

FINAL

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION BOARD CITY OF STAMFORD MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 4, 2024 REGULAR MEETING CONDUCTED VIA INTERNET AND CONFERENCE CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Gary H. Stone, Chairman
Laura Tessier, Member
David Kozlowski, Alternate Member
Stephen Schneider, Alternate Member

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Leigh Shemitz, Member
Todd Gambino, Member
Thomas Romas, Alternate Member

STAFF PRESENT:

Robert Clausi, Executive Director
Lesley Capp, OSS, Land Use Bureau

Mr. Stone called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. Seated to vote for the meeting were Mr. Stone, Ms. Tessier, Mr. Kozlowski, and Mr. Schneider.

➤ ACTION ITEM:

Operating Budget Considerations for 2024-2025

Mr. Stone stated the main purpose of this meeting is to discuss and approve the request for the 2024-2025 EPB budget and then invited Mr. Clausi to address the topic.

Mr. Clausi referred to the memorandum he sent to the members on December 28, 2023, in which he provided orientation to the line-item report of the last three fiscal year budgets and the draft departmental request for the upcoming fiscal year's budget that was attached to the memorandum. Mr. Clausi stated that the amounts approved in the FY 2023-2024 budget should be sufficient if carried forward for the upcoming fiscal year, subject to changes to salary-related items that may be required based on the contractual obligations of the City.

Mr. Clausi recommended the Board also approve the addition of a Protective Clothing line item to this year's departmental request, noting that providing jackets, hats, and similar outerwear to EPB staff which clearly identify them to be official City employees would assure citizens with whom staff interact and would bring EPB in line with other City departments that have investigative and enforcement duties.

During the general discussion that followed, a point was raised that other clothing items, such as pants that provide protection against ticks, would also be appropriate to provide for staff. Several members expressed their opinion that the \$600.00 suggested for the Protective Clothing line item seemed insufficient to budget in the first year and, after further discussion, the members came to a consensus that \$900.00 would be a more appropriate amount.

Hearing no further comments, Mr. Stone called for a motion to approve the 2024-2025 budget request.

Motion/Vote: Upon a motion by Mr. Kozlowski and second by Ms. Tessier, the Board voted to **APPROVE** the 2024-2025 budget request as presented with a \$900.00 line item for Protective Clothing, subject to changes that may be required based on contractual obligations of the City of Stamford.

In Favor: Stone, Tessier, Kozlowski, Schneider
Opposed / Abstaining / Not Voting: None

Following consideration of the budget, Mr. Kozlowski announced this would be his last EPB meeting as he is stepping down from the Board. The Chairman and other members thanked Mr. Kozlowski for his service and contributions to EPB's efforts and wished him well.

➤ **ADJOURN:**

Motion/Vote: Upon a motion by Mr. Kozlowski and second by Mr. Schneider, the Board voted to **ADJOURN** the Regular Meeting of January 4, 2024.

In Favor: Stone, Tessier, Kozlowski, and Schneider
Opposed / Abstaining / Not Voting: None

Meeting adjourned at 7:49 p.m.

Gary H. Stone, Chairman
Environmental Protection Board