

APPROVED
STATE OF CONNECTICUT
MUNICIPAL ACCOUNTABILITY REVIEW BOARD (MARB)

SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
West Haven Subcommittee of the MARB

Meeting Date and Time: Wednesday, May 5, 2021 1:30 PM – 3:00 PM

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

Call-In Instructions:

Telephone Number: (860) 840-2075

Meeting ID: 110 291 341

Members in Attendance: Kimberly Kennison (OPM Secretary designee), Christine Shaw (State Treasurer designee), Patrick Egan, Robert White

City Officials in Attendance: Mayor Rossi, Frank Cieplinski, Lee Tiernan, Beth Sabo, Bill Ryan (labor attorney)

OPM Staff in Attendance: Michael Milone (OPM Liaison), Julian Freund

I. Call to Order & Opening Remarks

The meeting was called to order at 1:47 PM.

II. Approval of minutes:

a. April 20, 2021

A motion was made by Mr. White, with a second by Mr. Egan, to approve the minutes. All voted in favor.

III. Review, Discussion and Possible Action: Labor Contract

a. CWA Local 1103

The contract with CWA Local 1103 represents approximately 36 employees, primarily managers and supervisors. The MARB has until June 4 to take action on the contract if it chooses. Mr. Ryan provided an overview of the tentative agreement. The term of the contract would be from July 2017 to June 2024. The contract mirrors most of the major provisions in other recently approved contracts. General wage increases of 1% in FY 2022, 2% in FY 2023 and FY 2024 are included with an additional \$0.25 increase in the hourly rate for all positions and steps. No retroactive wage increases are included. Employee contributions to health insurance premium cost increase by an additional percentage point in each of the next three fiscal years. New hires will not be eligible for sick leave payout at retirement or retiree health benefits. Members discussed a provision to allow the City to discipline employees that abuse sick leave in certain situations.

A motion was made by Mr. Egan with a second by Ms. Shaw to recommend approval of the contract by the MARB. All voted in favor.

IV. Review, Discussion and Possible Action: FY 2022 Recommended Budget

The City has addressed several open items from previous Subcommittee review of the proposed budget. A contingency plan regarding use of the ARPA funds in the FY 2022 budget has been provided. Additional detail has been included in the exhibit displaying the combined mill rates across the three fire districts, and as previously reviewed, the Allingtown Fire Fund budget was amended to include additional contributions to the pension fund and for OPEB. Several items related to the 5-Year Plan remain open. Ms. Kennison explained that the 5-Year Plan would be taken up for action at the next Subcommittee meeting.

The City's projected fund balance for the end of FY 2022 aligns with the targets included in previously adopted versions of the 5-Year Plan. Members discussed the contingency measures assembled by the City and the use of one-time revenues in the budget. Among the contingency measures would be the delay of hiring for new positions. Mr. Cieplinski noted several positions for which hiring might be delayed if necessary, such as the Human Resources Commissioner and the new positions in IT and Finance. Mayor Rossi explained that the City also anticipates additional funding will be available once the State budget is adopted.

Mr. White suggested that the 5-Year Plan be augmented to include the City's plan for transitioning out of MARB oversight.

A motion was made by Mr. White, with a second by Ms. Shaw, to recommend to the full MARB approval of the FY 2022 budget. The subcommittee approved the motion by a vote of 3-0-1 with Mr. Egan abstaining.

V. Adjourn

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Egan with a second by Mr. White. The meeting adjourned at 2:35 PM.