

**DRAFT**

STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
MUNICIPAL ACCOUNTABILITY REVIEW BOARD  
**SPRAGUE SUBCOMMITTEE**  
**RESCHEDULED MEETING MINUTES**

**Meeting Date and Time:** Thursday, May 4, 2023, 10:00 PM – 12:00 PM

**Meeting Location:** This was a virtual meeting. Meeting materials can be found at [Municipal Accountability Review Board \(ct.gov\)](https://www.ct.gov/municipal-accountability-review-board)

**Call-in Instructions:** Telephone: (860) 840-2075  
Access Code: 244 481 997 329

Members in Attendance: Kimberly Kennison (OPM Secretary designee), Kevin Alvarez (Alternate-State Treasurer designee), Sal Luciano, Mark Waxenberg

Town Officials in Attendance: First Selectman Cheryl Blanchard, Melissa Sevigny, Superintendent William Hull, Michele Demicco

OPM Staff in Attendance: Simon Jiang, Bill Plummer, Michael Reis, Lori Granato, Lori McLoughlin

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:03 AM.

II. Approval of Minutes:

i. March 23, 2023, Subcommittee Regular Meeting

Mr. Luciano made a motion to approve the minutes, with a second by Ms. Kennison. The minutes were approved by a vote of 2-0-1 with Mr. Waxenberg abstaining.

III. Review, Discussion and Possible Action: Board of Finance FY 2024 Proposed Budget

Mr. Kennison indicated that the Town's original FY 2024 BOF Budget was provided to the March Subcommittee meeting. Per the Subcommittee's request, the City revised the budget by increasing mill rate from 28.10 to 28.50 to build up the fund balance. This revised budget was approved by BOF on April 18<sup>th</sup>, but subject to public hearing, which is set for Monday, May 8<sup>th</sup>.

Ms. Blanchard, Town's First Selectwoman provided an overview of the Budget with a 4.8% overall revenue increase and 4.3% expenditure increase compared to FY 2023 Budget. She also provided an overview of Town's FY2024 to FY 2028 5-Year Plan. She

stated that the 5-Year Plan is conservative with zero increase of grand list from FY2025 to FY2028. The mill rate increased from 28.50 in FY 2024 to 31.75 in FY2028. Salaries increased 2% year over year.

Mr. Waxenberg questioned the Board of Education (BOE) to determine if the State's funding over Excess Cost Sharing for special education was budgeted. Mr. Hull, BOE's Superintendent said it has been left blank since there are a lot of variables. He also indicated that more students have been accepted into technical schools compared to any other time, and small districts started collaborating on special education transportations.

Mr. Waxenberg asked for the BOE vacancies in the budget. Mr. Hull stated that they have been hiring substitutes to fill the vacancies.

Ms. Kennison questioned the expense cuts to the Town Council's budget in 5-Year Plan. Ms. Blanchard said the legal expenses for several lawsuit will be stopped.

Mr. Luciano made a motion to recommended BOF FY 2024 Proposed Budget to the MARB for approval, seconded by Mr. Waxenberg. The motion was approved unanimously.

#### IV. Review, Discussion and Possible Action: Sprague Proposed 5-Year Plan

The discussion of 5-Year plan was discussed with the FY 2024 Proposed Budget. Ms. Kennison and Mr. Waxenberg suggested that Town need to develop a 5-Year plan on Capital Non-Recurring Fund, and BOE.

Sprague's FY 2024 Budget and 5-Year Plan will be brought before the MARB on May 18, 2023. Ms. Kennison invited the Town to appear in person to present their FY 2024 Proposed Budget and 5-Year Plan to the MARB.

Mr. Luciano made a motion to recommend Sprague's 5-Year Plan to the MARB for approval, seconded by Mr. Waxenberg. The motion was approved unanimously.

#### V. Other Related Business

Ms. Blanchard gave the timeline of the FY 2024 Budget that the BOF will have a meeting on May 22<sup>nd</sup> to approve any adjustments recommended by MARB.

#### VI. Adjourn

Mr. Luciano made a motion to adjourn, second by Mr. Waxenberg. The meeting adjourned at 10:41 AM.