

BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
TOWN HALL ROSE ROOM  
FEBRUARY 28, 2018  
MINUTES

Present: First Selectman Christine Goupil: Selectmen Carol Walter, Phillip Sengle, Tim Guerra and Jack Scherban

Everyone stood and pledged allegiance to the flag. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM.

**VISITORS**

K. Carr distributed Board of Education budget information to the board.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES –FEBRUARY 21, 2018**

Walter made a motion, seconded by Scherban to approve the minutes from February 21, 2018. The motion was unanimously approved.

**RESIGNATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS**

Sengle made a motion, seconded by Walter to accept the resignation of Jay Ciarleglio from the Zoning Board of Appeals. The motion was unanimously approved.

Scherban made a motion, seconded by Guerra to appoint Dara Onofrio as the Board of Finance liaison to the Capital Expenditure Committee. The motion was unanimously approved.

**FINALIZE 2018/2019 BOARD OF EDUCATION OPERATING AND CAPITAL BUDGET**

Sengle made a motion, seconded Walter to reduce the Board of Education operating budget by \$957,505 for a total budget of \$32,178,436 which represents the 2017/18 Board of Education operating budget and send to the Board of Finance. After some discuss Goupil called the motion to a vote. The motion failed to pass with a vote of 2 in favor (Walter and Sengle) and 3 opposed (Scherban, Guerra and Goupil).

Scherban made a motion, seconded by Guerra to approve a total Board of Education operating budget of \$33,135,941 and send to the Board of Finance. After some discussion Goupil called the motion to a vote. The motion passed with a vote of 3 in favor (Scherban, Guerra and Goupil) and 2 opposed (Walter and Sengle).

Sengle made a motion, seconded by Walter to reduce the Board of Education capital budget by \$76,500 for a total budget of \$400,000 and send to the Board of Finance. The motion was unanimously approved.

Guerra made a motion, seconded by Scherban to approve a total Board of Education budget of \$36,153,322 which includes an operating budget of \$33,135,941, \$2,617,831 debt service budget and \$400,000 capital budget and send to the Board of Finance. The motion was approved with a vote of 3 in favor (Scherban, Guerra and Goupil) and 2 opposed (Walter and Sengle).

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**SELECTMEN'S REPORTS**

Reported by Sengle

- Inland Wetlands Commission has a public hearing scheduled for Tuesday, March 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM on the Shoreline Rail & Recycling application.

Reported by Walter

- The Board of Selectmen scheduled a joint meeting with the Board of Finance and Water Pollution Control Commission for Wednesday, March 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm to discuss the future planning of WPCC.

Reported by Guerra

- Economic Development Commission update

Reported by Scherban

- Police Commission update

Report by Christine

- Crash Course on Economic Development & Planning Workshop is scheduled for Friday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>
- Goupil attended the River COG meeting this morning. A representative from the CT DOT attended the meeting and discussed the reductions to the Special Transportation Fund. Goupil discussed the short term and long term problems going forward if no action is taken. A copy of the letter Goupil received from Commissioner Redeker will be attached to the minutes along with additional information on the budget cuts to the Special Transportation Fund.

**ADJOURN**

Scherban made a motion, seconded by Sengle and unanimously adjourned the meeting at 8:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Schettino



# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

2800 BERLIN TURNPIKE, P.O. BOX 317546  
NEWINGTON, CONNECTICUT 06131-7546



Office of the  
Commissioner

February 14, 2018

An Equal Opportunity Employer

Ms. Christine Goupil  
First Selectwomen  
Town of Clinton  
54 East Main St.  
Clinton, CT 06413

### **Board of Selectmen**

**FEB 20 2018**

**Clinton, CT 06413**

Dear First Selectwomen Goupil:

Subject: Clinton Railroad Station

Thank you for your recent letter and for your concern over the negative effects that shortfalls in the Special Transportation Fund (STF) will have on critical transportation initiatives like the planned improvements to the Clinton Railroad Station.

At this time, the Department of Transportation (Department) has completed the design for the improvements at the Clinton Station. As you mentioned, this project supports planned transit-oriented redevelopment, an important goal for the Department.

However, the STF cannot support the Department's existing services and planned capital expenditures without additional revenues. Therefore, the Department has initiated plans to implement very significant capital and operating budget reductions, which will reduce anticipated expenditures to currently projected STF revenues.

Without additional revenue for the STF, the Department will continue to take actions to indefinitely postpone projects progressing toward construction. It is our hope that actions will be taken to address the revenue shortfall in the STF, allowing these deferred projects to continue to construction.

If you have additional questions, please contact Ms. Pam Sucato from the Department's Office of Legislative Services at (860) 594-3013. The Department looks forward to working with you to identify an appropriate solution to the ongoing STF revenue shortfall.

Sincerely,

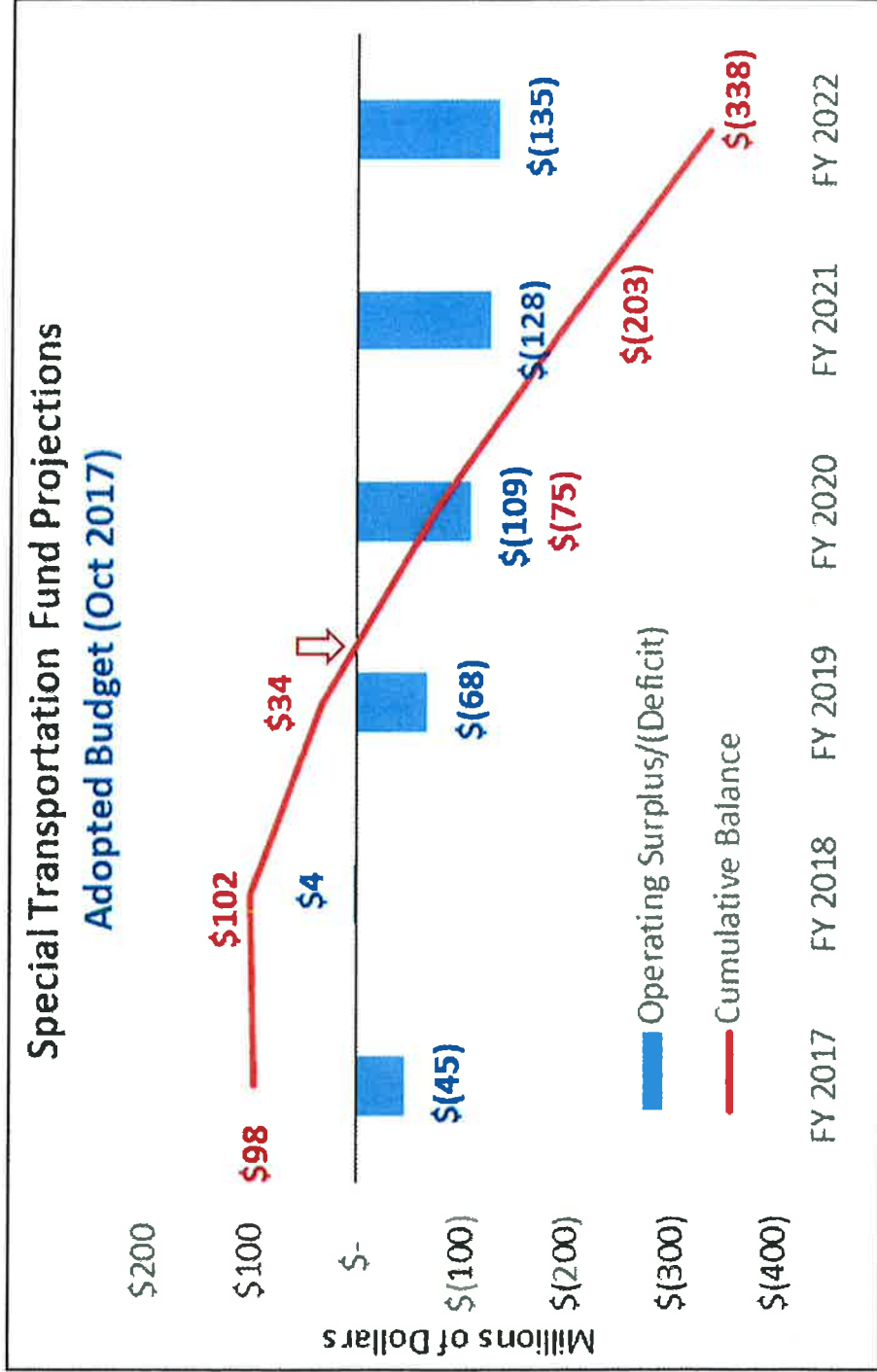
James Redeker  
Commissioner



# Special Transportation Fund (STF)

*The problem, impacts, & potential fixes*

# Problem: STF reserves depleted in FY19



# Why sudden urgency?

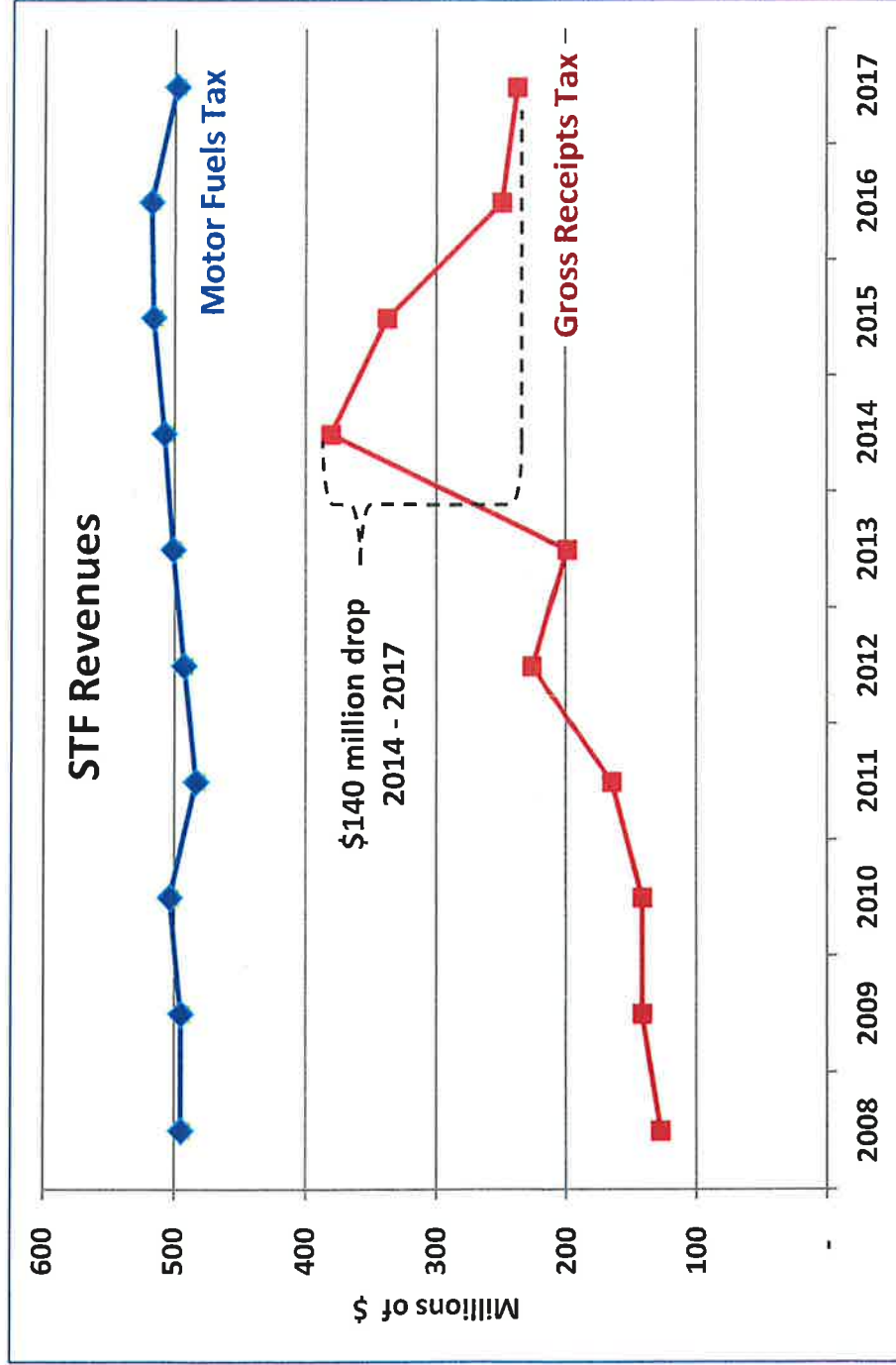


**2015:** Finance Panel discussed the problem in 2015

**Since 2015:** problem accelerated

- debt service on prior bonds rising
- revenues dropping faster than expected.

# STF revenues flat or declining *big drop after 2014*



25 cents/gal since 1996  
Gas sales flat, but will decline with better fuel efficiency & EVs

Gas price dropped from \$4.00/gal to \$2.50/gal

# Problem



## **Short Term: inability to sell bonds**

- STF bond proceeds are fully committed to existing projects.
- Need additional bond sales to:
  - continue **existing capital program** (construction \$ for projects currently in design)
  - start **new projects** (all new projects on hold)
- **Cannot sell new bonds** with negative balance within 5-year budget.

## **Longer Term: problem will get worse over time**

- Debt service & operating costs continue rising
- **Gas tax unsustainable:** as consumption drops as fuel efficiency & EVs increase.



# Corrective Action Taken in December



## **Governor acted:** to adjust budget to enable bond sale

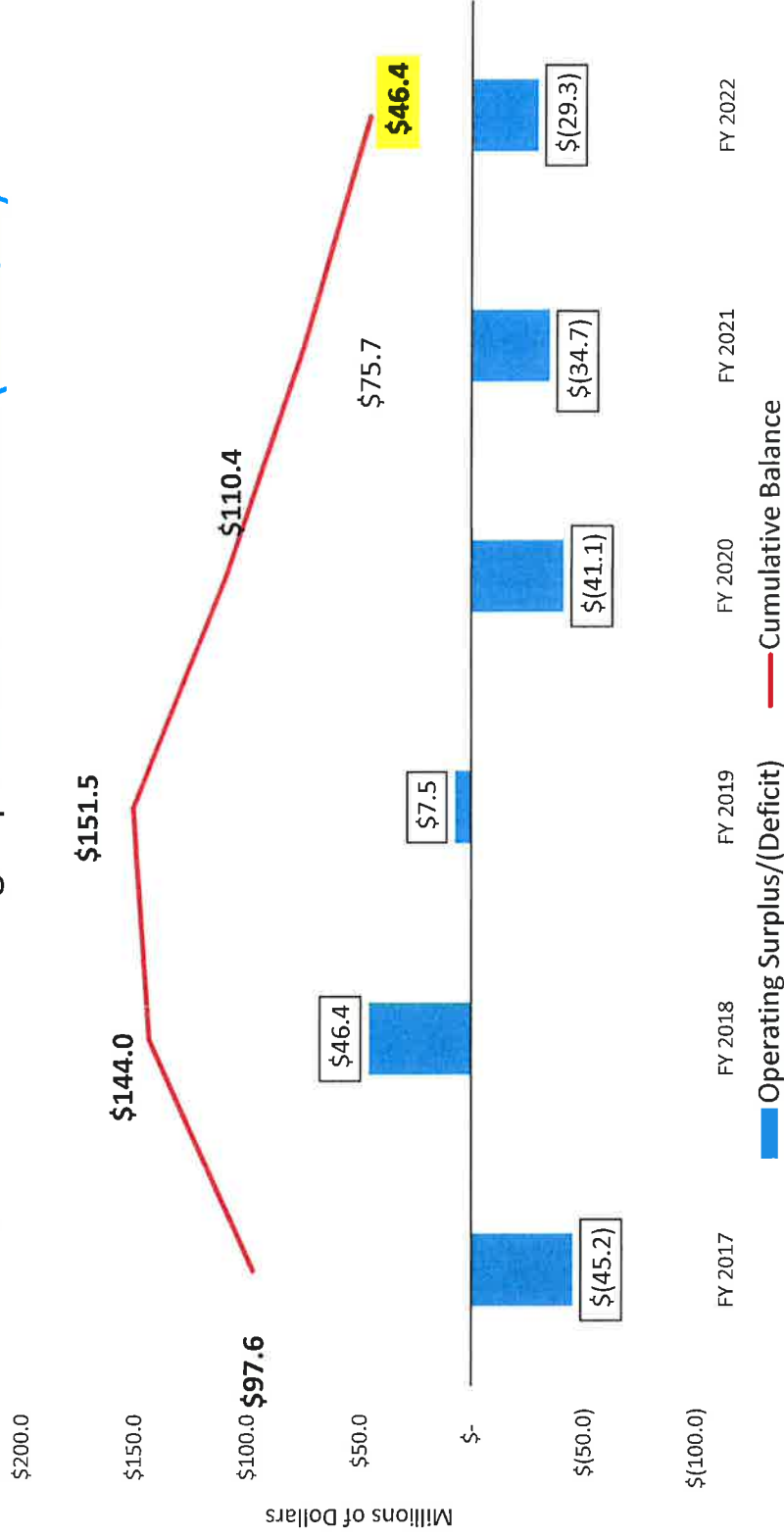
- Operating budget cuts
- Staff cuts (thru attrition)
- Transit service cuts
- Fare increases
- Capital projects put on hold:
  - Program scaled back to available federal funds (plus 20% state match)
  - Big impacts to 100% state-funded projects:
    - **LOTICIP (Local Transportation Capital Improvement Program)**
    - **Town-Aid Road**
    - State Trail & Bike-Ped programs
    - State's own PAYGO program

# RESULT of program cuts:

STP solvent in year 5



Special Transportation Fund Projections  
Based on Table 8 including Expenditure Reductions (Dec 2017)





# **Impact of Program Cuts**

## **& prospects for resolution**

Discussions with Legislature last few weeks indicate an acknowledgement of the problem & the need to act

# Operating Budget Cuts/Actions



## DOT Administrative Impacts

- Reduction in DOT Staffing – currently 423 vacancies (14%)

## Highway and Bridge Impacts

- Reduction in PAYGO bridge maintenance & road paving programs
- Completely close Rest Areas
- Reduced maintenance staff will impact service levels for snow events and routine maintenance

## Bus Impacts

- Eliminate Non-ADA local bus service subsidies
- 15% Bus Fare Increase FY 2019
- Transit District 15% Subsidy Cut FY 2019
- Transit District 50% Subsidy cut FY 2021
- Additional CMAQ subsidy for CTfastrak
- 5% Bus service reduction in FY 2021

# Operating Budget Cuts/Actions



## Rail Impacts

- 10% Rail Fare Increase FY 2019
- 5% Rail Fare Increase FY 2021
- 5% Rail Fare Increase FY 2022
- Metro-North Non-Service Expense Reductions FY 2019
- No Weekend and Some Off-Peak Service Reductions :
  - Danbury, Waterbury, & New Canaan rail lines FY 2019
- 50% Reduction in Shoreline East Service FY 2019

## Capital projects at risk (partial list): Highways & Bridges



- **LOTICIP**
- **Town Aid Road Payments to Municipalities** - portion from STO Bonds
- **Local Bridge projects** without a fully executed agreement
- Pavement; VIP underfunded by \$21m/yr and Preservation by \$25 m/yr
- Hartford Charter Oak Bridge (unless Federal grant approved)
- Woodbridge CT 15 West Rock (Heroes) Tunnel
- Norwalk 7/15 Interchange
- Hartford I-84 Viaduct
- **Middletown Route 9 Signals/Bridges**
- Waterbury 8/84 Interchange (Mixmaster)
- West Hartford, I-84 Construct Operational Lanes EB & WB
- I-95 Widening between Stamford to Bridgeport
- I-95 Widening from the Baldwin Bridge to the Gold Star Bridge
- Danbury, Reconstruct I-84 between Exits 3 & 8
- Gold Star Bridge NB (Phase 2)
- Maintenance Facility Rehabs and Replacements
- Salt Shed Roof replacements and wetland remediation

## Capital projects at risk (partial list): Rail



- New Haven Railroad Station Parking Garage (PE and Con)
- Hartford Line stations: North Haven, Newington, W.Hartford, Windsor, Enfield
- Hartford Line: double tracking (Hartford - Springfield)
- **Clinton Railroad Station**
- Merritt 7 Railroad Station (PE and Con)
- Stamford Railroad Station Parking Garage (PE and Con)
- Stamford Railroad Station Pedestrian Bridge(PE and Con)
- Orange Railroad Station
- **Madison Railroad Station – Pedestrian Bridge and Parking Garage**
- Bridgeport Barnum Railroad Station
- Cos Cob Bridge Repairs

## Actions needed to avoid these cuts



**New short-term revenues:** sufficient to fix 5-year problem

**To prevent FY 2019 cuts:**

- need legislative action **within weeks – not months**
- transit fares & service cuts take up to 6 months to implement
- construction projects need to be advertised by early spring
  - \$400 million in projects now on hold
  - risk losing an entire construction season
  - immediate impact on construction industry & jobs



# Governor's proposed fix



- Short-term corrections
  - Increase **gas tax 7 cents**: start in FY19: +2,+1,+2,+2 (**\$105M/Yr** by FY22)
  - **New tire fee**: \$3/tire sold (**\$8m/year**)
  - Accelerate transfer of **sales tax on new cars** from General Fund to STF
    - Start in FY19 instead of FY 21 phase (transition over 5 years: **\$300M/Yr** by FY23)
- Long-term correction: start in **5 years**
  - Implement **statewide tolling** (**\$600-\$800M/year**)



# QUESTIONS