

**CITY OF NORWALK  
BOARD OF ESTIMATE & TAXATION  
REGULAR MEETING  
DECEMBER 4, 2017**

**ATTENDANCE:** Edwin Camacho, Chairman; Mayor Harry Rilling; James Feigenbaum; Anne Yang-Dwyer; James Page (6:35 p. m.)

**STAFF:** Robert Barron, Director of Finance; Lunda Asmani, Director of Management and Budgets; Donna King, City Clerk

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Rilling called the meeting to order at 6:32 p. m. A quorum was present.

Mayor Rilling appointed Mr. Camacho as Chair of the Board.

- \*\* MAYOR RILLING MOVED TO ADD HUMAN RELATIONS & FAIR RENT: \$5,400 BUDGET TRANSFER FOR DBE REGISTRATION PILOT PROGRAM.**
- \*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**November 6, 2017 – Regular Meeting**

- \*\* MR. FEIGENBAUM MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 6, 2017 AS SUBMITTED.**
- \*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Mr. Page entered the meeting at 6:35 p. m.

**2. SPECIAL APPROPRIATIONS AGENDA (SECTION A)**

**FY 2017-18**

**\$435,489 from Contingency to the Board of Education to offset reductions in State Aid.**

- \*\* MAYOR RILLING MOVED THAT A SUM NOT TO EXCEED \$435,489 BE AND THE SAME BE HEREBY TRANSFERRED FROM CONTINGENCY TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO OFFSET REDUCTIONS IN STATE AID.**

Mayor Rilling stated that under state law, the Board of Estimate & Taxation is authorized to place up to 1% of the Board of Education's operating surplus from the prior year into a non-lapsing fund. \$435,489 is the amount of the surplus that is still available to be reserved under the 1% cap after accounting for the SPED Development Fund reserve.

Mr. Barron stated that the Board of Education's request of \$435,489 is in order to offset the reduction in state aid and to continue making progress on the Board of Education strategic operating plan. Mr. Barron stated that \$435,489, in addition to the \$1,300,331 for the Special Education development program and the \$25,680 for Brien McMahon MacBooks which were reserved in September, equals \$1,761,500, or 1% of the Board of Education's 2016-17 approved budget of \$176,150,073.

Mr. Tom Hamilton came forward. He stated that the Board's request was tabled in September based on the uncertainty that surrounded the State budget situation. Now that the State budget situation has been resolved, the Board of Education is requesting that these surplus funds be returned to the Board's budget. He stated that the Board of Education will see reductions of about \$644,000 in various State grants for FY 2017-18 compared to the amounts received in FY 2016-17.

Mr. Hamilton stated that the District planned for potential grant reductions, but our ability to continue to make progress on achieving the objectives of the District's Strategic Operating Plan is still ultimately dependent upon the availability of funding. He stated that the return of the surplus funds to the Board of Education will help ensure that the progress the District has made will continue.

Mr. Hamilton stated that there have been discussions between the Board of Education and the City over contracting out snow removal operations at the two District high schools. This would allow the Department of Public Works crews to complete plowing operations at the remaining schools and all City locations more quickly than has been possible in the past. We hope this will allow us to avoid the need to cancel school when the roads are otherwise safe, but not all school lots have been plowed.

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

### **3. TRANSFER AGENDA (SECTION B) - NONE**

Human Relations & Fair Rent: \$5,400 Budget Transfer for DBE Registration Pilot Program.

**\*\* Mayor Rilling moved to approve the Human Relations & Fair Rent Department transfer of \$5,400 from the Wages & Salaries – Regular account to the Wages & Salaries Part-time account.**

Mayor Rilling stated that the City of Norwalk entered into an agreement with General Growth Properties for the construction of the SoNo Collection project. The agreement includes a commitment by GGP to award 10% of their contracts to Disadvantaged Business Enterprises. The NAACP conducted research and concluded that a number of these qualified business enterprises in Norwalk are not certified with the state and therefore unable to effectively participate in the growing number of construction projects in the City. He stated the Human Relations Fair Rent Department, in collaboration with the Norwalk Branch of the NAACP intends to partner with a consultant to launch the Norwalk DBE Registration Pilot Program.

Ms. Yang-Dwyer stated that there should not be a need for \$5,400. A mailing from the Mayor to local businesses as well as an interview with a local newspaper would suffice in getting the word out. She

stated that we need to contact our state legislators and enlist their help in expediting the process. The process of putting in the application is lengthy and helping businesses through the process will be needed.

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Mayor Rilling left the meeting at 7:13 p. m.

#### **4. OTHER BUSINESS (SECTION C)**

No items were brought forward.

#### **5. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION (SECTION D)**

**Special Appropriation  
Status of Contingency**

**Financial reports**

**Oak Hills Financial Status – October 2017**

**Year-to-date Capital Budget Report – FY 2017-18**

**Year-to-date Operating Revenues Report – FY 2017-18**

**Year-to-date Operating Expenditure Report – FY 2017-18**

**Year-to-date BOE Operating Expenditure Report – FY 2017-18**

**Tax Collector’s Narrative – October 2017**

**Tax Collector’s Report – October 2017**

**Salary accounts**

**Police**

**Fire**

**Public Works**

Mr. Asmani submitted the Special Appropriation, Status of Contingency, Financial Reports, and Salary Accounts.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

**\*\* MR. FEIGENBAUM MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:14 p. m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Blaney  
Telesco Secretarial Services

City of Norwalk  
Board of Estimate & Taxation  
December 4, 2017  
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