

**CITY OF NORWALK
FINANCE/CLAIMS COMMITTEE
JANUARY 11, 2018**

ATTENDANCE: Gregory Burnett, Chair; Douglas Hempstead; John Igneri (7:26 p. m.)

STAFF: Fred Gilden, Comptroller; Lisa Biagiarelli, Tax Collector

1. ROLL CALL

Mr. Burnett called the meeting to order at 7:09 p. m. and called the Roll.

2. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No member of the public came forward.

3. APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE FOLLOWING FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETINGS:

December 14, 2017

The minutes were not voted on due the absence of a quorum.

4. CLAIMS COMMITTEE: RECEIVE THE MONTHLY CLAIMS REPORT; REVIEW AND APPROVE CLAIMS AS REQUIRED FOR CLAIMS REPORT DATED JANUARY 11, 2018

Ms. Biagiarelli stated that there were no items on the monthly claims report over \$10,000 and that no action was required.

5. NARRATIVE ON TAX COLLECTIONS DATED JANUARY 11, 2018 – RECEIVE REPORT AND DISCUSS.

6. MONTHLY TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORTS – RECEIVE REPORTS AND DISCUSS:

December 31, 2017

Ms. Biagiarelli stated that as of the end of December 2017, we collected in excess of \$203 million or 65.39% of our \$311 adjusted tax levy. She stated that we collected over \$9.7 million of our sewer use levy. Compared with the prior fiscal year, we are ahead with regard to current taxes and current sewer use collections.

Ms. Biagiarelli stated that through December, 2017, we collected over \$2.3 million in back taxes, interest, lien fees and other fees. She stated that this amount is significantly less than we collected last fiscal year at this time because no tax sale was held this summer.

Ms. Biagiarelli stated that in regard to current tax collection, the last day to pay the second installment without penalty is February 1st. She stated that payment activity during the month of December was robust. This was due to the reaction of the public to the changes to the federal tax law regarding the

deductibility of local property taxes beginning in 2018. There were many questions from tax payers that wanted to pay early and discussion among policy makers and staff about what could be allowed. She stated that she expects a significant amount of time will be spent explaining the rules.

Ms. Biagiarelli stated that mandatory payroll garnishment will take effect later this month for the City and Board of Education employees who owe back taxes. She stated that we are working on the July 2018 tax sale. She stated that a high collection rate and enforcing the collection of back taxes allows our budget making authority to set lower mill rates.

Mr. Burnett thanked the Tax Collection office for having extended hours and putting in extra effort to allow for the public to prepay 2018 tax installments before the end of the year.

7. RECEIVE OAK HILLS AUTHORITY MONTHLY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR NOVEMBER 2017

8. DISCUSSION WITH OAK HILLS PARK AUTHORITY.

Mr. Igneri joined the meeting at 7:26 p. m.

Mr. Burnett stated that the Oak Hills Park Authority members notified him this morning in an email that they would not be able to attend this meeting. He stated that they wrote that they are on track against the burn rate and budget discussed at the November BET Meeting. To pay anything to the City before April would mean borrowing from our bank credit line.

Mr. Burnett stated he will strongly encourage the OHPA members to come to our next meeting.

9. ADJOURNMENT

**** MR. IGNERI MOVED TO ADJOURN.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:44 p. m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Blaney
Telesco Secretarial Services