



Fiscal Committee - Board of Representatives

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

Committee Report

Date: Monday, January 30, 2023
Time: 7:00 p.m.
Place: *This meeting was held in the Democratic Caucus Room, 888 Washington Blvd, Stamford, CT, 4th Floor and remotely.*

The Fiscal Committee met as indicated above. In attendance in person were Co-Chairs Di Costanzo and Miller; Committee Member Reps. Fedeli and Morson; Loren Nadres, Director of Economic Development; and Leah Kagan, Mayor's office. In attendance remotely were Committee Member Reps. Boeger, Coleman, Figueroa, Garst, Nabel, Pierre-Louis, and Tomas; Reps. Cottrell, Goldberg, Matheny, Sherwood, Summerville, and Walston; Anita Carpenter, Grants Officer; Captain Scott Duckworth, Stamford Police Department; Lou Casolo, City Engineer; Chris Dellaselva, Law Department; Greg Stackpole, Assessor; Elda Sinani, OPM Director; Melissa Mulrooney, Stamford Museum and Nature Center; Nette Compton, Mill River Collaborative; and Jennifer Hallisey, Children's Learning Center.

Co-Chair Di Costanzo called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Item No.	Description	Committee Action
1. F31.164 \$22,830.00	ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION (Grants Budget); F33111; DUI Enforcement; Additional Appropriation to Match Actual Award Received. (100% Grant Funded) 01/04/23 – Submitted by Mayor Simmons 01/19/23 – Approved by Board of Finance 6-0-0	Approved 8-0-2

Ms. Carpenter explained that this item was included in the budget and this appropriation is to match the additional amount actually received.

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

2. F31.177	GRANTS RESOLUTION; Authorizing The Mayor to Enter into an Application and Agreement with The Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development and a Sub-Recipient Agreement with Scrapworks LLC. 12/12/22 – Submitted by Anita Carpenter	Approved 9-0-1
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Ms. Carpenter explained that this is a resolution to accompany an appropriation for \$2,528,879.00 previously approved by the Board [\[F31.078\]](#) at the October 3rd regular meeting of the Board. This is for economic development along Pacific Street. Whether this includes a beer garden is not definite.

A motion to approve Item No. 2 was made, seconded and approved by unanimous voice vote (Reps. Di Costanzo, Miller, Boeger, Fedeli, Figueroa, Garst, Morson, Nabel, and Tomas in favor; Rep. Coleman abstaining).

3. [F31.178](#) GRANTS RESOLUTION; Authorizing The Mayor to **Approved 11-0-0**
Enter into an Agreement with The Connecticut
Department of Emergency Services & Public
Protection for a State Homeland Security Grant
Program.
12/12/22 – Submitted by Anita Carpenter

[This is a resolution to accompany a \$480,956.15 appropriation previously approved by the Board [[F31.087](#)] at the November 7th regular meeting of the Board.]

A motion to approve Item No. 3 was made, seconded and approved by unanimous voice vote (Reps. Di Costanzo, Miller, Boeger, Coleman, Fedeli, Figueroa, Garst, Morson, Nabel, Pierre-Louis, and Tomas in favor).

4. [F31.179](#) GRANTS RESOLUTION; Authorizing The Mayor to **Approved 10-0-1**
Enter into an Agreement with The Connecticut
Department of Economic and Community
Development Related to the Stamford Museum
and Nature Center Observatory and Planetarium
12/13/22 – Submitted by Anita Carpenter

Ms. Carpenter explained that this is a resolution to allow the Mayor to execute a contract so that the City can pass through a \$2 million earmark awarded by the State to support the Stamford Museum Nature Center Observatory and Planetarium [approved as part of the FY22-23 Capital budget]. Ms. Mulrooney explained that this is a \$2 million bond coming directly from the State which will be passed through the City for the Planetarium and Astronomy Center.

A motion to approve Item No. 4 was made, seconded and approved by unanimous voice vote (Reps. Di Costanzo, Miller, Boeger, Coleman, Figueroa, Garst, Morson, Nabel, Pierre-Louis, and Tomas in favor; Rep. Fedeli abstaining).

5. [F31.165](#) ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION (Capital Budget); **Approved 11-0-0**
\$153,318.00 - C56182 - Street Patch & Resurface; Aquarion
Water Company Reimbursement for Milling and
Paving of Farms Road Portion due to Bargh
Reservoir Replacement Raw Water Pipeline
Project (Source of Funds: Private Contribution).
01/04/23 – Submitted by Mayor Simmons
01/10/23 – Approved by [Planning Board](#)
01/19/23 – Approved by Board of Finance 6-0-0

Mr. Casolo explained that this appropriation is a check from Aquarion for repaving work. The funds go into the City's general fund and the paving is done by the City's paving contractor, which will do the work at lower cost, so the City can do more with these funds than what is required.

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

6. [F31.166](#) ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION (Capital Budget); **Approved 11-0-0**
 \$166,666.00 001307; Creation of Mill River Playscape Funds to
 be used for Design and Construction of Playscape
 Area at Mill River Carousel Park Pavilion (Source
 of Funds: State Grant per [Resolution No. 4151](#)).
 01/04/23 – Submitted by Mayor Simmons
 01/10/23 – Approved by [Planning Board](#)
 01/19/23 – Approved by Board of Finance 6-0-0

Ms. Carpenter and Mr. Casolo explained that Items 6, 7, and 9 are all funds earmarked by the State for 3 playscapes; these funds awarded by the State have been divided equally for the 3 projects. Ms. Compton stated that these funds will be used for the installation of a sculptural feature outside of the carousel. The goal is to activate the space around the carousel, which receives a lot of activity, and to have the feature installed prior to main playground going offline to be reconstructed with different funds. They are in the process of cost estimation and design for the sculpture, which will be a large brook trout.

The main playground will be getting a multimillion dollar overhaul which will be funded by state and private dollars. This work is being done after consultation with 100's of families, the 3rd graders who visit the park, and open public meetings in multiple languages.

The funds were obtained by State Rep. Paris and the decisions regarding the organizations and how the funds would be divided were made at the state level, in accordance with the term sheets which were broad.

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

7. [F31.167](#) ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION (Capital Budget); **Approved 11-0-0**
 \$166,666.00 001308; Rehabilitation of Boys and Girls Club
 Playscape at Yerwood Center: Project includes:
 Design, Improvement of Safety and ADA
 compliance; Solicitation of proposals and Selection
 of a Contractor; Removal and Disposal of Existing
 Playscape; and Installation of Playscape. (Source
 of Funds: State Grant).
 01/04/23 – Submitted by Mayor Simmons
 01/10/23 – Approved by [Planning Board](#)
 01/19/23 – Approved by Board of Finance 6-0-0

Mr. Casolo explained that the Boys and Girls Club intends to use these funds to design a playscape to replace the current playscape on the south side of the building. Ms. Carpenter explained that the funds need to be used within 3 years of an executed agreement. These are the only funds that will be received by the state, but they could be combined with funds from other sources, in accordance with the term sheets which were broad. A breakdown of funds is to be provided.

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

8. [F31.168](#) GRANTS RESOLUTION; Authorizing the Mayor to **Approved 11-0-0**
Enter into an Agreement with the Connecticut
Department of Energy and Environmental
Development related to the Boys & Girls Club
Playscape Area at the Yerwood Center.
01/04/23 – Submitted by Mayor Simmons

In relation to item No 7, a motion to approve Item No. 8 was made, seconded and approved by unanimous voice vote (Reps. Di Costanzo, Miller, Boeger, Coleman, Fedeli, Figueroa, Garst, Morson, Nabel, Pierre-Louis, and Tomas in favor).

9. [F31.169](#) ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION (Capital Budget); **Approved 11-0-0**
\$166,666.00 001309; Children’s Learning Center Installation of
New Playscape at Hillendale Avenue Location.
Project includes: preparation of Site Plans; Site
Preparation; Demolition of Current Play Equipment;
Site Drainage; and Preparation for Installation of
New Equipment (Source of Funds: State Grant).
01/04/23 – Submitted by Mayor Simmons
01/10/23 – Approved by [Planning Board](#)
01/19/23 – Approved by Board of Finance 6-0-0

Mr. Casolo explained that this is similar to the preceding requests, but for the Children’s Learning Center Hillendale Avenue Location. Ms. Hallissey explained that CLC provides early Head Start childhood care and education for children 6 weeks to 5 years old and is licensed to serve 895 children across 8 locations in Stamford. So far this school year they’ve served 916 children. 80% of the families are low income, including 50% living at or below the Federal poverty level. 97% of the children are Stamford residents; 74% are dual language learners, and 9% have individualized education plans for special needs.

This particular project is the playground at CLC, William Pitt on Hillendale Avenue. The whole playground is being renovated, but they have separate funds for most of the project. These funds will be used to purchase multiple pieces of playscape equipment. The playground was installed in 1998; they have been cited for broken equipment. They have received funding for demolition, redoing the drainage, and replacing the surface. These funds will be used to purchase the equipment that will go on the new playground.

The descriptions for the 3 items are based on the designation by Rep. Paris, which gave the organization latitude on how the funds could be used, in accordance with term sheets which were broad.

A motion to approve Item No. 9 was made, seconded and approved by unanimous voice vote (Reps. Di Costanzo, Miller, Boeger, Coleman, Fedeli, Figueroa, Garst, Morson, Nabel, Pierre-Louis, and Tomas in favor).

10. [F31.170](#) GRANTS RESOLUTION; Authorizing the Mayor to Enter into an Agreement with the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Development related to the Child Learning Center for Playscape Design and Construction. **Approved 11-0-0**
01/04/23 – Submitted by Mayor Simmons

In relation to Item No 9, a motion to approve Item No. 10 was made, seconded and approved by unanimous voice vote (Reps. Di Costanzo, Miller, Boeger, Coleman, Fedeli, Figueroa, Garst, Morson, Nabel, Pierre-Louis, and Tomas in favor).

11. [F31.171](#) ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION (Capital Budget); **Approved 11-0-0**
\$47,952.00 C5B613; District Wide Boiler and Burner Replacement; Eversource Energy Efficient Services
Incentive Rebate for Northeast Elementary School Boiler Plant Replacement Project (Source of Funds: Rebate).
01/04/23 – Submitted by Mayor Simmons
01/10/23 – Approved by [Planning Board](#)
01/19/23 – Approved by Board of Finance 6-0-0

Mr. Casolo explained that this is an Eversource incentive provided to the City for the replacement of 6 boilers at Northeast School with high efficiency boilers. The job was completed in the fall of 2021.

A motion to approve Item No. 11 was made, seconded and approved by unanimous voice vote (Reps. Di Costanzo, Miller, Boeger, Coleman, Fedeli, Figueroa, Garst, Morson, Nabel, Pierre-Louis, and Tomas in favor).

12. [F31.172](#) ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION (Capital Budget); **Held 11-0-0**
\$300,000.00 001313; District Wide Window AC Unit Project; Window AC Unit Installations District Wide at Schools that do not have Building Wide AC Systems. Total Project Cost is Estimated at \$300,000 (\$150,000 Split Between City And BOE Surplus) and is Estimated to Provide 200 Window AC Units Installed. (Source of Funds: Capital Non-Recurring).
01/04/23 – Submitted by Mayor Simmons
01/10/23 – Approved by [Planning Board](#)
01/19/23 – Held by Board of Finance

A motion to hold Item No. 12 was made, seconded and approved by unanimous voice vote (Reps. Di Costanzo, Miller, Boeger, Coleman, Fedeli, Figueroa, Garst, Morson, Nabel, Pierre-Louis, and Tomas in favor).

13. [F31.173](#) ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION (Capital Budget); **Approved 10-0-1**
\$1,334,421.00 - CPB092; District Wide Roofing Replacement;
grant reimbursement related to Stamford High
1927 Building Phase II Roofing Replacement
Project. Total Project Cost is Estimated at
\$2,224,035 and Grant Reimbursement Is
Estimated at \$1,334,421. (Source of Funds: State
Grant).
01/04/23 – Submitted by Mayor Simmons
01/10/23 – Approved by [Planning Board](#)
01/19/23 – Approved by Board of Finance 6-0-0

Mr. Casolo explained that this item was approved as part of the capital budget. The City is now eligible for a 60% reimbursement from the State. This appropriation is to allocate that 60% to the grants budget and 40% to bonds.

A motion to approve Item No. 13 was made, seconded and approved by unanimous voice vote (Reps. Di Costanzo, Miller, Boeger, Coleman, Fedeli, Figueroa, Garst, Morson, Nabel, Pierre-Louis, and Tomas in favor; Rep. Di Costanzo abstaining).

14. [F31.174](#) RESOLUTION; Amending the Capital Budget for **Approved 10-0-1**
Fiscal Year 2022-2023 by Adding an Appropriation
of \$2,224,035 for the Stamford High School Roof
Project and Authorizing \$889,614 General
Obligation Bonds of the City to Meet Said
Appropriation; and Resolution for School
Construction Grant.
01/04/23 – Submitted by Mayor Simmons
01/19/23 – Approved by Board of Finance 5-0-1

A motion to approve Item No. 14 was made, seconded and approved by unanimous voice vote (Reps. Miller, Boeger, Coleman, Fedeli, Figueroa, Garst, Morson, Nabel, Pierre-Louis, and Tomas in favor; Rep. Di Costanzo abstaining).

15. [F31.175](#) APPROVAL; Agreement with Municipal Tax **Approved 11-0-0**
Services LLC for Motor Vehicle Tax Compliance
under RFP No. 888.
12/30/22 – Submitted by Mayor Simmons
01/19/23 – Approved by Board of Finance 6-0-0

Mr. Stackpole explained that this is the contract with Municipal Tax Services LLC to perform the compliance study for motor vehicles that should be taxed within the jurisdiction. This is a two year term with 2 one year extensions. Any funds collected by MTS are split 50/50 with the City in the first year and the taxpayer has to pay a \$50 fee to the vendor. Since the inception of the program in 2019, MTS has investigated 8,700 cars, and added about 7,900 and sent out bills, of which 5,450 were actually paid. The city's collection to this date has been \$1.3 million. About 1/3 of the collections are out-of-state plates; 1/3 are CT plates that are unregistered; and 1/3 are vehicles where a person has moved to Stamford and not notified the DMV. They are still finding more cars. \$35M has been added to the grand list. This is the only company that does this type of work and they put many hours into investigating the vehicles they find. There were no other bid responses to the RFP.

A motion to approve Item No. 15 was made, seconded and approved by unanimous voice vote (Reps. Di Costanzo, Miller, Boeger, Coleman, Fedeli, Figueroa, Garst, Morson, Nabel, Pierre-Louis, and Tomas in favor).

16. [F31.176](#) APPROVAL; Amendment No. Two to Agreement between City of Stamford and Oracle America, Inc. for Oracle Cloud ERP Services; Amendment Two revises the Project Timeline and Increase the Contract Price by \$1,150,000.00, Bringing the Total to \$4,809,000.00. **Approved 10-0-1**
12/28/22 – Submitted by Mayor Simmons
01/19/23 – Approved by Board of Finance 5-0-1

Mr. Williams reviewed the attached [PowerPoint presentation](#) with the Committee.

A motion to approve Item No. 16 was made, seconded and approved by unanimous voice vote (Reps. Di Costanzo, Miller, Boeger, Coleman, Fedeli, Figueroa, Garst, Morson, Nabel, and Tomas in favor; Rep. Pierre-Louis abstaining.).

17. [F31.163](#) REVIEW; Update on Status of [F31.056](#) – Additional Appropriation (Grants Budget) of \$1,500,000 to Support Small Businesses that Suffered a Negative Economic Impact due to COVID 19; through Grant Assistance of up to \$7,500.00 **Report Made**
12/05/22 – Submitted by Rep. Miller
12/12/22 – Moved to Pending

Ms. Nadres and Ms. Kagan reviewed the attached [PowerPoint](#) presentation with the Committee. Committee members discussed this item with the invited guests. Items discussed included the following:

- Small businesses can sign up to be updated on any the programs by filling out [this form](#).
- The Board of Finance held the agreement with the WBDC because there was no consensus on the \$200,000 fee for the administrator
- The fee included the marketing, communication, administration of the grant, monitoring of the grant and \$250,000 of resource assistance (financial guidance, tech support, mentorship, & access to networks) for entities that do and do not receive the grant
- The RFP was sent out to 1500 vendors and was open for several weeks; 6 responded and 3 were shortlisted
- 5 people were on the RFP committee: Loren Nadres; Leah Kagan, Anita Carpenter, Erik Larson, and Terry Adams. The Mayor did work for the WBDC but was not involved in the selection committee
- The ARPA guidelines stipulate that a portion of the funds can be used for the administration of the grant; so they sought an operating partner who would excel in this area; WBDC was the only one of the applicants with experience in the Stamford community
- The 1500 vendors were registered in the City's procurement system for grants administration and consulting. There was also a notice placed in the Stamford Advocate and on the State procurement system; there may be other organizations that are not part of the database

- Since there does not seem to be consensus on the Board of Finance to go forward with a 3rd party, the Administration is looking into the option of administering the program in house, which would probably be a lower cost, but would not include all of the wraparound services; the City does not necessarily have the staffing in place; the City does administer the CDBG grants, but that is a much smaller program with only about 30 applicants
- Norwalk is distributing the grants in-house. They have less than \$1 million
- The funds need to be allocated by 12/31/24 and distributed by 12/31/26
- Is there legal exposure by not going forward with the WBDC at this point?
- The Economic Development department has been trying to hire a project manager for the past 7 months.

18. [F31.180](#) REVIEW; Overview of Office of Administration and Budgeting Process Overview **Report Made**
01/04/23 – Submitted by Rep. Cottrell

Dr. Sinani reviewed the attached [PowerPoint](#) presentation with the Committee. Dr. Sinani encouraged Board members to contact her with any questions.

Co-chair Di Costanzo adjourned the meeting at 10:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Monica Di Costanzo, Co-Chair

This meeting is on [video](#).