

**CITY OF NORWALK  
BOARD OF ESTIMATE & TAXATION  
SPECIAL MEETING  
NOVEMBER 4, 2009**

**ATTENDANCE:** Mayor Richard A. Moccia; Fred Wilms, Chairman; Michael Kolman; Michael Lyons

**STAFF:** Ellen Wink, City Clerk; Thomas Hamilton, Finance Director; Ossie Lewis, Director of Management & Budgets.

**OTHER:** Tom Aikenhead; Vincent Grillo; Dr. Lynn Moore

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Wilms called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

Ms. Wink read the roll call.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

October 5, 2009 – Regular Meeting

**\*\* MR. WILMS MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF OCTOBER 5, 2009**

**\*\* MOTION PASSED WITH THREE (3) VOTES IN FAVOR (WILMS, LYONS, KOLMAN) AND ONE (1) ABSTENTION (MOCCIA).**

**SPECIAL APPROPRIATIONS AGENDA (SECTION A)**

**ADVERTISED ITEMS:**

**FISCAL YEAR 2009-10:**

**RESOLUTION THAT A SUM NOT TO EXCEED \$20,000 BE AND THE SAME IS HEREBY TRANSFERRED FROM INCREASED ESTIMATED REVENUES TO THE RECREATION AND PARKS DEPARTMENTS TO COVER THE COST OF POOL RENTAL AT NORWALK HIGH SCHOOL (ACCOUNT #01-6024-5451).**

Mr. Hamilton discussed some background information regarding the Norwalk High School pool usage and fees.

**\*\* MR. WILMS MOVED TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION THAT A SUM NOT TO EXCEED \$20,000 BE AND THE SAME IS HEREBY TRANSFERRED FROM INCREASED ESTIMATED REVENUES TO THE RECREATION AND PARKS DEPARTMENTS TO COVER THE COST OF POOL RENTAL AT NORWALK HIGH SCHOOL (ACCOUNT #01-6024-5451).**

**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**TRANSFER AGENDA (SECTION B)**

There were no transfers.

**OTHER BUSINESS (SECTION C)**

**RESOLUTION, REDUCING THE CAPITAL PROJECT FOR THE FIRE PUMPING ENGINE BY \$1,750**

**RESOLUTION, REDUCING THE CAPITAL PROJECT FOR THE FIRE TRAINING TOWER BY \$6,700**

**RESOLUTION, REDUCING THE CAPITAL PROJECT FOR DPW FLEET REPLACEMENT BY \$53,500**

**RESOLUTION, INCREASING THE CITY'S INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY PROJECT BY \$62,000 (ACCOUNT NO. 09100600-5777-C0375).**

Mr. Hamilton explained that the four resolutions listed above could be approved together. He said the first three items total \$62,000. The RFP process took place, and responses were evaluated. The Fire Department was brought in to the process because they have manual records related to maintenance on their vehicles. The selection panel reviewed the proposals and recommended Asset Works, which is a product that includes a fleet management system and a replacement for fuel dispensing management system that DPW currently has in place. The total package is approximately \$130,000. In order to provide the funds to go forward, they requested that the Fire Department identify accounts where money could be taken from and therefore be closed out.

**\*\* MR. WILMS MOVED THE FOLLOWING: RESOLUTION REDUCING THE CAPITAL PROJECT FOR THE FIRE PUMPING ENGINE BY \$1,750; RESOLUTION REDUCING THE CAPITAL PROJECT FOR THE FIRE TRAINING TOWER BY \$6,700; THE RESOLUTION REDUCING THE CAPITAL PROJECT FOR DPW FLEET REPLACEMENT BY \$53,500;**

**RESOLUTION INCREASING THE CITY'S INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY PROJECT BY \$62,000 (ACCOUNT NO. 09100-600-5777-C0375).**

**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

5. Discussion with Oak Hills Park concerning FY 2009 Financial Results

Mr. Wilms said that every year, the Board is pleased to welcome Mr. Vincent Grillo and Mr. Thomas Aikenhead from Oak Hills Park to represent the Golf Authority and present information on the FY financial results. Mr. Grillo reported that the rainy weather definitely affected the revenue numbers for the 2009 season. He said they would cut expenses if revenue does not come in due to bad weather. He hoped for a better season next year, but added that they still did well despite the weather and the recession. He reported that the restaurant appears to be doing well, and they pay the rent on time. They hold over 200 events a year.

Mr. Grillo noted that rounds of golf are down across the country, and some local private clubs are reporting membership numbers are down.

Mayor Moccia thanked Mr. Grillo, Mr. Aikenhead and the Board for their hard work.

Mr. Grillo said that resident fees are \$21.00 for the week, \$23.00 for the weekend, and Seniors are charged \$13.00 or \$15.00 with a cart. He said they are on the low end of the fee scale for Fairfield County.

Mr. Hamilton said he included in the packet a portion of the lease, which indicated the rent and other financial obligations. Mr. Wilms noted information included in the packet that read "The Authority shall provide for an annual independent audit to the Mayor, the Board of Estimate, and the Common Council" and he asked how the provision was satisfied. Mr. Hamilton said that they do get an audit, and he would forward it along.

6. Update on the Board of Education's Labor Contract Negotiations.

Mr. Michael Lyons presented information on the Board of Education's Labor Contract Negotiations. He said he had it redlined by the outside lawyer, and he shared it with Mr. Wilms and Mr. Hamilton. He said he would provide a redline copy of the information to Mayor Moccia and others.

Mr. Lyons reported that it was an extremely good outcome. The press release outlining the results was obtained from the Board of Education. He said that extensive checking was done to insure the accuracy of the contract. The contract is revenue neutral and is for three years. It was noted that after the presentation was made, and the City made their compelling case, that the potential catastrophe the Teachers Union was headed for had been

averted. There will be a 1.35% general wage increase in year 1; a 1.36% increase in year 2; and 1.37% in year 3.

Mr. Lyons mentioned that after much hard work by both Mr. Hamilton and Mr. Tom Konan, the lawyer for the Board of Education, the results were excellent for both the Board of Estimate and the Board of Education. The switch over from the PPO to the HSA will take effect in January. It will save \$2M a year for each of the three years of the contract, in addition to having the potential to save them close to \$1M next year, partially in this year's budget.

Mr. Hamilton cautioned that due to potential timing issues, it could be a few months before they realize the savings.

Some discussion took place among the Board related to the teacher's salaries, the Board of Education budget, the contract, and the process and timing of voting.

**\*\* MR. LYONS MOVED TO APPROVE THAT THE FINANCE DIRECTOR FORWARD THE CONTRACT WITH A RECOMMENDATION FROM THE BOARD OF ESTIMATE THAT THE CONTRACT BE ALLOWED TO TAKE EFFECT, BECAUSE IT IS REVENUE-NEUTRAL, PROTECTS THE TAXPAYERS, AND ALLOWS THE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO GO FORWARD WITH ITS OBJECTIVES WITHOUT BEING HINDERED BY BUDGETARY PROBLEMS.**

Mayor Moccia thanked Mr. Lyons and Mr. Hamilton for their legal and financial expertise regarding the contract negotiations. Mr. Wilms echoed the Mayor's comments.

**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION (SECTION D)**

Oak Hills Park Financial Status – September, 2009

Summary of Special Appropriation – FY 2009-10

Status of Contingency – FY 2009-10

Financial Reports

Year-to-date Capital Budget Report (FY 2009-10)

Year-to-date Operating Budget Report (FY 2009-10)

Board of Education Budget Report (FY 2009-10)

Salary Accounts

Fire Overtime

Dispatch Overtime

Police Overtime

Budget Modeling/Budget Allocation Proposal -

Mr. Hamilton said that he received a visit from a representative from SIMALTO Modelling in England some months ago to speak about budget modeling. The representative pitches programs here in the US regarding what citizens think about various budget options. Citizens can voice their opinions via either a focus group or on-line. Mayor Moccia said his concern was that there weren't any US cities in the study. He said he would be willing to let them use Norwalk as a model at a free or reduced rate.

Mr. Lewis distributed a copy of the key revenue conveyance tax. Mr. Hamilton said they still expect the projection to be about \$300,000 short on the real estate conveyance tax. In October, they brought in \$208,000. Mayor Moccia said the City received a few thousand dollars in reimbursement from the dredging project, and approximately \$192,000 from CRRA related to their Bridgeport plant closing.

Mr. Wilms asked if there were any updates on the property tax collection. Mr. Hamilton said there wasn't anything new, and that he didn't have the October report yet. He said they should be at the same place they were last month. He also expected information shortly regarding supplemental auto. He said they are on track for the tax lien sale next July.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**\*\* MR. KOLMAN MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

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

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Marr  
Telesco Secretarial Services