

DRAFT

**CITY OF NORWALK
BOARD OF ESTIMATE & TAXATION
OCTOBER 6, 2008**

ATTENDANCE: Fred Wilms, Chairman; Mayor Richard Moccia; James Feigenbaum; Leo Mellow; Stuart Wells; Michael Lyons.

STAFF: Ossie Lewis, Manager of Budgets & Systems; Mary Roman, City Clerk.

OTHERS: Michael Moccia, Director of Recreation & Parks; Vin Grillo, Tom Aikenhead & Walter Englert, Oak Hills.

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by the Chairman.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

SEPTEMBER 2, 2008 REGULAR MEETING

- ** MR. WILMS MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS SUBMITTED.
- ** MOTION PASSED WITH ONE ABSTENTION (MAYOR MOCCIA).

SPECIAL APPROPRIATIONS AGENDA

\$25,247 FROM CONTINGENCY TO THE REGISTRAR OF VOTERS TO COVER THE COST OF THE AUGUST 12, 2008 DEMOCRATIC CONGRESSIONAL PRIMARY

Mr. Lewis reviewed his memo and recommended approval.

- ** MR. WILMS MOVED: RESOLVED, THAT A SUM NOT TO EXCEED \$35,247 BE AND THE SAME IS HEREBY TRANSFERRED FROM CONTINGENCY TO THE REGISTRAR OF VOTERS TO COVER THE COST OF THE AUGUST 12, 2008 DEMOCRATIC CONGRESSIONAL PRIMARY (ACCOUNT VARIOUS).
- ** MOTION PASSED WITH ONE ABSTENTION (MR. WELLS).

TRANSFER AGENDA

There were no transfers.

OTHER BUSINESS

RESOLUTION APPROPRIATING \$200,000 FOR FODOR FARMHOUSE RESTORATION PROJECT

Mr. Lewis reviewed Mayor Moccia's memo and said that Finance recommended approval.

Mr. Mocciaie said this is an exciting project, noting that it had been on "Good Morning America" two weeks ago. If they don't receive the grant, they won't spend the \$200,000.

The Chairman asked how much had been asked for the two houses. Mr. Mocciaie said the original bid went out as a service contract, with a minimum bid of \$100,000 and \$50,000. Currently, they are looking to go back out to bid.

Mr. Mellow asked how long it would take to complete the project. Mr. Mocciaie said upon grant approval, it would probably take at least until late Fall 2009. They are working with the local preservation trust for all work that will not be covered.

Mayor Moccia said that the garden has been very successful. There are two contractors who will do some pro bono work. This is a worthwhile effort.

**** MR. WILMS MOVED TO APPROVE A RESOLUTION APPROPRIATING \$200,000 FOR FODOR FARMHOUSE RESTORATION PROJECT (ACCOUNT NO. 0909-6030-5777-C0462). ****
**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. ****

REVIEW OAK HILLS FINANCIAL OPERATIONS – JUNE 30, 2008

Mr. Lewis said that golf revenues are holding their own. The Authority is current on its current on its current debt payments. However, the principal payments on the restaurant restoration will kick in in January 2009. The concern is, given the economic fallout, if the facility will be in the position to continue making these payments.

Mr. Grillo said when the economy is bad, public courses do well. Overall, their rounds of golf will still be there. They have a modest fee increase this year. They feel they can cover restaurant expenses. The restaurant is doing well.

Mr. Aikenhead said when they took on the lease, one of the major components was celebratory events, and there will be approximately 200 of those this year.

Mayor Moccia said a catastrophic mistake was not having a grille room for golfers. The golf course has not looked better and the restaurant is beautiful and has good food.

The Chairman asked about the cost of chemicals, and Mr. Grillo said their superintendent does a great job in working with the budget he is given. Cart paths will go in by mid-November.

Mr. Englert said he encouraged the Authority to approach Mr. Hamilton about releasing the restriction on the \$79,000 in restricted funds for improvements to the cart paths or supplementing their revenues in future years. Mayor Moccia said they would have to look into this in terms of a lease amendment and/or the need for a Common Council vote.

Mr. Mellow asked for a comparison of the number of rounds between this year and last year; Mr. Grillo said they are pretty even.

CAPITAL PROJECT REPORT
FY 2007-08 RESERVE FOR ENCUMBRANCES AND RESTRICTED FUND
BALANCE
UPDATE ON REVENUES

The Chairman said these were excellent reports. Mayor Moccia said he will be telling department heads at a meeting next week that he wants them to close out all possible capital projects and offer at least a 2% reduction in this year's operating budget. The Chairman said things are worse than anticipated in terms of the conveyance tax, etc. Mr. Lewis said they are hoping that the economy will improve. The commercial component of conveyance taxes brings in a lot of money as well, which may translate into a good thing for the City.

Mayor Moccia spoke of the projects that will bring money to the City, such as the POKO projects, CL&P, etc. He also said there are approximately 120 foreclosures related to the sub-prime lending and approximately \$1,000,000 in delinquent car taxes. He said he has to look for \$1,000,000 in savings over the next six months.

The Chairman said they have some layers of cushion but they have their work cut out for them.

FY 2007-08 UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR PARKING
AUTHORITY AND WPCA

These statements were in the members' packets for review.

FY 2008-09 TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT – AUGUST 31, 2008

This report was in the members' packets.

**** MAYOR MOCCIA MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl Telesco
Telesco Secretarial Services

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