



## ***Fiscal Committee - Board of Representatives***

Monica Di Costanzo, Chair      Frank Cerasoli, Vice Chair

# **Committee Report**

**Date:** Monday, February 27, 2017  
**Time:** 7:00 p.m.  
**Place:** Democratic Caucus Room, 888 Washington Boulevard, Stamford, CT 06905-2098

The Fiscal Committee met as indicated above. In attendance were Chair Di Costanzo, Vice Chair Cerasoli and Committee Member Reps. Coleman, Fedeli, Figueroa, Miller, Mitchell and Silver. Absent or excused were Committee Member Reps. Day, DeLuca and Quinones. Also present were Reps. Ryan and Zelinsky, Terry Drew, Youth Services; Jay Fountain, Acting Director, OPM; Ernie Orgera, Director of Operations; Tom Turk, Road Maintenance; Ellen Bromley, Social Services Director; Mayor Martin; and David Yanik, Controller.

<b>Item No.</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Committee Action</b>
<sup>1</sup> 1. <a href="#">F29.507</a> \$274,839.00	ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION (Grants Budget); Education through Adventure; Funds Already Collected From Community Groups; funds for Seasonal Facilitators and Program Supplies. 01/26/17 – Submitted by Mayor Martin 02/15/17 – Approved by Board of Finance	<b>APPROVED 8-0-0</b>

Ms. Drew explained that this is the annual appropriation for this program, which is funded from fees collected. A motion to approve this item was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 8-0-0 (Reps. Di Costanzo, Cerasoli, Coleman, Fedeli, Figueroa, Miller, Mitchell and Silver in favor).

<sup>2</sup> 2. <a href="#">F29.506</a> \$800,000.00	ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION (Operating Budget); Replenish Salt Domes for Salt Removal. 01/13/17 – Submitted by Mayor Martin 02/15/17 – Approved by Board of Finance	<b>APPROVED 8-0-0</b>
---	--	-----------------------

Chair Di Costanzo reminded Mr. Turk and Mr. Orgera that there is a process the Committee and the Board follows for appropriations and that there is an emergency appropriation process.

Mr. Fountain noted that under the Charter, the administration had obtained approval from the Chair of the Board of Finance for the expenditure of \$250,000 for salt as an

---

<sup>1</sup> Video Time Stamp 00:03:30

<sup>2</sup> Video Time Stamp 00:06:22

emergency, which is part of the \$800,000 appropriation. The salt had originally been requested by Mr. Turk on January 10<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Orgera distributed the [attached summary of storms and salt use for 2016-17](#). In response to questions from the Committee, Mr. Orgera and Mr. Turk explained that:

- Each snow event is unique; their goal is to keep the roads safe
- At the beginning of the season, the snow dome was at 80-90% capacity; the proposal is to go to 90%; preference is to begin/end the season with a full dome
- Salt prices continue to rise
- The plows cover 320 miles of roadway – salt use depends on storm conditions and type of road (windy, hilly roads get more salt)
- The State plows state roads, but if a City truck is going over a State road while getting to a City street, it will plow the street
- If the temperature is below 18 degrees, the City will also put down Calcium Chloride in addition to the salt
- It is cheaper to procure the salt through the State versus a regional bid
- There is a log kept of each truck's salt use

Ms. Di Costanzo noted that this amount is listed as a pending contingency on the [contingency report](#) distributed by Mr. Fountain. A motion to approve this item was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 8-0-0 (Reps. Di Costanzo, Cerasoli, Coleman, Fedeli, Figueroa, Miller, Mitchell and Silver in favor).

<sup>3</sup>3. [F29.508](#)                      ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION (Operating                      **APPROVED 8-0-0**  
\$75,000.00                      Budget); Norwalk Transit FY16/17 Transportation  
for the elderly; 16/17 funds used for late-billed 15/16  
invoice; needed to replenish the account to pay  
16/17 invoice.  
02/03/17 – Submitted by Mayor Martin  
02/15/17 – Approved by Board of Finance

Ms. Bromley explained that the Board had budgeted \$95,000 for this for the 15/16 fiscal year, but Norwalk Transit billed late last year, so the money went back into the general fund. She noted that this amount is lower than the original budget amount because usage of the service, which is only for able-bodied seniors, is down. Ms. Di Costanzo noted that this amount is listed as a pending contingency on the [contingency report](#) distributed by Mr. Fountain. A motion to approve this item was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 8-0-0 (Reps. Di Costanzo, Cerasoli, Coleman, Fedeli, Figueroa, Miller, Mitchell and Silver in favor).

4. [F29.509](#)                      REJECTION; Capital Project Closeout; Project Nos.                      **HELD**  
\$2,113,751.13                      C5B613, C31072, C5B217, C36668, CP6567  
Multiple Projects Totaling \$2,113,751.13.  
02/08/17 – Submitted by Mayor Martin  
02/01/17 - Approved by Planning Board  
02/15/17 – Held by Board of Finance

---

<sup>3</sup> Video Time Stamp 00:41:24

5. [F29.510](#)      ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION (Capital Budget);      **HELD**  
 \$625,000.00      Toquam Indoor Air Quality Issues; Offset Grant  
 Closeout; Replace Roof; Replace Roof Fan,  
 Upgrade Chiller, Hallway Piping, Ceiling  
 Replacement And Mold Remediation.  
 02/08/17 – Submitted by Mayor Martin  
 02/01/17 - Approved by Planning Board  
 02/15/17 – Held by Board of Finance
6. [F29.511](#)      ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION (Capital Budget);      **HELD**  
 \$25,000.00      Westhill HS Infrastructure Renovations; Offset  
 Grant Closeout; Replace Mechanical Rooftop  
 Equipment.  
 02/08/17 – Submitted by Mayor Martin  
 02/01/17 - Approved by Planning Board  
 02/15/17 – Held by Board of Finance
- <sup>4</sup>7. [F29.504](#)      REVIEW; FY 2016 Certified Annual Financial      **REPORT MADE**  
 Report.  
 01/18/17 – Submitted by Rep. Di Costanzo

Mr. Yanik reviewed [excerpted pages of the CAFR](#) with the Committee and responded to questions as follows:

- Blum Shapiro were the auditors and issued a clean opinion
- The measurement focus is basis of accounting
- RSI-1 (p. 1) measures the actual budget. There was an additional \$ 4,157,960 assigned for retroactive labor payments that had not been settled
- There is about 2.2 million available from current year operations, compared to about 2.1 million on the prior year.
- Exhibit III (p. 2) has different categories of Fund Balance: Nonspendable is primarily inventory and supplies, Committed is a combination of what they are proposing to designate from Fiscal 16 and funds previously designated there, unassigned is available. This is detailed on p. 3.
- BOE has underbudgeted for OPEB for Fiscal 17
- The City is in good shape from a liquidity standpoint (p. 5), cash went down but short term investments are available to address the City's needs
- Intergovernmental receivables has gone up, which the City is watching
- Exhibit V (p. 8-9) the WPCA is doing a good job of managing their cash balance; their operating results are similar to the previous year and well managed accounts receivable; they are building up their reserves
- Pension funds (p. 10) are all down from last year (the market was not up at the end of the Fiscal Year
- The OPEB funding ratio is up (p. 11)

- <sup>5</sup>8 [F29.505](#)      REVIEW; Annual Safe Debt Limit Report.      **REPORT MADE**  
 01/18/17 – Submitted by Rep. Di Costanzo

---

<sup>4</sup> Video Time Stamp 00:49:20

<sup>5</sup> Video Time Stamp 01:12:10

Mr. Fountain reviewed the Debt Limit report and explained that it is very similar to last year's report. The school and police station have put a lot of pressure on the debt.

- They are proposing \$25 million in GO Bonds for the next 3 years, which does not come close to covering the City's capital needs
- The BANs are in the event they are necessary to fund the new school construction
- Bond premiums are expected to be lower this year, as interest rates increase
- The debt service is expected to come down after 17-18

<sup>6</sup>9. [F29.512](#) REVIEW; FY 16/17 Second Quarter Projections. **REPORT MADE**  
02/06/17 – Submitted by Rep. Di Costanzo

Mr. Fountain reviewed the February 6, 2017 memo with the Committee:

- They are expecting an excess of revenue of \$1.4 million, primarily because of the conveyance tax increase
- They projected enough for Senior Tax Abatement and tax appeals this year
- Tipping Fees are down because one large customer was not paying
- Two transportation state grants were cancelled after the budget was finished
- Revenues are looking approximately \$893,000 over budget.
- Money must be set aside for union contracts which have not yet been negotiated

Chair Di Costanzo adjourned the meeting at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Monica Di Costanzo, Chair

This meeting is on [video](#).

---

<sup>6</sup> Video Time Stamp 01:21:00