



BOARD OF FINANCE
STAMFORD GOVERNMENT CENTER
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VICE CHAIR
GEOFF ALSWANGER
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MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF FINANCE SPECIAL MEETING

Monday, April 17, 2023

A special meeting to approve the Mayor's Proposed FY 2023-24 Operating, Capital, Special Fund and Board of Education Budgets of the City of Stamford was held by the Board of Finance on Monday, April 17, 2023, via ZOOM. The meeting was convened at 7:03 PM. Members present were Chair Richard Freedman, Vice-Chair Mary Lou Rinaldi, Members: Geoff Alswanger, Laura Burwick, Dennis Mahoney and J.R. McMullen. Also present were Sandy Dennies, Director of Administration, Elda Sinani, Director of OPM, Anthony Romano, OPM Management Analyst, Adrienne Tovar, OPM Management Analyst and Julie Lazcano, OPM Coordinator.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: There were no speakers.

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

The Board adjourned the meeting at 9:14 PM after passing/failing the following motions:

BOARD OF EDUCATION BUDGET

A motion by Mr. Freedman, seconded by Mr. Alswanger, to reduce the Board of Education budget (Program 9000) by \$1,250,000 passed unanimously with a vote of 6-0-0. Before passing, a motion to amend the original motion to reduce the Board of Education budget (Program 9000) by \$5,400,000 was made by Mr. Mahoney, seconded by Mr. McMullen. The amended motion failed by a vote of 2-4-0. Mr. Freedman, Ms. Rinaldi, Mr. Alswanger and Ms. Burwick voted against. Another motion to amend the original motion to reduce the Board of Education budget (Program 9000) by \$1,500,000 was made by Ms. Rinaldi, seconded by Ms. Burwick. This amended motion failed 3-3-0. Mr. Freedman, Mr. Alswanger and Ms. Burwick voted against.

CITY OPERATIONS BUDGET

A motion by Ms. Burwick, seconded by Mr. Alswanger, to reduce Salaries (Fund 1100) by \$100,000 passed 4-2-0. Mr. Mahoney and Mr. McMullen voted against. Before passing, a motion to amend the original motion to reduce Salaries (Fund 1100) by \$253,000 was made by Ms. Rinaldi, seconded by Mr. Mahoney. The amended motion failed, 3-3-0. Mr. Freedman, Mr. Alswanger and Ms. Burwick voted against.

A motion by Ms. Rinaldi, seconded by Dennis Mahoney to reduce Controller/Salaries (Program 1032) by \$146,517. Motion failed, 3-3-0. Mr. Freedman, Mr. Alswanger and Ms. Burwick voted against.

A motion by Ms. Burwick, seconded by Ms. Rinaldi to reduce OPM/Salaries (Program 1011) by \$68,269. Motion passed unanimously, 6-0-0.

A motion by Mr. Alswanger, seconded by Mr. Mahoney to reduce Vehicle Maintenance/Salaries (Program 2121) by \$55,429. Motion passed unanimously, 6-0-0.

A motion by Ms. Rinaldi, seconded by Mr. Alswanger to reduce Vehicle Maintenance/Overtime (Program 2121) by \$26,361. Motion passed unanimously, 6-0-0.

A motion by Ms. Rinaldi, seconded by Ms. Burwick to reduce Government Center/Overtime (Program 2133) by \$9,500. Motion passed unanimously, 6-0-0.

A motion by Mr. Freedman, seconded by Ms. Burwick to reduce Government Center/Contracted Services-Engineering (Program 2133) by \$19,000. Motion passed unanimously, 6-0-0.

A motion by Mr. Freedman, seconded by Mr. Alswanger to reduce Government Center/Contracted Services-Custodial (Program 2133) by \$40,000. Motion passed unanimously, 6-0-0.

A motion by Ms. Rinaldi, seconded by Mr. Freedman to reduce Facilities Maintenance/Salaries (Program 2135) by \$101,889. Motion passed unanimously, 6-0-0.

A motion by Mr. Freedman, seconded by Ms. Rinaldi to reduce Old Town Hall/Contracted Services-Engineering (Program 2149) by \$100,000. Motion passed unanimously, 6-0-0.

A motion by Ms. Burwick, seconded by Ms. Rinaldi to reduce Building Department/Salaries (Program 2137) by \$110,639. Motion passed unanimously, 6-0-0.

A motion by Mr. Alswanger, seconded by Ms. Rinaldi to reduce Construction Management/Salaries (Program 2201) by \$117,393. Motion passed unanimously, 6-0-0.

A motion by Mr. Freedman, seconded by Ms. Burwick to reduce Land Use Administration/Salaries (Program 2300) by \$35,000. A motion to amend original motion by Ms. Rinaldi, seconded by Mr. McMullen to reduce Land Use Administration/Salaries (Program 2300) by \$101,889. Vote passed 4-2-0. Mr. Freedman and Mr. Alswanger voted against.

A motion by Ms. Burwick, seconded by Mr. Freedman to reduce Star Center/Seasonal (Program 2528) by \$46,759. Motion passed unanimously, 6-0-0. Before passing, a motion to amend original motion to reduce Star Center/Seasonal (Program 2528) by \$159,538 by Ms. Rinaldi, seconded by Mr. McMullen failed 2-4-0. Mr. Freedman, Mr. Alswanger, Ms. Burwick and Mr. Mahoney voted against.

A motion by Ms. Burwick, seconded by Ms. Rinaldi to reduce Parks and Recreation Administration/Salaries (Program 2530) by \$78,976. Motion passed unanimously, 6-0-0.

A motion by Richard Freedman, seconded by Ms. Rinaldi to reduce Emergency Communications Center/Salaries (Program 3350) by \$652,390. Motion passed unanimously, 6-0-0.

A motion by Ms. Rinaldi, seconded by Richard Freedman to reduce Police Department/Salaries (Program 3300) by \$500,000. Motion passed unanimously, 6-0-0.

A motion by Mr. Freedman, seconded by Ms. Rinaldi to reduce Fire Department/Salaries (Program 3510) by \$350,000. Motion passed unanimously, 6-0-0.

A motion by Mr. Freedman, seconded by Ms. Burwick to reduce Director of Health/Salaries (Program 3810) by \$53,378. Motion passed unanimously, 6-0-0.

A motion by Mr. Alswanger, seconded by Ms. Burwick to reduce Community Nursing/Salaries (Program 3822) by \$143,657. Motion passed unanimously, 6-0-0.

A motion by Mr. Alswanger, seconded by Ms. Rinaldi to reduce Human Resources/Salaries (Program 4020) by \$115,084. Motion passed unanimously, 6-0-0.

A motion by Ms. Rinaldi, seconded by Ms. Burwick to reduce Human Resources/Salaries (Program 4020) by \$85,117. Motion passed unanimously, 6-0-0.

A motion by Mr. Alswanger, seconded by Ms. Rinaldi to reduce Economic Development/Salaries (Program 1200) by \$121,980. Motion passed unanimously, 6-0-0.

A motion by Ms. Rinaldi, seconded by Richard Freedman to reduce Employee Benefits/Active Medical & Life (Program 8301) by \$300,000. Motion passed unanimously, 6-0-0.

A motion by Ms. Rinaldi, seconded by Mr. Alswanger to reduce OPEB/Police OPEB Service Cost and OPEB/Police OPEB UAL Amortization (Program 8403) by \$2,500,000 (*total between the two items*). Motion passed unanimously, 6-0-0.

A motion by Ms. Rinaldi, seconded by Mr. Mahoney to reduce Non-City Social Services (Program 6055) by \$378,089. A motion to amend by Mr. Freedman, seconded by Ms. Burwick to reduce Non-City Social Service (Program 6055) by \$328,089. The amendment reduces Charter Oaks FY23-24 increase to \$92,589. while eliminating all other FY23-24 increases for Non-City Social Services. The amended motion passed. 3-1-2. Ms. Rinaldi voted against. Mr. Mahoney and Mr. McMullen abstained. The specific reductions are:

- Senior Center: Reduction of \$40,500
- Inspirica: Reduction of \$10,000
- Charter Oak Communities: Reduction of \$92,589
- Community Night Program: Reduction of \$100,000
- New Covenant Center: Reduction of \$65,000
- Community Pool Summer Program: Reduction of \$20,000
- Total Reduction: \$328,089

A motion by Ms. Rinaldi, seconded by Ms. Burwick, to reduce Cultural & Environmental (Program 6056) by \$153,500. A motion to amend the reduction amount to \$154,000 by Ms. Rinaldi, seconded by Mr. Freedman. The amended motion passed 5-1-0. Mr. Mahoney voted against. The specific reductions are:

- DSSD: Reduction of \$40,000
- Boys & Girls Club – Yerwood Center: Reduction of \$17,500
- Stamford Partnership: Reduction of \$25,000
- Stamford Arts & Culture Grant: Reduction of \$50,000
- Childhood Learning Center: Reduction of \$21,500
- Total Reduction: \$153,500

CAPITAL BUDGET

A motion by Ms. Rinaldi, seconded by Mr. Mahoney, to reduce Building Infrastructure to Holly House/Soundwaters (001258) by \$356,000. Motion failed 3-3-0. Ms. Burwick, Mr. Freedman and Mr. Alswanger voted against.

A motion by Mr. Freedman, seconded by Ms. Rinaldi to reduce West Beach Park by \$50,000. Motion passed unanimously, 6-0-0.

A motion by Mr. Mahoney, seconded by Mr. McMullen, to reduce Housing Development Fund (C46047) by \$1,250,000. Motion failed unanimously, 0-0-6.

A motion by Mr. Alswanger, seconded by Ms. Rinaldi, to reduce Barrett Park (CP3149) by \$350,000. Motion passed unanimously, 6-0-0.

A motion by Ms. Rinaldi, seconded by Mr. Alswanger, to reduce Northrop Park (001264) by \$50,000. Motion passed unanimously 6-0-0.

A motion by Ms. Rinaldi, seconded by Ms. Burwick, to reduce Nemoitin Park (001283) by \$50,000. Motion passed unanimously, 6-0-0.

A motion by Ms. Burwick, seconded by Mr. McMullen to reduce Fire Apparatus (C63005) by \$1,700,000. Motion passed unanimously, 6-0-0.

A motion by Ms. Burwick, seconded by Ms. Rinaldi to reduce Citywide Vehicle Replacement & Upgrade (C65202) by \$250,000. Motion passed unanimously, 6-0-0.

FY 23-24 Summary of Reductions	
Board of Education budget reductions	(\$1,250,000)
City budget reductions	(\$6,279,799)
Capital budget reductions	(\$2,450,000)
Total reductions across all funds	(\$9,979,799)

The Board of Finance Special Meeting to set the Mill Rate is Monday, May 15, 2023, at 7 p.m. via ZOOM.

On a motion by Mr. Mahoney, seconded by Ms. Burwick, the meeting adjourned at 9:14 p.m.

[This meeting is on video.](#)

Tracy Donoghue

Tracy Donoghue,
Clerk of the Board