



Fiscal Committee - Board of Representatives

Sean Boeger, Co-Chair

Lindsey Miller, Co-Chair

Committee Report

Date: Wednesday, May 29, 2024
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-Chair Miller; and Committee Member Reps. Fedeli and Morson. In attendance remotely were Co-Chair Boeger; and Committee Member Reps. Camporeale, Figueroa, Graham, Shaw, and Tomas. Absent or excused were Reps. Goldberg and Pierre-Louis. Also in attendance in person was Lou Casolo, City Engineer. Also present remotely were Reps. de la Cruz and Summerville; Katherine LoBalbo, Director of BOE School Construction; Frank Petise, Traffic, Transportation, and Parking Bureau Chief; Ben Barnes, Director of Administration; Teresa Viscariello, Controller; Anita Carpenter, Grants Officer.

Co-Chair Boeger called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

Item No.	Description	Committee Action
1. F31.345 \$342,500.00	ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION (Capital Budget); C56174; Citywide Signals; \$5,000 for Traffic Signal Improvements at the Intersection of Hope Street and Toms Road associated with ZB App 221-17 - 535 Hope Street and \$337,500 as the Developer's Required Zoning Contribution for the Installation of the new Traffic Signal at the Corner of Washington Blvd and Tresser Blvd (Source of funds: Private Contributions). 04/23/24 – Submitted by Mayor Simmons 04/30/24 – Approved by Planning Board 05/09/24 – Approved by Board of Finance 6-0-0	Approved 8-0-0

Mr. Petise explained that these funds are from two developments. The signal at Washington Boulevard has already been completed. A motion to approve Item No. 1 was made, seconded, and approved by unanimous voice vote (Reps. Boeger, Miller, Camporeale, Fedeli, Figueroa, Graham, Shaw, and Tomas in favor)

2. [F31.346](#) ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION (Capital Budget); **Approved 8-0-1**
 \$1,317,225.00 CP400012; Lakeside Drive Bridge; Replacement of Bridge No. 04069, Lakeside Drive Bridge over North Stamford Reservoir; Replacement of Currently Structurally Deficient Structure and of a 16" Water Main. (Source of Funds: State Grant (190,740.00), Federal Grant (762,960.00) and Private Contributions (363,525.00)).
 04/24/24 – Submitted by Mayor Simmons
 04/30/24 – Approved by [Planning Board](#)
 05/09/24 – Approved by Board of Finance 6-0-0

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

3. [F31.347](#) GRANTS RESOLUTION; Authorizing the Mayor to **Approved 9-0-0**
 Enter Into and Sign Agreements with the CT Department Of Transportation for Bridge No. 04069 Lakeside Drive Bridge.
 04/25/24 – Submitted by Mayor Simmons

A motion to approve Item No. 3 was made, seconded, and approved by unanimous voice vote (Reps. Boeger, Miller, Camporeale, Fedeli, Figueroa, Graham, Morson, Shaw, and Tomas in favor).

4. [F31.348](#) REJECTION; Capital Project Closeout **NO ACTION**
 \$3,349,135.00 Recommendation; CP3320; Major Bridge Replacement. **TAKEN**
 04/25/24 – Submitted by Mayor Simmons
 04/30/24 – Approved by [Planning Board](#)
 05/09/24 – Not rejected by Board of Finance

Mr. Casolo explained that Item Nos. 4, 5, 6 and 7 are all related to the Hunting Ridge Road bridge replacement. The closeout is to fund the appropriation for the repair of the Hunting Road Bridge. The closeout comes from the Major Bridge Replacement and will be directed to Item 5. There will be an additional \$167,743.00 from bonds to fund the Hunting Road Bridge.

5. [F31.349](#) ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION (Capital Budget); **Approved 9-0-0**
 \$3,516,878.00 001393; Hunting Ridge Road Bridge; Replacement of Bridge No. 135-009, Hunting Ridge Road over an Unnamed Brook; Replacement of Structure which is Currently Structurally Deficient and Scour Critical (Source of Funds: City Bond (\$1,779,200.00), State Grant (\$1,569,935.00) and City Bond (\$167,743.00)).
 04/24/24 – Submitted by Mayor Simmons
 04/30/24 – Approved by [Planning Board](#)
 05/09/24 – Approved by Board of Finance 6-0-0

A motion to approve Item No. 5 was made, seconded, and approved by unanimous voice vote (Reps. Boeger, Miller, Camporeale, Fedeli, Figueroa, Graham, Morson, Shaw, and Tomas in favor).

6. [F31.350](#) GRANTS RESOLUTION; Authorizing the Mayor to Enter Into and Sign Agreements with the CT Department Of Transportation for Bridge No. 135009 Hunting Ridge Road. **Approved 9-0-0**
04/25/24 – Submitted by Mayor Simmons

A motion to approve Item No. 6 was made, seconded, and approved by unanimous voice vote (Reps. Boeger, Miller, Camporeale, Fedeli, Figueroa, Graham, Morson, Shaw, and Tomas in favor).

7. [F31.351](#) RESOLUTION; Amending the Capital Budget for Fiscal Year 2023-2024 by Adding an Appropriation of \$3,516,878 for the Hunting Ridge Road Bridge Project and Authorizing \$1,946,943 General Obligation Bonds of the City to Meet Said Appropriation. **Approved 9-0-0**
04/25/24 – Submitted by Mayor Simmons
05/09/24 – Approved by Board of Finance 6-0-0

A motion to approve Item No. 7 was made, seconded, and approved by unanimous voice vote (Reps. Boeger, Miller, Camporeale, Fedeli, Figueroa, Graham, Morson, Shaw, and Tomas in favor).

8. [F31.352](#) ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION (Capital Budget); CP4000011; Julia Stark- LTFP DM/AR; The City is seeking a Grant for Asset Renewal and Improvements to Julia A. Stark Elementary School, the Project Cost of \$14,347,081 of Which the City is seeking reimbursement of 60%. This Requires an Adjustment to the Grant Authorized Portion of CP4000011. (Source of Funds: State Grant). **Approved 9-0-0**
\$4,158,249.00
04/30/24 – Submitted by Mayor Simmons
04/30/24 – Approved by [Planning Board](#)
05/15/24 – Approved by Board of Finance 5-1-0

A motion to approve Item No. 8 was made, seconded, and approved by unanimous voice vote (Reps. Boeger, Miller, Camporeale, Fedeli, Figueroa, Graham, Morson, Shaw, and Tomas in favor).

9. [F31.353](#) RESOLUTION; Amending the Capital Budget for Fiscal Year 2023-2024 by Adding an Appropriation of \$4,158,249 for the Julia Stark Elementary Priority Project. **Approved 9-0-0**
04/30/24 – Submitted by Mayor Simmons

A motion to approve Item No. 9 was made, seconded, and approved by unanimous voice vote (Reps. Boeger, Miller, Camporeale, Fedeli, Figueroa, Graham, Morson, Shaw, and Tomas in favor).

10. F31.336 REVIEW; of the "Internal Audit" function, suggested **Report Made**
in Charter Section C5-50-2 Finance Function, (b)
Organization, as a department within the Office of
Administration
02/12/24 – Submitted by Reps. de la Cruz,
Camporeale, and Tomas.
03/11/24 - Moved to Pending
04/29/24 – Recommitted to Steering 8-0-0

Rep. de la Cruz stated that he put this on the agenda as a result of the delayed City audit. He had not realized that the City had an internal auditor

Committee members discussed Item No. 10 with the invited guests. Mr. Barnes explained that the internal audit function is a compliance function. The City is required to have an independent outside auditor based on information provided by management and the Controller. The Charter requires the information to be provided by September, which is very difficult. The prior audits were very late prior to his arrival. There were organizational challenges exacerbated by the new financial software.

Until a few weeks ago, Ms. Viscariello was the internal auditor and reported directly to the Director of Administration and the head of the BOF Audit committee. The work she performed was at their direction. Given the delays, she directed a significant portion of her time to get the City caught up on its audits. She is now the controller, and the internal auditor position will be posted shortly. This will be a hard position to fill because accountants are in demand. The role of the internal auditor in the City is an internal-facing role. Much of the work the internal auditor does is published on the BOF website. She did appear before the BOR regarding the marina audit.

The City's contract with RSM would permit the engagement of an outside auditor if there was an issue of fraud, etc. that required an independent review before an internal auditor is hired. The Controller is tasked with keeping track of City resources.

The City has 1000s of transactions in any month. Oracle does much of the work automatically, but these still require double checking and closing at the end of the month.

The Controller's office has a staff of 16 including several accountants and an outside accounting firm. The internal auditor function has not had any staff.

The Controller's office will be coming up with a monthly soft-close processes as well as quarterly hard-close processes. There are also consultants she would like to bring on as permanent staff.

The City is hoping to have the 2023 audit completed in 3 months and the 2024 audit on time.

Co-Chair Boeger adjourned the meeting at 8:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Sean Boeger, Co-Chair

This meeting is on [video](#)