

**CITY OF NORWALK
FINANCE CLAIMS COMMITTEE
MAY 9, 2019**

ATTENDANCE: Gregory Burnett, Chair; Ernest Dumas; Douglas Hempstead; John Igneri;
John Kydes; Nicholas Sacchinelli; Darlene Young

STAFF: Albert Bassett, Deputy Fire Chief; Lisa Biagiarelli, Tax Collector;
Ray Burney, Director of Personnel and Labor Relations
Angela Fogel; Director of Management and Budgets;
Thomas Hamilton, CFO, Board of Education;
Chitsamay Lam, Comptroller; Alan Lo, Building and
Facilities Manager

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Burnett called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Mr. Burnett called the Roll. A Quorum was present.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No members of the public wished to participate this evening.

**APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE FOLLOWING
FINANCE CLAIMS COMMITTEE MEETING**

April 11, 2019 – Regular Meeting

**** MR. KYDES MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS PRESENTED
** MOTION PASSED WITH ONE (1) ABSTENTION (MS. YOUNG)**

**CLAIMS COMMITTEE: RECEIVE THE MONTHLY CLAIMS REPORT;
REVIEW AND APPROVE CLAIMS AS REQUIRED FOR CLAIMS REPORT
DATED MAY 9, 2019**

Ms. Biagiarelli reported that there were five items over \$10,000. She explained the items.

**** MR. SACCHINELLI MOVED TO APPROVE THE CLAIMS
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

NARRATIVE ON TAX COLLECTIONS DATE MAY 9, 2019

MONTHLY TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT DATED APRIL 30, 2019

Ms. Biagiarelli reviewed her report and said that at the end of April they collected more than \$320 million or 98.49%.

The goal is to run the tax bills over the Memorial Day weekend and have the bills in the mail by June 10th. The Tax Assessor will provide an update in June in terms of the Senior Tax Relief efforts. Ms. Biagiarelli said at the state level there have been interesting proposals relative to property tax. It would have allowed municipalities to create their own interest rates; however, the Tax Collectors do not agree with charging different interest rates.

**** MR.IGNERI MOVED TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING ITEM:**

AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION TO THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES AND PUBLIC PROTECTION FOR GRANT FUNDS FOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PERFORMANCE GRANT REGIONAL HAZARDOUS MATERIALS TEAMS WHICH IS APPROXIMATELY \$60,000

Deputy Fire Chief Bassett explained the item.

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

RECEIVE BOARD OF ESTIMATE AND TAXATION SPECIAL APPROPRIATIONS FROM MAY 6, 2019

Due to a potential conflict of interest, Ms. Young recused herself and left the Common Council Chambers.

**** MR.IGNERI MOVED TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING ITEM:**

RESOLUTION, APPROVE SPECIAL OPERATING APPROPRIATION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$140,648 TO FUND THE FINAL PHASE OF THE CITY REORGANIZATION AND ESTABLISH THE COMMUNITY SERVICE DEPARTMENT

Mr. Burney explained that a year ago, Mayor Rilling proposed a re-organization of City departments. They are now ready to establish a Community Services Department. Norwalk is one of the few cities that does not have a community services function as part of its city government.

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In establishing the new department, a total of \$140,000 is needed to fund the salary increases for three existing staff plus the salary for the Chief. All of the positions are union with the exception of the Chief's position.

In response to Mr. Igneri's question, Mr. Burney said they have been very successful in finding candidates promptly.

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

Ms. Young returned to the Common Council Chambers.

RECEIVE FROM BOARD OF ESTIMATE AND TAXATION FROM MAY 6, 2019

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

RESOLUTION: AUTHORIZE AN AMENDMENT TO THE CITY OF NORWALK'S LOAN AGREEMENT WITH THE FRIST TAXING DISTRICT DATED DECEMBER 2010, TO AMEND THE RATE OF INTEREST ON THE LOAN FROM 3.43% TO 2.64% AND A SPECIAL APPROPRIATION OF \$93,798.58 TO BE APPLIED AS A CREDIT AGAINST THE LOAN BALANCE STARTING WITH THE LOAN PAYMENT SCHEDULE FOR JUNE 2019

Attorney Frank Murphy of Tierney, Zullo, Flaherty & Murphy explained that this request is to correct the interest payment on a bond agreement from 2010. In 2015 the City refinanced the overall bond and as a result, the interest rate was reduced, but the schedule was not adjusted at that time.

Ms. Young asked if anything like this has ever happened before. Mr. Hempstead said it has. Mr. Kydes said this was a reasonable request. Ms. Fogel, in response to Mr. Burnett's question said this was a reasonable solution.

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

APPROVAL OF 2018-2019 SUSPENSION LIST

This item was satisfied at the May 6, 2019 meeting of the Board of Estimate and Taxation.

Mr. Hamilton explained that the following items from the Board of Education are all related. The budget shortfalls were discussed at the Planning Committee. The City needs to file a grant application with the State of Connecticut by June 30th. It is necessary to file certain documentation to get on the priority list.

There are three major projects – Columbus at Ely, renovate as new at Jefferson and renovate as new or new construction at 46 Concord Street. The other items on the agenda are ways in which

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to secure the funds for the Board of Education. One of the items is a close out of a series of projects so those funds could be released.

Mr. Hamilton said the Board of Education debated the issue of new construction vs. renovate as new at 46 Concord Street. After looking at the project and the site, the Board of Education recommended that the City consider new construction. All of the projects address the 900-seat shortage.

Mr. Hamilton said it has been expressed that to renovate as new carries the risk of construction costs. New construction does not have as much uncertainty with cost changes.

Mr. Burnett discussed the next steps in the process. Mr. Hamilton said these items have to be reviewed by the Planning Commission.

Other than the historical component, Mr. Sacchinelli said he likes the idea of a new building. Ms. Young noted that the Historical Commission made a presentation and mentioned reimbursements. Mr. Burnett said he did not believe Columbus School was deemed an historical site or has historical status. Mr. Hamilton said that if there are reimbursements, the State would deduct that amount from the State tax credits.

Mr. Lo explained that when they submit the request to the State, they have to show that the City appropriated the funding; \$4.6 million will fund the renovate as new project and an additional \$1.5 million will fund new construction.

Mr. Hempstead suggested making a motion to move the items on to the full Common Council. Mr. Burnett said that by making the motion to move the items to the full Common Council, that will allow them to have input from the Planning commission.

**** MR. HEMPSTEAD MOVED TO FORWARD THE FOLLOWING ITEMS TO THE FULL COMMON COUNCIL**

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

RESOLUTION: AUTHORIZE THE CLOSURE OF THE FOLLOWING PROJECTS: 09-16-5010-5777C0565, DISTRICT BUILDING MANAGEMENT SYSTEM WITH AVAILABLE BALANCE OF \$500,000; 09-17-5010-5777-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. IGNERI MOVED TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING ITEM:**

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.

Ms. Lam explained the item.

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**** MR. KYDES MOVED TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING ITEM:**

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.

Ms. Lam explained the item.

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

RECEIVE OAK HILLS AUTHORITY MONTHLY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR MARCH 31, 2019

Ms. Fogel reported that the Oak Hills Park Authority had a positive result for this month, but they are still negative due to weather. On a month to month basis, they look better.

ADJOURNMENT

**** MS. YOUNG MOVED TO ADJOURN**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

There was no further business and the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemarie Lombardi
Telesco Secretarial Services