

**CITY OF NORWALK
BOARD OF ESTIMATE AND TAXATION
REGULAR MEETING
MAY 6, 2019**

ATTENDANCE: Edwin Camacho, Chair; Mayor Harry Rilling; James Feigenbaum; James Frayer; Troy Jellerette; Artie Kassimis; James Page (6:31 p.m.)

STAFF: Donna King, City Clerk; Henry Dachowitz, Chief Financial Officer; Angela Fogel, Director Management & Budgets; Lisa Biagiarelli; Tax Collector; Ray Burney, Director of Personnel and Labor Relations; Alan Lo, Building and Facilities Manager; Nick Roberts, Director of Recreation and Parks

OTHERS: Thomas Hamilton, Chief Financial Officer, Board of Education; Michael Barbis, Chair Board of Education; James Giuliano, Construction Solutions Group Consultant

Mr. Camacho called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Ms. King called the Roll. A quorum was present.

Mayor Rilling introduced Mr. Dachowitz, the City's new Chief Financial Officer.

Mr. Page joined the meeting at 6:31 p.m.

Mayor Rilling introduced Mr. Nick Roberts, the new Director of Recreation and Parks.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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The following corrections were made:

Page 2 – mill rate should be corrected to mill rate

Page 3: there are should be corrected to they are

Page 4: relocated should be corrected to reallocated

**** MR. KASSIMIS MOVED TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES AS AMENDED
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

2. SPECIAL APPROPRIATIONS AGENDA (Section A)

**** MAYOR RILLING MOVED TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING:**

RESOLVED THAT A SUM NOT TO EXCEED \$140,648 BE AND THE SAME IS HEREBY TRANSFERRED FROM CONTINGENCY TO THE COMMUNITY SERVICE DEPARTMENT TO COMPLETE THE FINAL PHASE OF THE CITY REORGANIZATION (ACCOUNT #01-9600-5900)

Mr. Burney explained the request for a special appropriation to fund the Community Service department as the final phase of the City's reorganization.

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

3. TRANSFER AGENDA (Section B)

Ms. Fogel explained the Transfer requests.

**** MAYOR RILLING MOVED TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING TRANSFERS:**

POLICE DEPARTMENT		
FROM	TO	
WAGES & SALARY REGULAR	WAGES & SALARY OVERTIME	\$10,000
FIRE DEPARTMENT		
FROM	TO	
WAGES & SALARIES – OVERTIME	WAGES & SALARY PREMIUM	\$31,700
WAGES & SALARIES – REGULAR	WAGES & SALARY PREMIUM	\$2,100
TOTAL		\$33,800
PLANNING & ZONING		
FROM	TO	
WAGES & SALARY OVERTIME	OTHER PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	\$2,550
WAGES & SALARY OVERTIME	CENTRALIZED FLEET MAINTENANCE	\$1,572
TOTAL		\$4,122
DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION AND PARKS		
FROM	TO	
WAGES & SALARY TEMPORARY	OTHER CONTRACTUAL SERVICES	\$30,000
WAGES & SALARY PART TIME	OTHER CONTRACTUAL SERVICES	\$30,000
WAGES & SALARY PART TIME	WAGES & SALARY PART TIME	\$18,504
WAGES & SALARY PART TIME	WAGES & SALARY PART TIME	\$15,000
TOTAL		\$93,504
LIBRARY		
FROM	TO	
SECURITY SYSTEMS	MACHINERY EQUIPMENT	\$18,000

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**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

4. **OTHER BUSINESS** (Section C)

a. Approval of FY2018-19 Suspense list

Ms. Biagiarelli explained that based on a statute, the taxes are deemed uncollectible for various reasons; however, it does not mean the bill is completely uncollectable. She said they will still try to collect on the accounts, especially motor vehicle taxes.

**** MR. KASSIMIS MOVED TO APPROVE THE TRANSFER OF THESE ITEMS TO THE SUSPENSE TAX BOOK IN ACCORDANCE WITH GGS 12 – 165 FOR A TOTAL DOLLAR AMOUNT (PRINCIPAL) OF \$641,206.59. THIS AMOUNT INCLUDES: \$117,262.00 IN BUSINESS PERSONAL PROPERTY TAXES AND \$523,944.51 IN MOTOR VEHICLE TAXES**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Mr. Dachowitz explained that a spread sheet was created for each project.

Mr. Hamilton explained that the Board of Education is requesting special appropriations for three major projects that they anticipate submitting in June so the project can get placed on the State's priority list. He said they hope to begin construction in the summer of 2020.

A shortfall was identified at the new Columbus at Ely site and Jefferson School funding was temporarily taken to advance work at Norwalk High School.

The City broke the request into two separate special appropriation requests for the Global Academy at 46 Concord Street. At their last meeting, the Board of Education concluded that a new building was highly preferred; however, they understand that the Land Use and Building Management Committee voted not to go forward with a new building. When these budgets were created, they did not have enough information.

Mr. Barbis explained that the school at 46 Concord Street is 81 years old and they are limited in what they can do. He added that he does not know if the renovation costs are accurate and there is a high degree of uncertainty in renovating an old building.

Mr. Camacho asked if they would be able to revise parking at that site. Mr. Hamilton said a renovation would require satellite parking.

Mayor Rilling said it makes sense to build a new structure. They need to have a serious discussion to determine if putting good money into an old building is the right thing to do. A discussion ensued.

Mr. Hamilton explained that they have to be able to demonstrate to the State that all of the funding is in place. Mr. Dachowitz said that it appears that because of the process of getting funding from the State the estimation may require a 20% contingency. He added that after the drawings are complete, they can tighten the contingency.

Mr. Barbis said that Norwalk has 20 school buildings, but nothing has been done in 15 years. He said they cannot do it all at once, but they have to have a long term plan to maintain these assets.

**** MAYOR RILLING MOVED TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING:**

B. RESOLUTION: AUTHORIZE SPECIAL CAPITAL APPROPRIATION TOTALING \$3,488,000 TO INCREASE THE AVAILABLE BALANCE IN BOARD OF EDUCATION ACCOUNT 09-18-5010-5777-C0607 TO FUND CONSTRUCTION BUDGET SHORTFALLS FOR THE COLUMBUS AT ELY PROJECT AND AUTHORIZE THE ISSUANCE OF \$3,488,000 GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS OF THE CITY TO FUND SAID APPROPRIATION.

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**** MR. FEIGENBAUM MOVED TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING:**

C. RESOLUTION: AUTHORIZE A SPECIAL CAPITAL APPROPRIATION TOTALING \$5,453,000 TO INCREASE THE AVAILABLE BALANCE IN BOARD OF EDUCATION ACCOUNT 09-19-5010-5777-C0619 TO FUND CONSTRUCTION BUDGET SHORTFALLS FOR THE JEFFERSON SCHOOL AND AUTHORIZE THE ISSUANCE OF \$5,453,000 GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS OF THE CITY TO FUND SAID APPROPRIATION.

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**** MR. KASSIMIS MOVED TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING:**

D. RESOLUTION: AUTHORIZE A SPECIAL CAPITAL APPROPRIATION TOTALING \$4,653,000 TO INCREASE THE AVAILABLE BALANCE IN BOARD OF EDUCATION ACCOUNT 09-19-5010-5777-C0618 TO FUND CONSTRUCTION BUDGET SHORTFALLS FOR THE COLUMBUS SCHOOL AND AUTHORIZE THE ISSUANCE OF \$4,653,000 GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS OF THE CITY TO FUND SAID APPROPRIATION.

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**** MAYOR RILLING MOVED TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING:**

E. RESOLUTION: AUTHORIZE A SPECIAL CAPITAL APPROPRIATION TOTALING \$1,518,000 TO INCREASE THE AVAILABLE BALANCE IN BOARD OF EDUCATION ACCOUNT 09-19-5010-5777-C0618 TO FUND ADDITIONAL COSTS RELATED TO NEW CONSTRUCTION AT THE NORWALK GLOBAL ACADEMY SITE AND AUTHORIZE THE ISSUANCE OF \$1,518,000 GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS OF THE CITY TO FUND SAID APPROPRIATION.

**** MOTION PASSED WITH ONE (1) VOTE IN OPPOSITION (MR. JELLERETTE)**

**** MR. PAGE MOVED TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING:**

F. RESOLUTION: AUTHORIZE THE REDUCTION IN APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE FOLLOWING PROJECTS: 09-18-5010-5777-C0610, FACILITIES MASTER PLAN BY \$2,444,574; 09-19-5010-5777- C0610, FACILITIES MASTER PLAN BY \$7,423,426; 09-20-5010-5777-C0610, FACILITIES MASTER PLAN BY \$2,000,000; AND 09-17-5010-5777-C0585, FACILITIES ASSESSMENT STUDY IM BY \$579,000.

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**** MR. FEIGENBAUM MOVED TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING:**

G. RESOLUTION: AUTHORIZE THE CLOSURE OF THE FOLLOWING PROJECTS: 09-16-5010-5777C0565, DISTRICT BUILDING MANAGEMENT SYSTEM WITH AVAILABLE BALANCE OF \$500,000; 0917-5010-5777-C0565, DISTRICT BUILDING MANAGEMENT SYSTEM WITH AVAILABLE BALANCE OF \$500,000; 09-16-5010-5777-C0567, DISTRICT FIRE ALARM SYSTEM WITH AVAILABLE BALANCE OF \$50,000; 09-05-5010-5778-C0237, SCHOOLS FOR THE NEW MILLENNIUM WITH AVAILABLE BALANCE OF \$84,000; 09-04-5010-5778 C0237, SCHOOLS FOR THE NEW MILLENNIUM WITH AVAILABLE BALANCE OF \$13,000.

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**** MR. KASSIMIS MOVED TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING**

H. RESOLUTION, MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR VARIOUS PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS AGGREGATING \$52,508,000 FOR THE FY 2019-20 CAPITAL BUDGET AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$52,508,000 GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS OF THE CITY TO MEET CERTAIN APPROPRIATIONS IN THE FY 2019-20 CAPITAL BUDGET.

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**** MAYOR RILLING MOVED TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING:**

I. RESOLUTION: AUTHORIZE THE CLOSURE OF THE CITY PROJECTS OUTLINED IN THE ATTACHED TABLE TITLED CITY CAPITAL PROJECT CLOSURES WITH AVAILABLE BALANCES TOTALING \$2,484,369.

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

j. Approve FY 2019-20 Operating Budget and Associated Tax Rates.

Ms. Fogel reviewed the revisions to the budget and said the changes in the mill rate were insignificant.

**** MAYOR RILLING MOVED TO APPROVE THE FY 2019-20 OPERATING BUDGET AND ASSOCIATED TAX RATES AS AMENDED**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Mayor Rilling thanked the Board of Estimate and Taxation, the Finance Department and the department heads.

**** MAYOR RILLING MOVED TO SUSPEND THE RULES TO ADD AN ITEM TO THE AGENDA**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

SPECIAL CAPITAL APPROPRIATION TO REFUND THE FIRST TAXING DISTRICT FOR OVERPAYMENTS TO CITY PER BOND AGREEMENT AND APPROVAL TO REFINANCE BOND PAYMENTS

Ms. Fogel explained the request. Mayor Rilling said this was brought up two years ago and he spoke out in favor of this. There were some differences of opinion, but he said he felt strongly about righting what he considers to be a wrong.

- ** MR. FEIGENBAUM MOVED TO CREDIT THE FIRST TAXING DISTRICT \$93,798.58 AND RESTRUCTURING THEIR DEBT PAYMENT GOING FORWARD**
- ** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

5. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION (Section D)

The remainder of the agenda items was for information only.

Special Appropriation

Status of Contingency

Financial reports

Oak Hills Financial Status –March 2019

Year-to-date Capital Budget Report – FY 2018-19

Year-to-date Operating Expenditure Report – FY 2018-19

Year-to-date Operating Revenue Report – FY 2018-19

Year-to-date BOE Operating Expenditure Report – FY 2018-19

Tax Collector’s Narrative – March 2019

Tax Collector’s Report – March 2019

Salary accounts

Police

Fire

Public Works

- ** MR. FEIGENBAUM MOVED TO ADJOURN**
- ** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

There was no further business and the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemarie Lombardi
Telesco Secretarial Services