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CAROLINE SIMMONS



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VICE CHAIR  
GEOFF ALSWANGER  
TOM DOUGHERTY  
RICHARD FREEDMAN  
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## BOARD OF FINANCE

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### **ACTION REPORT (MINUTES) OF THE BOARD OF FINANCE FY 2026-27 SPECIAL BUDGET MEETING**

**Tuesday, April 14, 2026**

A special meeting to approve the Mayor's Proposed FY 2026-27 Operating, Capital, Special Fund and Board of Education Budgets of the City of Stamford was held by the Board of Finance on Tuesday, April 14, 2025, via TEAMS. The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m. Board Members present were Chair Mary Lou Rinaldi; Vice-Chair Laura Burwick; Members: Geoff Alswanger, Tom Dougherty, Richard Freedman and Jennifer McMullen. Also present were the OPM team: Elda Sinani, Bill Maguire, Anthony Romano, Adrienne Tovar, James Huerta, Julie Lazcano, and Brandon Bush. Dr. Tamu Lucero, Superintendent of Schools; Ryan Fealey, CFO, SPS; and many others.

Chair Rinaldi gave an overview of the objectives for this budget meeting and reviewed the order of the meeting.

The Board adjourned the meeting at 9:58 p.m. after passing/failing the following motions:

#### **BOARD OF EDUCATION BUDGET**

Motion by Mr. Freedman, seconded by Ms. Rinaldi, to reduce the Board of Education budget (Program 9000) by \$12,100,000. The motion passed unanimously, 6-0-0.

#### **CITY OPERATIONS BUDGET**

Motion by Mr. Freedman, seconded by Ms. Burwick to reduce Proposed New Positions/Salaries in different departments and programs as follows:

Collections Driver II (Program 2143) \$80,896; Epidemiologist (Program 3810) \$110,588; Public Health Nurse (Program 3820) \$78,844; Assistant Corp. Counsel (Program 4010) \$161,500; Paralegal (Program 4010) \$89,632; Leave of Absence Administrator (Program 4020) \$98,422; Economic Development Project Manager (Program 1200) \$133,803; Traffic Violation Officer (2) (Program 2139) \$142,152. The motion passed unanimously, 6-0-0.

Motion by Mr. Freedman, seconded by Ms. Burwick to reduce Proposed New Positions/Salaries in: Suppression Firefighters (8) – (Program 3521) \$529,440. The motion passed 4-2-0. Mr. Dougherty and Ms. Munger voted against.

Motion by Ms. Rinaldi, seconded by Mr. Alswanger to reduce Payroll Accountant/Salaries (Program 1032) by \$45,000, passed unanimously, 6-0-0.

Motion by Mr. Freedman, seconded by Ms. Rinaldi, to reduce Software Maintenance (Program 1060) by \$200,000, passed unanimously, 6-0-0.

Motion by Ms. Rinaldi, seconded by Mr. Alswanger, to reduce Seasonal (Program 2121) by \$33,000, passed unanimously, 6-0-0.

Motion by Ms. Burwick, seconded by Mr. Freedman, to reduce Vehicle Maintenance (Program 2121) by \$200,000, passed unanimously, 6-0-0.

Motion by Mr. Alswanger, seconded by Ms. Munger, to reduce 137 Henry Street Contracted Services (Program 2124) by \$100,000 passed unanimously, 6-0-0.

Motion by Mr. Freedman, seconded by Ms. Burwick, to reduce Contracted Services – Ground Maintenance (Program 2130) by \$30,000, passed 5-0-1. Ms. Munger abstained.

Motion by Ms. Burwick, seconded by Ms. Rinaldi, to reduce Urban Forrester/Salaries (Program 2127) by \$117,961, passed unanimously, 6-0-0.

Motion by Ms. Burwick, seconded by Mr. Freedman, to reduce Deputy Dir. of Operations Stipend/Operations Administration (Program 2600) by \$22,165, passed unanimously, 6-0-0.

Motion by Ms. Rinaldi, seconded by Mr. Alswanger, to reduce Police Department (Program 0330) by \$250,000 (bottom line reduction), passed unanimously, 6-0-0.

Motion by Ms. Rinaldi, seconded by Ms. Burwick, to reduce Fire Department (Program 0351) by \$250,000 (bottom line reduction), passed unanimously, 5-0-1. Ms. Munger abstained.

Motion by Mr. Alswanger, seconded by Mr. Freedman, to reduce Emergency Shelters (Program 3910) by \$50,000, passed unanimously, 6-0-0.

Motion by Ms. Rinaldi, seconded by Ms. Munger, to reduce Professional Consultant (Program 5030) by \$100,000, passed unanimously, 6-0-0.

Motion by Ms. Munger, seconded by Mr. Dougherty, to reduce Town and City Clerk (Program 5050) by \$50,000 (bottom line reduction). Amended motion by Ms. Burwick, seconded by Mr. Freedman to reduce Town and City Clerk (Program 5050) by \$25,000 (bottom line reduction), passed unanimously, 6-0-0.

Motion by Mr. Alswanger, seconded by Ms. Rinaldi, to reduce Non City Social Services, Youth Services Corp (Program 6055) by \$100,000, passed unanimously, 6-0-0.

Motion by Mr. Freedman, seconded by Ms. Burwick, to reduce Cultural & Environmental, (Program 6056) for the following agencies (reduction amount follows agency name): Ferguson Library, \$100,000; Person to Person, \$10,000; Stamford Museum and Nature Center, \$56,280; Stamford Historical Society, \$2,000; DSSD, \$20,000; Multicultural Council, \$400; United Way of Coastal and Western Connecticut, \$680; Stamford Partnership, \$1,800; Stamford Arts and Culture Grant, \$8,000; Lumos, \$1,020; Stamford Center for the Arts, \$2,000; Neighborhood Community Grants, \$3,210; ADA Advisory Council, \$433; St. Joseph Parenting Center, \$10,000; Soundwaters, \$3,640; CLC, \$50,000; Building One Communities, \$1,800; My Architecture Workshops, \$400; Family Centers, \$400; CORNERS, \$400; Rowan Center, \$1,000; and Future Five, \$1,000; passed unanimously, 6-0-0.

Motion by Mr. Freedman, seconded by Ms. Burwick, to reduce Cultural & Environmental, (Program 6056) Boys & Girls Club-Yerwood Center, \$25,000; and Mary C. Rich Clubhouse, \$25,000. Amended motion by Mr. Freedman, seconded by Ms. Munger to reduce Cultural & Environmental, (Program 6056) Boys & Girls Club-Yerwood Center, \$15,000; and Mary C. Rich Clubhouse, \$15,000; passed unanimously, 6-0-0.

Motion by Ms. Rinaldi, seconded by Mr. Freedman to reduce Parking Fund Contracted Services- StamFORWARD (Program 2850) by \$1,284,593, passed unanimously, 6-0-0.

Motion by Ms. Burwick, seconded by Mr. Alswanger, to reduce Professional Development - Conferences & Training (Program 1000-General Fund) by \$20,000, passed unanimously, 6-0-0.

Motion by Ms. Burwick, seconded by Mr. Dougherty, to reduce Supplies (Program 1000-General Fund) by \$30,000, passed unanimously 6-0-0.

### **CITY CAPITAL BUDGET**

Motion by Ms. Burwick, seconded by Mr. Freedman, to reduce Board of Education Capital: Safety & Security (Project CPB504) by \$100,000, passed unanimously, 6-0-0.

Motion by Mr. Freedman, seconded by Ms. Rinaldi, to reduce Non City Agencies: Bartlett Arboretum-Greenhouse (Project CP0120) by \$250,000, passed unanimously, 6-0-0.

Motion by Mr. Freedman, seconded by Ms. Rinaldi, to reduce Non City Agencies: Bartlett Arboretum-Pavilion (Project CP2700) by \$300,000, passed 5-1-0. Ms. Munger voted against.

Motion by Mr. Alswanger, seconded by Ms. Burwick, to reduce Non City Agencies: East Side Library (Project 001404) by \$100,000, passed unanimously, 6-0-0. Funding for East Side Library reduced to \$250,000, and acceptance of \$3M Federal Grant.

Motion by Mr. Dougherty, seconded by Ms. Munger, to reduce Non City Agencies: Avon Theatre (Project 001454) by \$500,000, failed 2-4-0. Ms. Rinaldi, Ms. Burwick, Mr. Alswanger, and Mr. Freedman voted against. Amended motion by Ms. Munger, seconded by Mr. Dougherty to reduce Non City Agencies: Avon Theatre (Project 001454) by \$400,000. Vote failed 2-4-0. Ms. Rinaldi, Ms. Burwick, Mr. Alswanger, and Mr. Freedman voted against.

Motion by Ms. Rinaldi, seconded by Mr. Freedman, to reduce Non City Agencies: Stamford Harbor Light House (Project 001445) by \$50,000, passed 5-1-0. Ms. Munger voted against.

Motion by Ms. Burwick, seconded by Ms. Rinaldi, to reduce Office of the Mayor: Community Development – Affordable Housing (Project C46047) by \$3,000,000, passed unanimously, 6-0-0.

Motion by Ms. Rinaldi, seconded by Mr. Alswanger, to reduce Operations: Land Use – Below Market Housing Program Management System (Project 001450) by \$200,000, passed 5-0-0. Mr. Freedman recused himself from the vote.

Motion by Mr. Freedman, seconded by Ms. Munger, to reduce Operations: Land Use – Overall Needs Assessment for City Fields (Project 001254) by \$250,000, passed unanimously, 6-0-0.

Motion by Mr. Alswanger, seconded by Ms. Rinaldi, to reduce Operations: Maintenance Facilities – Citywide Facilities Life Cycle Planning and Assessment (Project 001447) by \$200,000, passed unanimously, 6-0-0.

Motion by Mr. Alswanger, seconded by Mr. Freedman, to reduce Operations: Maintenance Facilities – Citywide Facilities-Energy and Sustainability (Project CP4000044) by \$200,000, passes unanimously, 6-0-0.

Motion by Mr. Freedman, seconded by Ms. Rinaldi, to reduce Operations: Maintenance Facilities – Lathon Wider Community Center Sprinkler System (Project 001448) by \$500,000, passes unanimously, 6-0-0.

Motion by Ms. Burwick, seconded by Ms. Rinaldi, to reduce Operations: Maintenance Facilities – ADA COMPLIANCE – CITY FACILITIES (Project CP7019) by \$225,000, passes unanimously, 6-0-0.

Motion by Ms. Burwick, seconded by Mr. Dougherty, to reduce Operations: Maintenance Parks – Hatch Field Park (Project CP4000010) by \$525,000, passes unanimously, 6-0-0. Funding for Hatch Field Park was reduced to \$0, \$2M State Grant accepted.

Motion by Ms. Rinaldi, seconded by Ms. Munger, to reduce Operations: Traffic & Road Maintenance – Unaccepted Road Rebuilding and Paving (Project 001453) by \$1,750,000, passes unanimously, 6-0-0.

Motion by Mr. Freedman, seconded by Ms. Burwick, to reduce Public Safety: Director – Public Safety Complex Assessment (Project 001391) by \$2,500,000, passes unanimously, 6-0-0.

Motion by Mr. Freedman, seconded by Mr. Dougherty, to reduce Public Safety: Police – Department Wide – Specialty Police Vehicles (Project (CP7912) by \$375,000, passes unanimously, 6-0-0.

Motion by Ms. Burwick, seconded by Ms. Rinaldi, to reduce Public Safety: Stamford Fire Department – Fire Apparatus (Project (C63005) by \$800,000, passes unanimously, 6-0-0.

Motion by Mr. Alswanger, seconded by Mr. Freedman, to reduce Citywide Vehicle Replacement & Upgrade (Project C65200) by \$500,000, passes unanimously, 6-0-0.

Motion by Ms. Rinaldi, seconded by Mr. Alswanger, to reduce Citywide Technology Replacement & Upgrade (Project C65201) by \$250,000, passes unanimously, 6-0-0.

Motion by Mr. Alswanger, seconded by Ms. Burwick, to reduce Public Safety Vehicle Replacement & Upgrade (Project CP1460) by \$300,000, passes unanimously, 6-0-0.

Motion by Ms. Rinaldi, seconded by Ms. Munger, to reduce Public Safety Equipment Replacement & Upgrade (Project CP7149) by \$125,000, passes unanimously, 6-0-0.

<b>FY 2026-27 Summary of Reductions</b>	
<b>Board of Education budget reductions</b>	<b>(\$12,100,000)</b>
<b>City Operating budget reductions</b>	<b>(\$3,160,714)</b>
<b>Parking Fund budget reductions</b>	<b>(\$1,426,745)</b>
<b>Capital budget reductions</b>	<b>(\$12,575,000)</b>
<b>Total reductions across all funds</b>	<b>(\$29,262,459)</b>

Motion by Mr. Dougherty, seconded by Mr. Freedman, to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 9:58 p.m.

**The Board of Finance Special Meeting to Set the Mill Rate is scheduled for Monday, May 18, 2026, at 7:00 p.m., virtually via TEAMS.**

[This meeting is on video.](#)

*Tracy Donoghue*

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Tracy Donoghue  
Clerk of the Board