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

Action Report (Minutes) of the Board of Finance Special budget Meeting

 Thursday, April 15, 2021

A special meeting to approve the Mayor’s Proposed FY 2021-22 Operating, Special Fund, and Capital and the Board of Education Budgets of the City of Stamford was held by the Board of Finance on Thursday, April 15, 2021 via webinar. The meeting was convened at 7:05 PM. Members present were Chair Richard Freedman, Vice-Chair Mary Lou Rinaldi, Geoff Alswanger, Frank Cerasoli, David Mannis and Kieran Ryan.Also present were Sandy Dennies, Director of Administration, Jay Fountain, Director of OPM, Lee Berta, Assistant Director, OPM, Adrianne Tovar, OPM Management Analyst and Cynthia Winterle, Clerk of the Board of Finance.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: There were no speakers.

Mr. Freedman gave a short update on the current state of the budget and summarized the Board of Finance’s process leading to this evening’s meeting. He went through the order of the meeting.

The Board adjourned the meeting at 9:44 PM after passing the following motions:

BOARD OF EDUCATION BUDGET

On a motion by Mr. Freedman, seconded by Ms. Rinaldi, to reduce the Board of Education budget (Program 9000) $10,064,974 passed unanimously with a vote of 6-0-0.

The reduction was calculated as follows:

* $2,375,611 net reduction to account for changes in the Board of Education budget since it was passed by the BOE in January (specifically, reductions of $1,623,276 in healthcare; $609,243 in healthcare cross-charges from the City; $160,939 in pension expenses; $23,259 in OPEB expenses; and a $41,106 increase in insurance costs
* $6,000,000 in federal ESSER II funds secured subsequent to the passage of the BOE budget
* A $1,500,000 reduction in operating expenses
* An additional $189,363 reduction in operating expenses to account for the savings should the custodians switch their health insurance provider from the City’s self-insured plan to the State Partnership Plan.

CITY OPERATIONS BUDGET

A motion by Mr. Mannis, seconded by Ms. Rinaldi, to reduce Road Maintenance Heavy Equipment Operator (Program 2111) by one position and $55,592, passed unanimously (6-0-0).

A motion by Ms. Rinaldi, seconded by Mr. Cerasoli, to reduce Facilities and Parks Maintenance Overtime (Program 2133) by $5,000 passed unanimously (6-0-0).

A motion was made by Mr. Freedman, seconded by Ms. Rinaldi to reduce Facilities and Parks Maintenance Purchased Property Service (Program 2134) by $50,000 but before a vote was taken, a motion to *amend* the motion by adding an extra $50,000 to equal a $100,000 reduction was made by Mr. Cerasoli, seconded by Mr. Freedman, Following a discussion, the motion failed by a vote of 2-4-0 with Ms. Rinaldi and Messrs. Freedman, Alswanger and Mannis opposed. The original motion to reduce Facilities and Parks Maintenance Purchased Property Service (Program 2134) by $50,000 was then voted upon and passed unanimously (6-0-0).

A motion by Mr. Alswanger, seconded by Ms. Rinaldi to reduce Solid Waste Purchased Property Services - Haulaway (Program 2144) by $150,000 passed unanimously (6-0-0).

A motion by Ms. Rinaldi, seconded by Mr. Alswanger to reduce Operation Program Specialist 37.5 (Program 2201) by $79,316 passed unanimously (6-0-0).

A motion by Mr. Cerasoli, seconded by Ms. Rinaldi to reduce Public Health & Safety Other Salary (Program 3101 by $40,000 failed with a vote of 2-4-0 with Ms. Rinaldi and Messrs. Freedman, Alswanger and Mannis opposed.

A motion by Mr. Freedman, seconded by Ms. Rinaldi to eliminate the Assistant Director for 911 position (Program 3350) with a reduction of $98,369 passed unanimously (6-0-0).

A motion by Ms. Rinaldi, seconded by Mr. Freedman to make a general reduction to the Police Department (Program 0330) by $100,000 passed unanimously (6-0-0).

A motion by Mr. Alswanger, seconded by Mr. Mannis, to reduce the Police Department Community and Cultural (Program 3304) by $100,000 passed unanimously.

A motion by Mr. Mannis, seconded by Ms. Rinaldi to make a general reduction to the Fire Department (Program 0351) by $100,000 passed unanimously.

A motion by Mr. Freedman, seconded by Mr. Cerasoli to reduce Fire Suppression Overtime (Program 3521) by $100,000 passed unanimously (6-0-0).

A motion was made by Mr. Ryan, seconded by Mr. Cerasoli to reduce the Mayor’s Office Other Salary (Program 5010) by $50,458. Before this item was voted on and following a discussion, there was a second motion to amend the first motion with a reduction of $50,458, which passed unanimously (6-0-0)

A motion by Mr. Alswanger, seconded by Ms. Rinaldi to reduce Employee Benefits – Vacation Payout (Program 8301) by $50,000 passed unanimously.

A motion by Ms. Rinaldi, seconded by Mr. Cerasoli to reduce the Active Medical & Life (Program 8301) by $552,877 passed unanimously. This total represents the savings should the Police ($292,331), Firefighters ($254,189) and Assistant Corporation Counsels’ ($6,357) switch their health insurance provider from the City’s self-insured plan to the State Partnership Plan.

There was discussion on the Terry Conners Rink but no action was taken.

A motion by Mr. Ryan to reduce the Cultural & Environmental – Stamford Partnership (Program 6056) by $65,000 failed for lack of a second.

A motion by Mr. Ryan to reduce the Cultural & Environmental – Mill River Collaborative (Program 6056) by $42,500 failed for lack of a second.

A motion by Mr. Ryan, seconded by Ms. Rinaldi to reduce the Cultural & Environmental – Sound Waters (Program 6056) by $55,000 failed with a 3-3-0 vote with Messrs. Freedman, Alswanger and Mannis opposed.

CAPITAL BUDGET

There were no motions made to reduce the Capital budget; however, there was a short discussion on Capital Project CP0123 – West Beach Boat Ramp Replacement and the commitment made to improve this area, especially the boat ramp and docks.

|  |
| --- |
| **FY 20-21 Summary of Reductions** |
| **Board of Education budget reductions** | **($10,064,974)**  |
| **City budget reductions** | **($1,491,612)** |
|  |  |
| **Total reductions across all funds**  | **($11,556,586)** |

Before the meeting adjourned, Chair Richard Freedman thanked the many people who have assisted with this process. He especially thanked members of the Board of Finance, Mayor Martin, members of OPM, and members of the public

In turn, the members of the Board thanked Mr. Freedman for his leadership and dedication to the process and also their colleagues for their support and hard work.

The next and last Board of Finance meeting in the budget cycle is to set the Mill Rate on Tuesday, May 18, 2021.

On a motion by Ms. Rinaldi, seconded by Mr. Mannis, the meeting adjourned at 8:44 p.m.

[***This meeting is on video***](http://cityofstamford.granicus.com/player/clip/10364?view_id=4&redirect=true)***.***

 Cynthia Winterle

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Cynthia Winterle, Clerk of the Board