

DRAFT
STATE OF CONNECTICUT
MUNICIPAL ACCOUNTABILITY REVIEW BOARD (MARB)

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
West Haven Subcommittee of the MARB

Meeting Date and Time: Tuesday, July 20, 2021 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/West-Haven-Committee-Meetings-and-Materials>

Call-In Instructions:

Telephone Number: (860) 840-2075

Meeting ID: 613 367 44

Members in Attendance: Secretary McCaw, Christine Shaw (State Treasurer designee; joined after approval of minutes), Stephen Falcigno, Thomas Hamilton, Robert White, Patrick Egan (joined after approval of minutes)

City Officials in Attendance: Mayor Rossi, Frank Cieplinski, Chief Terenzio (Allingtown Fire Department), Chief Scafierello (West Shore Fire Department), Chief O'Brien (First District Fire Department)

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

I. Call to Order & Opening Remarks

The meeting was called to order at 10:01 AM.

II. Approval of minutes:

a. June 10, 2021 Special Meeting

A motion to approve the minutes was made by Mr. White, with a second by Mr. Hamilton. The motion passed 4-0-0.

III. Review and Discussion: Update from Fire Districts

The Fire Study prepared by ESCI in 2019 included a set of recommendations to help the districts rein in costs, begin to address long-term liabilities, and to create some efficiencies. The chiefs from each of the districts presented an update on their progress in implementing the recommendations from the report, including the creation of a Tri-District Commission, the adoption of more conservative budgeting practices, and increasing their contributions to their respective pension funds. The districts are also working collaboratively on a plan for a joint apparatus purchase that will acquire six pieces of apparatus over the next three years. Members discussed the districts' long-term liabilities and their impact on long term financial planning. Additional amounts of State Aid that was unbudgeted in the current fiscal year may, in part, be directed toward reducing long-term liabilities

as well as setting aside for capital expenditures. If the higher level of funding is sustained, a portion may help provide property tax relief. Follow-up steps identified by the Secretary and the Subcommittee members include detailing plans for consolidating pension investment management, finalizing plans for improving the funded status of pension and OPEB funds, linking those plans to the districts' multi-year financial plans, and developing reserves policies.

IV. Review and Discussion: ARPA Funding Overview and City Priorities

Mr. Freund provided an overview of the structure of ARPA funding to municipalities, eligible uses of the funds and reporting requirements. Mr. Milone described the City's efforts to calculate their revenue loss which will correspond to one of the categories of eligible uses of the funds. He also outlined some possible priority areas for the City's consideration. Mayor Rossi indicated that the City will likely use the additional PILOT funding in FY 2022 to offset the \$1.5 million of ARPA funding that was included in the budget. She referenced several options for helping businesses in the community.

V. Other Business

There was no other business.

VI. Adjourn

Ms. Shaw made a motion to adjourn, with a second by Mr. White. The meeting adjourned at 11:48 AM.