

**CITY OF NORWALK
BOARD OF ESTIMATE AND TAXATION
REGULAR MEETING
AUGUST 2, 2010**

ATTENDANCE: Michael Lyons, Acting Chair; Mayor Richard Moccia; James Clark;
James Feigenbaum; Michael Kolman

STAFF: Thomas Hamilton, Finance Director; Ellen Wink, City Clerk

OTHERS: Karen Lyons, Stuart Wells, Registrar of Voters

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Lyons called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m. Ms. Wink called the Roll.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – JULY 6, 2010-REGULAR MEETING

The following corrections were made to the minutes:

Page 1: Correct spelling of Mr. Lyon's name
Correct spelling of encumbrance throughout.

**** MR. LYONS MOVED TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES AS CORRECTED
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

SPECIAL APPROPRIATIONS AGENDA (Section A)

List of Resolutions
Advertised Items – 1
Report on Special Appropriations
Justification/Back-up Material

**** MR. LYONS MOVED THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION:**

***RESOLVED* THAT A SUM NOT TO EXCEED \$13,200 BE AND THE SAME IS HEREBY
TRANSFERRED FROM CONTINGENCY TO THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS TO PAY
FOR A PART TIME ORDINANCE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER (ACCOUNT NO.: 01-4010-5140)**

Mr. Hamilton said that Mr. Alvord was unable to attend this evening's meeting. Mr. Hamilton explained the request and said that the intent of the position is to have someone dedicated to enforce local ordinances.

Mayor Moccia said that this is a first step to address the items. Ultimately he would like to get into this by neighborhood. He said that he would like this person to first provide education to business owners and homeowners. Mayor Moccia said that the two biggest complaints he gets are about speeding and littering. He wants to send the message out that the City wants to keep the neighborhoods beautiful. Most people want to cooperate, but Norwalk will not be anyone's personal dumpster. This is not a revenue generator; this is a quality of life issue.

Mr. Clark thanked Mayor Moccia for doing this.

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

TRANSFER AGENDA (Section B)

**** MR. LYONS MOVED ALL OF THE PAGES OF THE TRANSFER SECTION - SECTION B AS PROVIDED**

Mr. Hamilton highlighted the items such as Building Management for repair work at the Police Headquarters. Combined Dispatch to cover a deficit in the telephone account. Tax Collector to cover a deficit in the publication of notices related to the tax sale. Parks and Recreation to cover a deficit in the security systems account due to Police extra work. Central Fleet to cover a deficit in the City Centralized Fuel and Fleet Maintenance accounts.

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

OTHER BUSINESS – SECTION – C

Registrar of Voters – Upcoming Primary

Mr. Lyons said that he asked the Registrar of Voters to provide the Board with backup for anticipated costs for next week's primary.

Ms. Lyons and Mr. Wells distributed information to the Board. Mayor Moccia asked why \$4,000 worth of office help is needed in advance of the primary when only a 20% turnout of voters is expected. Mr. Wells explained that there is a lot of paperwork that has to be assembled prior to the primary.

Mr. Hamilton asked if there are multiple locations covering the same legislative districts. Mr. Wells said that Norwalk's polling places tend to be very large. He said that he would like to be able to run a few polling places in one place, but it is not permitted.

Mayor Moccia said that he has a problem with paying \$11,000 for extra in house workers. He said that other towns do not do that. Mayor Moccia said that did not know why they need to pay \$5,600 for an assistant registrar of voters. Ms. Lyons said that state statute requires one per party. Mayor Moccia asked about the overtime costs and asked why staff can't do this. Ms. Lyons said that Katie comes in on Election Day and that is over time.

Mayor Moccia asked Ms. Lyons and Mr. Wells how they hired staff without having the approved funding in place first. Ms. Lyons said that her office is proud that their budget is the same as it was ten years ago. Mayor Moccia told her that they expended funds that have not been approved. He explained that he had told them that there is a hiring freeze in the City, but they went and hired in advance of getting approvals. He said that this is not the way the City does business.

Ms. Lyons said that they asked to be on the agenda in June but were told to go forward and hire staff and then submit the request. Mr. Hamilton said that he never told them not to attend the June meeting. He said that last month an initial indication of costs was on the agenda. Mr. Lyons said that a solution is to come in with a special appropriation request.

Mr. Kolman asked why primaries are not added to the budget. Mr. Hamilton said that is because they do not want the money in the budget if there are no primaries in that year. He said that he could set up a separate division for primaries.

Mayor Moccia said that he has questions about what they are paying office staff for. Mr. Clark asked if there is a redundancy of work being done. Mayor Moccia asked Ms. Lyons and Mr. Wells to watch their personnel costs very carefully. He said that \$71,000 for a primary election seems too high. Mr. Feigenbaum said that there seems to be a lack of clarity.

Mr. Lyons said that going forward an additional budget line for primaries should be created during the budgeting season.

Mr. Hamilton said that he would like to discuss a request from the First District to borrow through the City.

**** MR. LYONS MOVED TO ADD AN ITEM TO THE AGENDA FROM THE FIRST DISTRICT – A REQUEST TO BORROW FROM THE CITY
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Mr. Hamilton said that he had preliminary discussion with Dominick DiGangi of the First Taxing District. He said that in twice the past the Sixth District was allowed to piggy back on the City.

Mr. Hamilton explained that the First Taxing District has to have major dam repairs and the total cost to the City would be \$8.5 million. He said that if they agreed to move forward there would have to be a formal agreement with them. Mr. Hamilton said that there is a potential for the City to generate revenue from this as well as provide savings to the First Taxing District.

Mr. Lyons explained that the First District supplies water to most of the City. He explained how the original taxing district was created. Mr. Hamilton said that Norwalk Hospital is their number one customer and the City is their number two customer. If the dam breaks, New Canaan and Norwalk will flood.

Mr. Lyons said that the Board was willing to consider this request.

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

There was no further business and the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemarie Lombardi
Telesco Secretarial Services