



Fiscal Committee - Board of Representatives

Sean Boeger, Co-Chair

Lindsey Miller, Co-Chair

Committee Report

Date: Monday, April 24, 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 and remotely.*

The Fiscal Committee met as indicated above. In attendance in person were Co-Chair Miller and Committee Member Reps. Fedeli and Shaw. In attendance remotely were Co-Chair Boeger and Committee Member Reps. Coleman, Figueroa, Garst, Goldberg, Morson, Pierre-Louis, and Tomas. Also present in person was Rep. Weinberg. Also present remotely were Reps. Adams, de la Cruz, Matheny, and Summerville; Greg Stackpole, Assessor, Tom Cassone, Corporation Counsel; Sandra Dennies, Director of Administration; Anita Carpenter, Grants Officer; Elda Sinani, OPM Director; Lou Casolo, City Engineer; Matthew Quinones, Director of Operations; Kevin McCarthy; Director of Facilities, SPS: Katherine LoBalbo; Director of School Construction; and Chris Passamano, Athletic Director, SPS; Frank Petise, Transportation, Traffic & Parking Bureau Chief; Chief Trevor Roach and Assistant Chief Mike Robles, SFD; and Kevin Fuselier - SLR.

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

Item No.	Description	Invitee(s) or Designees
1. F31.190	ORDINANCE <u>for public hearing and final adoption</u> ; Amending Section 180-2 of the Code of Ordinances , Personal Property Tax District, to Provide for a Separate Mill Rate for Personal Property. 03/07/23 – Submitted by Mayor Simmons 03/27/23 – Approved by Committee 8-0-0	Approved 11-0-0

Co-Chair Miller opened the public hearing. Kieran Edmondson spoke in favor of the proposed ordinance. There being no further speakers, the public hearing was closed.

A motion to approve Item No. 1 was made, seconded, and approved by unanimous voice vote (Reps. Boeger, Miller Coleman, Fedeli, Figueroa, Garst, Goldberg, Morson, Pierre-Louis, Shaw, and Tomas in favor).

2. F31.204 \$2,189.00	ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION (Grants Budget); Mayors Office – Arts; The Stamford Arts Commission has been Awarded Operating Funding to Support Outreach to the Arts Community; Funding Period 11/7/22 -11/6/23) (100% grant funded). 03/03/23 – Submitted by Mayor Simmons 04/13/23 – Approved by Board of Finance 6-0-0	Approved 11-0-0
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Ms. Carpenter explained that this is a new small grant to support the operating budget of the Stamford Arts Commission in any way they choose.

A motion to approve Item No. 2 was made, seconded, and approved by unanimous voice vote (Reps. Boeger, Miller Coleman, Fedeli, Figueroa, Garst, Goldberg, Morson, Pierre-Louis, Shaw, and Tomas in favor).

3. [F31.205](#) ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION (Grants Budget); **Approved 11-0-0**
\$15,000.00 Trusted Messenger Grant; Department of Social Services Will Provide Rigorous Outreach to Inform Vulnerable Clients of Steps to Find or Maintain Health Coverage; Funds for Caseworker Assistant and Supplies (100% Grant Funded).
03/20/23 – Submitted by Mayor Simmons
04/13/23 – Approved by Board of Finance 6-0-0

Ms. Carpenter explained that this is a new grant from the Connecticut Health Foundation, and it is to support the Social Services department within public health, to provide some outreach and awareness to work with low income families when they're enrolling their children in HUSKY.

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

4. [F31.210](#) RESOLUTION; Authorizing the Mayor to Enter in an **Approved 11-0-0**
Application with the State Department of Economic and Community Development for a Certified Local Government Grant not to exceed \$6,000 to Promote Historic Preservation.
03/15/23 – Submitted by Mayor Simmons

Ms. Carpenter explained that this is resolution to permit the Mayor to enter the application with the State Department of Economic and Community Development for certified local government grant not to exceed \$6,000 to promote historic preservation. This will enable the administration to inform residents of benefits available regarding historic preservation.

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

5. [F31.206](#) ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION (Operating Budget); **Approved 11-0-0**
\$32,970.00 Law Wage Increase FY22/23; Appropriation of Funds per the Increased Obligations for FY22/23 per Recent Contract Settlement.
03/31/23 – Submitted by Mayor Simmons
04/13/23 – Approved by Board of Finance 5-0-1

Dr. Sinani stated that this appropriation is for the increased obligations for FY 2022-23 due to the recent contract settlement.

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

6. [F31.196](#) ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION (Operating Budget); **Approved 10-0-1**
\$493,509.00 Juneteenth Holiday; Declaration of Juneteenth
Holiday was not Budgeted in Current Fiscal Year
(Source of Funds: Contingency)
02/24/23 – Submitted by Mayor Simmons
03/09/23 – HELD by Board of Finance 5-0-0
03/13/23 – Moved to Pending
04/13/23 – Approved by Board of Finance 4-2-0

Dr. Sinani stated that this appropriation is for overtime for this fiscal year due to the new Juneteenth holiday. This will mostly be for fire and police overtime.

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

7. [F31.200](#) ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION (Capital Budget); **Approved 9-1-1**
\$3,000,000.00 Stamford High Athletic Fields; Creation of a New
Synthetic Turf Baseball Field and New Synthetic
Multipurpose Soccer and Lacrosse Field Facility
across the Baseball Field at Stamford High. (100%
Grant Funded - Source of Funds \$2,000,000 –
DEEP, \$1,000,000 – DECD)
03/31/23 – Submitted by Mayor Simmons
03/28/23 – Approved by [Planning Board](#)
04/13/23 – Approved by Board of Finance 6-0-0

Mr. Quinones stated that this appropriation is 100% grant funded. The grant was submitted by the prior administration and SPS and approved by the State last year. The funds have now been released.

The committee discussed Item No. 7 with the invited guests. Items discussed included the following:

- There are currently 2 artificial turf fields at Stamford HS; the City owns 8 artificial turf fields
- The substructure of the fields retain water which is then metered off site so the runoff is similar to that of grass fields and allows play to resume when the rain stops
- New Canaan, Greenwich, and Darien all have turf fields at their schools

Mr. Fuselier stated that the turf system to be used has not been selected and shared the [attached presentation](#) regarding the possible turf systems

The committee continued to discuss Item No. 7 with the invited guests. Items discussed included the following:

- The funding is to install a synthetic turf “system” which should be able to include organic infill
- The grant language is not limited to non-organic infill
- The current baseball field at SHS is at least 45 years old
- The current turf field at Boyle stadium is 15 years old; there have been no heat concerns and newer products have fewer heat issues

- The grass fields are in bad shape
- This project should start at the end of the school year; otherwise it will have to wait a full calendar year
- Testing will be built into the scope of the project, so that the materials are tested pre-manufacturing as well as when delivered.
- The typical turf field has an 8-10 year warranty but lasts about 12 years; the used turf is often recycled
- There are currently 9 teams looking for places to play
- The students are playing on turf when they play at other schools
- \$3 million was the cost estimate by the landscape architect in 2021, so the design will stay under that cost
- Calls to other coaches at schools in other districts with turn noted that turf increased use flexibility, fewer rainouts and fewer injuries

Rep. de la Cruz read the [attached statement](#) into the record.

The committee continued to discuss Item No. 7 with the invited guests. Items discussed included the following:

- If the design contract is less than \$100,000, it will not be approved by the BOR
- The construction contract will not come before the BOR if it is the result of a bid

A motion to approve Item No. 7 was made, seconded, and approved by a roll call vote of 9-1-1 (Reps. Boeger, Miller, Fedeli, Garst, Goldberg, Morson, Pierre-Louis, Shaw, and Tomas in favor; Rep. Coleman opposed; and Rep. Figueroa abstaining).

8. [F31.202](#) RESOLUTION; Authorizing the Mayor to Enter into an Agreement with the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Development re: the Stamford High School Athletic Fields Project. **Approved 10-1-0**
 [\$2,000,000]
 03/24/23 – Submitted by Anita Carpenter

A motion to approve Item No. 8 was made, seconded, and approved by a roll call vote of 10-1-0 (Reps. Boeger, Miller, Fedeli, Figueroa, Garst, Goldberg, Morson, Pierre-Louis, Shaw, and Tomas in favor; and Rep. Coleman opposed).

9. [F31.201](#) RESOLUTION; Authorizing the Mayor to Enter into an Agreement with the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development re: the Stamford High School Athletic Fields Project. **Approved 11-0-0**
 [\$1,000,000]
 03/24/23 – Submitted by Anita Carpenter

A motion to approve Item No. 9 was made, seconded, and approved by a roll call vote of 11-0-0 (Reps. Boeger, Miller, Coleman, Fedeli, Figueroa, Garst, Goldberg, Morson, Pierre-Louis, Shaw, and Tomas in favor).

10. [F31.208](#) ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION (Capital Budget); **Approved 11-0-0**
\$2,878,678.44 Citywide Pedestrian Signal & Safety Upgrades; Bring
up to date Pedestrian Infrastructure at Signalized
Intersections with Reported Pedestrian Related
Crashes (Funding Source: 100% State Grant)
04/03/23 – Submitted by Mayor Simmons
04/13/23 – Approved by Board of Finance 6-0-0

Mr. Petise explained that this appropriation is for Citywide pedestrian signal and safety upgrades at 45 intersections. The State will be funding 100% of the construction costs. The City provides the design costs. This is to accept the funding for the construction phase.

A motion to approve Item No. 10 was made, seconded, and approved by unanimous voice vote (Reps. Boeger, Miller, Coleman, Fedeli, Figueroa, Garst, Goldberg, Morson, Pierre-Louis, Shaw, and Tomas in favor).

11. [F31.207](#) RESOLUTION; Authorizing the Mayor to Enter into **Approved 11-0-0**
an Agreement with the Connecticut Department of
Transportation re: the Citywide Pedestrian Signal &
Safety Upgrades
03/27/23 – Submitted by Anita Carpenter

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

12. [F31.209](#) ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION (Capital Budget); **Approved 10-1-0**
\$1,700,000.00 C63005; Fire Apparatus; Purchase of two Fire
Engines (\$850,000 each) before the Expected Price
Increase of \$300,000 (\$150,000 each) in the new
Fiscal Year and Extended Lead Time of 24-36
months (Funding Source: City Bond)
03/29/23 – Submitted by Mayor Simmons
03/28/23 – Approved by [Planning Board](#)
04/13/23 – Approved by Board of Finance 6-0-0

Assistant Chief Robles explained that this appropriation is being brought before the Board now because they have been informed that there will be a price increase on July 1. The last engine cost \$600,000. The price increased at the beginning of the year. The vehicles will arrive during the 1st quarter of 2024. New Haven is paying \$1.1 million for a vehicle. If they wait until July, the wait time will be 2 to 3 years. This amount was in the 2023-24 budget, but was cut by the Board of Finance in anticipation of the approval of this appropriation.

A motion to approve Item No. 11 was made, seconded, and approved by a roll call vote of 10-1-0 (Reps. Boeger, Miller, Fedeli, Figueroa, Garst, Goldberg, Morson, Pierre-Louis, Shaw, and Tomas in favor; and Rep. Coleman opposed).

Co-Chair Miller adjourned the meeting at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Lindsey Miller, Co-Chair

This meeting is on [video](#).

