

BOARD OF ESTIMATE & TAXATION MEETING ACTIONS

**CITY OF NORWALK
BOARD OF ESTIMATE & TAXATION
DECEMBER 17, 2007**

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

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

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by the Chairman, who congratulated everyone who had been reappointed. Mayor Moccia said he had not ever seen a Board of Estimate that works as well together as this one does.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

OCTOBER 1, 2007 REGULAR MEETING

** MR. LYONS MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS SUBMITTED.
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

SPECIAL APPROPRIATIONS AGENDA

A sum not to exceed \$36,064 be and the same is hereby transferred from Contingency to the Various Departments to cover Ordinance position wage increases. (Account No. Various).

Mr. Hamilton and Mr. Lewis reviewed Mr. Lewis's memo.

Mayor Moccia noted that he is not included in the pay raise.

** MR. WILMS MOVED: Resolved, that a sum not to exceed \$36,064 be and the same is hereby transferred from Contingency to the Various Departments to cover Ordinance position wage increases. (Account No. Various).

Mr. Wilms said that the Mayor is underpaid. Mayor Moccia pointed out that he knew the salary when he ran for the position of Mayor.

** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

A sum not to exceed \$14,555 be and the same is hereby transferred from Contingency to the Health Department to cover wage increases for Nurses. (Account No. 01-2070-5110).

A sum not to exceed \$658,242 be and the same is hereby transferred from Contingency to the Police Department to cover wage increases from the new contract. (Account No. See backup attached).

A sum not to exceed \$349,765 be and the same is hereby transferred from Restricted Fund Balance to the Fire Department to cover wage increases in various salary related accounts due to the settlement of the labor contract. (Account No. Various).

A sum not to exceed \$477,052 be and the same is hereby transferred from Contingency to the Fire Department to cover Contract Settlement for Local 830 International Association of Firefighters, AFL-CIO. (Account No. Various).

A sum not to exceed \$239,789 be and the same is hereby transferred from Contingency to the various Departments to cover a contract settlement for the Norwalk Assistants and Supervisors Association (NASA). (Account No. Various).

A sum not to exceed \$139,871 be and the same is hereby transferred from Restricted Fund Balance to various departments to cover contract settlement for Norwalk Assistants and Supervisors Association (NASA). (Account No. Various).

Mr. Hamilton reviewed Mr. Lewis's memos regarding the above items.

Mr. Lyons said some have been taken through restricted fund balance. Mr. Hamilton said that related to service from the last fiscal year. Money was reserved because contracts were not settled.

The Chairman said they will still be in compliance with their fund balance policy, and Mr. Hamilton concurred.

Mayor Moccia said the settlement with the fire union is being appealed and asked if they will be paid at the ancillary rate. Mr. Hamilton said that they have made retro payments and will pay on the higher amount.

**** MR. WILMS MOVED: RESOLVED,** that a sum not to exceed \$14,555 be and the same is hereby transferred from Contingency to the Health Department to cover wage increases for Nurses. (Account No. 01-2070-5110); and A sum not to exceed \$658,242 be and the same is hereby transferred from Contingency to the Police Department to cover wage increases from the new contract. (Account No. See backup attached)' and A sum not to exceed \$349,765 be and the same is hereby transferred from Restricted Fund Balance to the Fire Department to cover wage increases in various salary related accounts due to the settlement of the labor contract. (Account No. Various); and A sum not to exceed \$477,052 be and the same is hereby transferred from Contingency to the Fire Department to cover Contract Settlement for Local 830 International Association of Firefighters, AFL-CIO. (Account No. Various); and A sum not to exceed \$239,789 be and the same is hereby transferred from Contingency to the various Departments to cover a contract settlement for the Norwalk Assistants and Supervisors Association (NASA).

(Account No. Various); and A sum not to exceed \$139,871 be and the same is hereby transferred from Restricted Fund Balance to various departments to cover contract settlement for Norwalk Assistants and Supervisors Association (NASA). (Account No. Various).

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

A sum not to exceed \$9,750 be and the same is hereby transferred from Contingency to the Historical Commission to fund a part-time Handyman position to maintain Historic Properties under the jurisdiction of the Commission. (Account No. 01-6300-5140),

Mr. Hamilton reviewed Mr. Lewis's memo and noted that he views this as a trial.

David Park, Historical Commission said the City has a contract with Guardian but they were left out because they own houses, not buildings. The Historical Commission has voted in favor of this for a 6-month period but also would like this to be in the next operating budget. If it does not work out, they can withdraw it from the 2008 operating budget request. A good example is a repair made at the Gatehouse. There are many odd jobs they can give to this person. It is a draft job description.

Mayor Moccia said this should be done in the right way; someone's nephew should not be getting this job. It should go through Personnel. Mr. Park agreed and noted that this person's boss would be the Curator. Anyone with a job to be done should go through the Chairman of the Historical Commission. Mayor Moccia said they might want to consider having this go through Mr. Lo. Mr. Park asked if this person would be a union employee; Mr. Hamilton said he would not be a union employee. Mayor Moccia said all work requests should go through Mr. Lo because of his expertise.

The Chairman asked if creating this position has to go through the Common Council. Mr. Hamilton said they are not usually involved in the creation of part-time positions. The Chairman said if there are concerns about the position.... Mr. Hamilton said this Board and the Common Council have to approve the appropriation. There is an approval process before departments can approve part time positions. He can coordinate with the Mayor to make sure his concerns are taken into consideration.

The Mayor said there are several buildings, not just the museum. Mr. Hamilton said Mr. Lo was not eager to supervise this position.

Mayor Moccia said he would support this position.

Mr. Clark said he applauds the desire to keep up historical properties. He noted that there are certain things that have to be true to the period of the buildings. Mr. Park said the handyman would have to get prior instructions on all repairs from the Commission.

**** MAYOR MOCCIA MOVED: RESOLVED, THAT** a sum not to exceed \$9,750 be and the same is hereby transferred from Contingency to the Historical Commission to

fund a part-time Handyman position to maintain Historic Properties under the jurisdiction of the Commission. (Account No. 01-6300-5140)

** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

TRANSFER AGENDA

There were no transfers.

OTHER BUSINESS

ADOPT TENTATIVE MEETING SCHEDULE – CALENDAR YEAR 2008

** MAYOR MOCCIA MOVED TO ADOPT THE MEETING SCHEDULE FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2008.

** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

SUBMISSION FROM BOARD OF EDUCATION CONCERNING SALARIES PER CITY CHARTER 1-518

The submission was received.

REQUEST CORPORATION COUNSEL TO RENDER FORMAL LEGAL OPINION ON CITY CHARTER SECTION 1-518

** MAYOR MOCCIA MOVED TO ASK CORPORATION COUNSEL TO RENDER FORMAL LEGAL OPINION ON CITY CHARTER SECTION 1-518.

Mayor Moccia said this is a legitimate question. This was passed before there were collective bargaining agreements. This will take time for research to be done.

Mr. Clark said he is in favor of clarifying their responsibilities.

** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

DISCUSSION CONCERNING UPCOMING EXPENSES FOR THE REGISTRAR OF VOTERS OFFICE TO ADMINSTRATE THE PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY ELECTION

Mr. Hamilton reviewed the information received from the Registrars of Voters.

Mr. Lyons noted that there is an \$11,000 difference. He said that the democratic and republican expenses on the democratic sheet seem to have been added together and asked Mr. Hamilton to clarify.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

OAK HILL FINANCIAL STATUS

In response to a question, Mr. Hamilton said they are talking about raising golf fees, but he was not sure if it had been done yet. Mayor Moccia said that the Oak Hills Authority had voted to increase fees for out-of-towners.

PARKING AUTHORITY FINANCIAL STATUS

The Chairman said they are running a surplus. Mr. Hamilton said they are doing well with a \$200,000 favorable return for the first quarter. The Mayor said the fee for handicapped parking is being increased and the booting/towing has been effective. The Parking Authority has done a fine job.

** MAYOR MOCCIA MOVED TO ADJOURN.

** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl Telesco
Telesco Secretarial Services

