

**SPECIAL MEETING
BOARD OF ESTIMATE
& TAXATION
FEBRUARY 8, 2010**

ATTENDANCE: Frederich Wilms, Chair; James Clark; James Feigenbaum;
Michael Kolman; Michael Lyons; Leo Mello

STAFF: Thomas Hamilton, Finance Director; Ellen Wink, City Clerk;
Dennis McCarthy, Fire Chief

OTHERS: Diane Cece; Sue DeLong; Julie Burton; Bruce Million;
Dr. Lynn Moore

Mr. Wilms called the meeting to order at 7:34 p.m.

Ms. Wink called the Roll and announced that there was a quorum present.

1. Approval of Minutes

January 4, 2010 – Regular Meeting

The following correction was made to the minutes:

Page 3: first paragraph, first sentence - please delete the following:

With projections of a 9.5% shortfall of \$600,000

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

2. Special Appropriations Agenda (Section A)

**List of Resolutions
Advertised Items -
Report on Special Appropriations
Justification/Back-up material**

There were no special appropriations this evening.

2. Transfer Agenda (Section B)

FISCAL YEAR 2009-10

FIRE DEPARTMENT

<u>From:</u>	<u>To:</u>	<u>Amount:</u>
01-310-5242 (water)	01-3120-5421 (Bldg. & Office Rentals	\$38,000

Mr. Hamilton explained that the East Norwalk fire station building has been the subject of negotiations between the Fire Chief, Law Department and the Third Taxing District from at least 2003. The original lease was approved in 1970 and expired a number of years ago.

Mr. Hamilton described the terms of the lease. Chief McCarthy explained that the increased cost was not included in the operating budget. Mr. Clark asked if all of the negotiations have been completed. Chief McCarthy said that all parties are in agreement with the terms of the lease.

**** MR. WILMS MOVED TO APPROVE THE FIRE DEPARTMENT
TRANSFER
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

5. Additional Information (Section D)

Oak Hills Financial Status – November & December 2009

Mr. Wilms said that he noticed that Oak Hills has experienced a significant decrease in cash. Mr. Hamilton asked Mr. Wilms if he would like them to come in and explain. Mr. Wilms suggested that Mr. Hamilton conduct a Finance Department investigation and then prepare a memo with his findings.

There were no comments on the following items.

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)

Tax Collector's Report – December 2009
Salary Accounts
Fire Overtime
Dispatch Overtime
Police Overtime

January, 2010 – BET/BOE Joint Services Study Group Minutes

Mr. Wilms reviewed the meeting. He said that Mr. Cooke invited him to the Rowayton Elementary School where they have a recycling program in place. He said that the recycling program appears to be moving forward; in addition it generates revenues.

Mr. Wilms talked about the printing contract. He said that Mr. Cooke has been working on replacing the contract with a more favorable one than the one that was signed during the last administration.

Mr. Wilms said that their last point was that Mr. Hamilton made a list of duplications between the City and the Board of Education. He said that it seems like there are a lot of opportunities to find additional savings.

4. Other Business (Section C)

1. Presentation of the Recommended FY 2010-11 Operating Budget.

Mr. Hamilton gave a Power Point presentation. He said that the operating budget will be delivered to the department heads and on the City's website tomorrow. The Finance Claims Committee will review the budget on Thursday.

Mr. Hamilton said that this budget was one of the most challenging he has ever been involved in. He said that at one point, State aid was 17% of the budget, but now it is about 5%. He reviewed the key expenditure drivers. Mr. Hamilton said that the requested budget would require a 4.2% expenditure increase and a 7.7% tax levy increase.

Mr. Hamilton explained that most of the Labor contract are not yet settled, except for the NASA bargaining group and the NMEA bargaining group.

Mr. Hamilton said that they are looking for an 8% tax increase. The assumption is that there will be no wage increases next year.

Mr. Hamilton showed how the funding is divided. He said that the biggest part goes to the Board of Education.

Board of Education	54%
Public Safety	13%
Public Works	6%

Debt Service	9%
Employee Benefits	9%
All Others	9%

Mr. Hamilton said that there is a significant decline in debt service by \$1.1 million.

Mr. Wilms asked about the tax collection rate. Mr. Hamilton explained that when they do a tax sale in July, that results in taxes paid and booked in the new year.

Mr. Hamilton said that the proposed budget is austere and calls for shared sacrifices. He said that it was reasonable and rational.

Mr. Wilms asked if there were any questions or comments. There were none.

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

There was no further business and the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemarie Lombardi
Telesco Secretarial Services

