

**APPROVED**  
STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
MUNICIPAL ACCOUNTABILITY REVIEW BOARD (MARB)

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
Hartford Subcommittee of the MARB

**Meeting Date and Time:** Thursday, April 28, 2022, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

**Meeting Location:** This was a virtual meeting. Meeting materials may be accessed at the following website:  
<https://portal.ct.gov/OPM/Marb/Hartford-Committee-Meetings-and-Materials>

**Call-In Instructions:**

Telephone Number: (860) 840-2075

Meeting ID: 533 440 274

**Members in Attendance:** Kimberly Kennison (OPM Secretary designee), Christine Shaw (State Treasurer designee), Mark Waxenberg, Robert White

**City Officials in Attendance:** Jennifer Hockenull, Phillip Penn, John Philip, Natasha Banks, Debra Carabillo, Melinda Kauffman (Labor Attorney)

**OPM Staff in Attendance:** Julian Freund

I. Call to Order & Opening Remarks

The meeting was called to order at 10:10 AM.

II. Approval of Minutes:

a. March 24, 2022 regular meeting

Mr. Waxenberg made a motion, with a second by Ms. Shaw, to approve the minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

III. Review, Discussion and Possible Action: Labor Contracts:

a. Hartford Federation of Paraeducators

CFO Phil Penn and labor attorney Melinda Kaufmann presented a tentative agreement for a contract for a term of July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2024. It provides no retroactive wage increases prior to the current year, but does include a 2% general wage increase that is retroactive to July 1, 2021. GWIs of 2% in FY 2023 and 3% in FY 2024 are also provided. Step advancements are included for the current fiscal year and FY 2023. No step advancement is provided in FY 2024. The agreement also transitions all employees to a high deductible/health savings account insurance plan and increases premium cost shares from the current 10% to 11% over three years.

Mr. Waxenberg made a motion, with a second by Mr. White, to recommend to the MARB approval of the contract. All members voted in favor.

b. Local 1716, Council 4, AFSCME AFL-CIO

Ms. Hockenhull presented a tentative agreement for a contract with a term of July 1, 2021 – December 31, 2024. Covered employees include Public Works staff and other select positions in various departments. The agreement provides a general wage increase of 2% retroactive to January 1, 2022 followed by 2.5% GWIs for FY 2023 and FY 2024. Step advancement is provided in each year of the contract. No changes are made to health insurance provisions. The Subcommittee voted to recommend approval of the tentative agreement by the full MARB. Mr. Waxenberg noted that over a 10-year period, the union has accepted wage adjustments of 0% in five of those years.

Mr. Waxenberg made a motion, with a second by Ms. Shaw, to recommend to the MARB approval of the contract. All members voted in favor.

IV. Review, Discussion and Possible Action: Mayor's Recommended FY 2023 Budget

Mayor Bronin presented the Recommended FY 2023 Budget. The budget as proposed is essentially a status quo budget. The most significant change is the reduction in the real estate/personal property mill rate from 74.29 to 68.95 in response to the property revaluation. Residential values increased significantly while commercial values declined. The net result was an overall increase allowing for a mill rate reduction, which is a long-term goal of the City. The budget includes no borrowing and no one-time revenues. Revenue growth in the budget is driven by the increase in property values and the increased PILOT funding that was included in the FY 2022 State budget, but not reflected in the FY 2022 City budget. Corporate contributions are not included in the budget. The overall budget increase is 2.67% over the current year budget. Budgeted head count increases by twelve. The Contingency account is increased from \$2 million to \$3 million. Education is level funded in the General Fund. The budget does not rely on any ARPA funding.

Mr. White asked if the City is confident that its current mitigation plan will be sufficient to close projected budget gaps in the out-years [of the 5-Year Plan]. Mayor Bronin responded that future projections are based on conservative growth assumptions and that the City should successfully close any budget gaps, with the caveat that current inflation and wage pressures could cause the City to revisit a number of its assumptions going forward.

Mr. Waxenberg asked about the special ratio for residential property valuations. Mayor Bronin noted that the assessment ratio for residential property increased. He added that the overall tax impact in the FY 2023 budget will vary among property owners. Mr. Waxenberg also asked how the City budgets for employee health insurance. Ms. Hockenhull replied that the City uses the number of covered employees as of December as the basis for budgeting health insurance in the upcoming fiscal year.

Ms. Shaw asked about the trend in the City's contribution to the pension fund. The budget currently reflects a projection that was calculated during the prior year. The final ADEC will be determined at an upcoming pension meeting.

Ms. Kennison asked about the attrition factors used in the budget. Ms. Hockenhull replied that attrition amounts of \$1 million for non-sworn positions, \$3.7 million for Police, and \$356,000 for Fire are built into the FY 2023 budget. Ms. Kennison also noted the contingency and conservative assumptions the City uses in the 5-Year Plan. She asked the City to incorporate current year projections into the 5-Year Plan tables.

A motion was made by Mr. Waxenberg, with a second by Ms. Shaw, to recommend approval of the assumptions used in the FY 2023 Budget to the full MARB. All members voted in favor.

V. Review, Discussion and Possible Action: 5-Year Plan FY 2023 – FY 2027

Having discussed the 5-Year Plan during the FY 2023 budget review, a motion was made by Mr. Waxenberg, with a second by Mr. White, to recommend that the MARB approve the 5-Year Plan. All members voted in favor.

VI. Update: Budget Mitigation Measures

An updated written status report was included in the meeting materials.

VII. Other Related Business

Mr. Waxenberg noted information provided by the Board of Education showing the percentage of employees contributing to their health savings accounts. He remarked on the relatively low contribution rate. Mr. Penn noted that it may indicate a re-education opportunity.

VIII. Adjourn

Mr. White made a motion to adjourn with a second by Mr. Waxenberg. The meeting adjourned at 11:14 AM.