

**ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION BOARD
CITY OF STAMFORD
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF JANUARY 7, 2021
OPERATING BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS FOR 2021-22**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Gary H. Stone, Chairman
Dr. Leigh Shemitz, Member
Ashley A. Ley, Member
Laura Tessier, Member
Todd Gambino, Member
David J. Kozlowski, Alternate Member
Thomas C. Romas, Alternate Member
Stephen J. Schneider, Alternate Member

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

None

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Richard H. Talamelli, Executive Director/Environmental Planner

The meeting, which was conducted by Internet and Conference call, was video recorded. The meeting was called to order by Mr. Stone at 6:30 PM. Seated for the meeting were Mr. Stone, Dr. Shemitz, Ms. Ley, Ms. Tessier, and Mr. Gambino.

MINUTES:

APPLICATIONS AND PERMITS:

SITE PLAN REVIEWS:

SUBDIVISION REVIEWS:

ENFORCEMENT – STATUS REPORTS AND SHOW CAUSE HEARINGS

OTHER BUSINESS:

Proposed Operating Budget for 2021-22:

Staff Member Talamelli addressed the Board on matters pertaining to the EPB's proposed Operating Budget for Fiscal Year 2021-22. He noted that the EPB, under the provisions of the Ordinance, is expected to prepare and endorse a separate budget for its department. A budget, once endorsed by the EPB, shall be subject to further examination by the City's Administration and Fiscal Boards during the next several months.

Mr. Talamelli stated that the base operating budget is affected by many elements including the

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Board's operational needs, the administration's budgetary directives, past account performance, new initiatives, and other related factors. This year, all budgets are expected to be exceptionally lean given the circumstances relating to the pandemic. Accordingly, Mr. Talamelli reported that the proposed EPB Operating Budget for 2021-22 generally mimics that endorsed by the City in the prior years, with the following adjustments:

Cell Phone Purchase and Service/Justification: A proposed increase to support the purchase and service for two (2) cellular phones for two (2) EPB technical staff members to improve access and facilitate timely responses to telephone and other inquiries pertinent to the office - particularly important given our field responsibilities and remote work requirements under the current Covid protocols. The expansion will increase work efficiency and responsiveness, and will ultimately, result in both time and cost savings for both the City and its residents.

Program Expansion/Justification: The Environmental Protection Board (the "Board") seeks a program expansion to restore important technical review and inspection capabilities with an Environmental Enforcement Officer (UAW). An Environmental Enforcement Officer is required to maintain our commitment to serve the public in a prompt and efficient manner given the increasing intensity/complexity of development, the growing demands of essential environmental regulations/programming (such as Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System - MS4 and Community Rating System - CRS) and the City's recent initiatives to digitize paper, review permits electronically, and improve overall operational efficiencies. Note that the number of technical personnel linked to the EPB has, historically, eroded from a high of four (4) to the current level of three (3). The expansion will increase work efficiency and responsiveness, and will ultimately, result in both time and cost savings for both the City and its residents.

Discussion ensued between Staff/Board Members on numerous topics including the reporting of salaries, the value of the proposed Staff expansion, and the necessity of Staff phones to both improve accessibility and facilitate timely responses to inquiries pertinent to the office.

Motion/Vote: Upon a motion by Dr. Shemitz and seconded by Ms. Tessier, the Board voted to **APPROVE THE OPERATING BUDGET** for FY 2021-2022 as outlined on "Fiscal Year 2021-22 (Department Request) Program Detail Report," dated January 6, 2021 (as amended).

In Favor: Stone, Shemitz, Ley, Tessier, and Gambino
Opposed: None
Abstaining: None
Not Voting: Kozlowski, Romas, and Schneider

ADJOURN:

There being no further business, the Board, upon a motion by Ms. Ley and seconded by Mr. Gambino, voted to **ADJOURN** the Regular Meeting of January 7, 2021.

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In Favor: Stone, Shemitz, Ley, Tessier, and Gambino
Opposed: None
Abstaining: None
Not Voting: Kozlowski, Romas, and Schneider

Meeting adjourned at 6:46 PM.

Gary H. Stone, Chairman
Environmental Protection Board

Meeting Minutes: Prepared from meeting notes taken by Richard H. Talamelli, Executive Director/Environmental Planner

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