

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
MUNICIPAL ACCOUNTABILITY REVIEW BOARD (MARB)
MEETING NOTES
Ad-Hoc Committee of MARB Hartford Budget and Recovery Plan Review

Thursday March 29, 2018
10:00 am-12:00 pm
550 Main Street, Hartford - Room 100

Members present: Ben Barnes, Bill Cochran, Mark Waxenberg

City of Hartford staff present: Mayor Luke Bronin, Melissa McCaw, Howard Rifkin, Ronald VanWinkle, John Phillip, Leigh Ann Ralls

OPM staff present: Bob Dakers, Alison Fisher, Michael Sullivan

OTT Staff Present: Riju Das

Mr. Ben Barnes called the meeting to order at 10:08am.

Mayor Bronin delivered opening remarks.

Mr. Dakers reviewed the requirements of PA 17-21. Mr. Ben Barnes reiterated the importance of the MARB's role and the work to be done.

Ms. McCaw delivered a review of baseline assumptions for Hartford's FY19 budget, as well as a comprehensive overview of the proposed recovery plan.

Mr. Phillip provided information regarding the percentage of taxable properties in the City, as well as the assumptions regarding their ability to generate revenue.

Mr. Waxenberg asked that additional information/detail be requested from the Board of Education regarding their spending of the \$284m received from the City each year. Mr. Ben Barnes stated that PA 17-2 allows distressed municipalities to request Minimum Budget Requirement relief from the State Department of Education.

Mr. Ben Barnes applauded the City's efforts in controlling costs, and complimented Ms. McCaw on her thorough presentation of the proposed recovery plan.

Mr. Ben Barnes also requested the following:

- Comparison between pre and post recovery plan budgets, with changes highlighted.
- List/visual of all changes made to the City's budget prior to applying for MARB assistance.
- Commitment and status report from corporations who have promised a total of \$10m in FY19 and four years going forward.
- A 30 minute conference call in the morning of April 5, 2018, prior to the beginning of the scheduled MARB meeting.

Mr. Cochran requested the following:

- An update presented to the MARB on April 5th regarding the work done by both Hartford and West Haven ad-hoc committees since the March meeting.
- A potential vote on Hartford's recovery plan at the May MARB meeting.

Mr. Dakers indicated that he would circulate a schedule/timeframe for the MARB to comment/take action on Hartford's recovery plan.

Mr. Ben Barnes adjourned the meeting at 11:35am.