



**BOARD OF FINANCE**  
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CHAIR  
MARY LOU RINALDI  
VICE CHAIR  
GEOFF ALSWANGER  
LAURA BURWICK  
DENNIS MAHONEY  
J.R. McMULLEN

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## **ACTION REPORT (MINUTES) OF THE BOARD OF FINANCE FY 2024/25 SPECIAL BUDGET MEETING**

**Monday, April 16, 2024**

A special meeting to approve the Mayor's Proposed FY 2024-25 Operating, Capital, Special Fund and Board of Education Budgets of the City of Stamford was held by the Board of Finance on Monday, April 16, 2024, via ZOOM. The meeting was convened at 7:04 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 Ben Barnes, Director of Administration; Elda Sinani, Director of OPM; Bill Maguire, Assistant Director of OPM; Anthony Romano, OPM Management Analyst; Adrienne Tovar, OPM Management Analyst; Julie Lazcano, OPM Administrative Coordinator; and Dr. Tamu Lucero, Superintendent of Schools.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: Sue Halpern and Barry Michelson spoke.

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 9:37 p.m. after passing/failing the following motions:

### **BOARD OF EDUCATION BUDGET**

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

### **CITY OPERATIONS BUDGET**

A motion by Ms. Rinaldi, seconded by Mr. Mahoney, to reduce Controller/Salaries (Program 1032) by \$156,015, failed 3-3-0. Mr. Freedman, Mr. Alswanger and Ms. Burwick voted against.

A motion by Ms. Burwick, seconded by Ms. Rinaldi to reduce Internal Audits/Salaries (Program 1034) by \$48,942, passed unanimously, 6-0-0.

A motion by Ms. Burwick, seconded by Mr. McMullen to reduce Snow Removal/Overtime (Program 2114) by \$100,000, passed unanimously, 6-0-0.

A motion by Ms. Rinaldi, seconded by Mr. Alswanger to reduce Government Center/Overtime (Program 2133) by \$8,000, passed unanimously, 6-0-0.

A motion by Ms. Rinaldi, seconded by Mr. Mahoney to reduce Construction Management/Salaries (Program 2201) by \$128,147, passed unanimously, 6-0-0.

A motion by Ms. Burwick, seconded by seconded by Ms. Rinaldi to reduce Operations Administration/Salaries (Program 2600) by \$64,000, passed unanimously, 6-0-0.

A motion by Ms. Rinaldi, seconded by Ms. Burwick to reduce Public, Safety, Health & Welfare Administration/Salaries (Program 3101) by \$142,554, passed unanimously, 6-0-0.

A motion by Mr. Alswanger, seconded by Ms. Rinaldi to reduce Police Department/*general cut* (Program 3300) by \$250,000, passed unanimously, 6-0-0.

A motion by Mr. Freedman, seconded by Ms. Rinaldi to reduce Fire Department/*general cut* (Program 3510) by \$250,000, passed unanimously, 6-0-0.

A motion by Ms. Rinaldi, seconded by Ms. Burwick, to reduce Legal Department/Salaries (Program 4010) by \$40,517, passed unanimously, 6-0-0.

A motion by Mr. Alswanger, seconded by Ms. Rinaldi to reduce Human Resources/Civil Service Exams (Program 4020) by \$80,000, passed unanimously, 6-0-0.

A motion by Mr. Freedman, seconded by Ms. Burwick to reduce Employee Benefits (Program 8301) by \$731,973, passed unanimously, 6-0-0.

A motion by Mr. Freedman, seconded by Ms. Rinaldi, to reduce Non-City Social Services (Program 6055) by \$55,000, passed unanimously, 6-0-0. The specific lines reduced were a \$15,000 reduction to Liberation Programs, a \$20,000 reduction to Inspirica and a \$20,000 reduction to New Covenant Center.

A motion by Mr. Freedman, seconded by Ms. Rinaldi, to reduce Cultural & Environmental (Program 6056) by \$250,980, passed unanimously, 6-0-0. The specific lines reduced were a \$50,000 reduction to PAL, a \$30,000 reduction to Silversource, Inc., a \$10,000 reduction to the Multicultural Council, a \$60,980 reduction to Summer Care Poverty Alleviation, a \$70,000 reduction to Building One Community and a \$30,000 reduction to Jewish Family Services.

## **CAPITAL BUDGET**

A motion by Ms. Rinaldi, seconded by Ms. Rinaldi, to reduce Replacement of Chiller and Room A/C Units (001224) by \$150,000, passed unanimously, 6-0-0.

A motion by Mr. Alswanger, seconded by Ms. Rinaldi to reduce Scofield Bldg. Improvement & Exterior Repairs/Windows (CP1671) by \$225,000, passed unanimously, 6-0-0.

A motion by Mr. Mahoney, seconded by Mr. McMullen, to reduce Affordable Housing/Housing Development Fund (C46047) by \$750,000, passed unanimously, 6-0-0. The Board's intention was to reduce the proposed \$750,000 contribution to the Housing Development Fund.

A motion by Ms. Burwick, seconded by Mr. Mahoney, to reduce Government Center EV Infrastructure (001348) by \$301,198, passed unanimously, 6-0-0.

\*\*\*A motion by Ms. Rinaldi, seconded by Mr. McMullen, to reduce John Boccuzzi Park @ Southfield (CP8107) by \$600,000. Mr. Freedman made a motion to table the item to later in the meeting, seconded by Mr. McMullen. The motion to table the item passed unanimously 6-0-0.

A motion by Mr. Freedman, seconded by Ms. Rinaldi, to reduce Yerwood Center/Solar Top Array (001379) by \$454,230, passed unanimously, 6-0-0.

A motion by Mr. Alswanger, seconded by Mr. Mahoney to reduce Solar Array Atop Vehicle Maintenance Building (001367) by \$552,240, passed unanimously, 6-0-0.

A motion by Ms. Burwick, seconded by Mr. Mahoney, to reduce Overall Needs Assessment For City Fields (001254) by \$250,000, passed unanimously, 6-0-0.

A motion by Ms. Rinaldi, seconded by Mr. McMullen to reduce Electric Vehicle Charging Stations (CP4000008) by \$375,000, passed unanimously, 6-0-0.

A motion by Mr. Alswanger, seconded by Mr. Mahoney to reduce Barrett Park (CP3149) by \$50,000, passed unanimously, 6-0-0.

A motion by Mr. Alswanger, seconded by Mr. Mahoney to reduce Nemotin Park (001283) by \$50,000, passed unanimously, 6-0-0.

A motion by Mr. Freedman, seconded by Mr. Alswanger, to reduce Transfer Station Safety Upgrades (001378) by \$65,000, passed unanimously, 6-0-0.

A motion by Ms. Burwick, seconded by Ms. Rinaldi, to reduce Downtown Big Belly Units (001368) by \$84,000, passed unanimously, 6-0-0.

A motion by Mr. Mahoney, seconded by Ms. Burwick to reduce Citywide Sidewalks Reconstruction (C56123) by \$500,000, passed unanimously, 6-0-0.

A motion by Mr. Freedman, seconded by Mr. McMullen, to reduce Public Safety Complex Assessment (001391) by \$500,000, passed unanimously, 6-0-0.

A motion by Ms. Rinaldi, seconded by Mr. Mahoney, to reduce 911 Restroom and Kitchen Remodel Project (001357) by \$75,000, passed unanimously, 6-0-0.

A motion by Mr. Freedman, seconded by Mary Lou Rinaldi, to reduce Police Headquarters Infrastructure Improvements (CP5220) by \$225,000, passed unanimously, 6-0-0.,

A motion by Ms. Rinaldi, seconded by Ms. Burwick, to reduce Fire Apparatus (C63005) by \$275,000 passed unanimously, 6-0-0.

A motion by Ms. Burwick, seconded by Ms. Rinaldi, to reduce Public Safety Vehicle Replacement & Upgrade (CP1460) by \$250,000, passed unanimously, 6-0-0.

A motion by Mr. Freedman, seconded by Mr. Mahoney, to reduce Parking Division Vehicles (001360) by \$50,000, passed unanimously, 6-0-0.

\*\*\*Ms. Rinaldi amended her original motion from earlier in the meeting, to reduce John Boccuzzi Park @ Southfield (CP8107) by \$272,000, seconded by J.R. McMullen. Mr. Freedman made a motion to amend Ms. Rinaldi's amended motion to reduce John Boccuzzi Park @ Southfield by \$225,000. The motion to amend Ms. Rinaldi's amended

motion was seconded by Ms. Burwick. The motion to amend the amended motion passed unanimously, 6-0-0. Ms. Rinaldi's amended motion failed, 0-0-6. The original motion by Ms. Rinaldi, seconded by Mr. McMullen, to reduce John Boccuzzi Park @ Southfield (CP8107) by \$600,000, failed, 1-4-1. Mr. McMullen, Mr. Alswanger, Ms. Burwick and Mr. Freedman voted against. Mr. Mahoney abstained.

FY 24-25 Summary of Reductions	
Board of Education budget reductions	(\$3,000,000)
City budget reductions	(\$2,150,113)
Capital budget reductions	(\$5,406,668)
Total reductions across all funds	(\$10,556,781)

The Board of Finance Special Meeting to set the Mill Rate is Wednesday, May 15, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. via ZOOM.

On a motion by Mr. McMullen, seconded by Ms. Burwick, the meeting adjourned at 9:37 p.m.

[This meeting is on video.](#)

*Tracy Donoghue*

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Tracy Donoghue,  
Clerk of the Board