.
Place: *Democratic Caucus Room, 888 Washington Boulevard, Stamford, CT & remotely*

The Fiscal Committee met as indicated above. In attendance were Co-Chairs Di Costanzo and Miller and Committee Member Reps. Coleman (remotely), Fedeli (remotely), Figueroa (remotely), Garst (remotely), and Morson. Excused were Reps. Boeger, Nabel, Pierre-Louis, and Tomas. Also present were Reps. Adams, de la Cruz, and Summerville; Anita Carpenter, Grants Administrator; Elda Sinani, Lee Berta, and Tony Romano, OPM; Kevin Murray, Parks & Facilities Manager; Lou Casolo, City Engineer; Kevin McCarthy and Michael Smith, BOE Facilities.

Co-Chair Di Costanzo called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

Item No.	Description	Committee Action
1. F31.078 \$2,528,879.00	ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION (Grants Budget); CT Communities Challenge – ScrapWorks; Grant from CT DECD to work with ScrapWorks LLC, to Retrofit Underutilized Properties on Pacific Street to Create Year-Round Beer Garden and Food Truck Lot, an Authentic German Beer Hall, Coffee Shop, Social Coworking Space, Pilot Brewery and Tasting Room, and Event Space; Project will also Build Baseline Infrastructure Required For Future "Affordable Retail" Opportunities (100% Grant Funded; Funding will be passed on to ScrapWorks LLC) 08/26/22 – Submitted by Mayor Simmons 09/08/22 – Approved by Board of Finance 5-0-0	Approved 5-0-2

Ms. Carpenter explained that this is an appropriation of a grant from the Department of Economic Development for Pacific Street. The grant was obtained by a group of developers through the City for funding of construction related activities.

Committee members discussed this item with Ms. Carpenter. Items discussed included the following:

- A group of 5 developers applied through the City to build up 5 properties on Pacific Street; the grant relates to the specific properties
- This is the first time DECD has offered this type of funding; If other businesses want to seek this type of funding, the grants office can help them pursue it
- Representatives requested that district representatives be engaged by the Administration at the start of grant opportunities or projects affecting their districts
- The developers are privately contributing \$5 million; the City is not contributing any funds
- DECD takes a lien for 10 years to ensure that the funds are spent appropriately
- Scrapworks approached the City after approaching DECD
- There were community meetings regarding this project; the beer garden will be enclosed

- The area is zoned for multipurpose use, all necessary permits were required to be obtained prior to the grant application being submitted
- The businesses are all owned by Stamford residents
- An administrative fee could be included in future grant applications, but not in already approved applications

A motion to approve Item No. 1 was made, seconded, and passed by unanimous voice vote (Reps. Di Costanzo, Miller, Coleman, Garst, and Morson in favor; Reps. Fedeli and Figueroa abstaining).

2. [F31.084](#) GRANTS RESOLUTION; Authorizing the Mayor to Enter into an Agreement with the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Development for Improvements at Terry Conners Ice Rink. **Approved 7-0-0**
09/05/22 – Submitted by Anita Carpenter

Ms. Carpenter explained that this is a resolution with an award from DEEP of \$1 million state bond commission funding that will pass through DEEP to support roof renovations and repairs for the Terry Conners rink.

Committee members discussed this item with Ms. Carpenter and Mr. Romano. Items discussed included the following:

- There was a roof repair four or five years ago which extended the life of the roof
- They are removing and replacing the flat roof system that was initially installed in 1996 and removing and replacing the rink cooling tower initially installed in 2010
- This is a resolution approving the grant; the additional appropriation will have to be approved in the future (the Chair recommended that future discussions be presented within the context of work done by the Board of Representatives Parks & Recreation committee item [PR30.059](#) - REVIEW; Detailed Financial Analysis of the Operating and Capital Expenses of Terry Conners Rink, first discussed 10/20/2020)
- The project has not gone out to bid, but the plan is to work within the awarded funding

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

3. [F31.080](#) ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION (Operating Budget); Old Town Hall/Salaries; Cost of a Full Time Maintenance Supervisor at Old Town Hall (Source of funds: Contingency) **Approved 4-2-1**
\$51,860.00
09/06/22 – Submitted by Mayor Simmons
09/08/22 – Approved by Board of Finance 5-0-0

Mr. Murray explained that this is an appropriation for a full time maintenance supervisor at Old Town Hall. Old Town Hall currently has 5 major tenants, including the Board of Education, which has 30 staff members and 200 students in the building. The building is primarily open from 9 to 5 weekdays and is also used on weekends. The maintenance position is needed for coordination. The position is the liaison to the Facilities Supervisor, who oversees the Government Center, the Stamford PD and the Old Town Hall; the tenants; any trade staff; city contractors, security contractors; and the ½ engineer who does the preventive maintenance; oversees the work orders, inspections, the elevator contract, the fire alarm system, and anything else that come up during the day. The person is also tasked with opening and closing the building; taking deliveries and communications from the Board of Ed; and organizing any approved outside events.

Committee members discussed Item No. 3 with Mr. Murray and OPM staff. Items discussed included the following:

- This position was cut from the budget last year; this is a request to fund the position from contingency
- the individual filling the role has been a seasonal for the past 3 months and the request is to fund the position as a full time position for the remainder of the year
- the individual in place worked for OTHRA, and then was a subcontractor; he has filled the position for 13 years
- The individual works 37.5 hours per week, with days dependent on the schedule for the week
- there is a custodian in the building who doesn't have the experience to run the building
- the BOF approved funding this item from contingency
- not having a skilled person to fill this position might expose the City to liability
- This is a higher number than requested in last year's budget request because that was for a contract employee; this includes FICA
- If this isn't approved, a supervisor would most likely be pulled from other buildings; this will be a stretch for an already thin building management team
- There are students and teachers in the building, which presents a priority and high needs; the custodian is fixated on cleanliness

A motion to approve Item No. 3 was made, seconded, and approved by a vote of 4-2-1 (Reps. Miller, Coleman, Garst, and Morson in favor; Reps. Fedeli and Figueroa opposed; Rep. Di Costanzo abstaining).

4. [F31.075](#) ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION (Capital Budget); **Approved 7-0-0**
\$40,000.00 C30727; BOE Long Term Facilities
Implementation; Update the Master Plan's
Implementation Schedule, Project Cost Model, and
Aggregate Master Plan Capital Funding Forecast
Based on Recently Updated State Reimbursement
Rates for School Construction (Source of Funds:
Capital Non Recurring).
08/03/22 – Submitted by Mayor Simmons
08/09/22 – Approved by [Planning Board](#)
08/22/22 – Held by Committee 9-0-1
09/08/22 – Approved by Board of Finance 6-0-0

Mr. McCarthy explained that this additional appropriation is to revise the cost model and implementation schedule for the Master Plan to reflect the State's new reimbursement rate for school construction projects to 80% for Westhill and 60% for other projects for the next 25 years.

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

5. [F31.077](#) ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION (Capital Budget); **Approved 7-0-0**
\$102,542.63 C56174; Citywide Signals; Funding for Traffic
Signal Infrastructure Improvements Related to
Development (Source of Funds: Private
Contributions).
08/04/22 – Submitted by Mayor Simmons
08/30/22 – Approved by [Planning Board](#)
09/08/22 – Approved by Board of Finance 5-0-0

Mr. Romano explained that this is an appropriation of \$102,000 of private contributions for traffic signal improvements, including traffic signal improvements at West Avenue and Selleck including updating ADA compliant buttons on all corners of the intersection and yield to signage; the design of a HAWK signal on East Main Street; and development of 154 Broad Street traffic signal improvements including updating ADA compliant buttons on all corners of the intersection, yield to signage, illuminated street signage and new video detection cameras and processors. These contributions were all safety conditions set by the Zoning Board.

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

6. [F31.082](#) ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION (Capital Budget); **Approved 7-0-0**
\$3,622,150.00 012662; John Boccuzzi Park Phase 2;
Multi-Use Field/Event Space, New Tennis and
Basketball Courts, Splash Pad, Water Play Area,
Additional Parking, Dog Run, and Landscaping
Activities in Boccuzzi Park; (Source of Funds:
Stamford has received Bond Grant Funding from
the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation passed
through to CT DEEP for Grant funds are approved
for \$1,811,075 with a 1:1 match requirement for the
project).
09/06/22 – Submitted by Mayor Simmons
08/30/22 – Approved by [Planning Board](#)
09/08/22 – Approved by Board of Finance 4-2-0

Mr. Casolo explained that this is a grant that was applied for in August, 2021 and was awarded in May, 2022. This request was also in the capital budget but was zeroed out. The funds are to support Boccuzzi Park Phase 2, which includes a splash pad, tennis court, basketball court, softball field and parking towards Southfield Avenue, as well as a dog run. The grant reflects the engineer's estimate for the project, which is \$3.6 million. The Phase 1 work is being done with money allocated for that phase. This grant has a 1:1 match through the outdoor recreation legacy partnership program, which is affiliated with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. If any remediation work needs to be done it will be paid for out of these funds.

Rep. de la Cruz stated that there has been extensive community engagement in this project.

It was noted that the Board of Finance specified that no further funding for this project would be approved.

A motion to approve Item No. 6 was made, seconded, and approved by unanimous voice vote (Reps. Di Costanzo, Miller, Coleman, Fedeli, Figueroa, Garst, and Morson in favor).

7. [F31.079](#)

RESOLUTION; Amending The Capital Budget for Fiscal Year 2022-2023 By Adding an Appropriation of \$3,622,150 for the John Boccuzzi Park Phase II Project and Authorizing \$1,811,075 General Obligation Bonds of the City to Meet Said Appropriation.

Approved 7-0-0

09/06/22 – Submitted by Mayor Simmons

09/08/22 – Approved by Board of Finance 4-2-0

A motion to approve Item No. 7 was made, seconded, and approved by unanimous voice vote (Reps. Di Costanzo, Miller, Coleman, Fedeli, Figueroa, Garst, and Morson in favor).

Co-Chair Di Costanzo adjourned the meeting at 8:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Monica Di Costanzo, Co-Chair

This meeting is on [video](#).