

MAYOR
DAVID R. MARTIN



RICHARD FREEDMAN
CHAIR
MARY LOU T. RINALDI
VICE CHAIR
GEOFF ALSWANGER
FRANK CERASOLI
DAVID MANNIS
KIERAN M. RYAN

TEL: (203) 977-4699
FAX: (203) 977-5030

BOARD OF FINANCE

STAMFORD GOVERNMENT CENTER
888 WASHINGTON BOULEVARD
P.O. BOX 10152
STAMFORD, CONNECTICUT 06904-2152

BOARD OF FINANCE REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

Thursday, January 14, 2021 – 7:00 p.m.

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Richard Freedman called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: RICHARD FREEDMAN, CHAIR; MARY LOU RINALDI, VICE CHAIR;
GEOFF ALSWANGER, FRANK CERASOLI, DAVID MANNIS AND KIERAN RYAN, MEMBERS

OTHERS PRESENT: TAMU LUCERO; JAY FOUNTAIN; AL CAVA; TED JANKOWSKI; TIMOTHY SHAW; DIEDRICH HOHN; KAREN CAMMAROTA; BILL KLOUS; TONY ROMANO; CHRISTOPHER SOULES; JACKIE HEFTMAN; SANDY DENNIES; LOU CASOLO; KEVIN MCCARTHY; AND CYNTHIA WINTERLE

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: There was no public participation.

REPORTS TO THE BOARD: There were none.

1. **MINUTES** (Video: 00:01:32)
Request for approval of minutes of the following December 2020 meetings:
 - A. Audit Committee Meeting – December 10, 2020 (Exhibit 1A)
 - B. Regular Monthly Meeting – December 10, 2020
 - C. Special Meeting – December 17, 2020

Submitted by: Clerk, Board of Finance

Motion to approve by Ms. Rinaldi, second by Mr. Mannis, passed with a unanimous vote (6-0-0).

2. DISCUSSION ON BUDGET MATTERS WITH MAYOR DAVID MARTIN (Video: 00:02:08)
Mayor Martin was not present.

ITEMS LISTED IN ORDER THEY WERE PRESENTED

12. APPROPRIATION OF A PORTION OF PRIOR YEAR GENERAL FUND BALANCE FY2019-20
(Video:00:02:16)

Request for appropriation of a portion of prior year general fund balance FY2019-20 which will serve to fund the transfer of funds from the General Fund towards Board of Education capital projects. (This item is linked with Item 13.)

Action Requested: Approval of transfer of funds
Amount: \$2,800,000
Fund/Budget: From: General Fund
To: BOE Capital Projects Fund
Submitted by: Mayor David Martin
Attending: Sandra Dennies, Director of Administration

Ms. Dennies said this request is in accordance with a Memorandum of Agreement between the Board of Education and the Board of Finance which allows the BOE to use up to 1% of its budget for Capital projects. She said that the use of these funds will be discussed in Item 13.

Motion to approve by Ms. Rinaldi, second by Mr. Mannis, passed with a unanimous vote (6-0-0).

3. BUDGET UPDATE – BOARD OF EDUCATION (Video: 00:04:31)

Superintendent of Schools Tamu Lucero provided a brief update on the BOE budget. She said they are still operating on a slight surplus and are tracking on-budget; however she cautioned that there are a lot of things still going through. She is hopeful they will see more funding from the CARES Act.

4. ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION – UAW RETRO WAGE PAYOUT (Video:00:10:07)

Request to appropriate wage increase obligations from FY 17/18 (\$1,227,420) and FY18/19 (\$792,278) for UAW per contract settlement.

Action Requested: Approval of additional appropriation
Amount: \$2,019,698
Fund/Budget: Fund Balance
Submitted by: Al Cava, Director, Human Resources
Attending: Jay Fountain, Director of OPM

Items 4 through 7 are related. Mr. Fountain explained the retro payout and its funding.

Motion to approve by Mr. Freedman, second by Mr. Cerasoli, passed with a unanimous vote (6-0-0).

5. ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION – UAW WAGE INCREASE FY20/21 (Video: 00:13:53)
Request to appropriate funds per the increased obligations for FY20/21 per a recent contract settlement.

Action Requested: Approval of additional appropriation
Amount: \$855,787
Fund/Budget: Contingency
Submitted by: Al Cava, Director, Human Resources
Attending: Mr. Fountain

Mr. Fountain said this appropriation represents the UAW raise for FY20-21.

Motion to approve by Mr. Cerasoli, second by Mr. Alswanger, passed with a unanimous vote (6-0-0).

6. ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION – FY21 CONTINGENCY APPROPRIATION UAW AND DENTAL RESERVE - FY20 WAGE INCREASE (Video: 00:15:28)
Request to appropriate funds that are no longer needed to fund future obligations of the City - \$400,000 for UAW and \$6,000 for Dental Hygienists of the City.

Action Requested: Approval of additional appropriation
Amount: \$406,000 (\$400,000 UAW and \$6,000 Dental Hygienists)
Fund/Budget: Contingency
Submitted by: Al Cava, Director, Human Resources
Attending: Mr. Fountain

This is the impact of the 0% increase for FY19-20. OPM had reserved these funds for the raises and, as both settled at 0%, is now reallocating the funds to contingency.

Motion to approve by Mr. Cerasoli, second by Mr. Alswanger, passed with a unanimous vote (6-0-0).

7. ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION – FY21 FUND BALANCE APPROPRIATION UAW AND DENTAL RESERVE – FY20 WAGE INCREASE (Video: 00:17:48)
Request to appropriate funds that are no longer needed to fund future obligations of the City. \$400,000 for UAW and \$6,000 for Dental Hygienists of the City.

Action Requested: Approval of additional appropriation
Amount: \$406,000 (\$400,000 UAW and \$6,000 Dental Hygienists)
Fund/Budget: Fund Balance
Submitted by: Al Cava, Director, Human Resources
Attending: Mr. Fountain

This also is the impact of the 0% increase for FY19-20. OPM had reserved these funds for the raises and, as both settled at 0%, is now allocating the funds to the fund balance.

Motion to approve by Mr. Freedman, second by Mr. Cerasoli, passed with a unanimous vote (6-0-0).

8. ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION – COMMUNITY RESPONSE INITIATIVE (Video: 00:18:57)
Request for an additional appropriation to provide a comprehensive, effective response to the mental health and social service needs of the Stamford community. The Community Response Initiative is an innovative partnership and collaboration between Recovery Network of Programs (RNP) and the Stamford Police Department embedding a bilingual social worker to work directly out of the Stamford Police Department. RNP is a non-profit, social service organization that has been serving the community for forty-eight years.

Action Requested: Approval of additional appropriation
Amount: \$73,500
Fund/Budget: Contingency
Submitted by: Ted Jankowski, Director, Public Safety, Health and Welfare
Attending: Mr. Jankowski; Timothy Shaw, Police Chief; Diedrich Hohn, Police Captain

Mr. Jankowski, introduced Chief Shaw and Captain Hohn. Chief Shaw described the initiative and the plans for the Police to work together with social workers and Captain Hohn, who will spearhead this initiative, provided examples of mental illness incidents where social workers can be more effective - with Police support when needed. EMS support is also part of this response initiative.

Motion to approve by Ms. Rinaldi, second by Mr. Alswanger, passed with a unanimous vote (6-0-0).

9. CAPITAL PROJECT CP6599 APPROPRIATION REQUEST – DYKE LANE PUMP STATION UPGRADE (Video: 00:41:21)
Request for a Capital Project (CP6599) appropriation changing the fund source from Bond to Federal Grant.

Action Requested: Approval of Capital Project CP6599 appropriation
Amount: \$1,060,291
Fund/Budget: Federal Grant
Submitted by: William Brink, Executive Director, WPCA
Attending: Tony Romano, Management Analyst, OPM; Karen Cammarota, Grants Officer; Kevin McCarthy, Facilities Manager

Mr. Romano said the reason for this request is that the City received more grant funds than were anticipated.

Motion to approve by Mr. Mannis, second by Mr. Alswanger, passed with a unanimous vote (6-0-0).

10. CAPITAL PROJECT CP1460 APPROPRIATION REQUEST – PUBLIC SAFETY VEHICLE REPLACEMENT & UPGRADE (Video: 00:42:47)
Request for a Capital Project (CP1460) appropriation changing the fund source from Bond to Capital Non-Recurring.

Action Requested: Approval of Capital Project CP1460 appropriation
Amount: \$816,000
Fund/Budget: Capital Non-Recurring
Submitted by: Bill Klous, Fleet Manager
Attending: Messrs. Jankowski, Romano, Shaw and Klous ...continued

Mr. Romano indicated this is a similar situation to Item 9.

Motion to approve by Mr. Cerasoli, second by Ms. Rinaldi, passed with a unanimous vote (6-0-0).

11. ADVISORY OPINION – SECURITY GUARDS CONTRACT – BOARD OF EDUCATION
(Video: 00:43:41)

In accordance with the City of Stamford Charter Section C6-20-7 the Board of Finance is asked to issue an advisory opinion on a labor settlement according to the Tentative Agreement between the Board of Education and Stamford BOE Security Guards, UPSEU.

Action Requested: Issuance of Advisory Opinion
Submitted by: Christopher Soules, Esq., Interim Executive Director of Human Resources, Board of Education
Attending: Mr. Soules; Superintendent Lucero; Jackie Heftman, Member BOE

When the collective bargaining agreement has been finalized and signed, the Board of Finance shall render an advisory opinion to the Board of Representatives of the total cost and potential long-term tax burden of the agreement.

Mr. Soules gave an executive summary on this 3-year labor settlement for the period July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2023. Members of the Board expressed their appreciation for the union's cooperation with these negotiations.

Motion to provide a favorable opinion by Mr. Alswanger, second by Mr. Mannis, passed with a unanimous vote (6-0-0).

(Item 12 was presented at the beginning of the meeting.)

13. APPROPRIATION CAPITAL PROJECT 001230 – 229 NORTH STREET (BOARD OF EDUCATION) (Video: 00:52:40)

Request for a Capital Projects appropriation in the amount of \$2,800,000 for Phase 1 work that includes building code modifications, project design and FF&E/Technology to enable the BOE Anchor program to occupy 229 North Street facility for Fall 2021. (This item is linked with Item 12.)

Action Requested: Approval of Capital Project 001230 appropriation
Amount: \$2,800,000
Fund/Budget: Capital Non-Recurring
Submitted by: Lou Casolo, City Engineer
Attending: Mr. Casolo

Mr. Casolo provided a brief presentation and said this location is a good fit for the Anchor Program for this coming September. Phase I work will bring the space up to code and he has a Phase II cost assessment of \$4,428,000.

Following a lengthy discussion, Mr. Freedman made a motion to approve a lesser amount of \$2,400,000 for this work.

Motion to approve this item for \$2,400,000 by Mr. Freedman, second by Mr. Cerasoli, passed with a unanimous vote (6-0-0).

14. APPROPRIATION CAPITAL PROJECT 001229 – STAMFORD HIGH CLASSROOMS, COURTYARD AND PARKING (Video: 01:18:16)

Request for State Bond funding to conduct five (5) projects at Stamford High School to support the International Baccalaureate Diploma Program (IBDP), UConn Early College Experience, Early College Studies program, and the larger Stamford High community. Projects include new IBDP furniture, two (2) science classroom renovations, limited front parking lot upgrades, limited courtyard upgrades, and building-wide classroom, office and corridor signage.

Action Requested: Approval of Capital Project 001229 appropriation
Amount: \$551,110
Fund/Budget: State Grant
Submitted by: Lou Casolo, City Engineer
Attending: Kevin McCarthy, Facilities Manager; Karen Cammarota, Grants Officer

Mr. McCarthy provided information on this grant commitment and the work proposed. Thanks were given to our State Senators and local Representatives who collaborated with High School Principal Ray Manka, Alex Bergstein, Caroline Simmons, Matt Blumenthal, Dan Fox, David Michel, Dudley Williams, Robin Druckman and Carl Leone who led the effort and brought it before our Legislators.

Motion to approve by Mr. Alswanger, second by Mr. Cerasoli, passed with a unanimous vote (6-0-0).

15. APPROPRIATION CAPITAL PROJECT 000612 – BOE DISTRICT-WIDE RENOVATION ASSESSMENT (Video: 01:21:08)

Request for a renovation assessment of Westhill High School and Lockwood Avenue School. The assessment report will be submitted to the State for grant fund reimbursements.

Action Requested: Approval of Capital Project 000612 appropriation
Amount: \$200,000
Fund/Budget: Capital Non-Recurring
Submitted by: Lou Casolo, City Engineer
Attending: Mr. Casolo

Mr. Casolo has completed the necessary materials for a renovation assessment of the Westhill High School facility and Lockwood Avenue site. He outlined two options for each location and scope of the assessment. Once completed the options selected will be put into a grant proposal for submission to the State by June 30.

Dr. Lucero expanded on this project.

Motion to approve by Mr. Alswanger, second by Mr. Mannis, passed with a unanimous vote (6-0-0).

16. CAPITAL PROJECT CLOSEOUT RECOMMENDATION (Video: 01:31:47)
Request for the partial closeout of Capital Projects in the total amount of \$3,569,134.30 as outlined in Exhibit #16 and pursuant to Stamford City Code Section 8-2.

Action Requested: Approval of partial closeout of Capital Projects
Amount: \$3,569,134.30
Fund/Budget: Various - Bond or State Grant – as indicated
Submitted by: Anthony Romano, Management Analyst, OPM
Attending: Jay Fountain, Director of OPM, Mr. Romano

Mr. Romano provided information on these closeouts - most are older projects, some will be repurposed – and answered questions from members.

17. BUDGET PRESENTATION CALENDAR – 2021-22 (Video: 01:36:26)
Request for approval of the 2021-22 Budget Presentation Calendar

Action Requested: Approval
Submitted by: Cynthia Winterle, Clerk
Attending: Ms. Winterle

Some minor changes were made to the calendar and Mr. Freedman outlined the BOF budget process for the three (3) newest members to the Board.

18. ADJOURNMENT (Video: 01:48:06)

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 p.m. by Ms. Rinaldi, second by Mr. Freedman, passed with a unanimous vote (6-0-0).

The next Regular Meeting of the Board: Thursday, February 11 at 7:00 p.m.

[This meeting is on video.](#)

Cynthia R. Winterle

**Cynthia R. Winterle
Clerk of the Board**