

AGENDA

MARCH 08, 2012

CLAIMS COMMITTEE MEETING

REFUNDS PROCESSED  
CLAIMS COMMITTEE

APPROVED BY  
TAX COLLECTOR

REPORTED TO  
CLAIMS COMMITTEE

ARGENIO MARIO R	10-MV-448 (\$31.55)	PRORATION
BENNETT JOHN M	10-MV-304422 (\$20.00)	OVERPAYMENT THRU POINT & PAY
CAB EAST LLC	10-MV-307681 (\$38.27)	PRORATION
CAB EAST LLC	10-MV-307597 (\$62.93)	PRORATION
CAB EAST LLC	10-MV-307595 (\$64.72)	PRORATION
CAB EAST LLC	10-MV-307762 (\$64.85)	PRORATION
CAB EAST LLC	10-MV-307725 (\$105.39)	PRORATION
CAB EAST LLC	10-MV-307682 (\$106.32)	PRORATION
CAB EAST LLC	10-MV-307783 (\$163.06)	PRORATION
CAB EAST LLC	10-MV-307555 (\$222.59)	PRORATION
CAB EAST LLC	10-MV-307598 (\$64.69)	PRORATION
	10-MV-307661 (\$95.43)	PRORATION
	10-MV-307684 (\$68.25)	PRORATION
	10-MV-307706 (\$94.41)	PRORATION
	10-MV-307807 (\$32.37)	PRORATION
CAB EAST LLC	10-MV-307623 (\$123.22)	PRORATION
	10-MV-307655 (\$129.46)	PRORATION
	10-MV-307658 (\$188.52)	PRORATION
CAB EAST LLC	09-MV-307812 (\$125.41)	PRORATION
	09-MV-307848 (\$348.95)	PRORATION
CAB EAST LLC	09-MV-401291 (\$65.26)	PRORATION
	10-MV-307624 (\$684.93)	PRORATION
CAB EAST LLC	10-MV-307621 (\$662.56)	PRORATION
	10-MV-307665 (\$331.34)	PRORATION
CAB EAST LLC	10-MV-SEVERAL SEE BACK UP	PRORATION

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CAREY SANDRA J	10-MV-309031 (\$430.10)	DUPLICATE PAYMENT
DALTON ALLAN D	10-MV-314246 (\$475.39)	OVERPAYMENT
DCFS TRUST	10-MV-314867 (\$317.84)	PRORATION
DCFS TRUST	09-MV-315062 (\$259.86)	ABATEMENT
	10-MV-314965 (\$276.69)	ABATEMENT
	10-MV-314923 (\$313.47)	PRORATION
	10-MV-314935 (\$96.76)	PRORATION
	10-MV-316307 (\$206.18)	ABATEMENT/SENT TO RIDGEFIELD
	10-MV-319415 (\$238.70)	OVERPAYMENT
	10-MV-321665 (\$165.41)	PRORATION
	10-MV-321672 (\$201.80)	PRORATION
	10-MV-322823 (\$28.68)	PRORATION
	10-MV-327433 (\$13.37)	PRORATION
	10-MV-329198 (\$38.07)	PRORATION
	10-MV-329557 (\$100.42)	PRORATION
	10-MV-5799 (\$63.52)	PRORATION
	10-MV-5802 (\$40.69)	PRORATION
	10-MV-329520 (\$47.31)	PRORATION
	10-MV-329607 (\$154.09)	PRORATION
	10-MV-333606 (\$389.25)	PRORATION
	10-MV-336485 (\$220.79)	PRORATION
	10-MV-338646 (\$49.77)	PRORATION
	10-MV-8568 (\$148.39)	DUPLICATE BILL
	10-MV-345161 (\$207.20)	PRORATION
	10-MV-344602 (\$635.95)	ABATEMENT
	08-MV-349705 (\$50.83)	PRORATION
	10-MV-9820 (\$22.83)	PRORATION

(\$946.78)

(\$138.49)

(\$305.61)

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RODRIGUEZ LINA M	10-MV-353084 (\$274.75)	DUPLICATE PAYMENT
SCULLY GREGG S	10-MV-10482 (\$56.10)	EMPLOY GARNISHMENT
STANFORD KRISTEN E	10-MV-359109 (\$65.45)	ABATEMENT
TOYOTA MOTOR CREDIT CORP	10-MV-362255 (\$407.25)	PRORATION
WERNER KENNETH OR WERNER ARLETTE G (\$225.49)	10-MV-366709 (\$176.17)	OVERPAYMENT
	10-MV-366708 (\$49.32)	OVERPAYMENT
WHEELS LT (\$103.40)	10-MV-366850 (\$37.59)	PRORATION
	10-MV-366861 (\$65.81)	PRORATION
VENGEROVSKAYA OLGA	10-MV-364836 (\$23.13)	PRORATION
BROUSSEAU KEITH D	10-PP-206516 (\$635.43)	PRORATION
FESSLER & STEBBINS LLC (\$3,822.24)	10-PP-201240 (\$1,775.66)	DUPLICATE BILLING
	10-PP-201241 (\$2,046.58)	DUPLICATE BILLING
WILLIAM J FESSLER FAMILY DENTISTRY PC	10-PP-203515 (\$1,448.30)	DUPLICATE BILLING
STEVEN WINTER ASSOCIATES	10-PP-203079 (\$617.08)	COC/ASSESSORS
DONALD H BROWN TRUSTEE	10-RE-102948 (\$3,363.22)	REFINANCE DUPLICATE PAYMENT
HEGEDUS JAMES M JR & ELEONOR M	10-RE-111871 (\$114.12)	VET'S EXEMPTION
LAW OFFICES OF DONALD BROWN RE: TUTTLE AMOS & JANICE	10-RE-127381 (\$2,936.84)	PAID IN ERROR BY SELLER'S BANK
MOORE MARTHA A & JOHN R	10-RE-118272 (\$2,777.53)	PAIN IN ERROR/PROP SOLD 10/31/11
MUOIO FRANK J	10-RE-118626 (\$248.68)	OVERPAYMENT
ROLLINSON PHYLLIS J & JAMES SR	10-RE-122788 (\$114.90)	OVERPAYMENT 2 <sup>ND</sup> HALF TAX
TANRITANIR MUHSIN & NOOR	10-RE-126262 (\$3,190.72)	DUPLICATE PAYMENT REFINANCE
TARANTINO TONY F & LUCY	10-RE-126283 (\$2,824.99)	OVERPAYMENT
WELLSFARGO HOME MORTGAGE RE: FREEMAN PETER & NANCY K	10-RE-109582 (\$3,307.66)	OVERPAYMENT

CAB EAST LLC

<u>BILL#</u>	<u>VEHICLE</u>	<u>PLATE#</u>	<u>REFUND</u>
10-307554	2008/FORD EXPLORER	895WTZ	\$115.13
10-307585	2008/FORD EXPLORER	306TUW	\$62.93
10-307600	208/FORD FUSION	344WRB	\$43.13
10-307601	2008/FORD EDGE	345WRB	\$64.72
10-307693	2008/FORD FOCUS	979WVV	\$35.32
10-307732	2008/FORD EXPL	100PDE	\$314.72
10-307740	2007/FORD EDGE	216WLL	\$329.45
10-307743	2008/MERCUMILA	237WLL	\$212.28
10-307745	2007/MERCUMILA	277WKN	\$256.36
10-307746	2007/FORD FUS	303WKN	\$217.99
10-307757	2008/FORD EXPLORER	571TPF	\$188.83
10-307764	2008/LINCOMKX	628WRR	\$346.48
10-307771	2008/FORD FUS	674WRR	\$86.24
10-307775	2008/FORD EXPL	685WRR	\$177.22
10-307776	2008/FORD EDGE	692WRR	\$420.88
10-307779	2008/LINCOMKZ	714RNX	\$171.08
10-307782	2008/FORD EXPL	773WOO	\$188.83
10-307792	2008/FORD EDGE	804WPM	\$306.11
10-307801	2010/FORD ESCA	874XAE	\$436.41
10-307806	2008/LINCONAVIGATO	963WTN	\$278.53
		TOTAL	\$4,252.64

CITY OF NORWALK  
FINANCE/CLAIMS COMMITTEE  
FEBRUARY 9, 2012

ATTENDANCE: Carvin Hilliard, Chairman; Matthew Miklave, David McCarthy, Douglas Hempstead, Warren Peña, John Igneri, Nicholas Kydes, David Watts.

STAFF: Lisa Bucciarelli, Tax Collector, City of Norwalk  
Finance Department: Thomas Hamilton, Robert Barron,  
Fred Gilden, Comptroller.

OTHERS: Common Council: Jerry Petrini, Bruce Kimmel

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Hilliard called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. and stated that there was a quorum of members in attendance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Miklave noted that the name of Mr. Palumbo was misspelled in the heading and throughout and should be corrected from Polombo to Palumbo.

**\*\* MR. HEMPSTEAD MOTIONED TO APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES  
FROM DECEMBER 8, 2011 AS CORRECTED.  
\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

CLAIMS COMMITTEE: RECEIVE THE MONTHLY CLAIMS REPORT; REVIEW  
AND APPROVE CLAIMS AS REQUIRED FOR CLAIMS REPORT DATED —  
January 12, 2012

Ms. Biagarelli said that there were no refunds above the \$10,000 threshold established by the Common Council and no action was required.

NARRATIVE ON TAX COLLECTIONS DATED JANUARY 12, 2012— RECEIVE  
REPORT AND DISCUSS

MONTHLY TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT DATED JANUARY 12, 2012- RECEIVE  
REPORT AND DISCUSS

Ms. Biagiarelli read from her report and highlighted the following:

As of January 31, 2012, collections= 92.73% on the 2010 grand list, or approximately \$244 million. 91.47% of sewer use levy, (+\$12 million), 88% of the IPP (Industrial Pretreatment Program) fee, an additional \$2.6 million in back taxes, interest, lien fees and other fees. With work on the tax sale continuing throughout the rest of this fiscal year, we expect our back tax and interest collection numbers to continue to rise.

The next tax sale is Monday, July 16, 2012, the primary method of collection enforcement for past due real estate and sewer use charges. 216 properties represented approximately \$4.6 million in past due taxes and to date, collected approximately \$1,382,945 with 50 properties already having been brought current.

We commissioned 177 title searches to date, and have already received back 164 of them. Bidder information packet available within the next several weeks, and the criteria for inclusion in the tax sale will be finalized by the time we file our liens, anticipated criteria:

- (1.) \$25,000 or more past due;
- (2.) three or more years in arrears; or
- (3.) inclusion in a past sale with no payments.

Notices: first week of April, property list on city website to posted in City Hall lobby after April 1.

**\*\* MR. HEMPSTEAD MOVED TO ACCEPT THE NARRATIVE ON TAX COLLECTIONS AND MONTHLY TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT DATED JANUARY 31, 2012.**

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

## BUSINESS

### Operating Budget and Cap Review and Discussion.

Mr. Hamilton presented the FY 2012-12 Budget Presentation and highlighted the budget process and scheduled meetings and public hearings. He noted that one week from tonight will be a special meeting to further discuss the budget, and Mr. Hilliard noted that although it is not a public hearing he will allow public comments. Mr. Kimmel asked if there is a plan to meet between February 23 and 28 to approve the budget prior to moving it on to the Council. He added that it could take a considerable amount of time to hear all the comments and then stay on to deliberate and vote on the budget.

Mr. Miklave asked that it be reflected in the minutes that he prefers to vote on the cap on the evening of February 23 as there is no time to properly notice another meeting in between those dates. He added that the members should all be prepared to stay and get the job done of deliberating and voting. Mr. Hempstead suggested that the start of the meeting be moved up to 7:00 to allow for added time for public comments.

Mr. Hamilton went on to go through the rest of the presentation and reviewed the economic environment and drivers that impact Norwalk's budget. Discussions ensued following comments on the re-evaluation process that will begin October 2013, and Mr. Hamilton stated that the tax burden could shift from commercial to residential. Mr. Hempstead asked if there was a way of measuring dollars collected versus the average value of homes and the number of houses.

Mr. Hamilton replied that there are many possible explanations for the values being down, either the average sale price is down, or the volume per transaction could be down or fewer commercial transactions. He stated that he would try to see what data is available from the Town Clerk. Mr. Hempstead clarified that he would like to see present day value of a typical home in Norwalk and to get some examples from the assessor's office. He feels that the comparison of the median sales price is low yet we have not seen the bottom.

Mr. Hamilton then reviewed the structural budget drivers and stated that the list presented are unsustainable in their present form. He stated that the key drivers are employee health insurance and pension contributions. A discussion ensued about the types of benefit plans, defined versus contributed benefit programs and Mr. Hamilton noted that on average City employees pay 9-11% of premiums compared to the private sector.

Mr. Peña asked for the average cost of retiree benefits and if there was any mechanism to quantify costs of medical benefits plus pensions. Mr. Hamilton replied that he will do some research. Mr. Hamilton fielded other questions on defined versus contribution plans and stated that going forward, there is a possibility of making changes with the future collective bargaining negotiations regarding benefit plans. He added that any change would not significantly impact the budget in the next few years, but that further down as turnover and number of benefit plans shifted, the savings would then be recognized.

Mr. Hamilton reviewed the unsustainable drivers related to the pension contributions and stated that in accordance with charter provision, the contribution is required by actuarial recommendations. Mr. Igneri asked about the actuarial rate and Mr. Hamilton replied that the actuary's recommended rate of return is 6.5% compared to former 8-8.5% with is a significant drop.

Following many questions and comments, Mr. Hilliard suggested that further debate of the benefit programs may not be resolved here, but we need to make more progress in this area. He then asked Mr. Hamilton to proceed with the rest of the budget presentation.

Mr. Hamilton reviewed the revenue assumptions and expenditure drivers and highlighted the Board 3.5% increase is a reduction of the 6.9% requested or \$5 million.

Mr. Hamilton presented the policy initiatives and budget reduction strategies and a discussion ensued on the justifications for recommending closing the Norwalk Museum and the privatization of garbage collections, and the elimination of NEON administrative support. Mr. Hamilton reviewed the specifics on how the numbers were derived.

Mr. Miklave stated that after calculating some of the budget reductions, they represent a very small percentage of the total budget and have the example that closing the Norwalk Museum represents .0023% of the total or an insignificant trickle down to the average increase to property taxes. Mr. Petrini asked what the average tax increase was and Mr. Hamilton replied that on the average house, property taxes would go up at by \$220 for the year.

Mr. Watts stated that this appears to be a very radical budget with closing the Museum, privatizing garbage and a full frontal assault on NEON. He would like to look at what other areas can be looked at.

Mr. Hamilton replied that the process is that each department provides a requested budget that is reviewed based upon charter guidelines and the finance department then balances this with what are the critical drivers. He explained that it is up to the BET to then set the cap on the budget, but keep in mind that there are many factors to consider and there are implications involved in setting the cap. Mr. Barron added that it was important to keep the perspective that the budget increase is based on the public appetite for tax increase, and the BET may be striving to approve a zero increase, which may be unattainable.

Mr. Miklave then stated that we have lived with this process for a very long time is very backwards where the requests are added up and dollars are recommended for cuts without a strategic plan of where the priorities lie. He added that there needs to be macro not micro overview and while this debate is good it we get lost in the numbers and lose the values. He would like to see value based discussions.

Mr. Hempstead stated that he agreed and that the critical element that is missing is a determination of the objectives and long term strategies to bring the City to where we want it to be. Mr. Hempstead asked if the Governor's budget can be incorporated into the assumptions, for example the ECS funding and other grants. Mr. Hamilton replied that he will check on the status of those budget outcomes and see how it can incorporate them into the budget.

#### Special Appropriations

- \*\* MR. HEMPSTEAD MOVED TO ACCEPT THE SPECIAL APPROPRIATIONS ADVERTISED ITEM OF FEBRUARY 6, 2012 FOR FISCAL YEAR 2011-12: RESOLVED, THAT A SUM NOT TO INCLUDE \$6,055 BE AND THE SAME IS HEREBY TRANSFERRED FROM INCREASED ESTIMATED REVENUES TO THE POLICE DEPARTMENT TO PAY FOR OVERTIME EXPENSES (ACCOUNT NO. 01-3010-4181)
- \*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

#### OLD BUSINESS/NEW BUSINESS

There was no further business discussed.

#### ADJOURNMENT

- \*\* MR.IGNERI MOVED TO ADJOURN.  
\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

The meeting adjourned at 9:50 p.m.  
Respectfully submitted,  
Marilyn Knox, Telesco Secretarial Services

CITY OF NORWALK  
FINANCE/CLAIMS COMMITTEE  
SPECIAL MEETING  
FEBRUARY 16, 2012

ATTENDANCE: Carvin Hilliard, Chairman; Matthew Miklave, David McCarthy,  
Douglas Hempstead, Warren Peña, John Ignéri,

STAFF: Finance Department: Robert Barron, Fred Gilden, Comptroller.

OTHERS: Frederick Wilms, Board of Estimate and Taxation

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Hilliard called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. and stated that there was a quorum of members in attendance.

BUSINESS

Operating Budget and Cap Review and Discussion.

Mr. Barron presented the summary FY 2012-13 and explained the process and stated that the purpose is to set the appropriations cap to be delivered to the Board of Estimate and Taxation. He stated that the intention is to provide output relative to the bottom line and not the detail by line item. He noted that one week from tonight will be a public hearing to further discuss the budget, and receive comments from the public.

Mr. Hempstead asked if as requested last week, was the Governor's budget information incorporated into the assumptions, for example the ECS funding and other grants. Mr. Barron replied that Mr. Hamilton had done a preliminary analysis and it appears that ECS funding has been taken into account. He added he will check on the status of those budget outcomes and see how it can incorporate them into the budget.

Mr. Barron added that recent newspaper articles reported a negative take on the grant of \$600,000 and the MME pilot project in lieu of taxes was replaced by revenue sharing. He added that the statutory formulas are reflected with intergovernmental revenues and the only change is the ECS funding. He pointed out that the total of \$16.4 million is reflected.

Mr. Hilliard asked if there specific recommended changes and suggested a review by department. He asked what the reason was for the additional \$80,000 for IT and stated that there should be an additional column to explain key changes.

Mr. Hempstead stated that he understands that one of the key budget drivers is the pension contribution, and asked if what the charter requirements were and if there was further analysis done to compare against other municipalities. Mr. Barron stated that he would check with Mr. Hamilton to have that e-mailed to the members.

Mr. Miklave stated that he would like to discuss the OPEB, other post employment benefit category, and asked if this is a charter requirement or a statutory regulation. Mr. Gilden replied that it was not a charter requirement, but is a municipal guideline is that the actuarial recommendation is applied to the ARC and this is the accepted practice for municipalities. Mr. Barron added that it is an accounting requirement to put the liability on the books 4-5 years ago and it is a municipality requirement to list them. Mr. Miklave asked what other municipalities are doing, and Mr. Barron replied that it is a pay as you go approach.

Mr. Miklave stated that while he understands this, he would like to address what the other 169 municipalities in the state have done to fund the post retirement employee benefits. He added that if there is a rating or bond rating correlation versus the percentage of funding. Mr. Barron replied that of all the AAA bond ratings there are only 7-8 in Fairfield County.

Mr. Miklave added that all actuarial assessments change year to year and moment to moment, and represents a guess into the future, and with changes in mortality tables, the numbers change radically and can take on a life of its own. He added that actuarial studies are more “sacrosanct” than the City’s needs and objectives, and all this has no relationship on the AAA rating. He restated that he would like to address what other municipalities in the state have done to fund the post retirement employee benefits.

Mr. Barron then brought up the discount rate for future liability at 8.4% that is going down to 8% and that Mr. Hamilton reported at a recent conference this is predicted to go down to 7.5%. He added that at present value it grows a great deal and an analysis of the discount rate might address some Mr. Miklave’s concerns.

Mr. Miklave replied that the question is can we pay the promises made when they come due, and when mathematical precision attempts to quantify the “have to fund” it takes from the real needs and put in to what may or may not happen 20-30 years into the future.

Mr. Igeneri stated that he disagrees with this theory and that a percentage of underfunding could take on a life of its own and how we fund it presents greater problems in a future year. He added that actuarial standards are critically assessed with generally accepted standards used by municipal accounting practices, and these averages should be carefully analyzed and used.

Mr. Miklave added that it is not a real debt right now, and it is important to note that we have to be reasonable, but the real needs are a trade off.

Mr. Hempstead asked how much is saved if the OPEB is zero, and Mr. Barron replied \$5 million. Mr. Miklave replied that he wanted to stress that it is not impossible, it is difficult and it requires a great deal of analysis and heavy lifting, but it can be done at a reasonable level.

Mr. Hempstead if the annual salary increase is 2% across the board, the pension liability grows with salary increases.

Mr. Igneri stated that this issue is very complex and perhaps a sub-committee could work on this and come up with a recommendation, but this committee has other work to do to approve the bottom line cap.

Mr. Igneri stated that he would like to discuss the issue of the Museum and he has received several e-mails regarding the savings from the closing and if the costs associated with moving the collection have been taken into account.

Mr. Barron explained that Mr. Hamilton has put a \$75,000 contingency to move the collection and it is important to keep in mind that this is a one-time cost, but the savings would be an annual savings that over time generates long term savings.

Mr. Kimmel stated that he agrees with Mr. Igneri on the prior issue regarding OPEB funding and urged the Committee to be very cautious as this could take on a life of its own. He stated that there are clear guidelines for reasons and it is important to follow these actuarial recommendations and established, accepted guidelines.

Regarding the museum, Mr. Kimmel stated that the collection is valuable, and represents both old, large, and small items and questioned whether \$75,000 would be enough to guarantee the preservation of the collection. He asked about the lease and when it was up, and Mr. Barron replied that it expired in September 2011.

Mr. Kimmel stated that it is important for the City to have a museum particularly in the historic district, and the current location is perfect and a museum enhances the area. He added that the City is missing an opportunity to remarket this and that it is an opportunity to see it as a financial boost, and to look at the museum as having a long term benefit for future budget years. He added that if the decision to close is based on budgetary pressures, for \$250,000 it sends a message of negativity about the feelings on the history for the City. He summarized with a statement that he would like to see this item off the table as a proposed cut for the 2012-13 budget.

Mr. Hilliard stated that he agreed with Mr. Kimmel and there are other remedies rather than to close it down, as the City needs a museum.

Mr. Pena asked if there were 700,000 pieces of art, maybe there is another opportunity to display the works at libraries or at the Mansion.

Mr. Hempstead stated that this is a red herring, and the city owns buildings with no rent requirement and this is an opportunity to put the museum back to the Lockwood House. He gave a review of the background of the Keystone House, Lockwood Matthews Mansion and Mill Hill that have been run not by the City, but by the Friends of the Museum. He added that the collection at Norwalk Museum is not currently well preserved, and this may be an opportunity to have the Mansion handle the collection and the Library to re-catalogue the items. He added that this versus a long term lease has long term implications, but we have a bigger price to address to avoid a 4% tax increase to property tax payers. He asked Mr. Barron to review the major budget savings, and he explained that the proposed closing of the museum, the privatization of garbage collection, the position of the library and an administrative position at the Fire Department adds up to \$765,000. Mr. Hempstead stated that we have a long way to go beyond these items to limit the proposed increase to the mil rate.

Mr. Miklave stated that he agreed with Mr. Hempstead and would like to see a plan for operational changes rather than to just shut it down.

He added that with OPEB there is a choice, and it could be \$5 million or \$4 million and that is a much larger debate to have.

Mr. Kimmel reviewed the revenue assumptions and expenditure drivers and highlighted the Board of Education 3.5% increase is over \$5 million over last year versus other municipalities where they report BOE increases of 2-2½ %.

Mr. Barron stated that they are having discussions with the Finance Officer at the Board of Ed regarding HSA benefit reductions from 75% contribution to 50% and this would save a great deal. He stated that one of the reasons for the increase this year is to address underfunding from previous years, and this will be identified and quantified with the impact based on the BET. He added that health insurance is significantly less generous.

Mr. Hilliard asked if it is self-funded for the City and Mr. Barron replied yes, and they are looking at less generous benefit packages.

Mr. Peña stated that he is aware that the Board of Education is shopping out their health insurance benefit programs. He asked Mr. Wilms if all these discussion are a mute point and if the BET will take these comments into account.

Mr. Wilms replied that he is very interested in the comments, and that is why he is here to observe this meeting. He stated that he appreciates an opportunity to comment and added that the budget is a very political document. He stated that comments made are very valid points, for OPEB he agrees with Mr. Miklave and the pension funding is an accrual of a future liability trade off. He suggested that this perhaps should be phased in not fully funding and the discount rate now versus the future is another trade-off, and is 8% too high. He added that these issues should be weighed against the sacrifice of services.

Mr. Wilms continued that regarding the Board of Education, the former CFO stated that the financial system is broken, and is not capable of managing \$160 million, and this creates a

credibility gap. He added that regarding the health benefits discussion, it is important to note that the NFT is overly generous and there is an emphasis on reform to bring this into public standards. He stated that relative to the unions, the BOE has done a poor job with contract negotiations; and City attorney representation to eliminate this controversy is an item for debate every year.

Mr. Wilms stated that the most critical element to address is to increase the grand list with redevelopment projects and this will grow the grand list to make an impact on the budget.

Mr. Hempstead asked if there was a way of addressing the fact that the state continues to lower the funding of ECS to Norwalk, and that is an ongoing battle that needs to be fought.

Mr. McCarthy stated that he agrees strongly with the issue of the ECS funding and asked to look at benchmarks of other municipalities both for OPEB and education to frame our thinking and evaluate this variance based upon what the city can afford.

Mr. Peña asked how it is captured by other municipalities in terms of analysis, and Mr. Barron replied that he will examine the data that Mr. Hamilton has been collecting and provide it to the Committee.

Mr. Barron stated that one suggestion it to have multi-year budgeting for the Board of Education and to combine the public balance of City services with the BOE requests.

Mr. Miklave stated that tying the tax increase in to value of property value of real estate is wrong and a better analysis is the purchase value of income. He added that with the Board of Education, the language of distrust and attack versus collaboration needs to be done to bring consensus of values and to release the competitive spirit of how we deliver the City services.

Mr. Miklave stated that the model is backwards and there needs to be a way to build a budget like how it is done in the business world and the Common Council should have line item input not just bottom line overview.

Mr. McCarthy stated that the real estate tax versus perceived value and compare with as a percentage of median income is a better model for the balancing act for budgeting. He added that this should be compared to like cities.

Mr. Kimmel added that average should be median and there should be a way to quantify the balancing and budget decision in a diverse town, it is impossible to look at a cap in isolation of many departments and the end result is just a number.

Mr. Hempstead stated that he will make a commitment to have a study group or ad-hoc committee to study the services to design a bottom up budget for a department. He added that the Council has authority to reorganize a department.

Mr. Miklave stated that he agrees with this and there should be a broader approach for all departments and it is part of looking at services and efficiencies with performance standards. Departments should be held accountable and there are impediments for accountability. He reviewed the structure used in business for employee evaluations and the creation of incentives and explained that there is a 3-tier structure of the 60-20-20 rule. He explained that those at the bottom 20% you just manage, the top 20% are motivated and you let them continue to thrive and move forward with little management; but the focus is on the 60% sector, and that is the group that can affect the greatest gain. He summarized that the Committee needs to look at that analogy and identify the 60% in the City budget that can be improved and managed in a better way.

Mr. McCarthy stated that there are many possible explanations for the values being down, either the average sale price is down, or the volume per transaction could be down or fewer commercial transactions. He stated that he would try to see what data is available from the Town Clerk. Mr. Hempstead clarified that he would like to see present day value of a typical home in Norwalk and to get some examples from the assessor's office. He feels that the comparison of the median sales price is low yet we have not seen the bottom.

Mr. Miklave stated that as he pointed out last week, some of the budget reductions represent a very small percentage of the total budget and represents .0023% of the total or an insignificant trickle down to the average increase to property taxes. He stated that he has lived with this process for a very long time is very backwards where the requests are added up and dollars are recommended for cuts without a strategic plan of where the priorities lie. He added that there needs to be macro not micro overview and while this debate is good it we get lost in the numbers and lose the values. He would like to see value based discussions at a better way to spend the \$300 million, not just cut services. Mr. Hempstead stated that he agreed and added that the critical missing element is to determine the objectives and long term strategies to bring the City to where we want it to be.

There was no further business discussed.

#### ADJOURNMENT

**\*\* MR. IGNERI MOVED TO ADJOURN.  
\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marilyn Knox  
Telesco Secretarial Services

**CITY OF NORWALK  
FINANCE/CLAIMS PUBLIC HEARING  
AND  
SPECIAL MEETING  
FEBRUARY 23, 2012**

ATTENDANCE: Carvin Hilliard, Chair; Douglas Hempstead; John Igeneri;  
Nicholas Kydes; David McCarthy; Warren Pena (7:23);  
Matthew Miklave (7:39);

STAFF: Thomas Hamilton; Robert Baron; Fred Gilden

OTHERS: Bruce Kimmel; Jerry Petrini; David Watts, Common  
Councilmembers

**PUBLIC HEARING**

Mr. Hilliard opened the public hearing at 7:18 p.m. and introduced the Councilmembers present.

**Public Hearing on Fiscal Year 2012-2013 Operating Budget**

Mr. Elio Longo, Chief Operating Officer, Norwalk Public Schools said that the Board of Education approved a budget of \$165.4 million, which is \$1.5 million below the Superintendent's request. He spoke about the competitive bidding of their health insurance that should result in a savings of \$1 million in renewals. He said that they are also looking at bringing other programs back to the district.

Mr. Longo asked the Committee to consider every avenue to consider the Board of Education's request.

Mr. Pena joined the meeting at 7:23 p.m.

Mr. Scott Phelen, Branford Street, said that he has worked for the Department of Public Works for over 14 years. He spoke against privatizing garbage. He said that initially there would be a savings, but then there would be the claim of overhead and a Solid Waste Authority will be created and resident will then be charged. He asked why the City couldn't continue to pick up the garbage and maintain control over their future.

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Mr. Scott Schular, Ely Avenue, said that he has worked for the Department of Public Works for 19 years and that privatizing garbage would not be a good thing. He questioned whether or not the City would end up with charging a garbage fee. He asked what is going to happen to the small store fronts and asked if they will be forced to pay for their own carting.

Mr. Hector DeJesus, said that he has worked for the Department of Public Works for 20 years. He said that he has seen tree and Christmas tree pick ups sent out to private companies. He talked about services being privatized and then residents being taxed for those services.

Mr. DeJesus said that the Unions are not the bad guys. He said that they are on the job every day to make sure the streets are clean and safe.

Mr. Milton Giddiens, Lenox Street, President of Local 2405 said that this is the oldest Union in Norwalk.

Mr. Miklave joined the meeting at 7:32 p.m.

Mr. Giddiens said that he loves the people he works with and is proud to work with them. He said that each person does 10 – 15 specialized jobs. When there is an emergency, that is the person you will see. Mr. Giddiens said that there have been a lot of losses in the department. He said that they used to have a tree crew, but they were let go. He said that when they see taxpayers, they know who they are serving. He said that sanitation is a health issue, and they do it well. Mr. Giddiens said that they went from 12 trucks to 4.

Mr. Miklave apologized for being late.

Mr. Steve Colarossi, Plymouth Avenue, member of Board of Education and Chair of the Board of Education Finance Committee, said that two years ago they made a 0% budget work and the teachers continued to excel. Last year they had a modest increase. Since they did so much work in eliminating fluff in the accounts, they were able to identify savings.

Mr. Colarossi said that in this third year, they are trying to do what they can with limited funds. He said that they will continue to work with whatever amount the cap amount is set. He said that they are looking at moving Special Education programs back to the City which will be a savings to the City. Mr. Colarossi said that he felt the budget is an accurate representation.

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Mr. Peter Bondi, Princess Pine Road, Chair, Norwalk Historical Commission, said that he was here to speak about the Norwalk Museum collection. He said that the collection allows people to learn how the City has evolved over the years. He spoke about the opportunities to learn about Norwalk at the Norwalk Museum.

Mr. Bondi said that he learned about closing the Museum through articles and that there is no plan in place on how the collection will be safely moved and stored. He said that if the City goes through the bid process, then there is the issue of where to store the collection. He said that the Library, Lockwood Mathews Mansion and the Lockwood House can't store the collection. He said that that the history and souls of our ancestors should not be taken.

Mr. Bondi said that the cost of moving and storing the collection would eliminate any savings. As the Historic Commission, they have been appointed to oversee the collection. He said that he is opposed to closing the Norwalk museum and is opposed to splitting the collection.

Mr. Bondi announced that a tour of the Norwalk Museum will be offered tomorrow at 2:00 p.m.

Mr. Eric Chandler, Ledgebrook Drive, five year Member of the Norwalk Historical Commission said that he supports Mr. Bondi's statements and is opposed to closing the Norwalk Museum and moving the collection to the Lockwood House. He said that the current location is the most efficient location.

Mr. Chandler said that they are being penny wise and pound foolish if they close the Museum. He said that if the Museum is closed, he feels that no one in the City will ever have access to the collection again.

Mr. Fred Bondi, King Street said that he was speaking as a resident of Norwalk and not a Councilmember. He spoke in support of keeping the Norwalk Museum open. He said that it took a lot of years to gather the history in the Museum and it should not be put into storage; it is for the people to look at.

Mr. Bondi said that there is a sign in book at the Museum with over 4,000 signatures in it. He said that the collection should be on display for people to do research of this great City. He said that these items can't be replaced if they are damaged. He asked about security to be sure nothing from the collection is stolen. He said that these items can't be replaced.

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Mr. Bondi said that they City will not eliminate \$216,000 from the budget, because it will cost about the same amount to pack and store the collection properly. Mr. Bondi asked to keep the Museum collection together where it is now. He said that the Lockwood House was built to house the collection, but it has been rented out and the funds used to pay the rent at the old City Hall. He said that it has not been rented out for almost a year and now the Fire Department is there and they are not paying rent.

Ms. Lesley Kotlennick, Curator Rowayton Historical Society said that everyone was here to preserve the culture of Norwalk. She said that Norwalk is probably one of the oldest cities in America. She said that there is something special about this community that values its history. She said that the preservation of a collection is an on-going activity. She spoke about her concern for the safety of the collection if it is put into storage.

Ms. Kotlennick urged everyone to think carefully about what it means to preserve history and the artifacts. She said that there is no museum that has been disbanded and was able to reconstitute itself.

Ms. Marcia Powell read a letter in support from Mr. Clyde Ripka, Bull Head Market in support of keeping the Norwalk Museum open.

Ms. Patsy Brescia, East Avenue, Chair of the Board, Lockwood Mathews Mansion Museum said that they are requesting \$45,000. She said that it is a magnificent facility and they are working hard to keep it as part of the heritage of Norwalk.

Ms. Brescia said she was responding to the comments about closing the Norwalk Museum. She said that there must be creative ways to save the Norwalk Museum. She said that when she was a member of the Common Council, a member of the Lockwood family handed the City a check for \$160,000 to build the Lockwood House to perpetuate the history of the City.

Ms. Leigh Grant, Comstock Hill Avenue, spoke in support of saving the Norwalk Museum. She said that it will kill our history and the ability to keep discovering it. She said closing the Museum will betray the trust of the donors. She said that moving the collection opens the door to damaging the collection.

Ms. Marija Bryant spoke in support of keeping the Norwalk Museum open. She said that currently people have the ability to do research in one place.

Mr. David Watts, said that he was speaking as a resident. He spoke in support of keeping the Norwalk Museum open and spoke against privatizing garbage.

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Mr. Dan Gruman spoke about making changes to the health and retirement benefits for new City employees. He said that he is in favor of privatizing, but does not see how it can save employees jobs and save money. He said that he would like to see transparency in general obligation bonds and proposed that amounts over \$3,000 be publicized on the website and local newspapers.

Mr. Nicholas Kydes, Common Councilmember said that he is a financial conservative and is keen on keeping taxes lower, but was moved by the discussion related to the Norwalk Museum. He said that inspired him and he supports keeping it open. He said that museums are the soul of the community in which it lies. Mr. Kydes said that it is important to understand our roots. The Norwalk Museum is a structure that will live on after us and tell a story about us – its citizens. He said that he feels \$216,000 can be found somewhere else and not burden the taxpayers. Mr. Kydes said that he will do what he can to keep the Norwalk Museum open.

Mr. Steve Forcier, DPW employee said that privatizing the garbage will not benefit the City. He said that sewage was privatized and now residents have to pay a sewage fee. He said that when they figure out that privatizing garbage does not work, they will impose a fee. He said that Mr. Alvord and Mr. Hasselkamp do not live in Norwalk and the repercussions do not impact them.

Mr. Don Bradley, DPW employee said that the men work their tails off and that he is not in favor of privatizing garbage. He said that the entire Union asks that the City not privatize garbage.

Ms. Lisa Wilson Grant spoke in support of keeping the Norwalk Museum open. She said that she wrote a book about Roton Point and is now being asked to write a book about Norwalk. She said that she was shocked and dismayed over the possibility that she won't be able to go to the Museum to access information that she needs.

Ms. Grant said that the Norwalk Museum should be re-energized and would be saddened to think it would be closed and the information there could not be shared.

Mr. Michael Campbell said that he volunteers and is an Intern at the Norwalk Museum. He said that the decision to close the Museum would be outrageous and impulsive. He asked that the Museum be kept open for the sake of the public and the community.

Dr. Lynn Moore, Principal West Rocks Middle School told Mr. Campbell that she was proud of him and his sister Catherine. She said that DPW provides a valuable service and is not in support of privatization. She spoke in support of keeping the Museum open. Dr. Moore said that they need to consider raising the cap.

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There were no other members of the public who wished to speak and the public hearing was closed at 8:30 p.m.

**SPECIAL MEETING**

Mr. Hilliard called the special meeting to order at 8:40 p.m.

**Fiscal Year 2012-013 Operating Budget and Cap Review and Discussion and Recommendation**

Mr. Hilliard read the following resolution:

**WHEREAS**, Section 1-289 of the Norwalk Charter requires that a majority of the Common Council vote to establish a specific spending limitation on locally funded expenditures during the process of establishing the next fiscal year's operating budget.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORWALK THAT:**

The maximum limit on total appropriations for the City of Norwalk for Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2012 shall be no more than \$\_\_\_\_\_. This appropriation cap represents total expenditures of \$\_\_\_\_\_ less estimated intergovernmental grants of \$\_\_\_\_\_.

Be it further resolved that the result of this vote and resolution, together with the attached 2012-13 Budget Guide, be forward by the Clerk of the City of Norwalk to the Board of Estimate and Taxation.

**ADOPTED BY MAJORITY**

VOTE: \_\_\_\_\_ in favor \_\_\_\_\_ against

Mr. Hilliard said that he would like to hear from Committee members. Mr. Kydes asked Mr. Hamilton to remove \$216,000 for the Museum funding. He asked Mr. Hamilton where they could move the Museum. Mr. Hamilton said that it makes sense to move it to the Lockwood House, because it is a City owned property. He said that once the Fire Department opens and they vacate the property, there are no other tenants lined up.

Mr. Kydes asked about the square footage of the Lockwood House and if it would be able to hold all of the artifacts. Mr. Hamilton said that has to be looked into as well as storing historical documents at the Library. He said that the Librarians are trained in dealing with preserving materials. He said that they are evolving as they move into this further.

Mr. Hamilton said that the proposal generated a lot of discussion. He understands that the collection is important and wants to make it available to people. He said that a non-profit corporation set up could run the museum. Typically they engage in fundraising and have a board of directors that have the skill sets to manage a museum. Mr. Hamilton said that you very rarely see a municipal museum; it is far more common to have a 501 (c) 3 corporation. The Lockwood Mathews Mansion Museum receives \$40,000 from the City, but the City is not looked at as a sole source of funding.

Mr. Petrini asked about the costs associated with the closing. Mr. Hamilton said that he put \$75,000 into contingency to cover the transition and storage expenses. He said that the Mayor expressed interest in leaving the collection where it is and negotiating a deal with the owner of the building at a reduced rate. The lease expired in June 2011 and the Museum was there on a month to month.

Mr. McCarthy expressed concern with damaging the collection during the moves and said that it makes sense to transition only once.

Mr. Miklave had a series of factual questions. He asked what would have to change to bring the tax increase down. Mr. Hamilton said that the easiest way would be to reduce expenditure in a line item. \$2,468,372 represents 1% which would bring the increase down to 2.8%. Mr. Miklave asked if closing the Museum would save the City \$216,000. Mr. Hamilton said that the total savings would be \$274,000, which would include employee benefits.

Mr. Miklave asked what would be saved by privatizing garbage. Mr. Hamilton said that the City would save \$360,000. Mr. Miklave asked about post employment benefits. Mr. Hamilton said that the accrued liabilities are from members who have already retired. Active employee benefits will be paid out in their retirement. The pension liability is based on years of service. Health insurance is based on whether or not the employee

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qualifies for it. Mr. Hamilton said that he increased the other post employee benefits budget by \$250,000. Mr. Hamilton said that the City is underfunded by about 10%, but is phasing into full funding. The City is attempting to make changes to the benefit where new employees will pay a sliding scale for health benefits depending upon years of service. The strategy is that the City is attempting to share the burden with the beneficiaries.

Mr. Kimmel asked about the interest income. Mr. Hamilton said that the City has a certain amount of core cash in government agency investments. As they mature, they have to replace them with lower yielding investments.

Mr. Hempstead asked about the amounts if they go to a 1.9% tax increase. Mr. Baron explained that \$294,537,313 equals a drop off of 4,803,071 to achieve 1.9%.

Mr. Hilliard asked how much would have to be added to the budget to fund the Board of Education at their requested amount. Mr. Hamilton said that \$299,340,384 would add \$5,199,559 which would fully fund the Board of Education request for a total of \$304,539,943 which would result in a 5.85 mill rate increase. Mr. Hilliard asked to add the Norwalk Museum to that amount. Mr. Baron said that the total amount would be \$304,756,338 which would equal a 5.85 mill rate. Mr. Hilliard asked to add garbage to that amount. Mr. Baron said that the total expenditure with the Board of Education, Norwalk Museum and garbage would be \$305,116,338 which would equal a 6% mill rate.

Mr. Kimmel asked about Police staffing levels. Mr. Hamilton said that the Police asked for additional positions, but he said that they were unable to recommend that. Mr. Baron said that they reduced their 10 recruit request to 5. Mr. Hamilton said that the budget for this year funded 197 positions and funds 197 next year. The Patrol Division is 131 positions if fully staffed.

Mr. Kimmel asked Mr. Hamilton if he budgeted for increase over time for the Patrol Division. Mr. Hamilton said that has been well controlled over the last 2 -3 years. He said that there is a raise built into the Police Union. He said that all other City contracts are unsettled so he can't talk about them in open session.

A recess was called at 9:41 p.m.

The meeting resumed at 9:50 p.m.

Mr. Miklave said that this is one of the most important decisions the Common Council makes during the course of the year. He said that he did not believe this budget process

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is a good process. He said that he means no disrespect to the professionals. Mr. Miklave said that they are talking about what they can cut, rather than what they spend. He said that the Charter does not give them line item authority; they can only vote on the cap and he said that he takes that responsibility very seriously.

Mr. Miklave said that he believes there are considerable opportunities for savings in the budget. He said that he would be more comfortable with a 2.8% cap without closing the Museum and privatizing garbage. He said that he is dead set against these and will vote against any effort to close the Museum or privatize garbage. Mr. Miklave said that he will not support a 3.8% increase.

Mr. Hilliard said that he agreed with Mr. Miklave and was opposed to closing the Museum and privatizing garbage. He said that the Museum is a definite value to the City. He said that he was in support of fully funding the Board of Education's proposed budget. He said that we have to educate our kids and prepare them for the best future possible. He said that we can pay on this end instead of adding to the prison system.

Mr. Watts said that he agrees with Mr. Miklave and Mr. Hilliard. He said that as a parent, he wants to make sure his son gets a first rate education. He said that he can't understand on the cheap. Home values are tied into the school system. He said that if you value your home, you will support education. He said that we have to do the right thing for the kids in Norwalk and fully fund the Board of Education.

Mr. Watts said that he would like to see his son able to compete with the surrounding communities. He said that if you are a Democrat you will believe these things. He said that closing the Museum and privatizing the garbage and still raising taxes is a radical budget. Mr. Watts asked his colleagues on the Committee to do the right thing and stand up for the kids, the City workers and the history of the City.

Mr. Kimmel noted that he is not on the Committee and could not vote. He said that he wanted to remind folks that in Connecticut, collective bargaining is governed by state statute. He said that there has to be a give and take in contract negotiations and would be very careful before adopting a cap that is predicated on a certain level salary increase. He said that he has always argued that the budget has to be a balance. He said that he feels that 6% is too far one way. He said that 1.9% is also too far to one side.

Mr. Kimmel said that under 2% is a little too low and that the recommended budget put forth by the Finance Director is practical.

Mr. Pena said that he has heard a lot of passionate statements tonight. He said that he is not in favor of closing the Museum or privatizing garbage. He said that it is difficult to

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process because they do not have line item control. He said that he agrees with Mr. Kimmel that they have to take a balanced approach. Mr. Pena said that he feels the need to fund the Board of Education, but has to be sensitive to the taxpayers.

Mr. Pena suggested looking at the pension and how to start changing the dynamics. He suggested getting folks to start saving on their own.

Mr. Igneri said that he agreed with his colleagues that there needs to be a balance approach. He said that he is concerned that with a 1.9% increase, the unfunded liability will grow. He said that the numbers are small to keep the Museum open and not privatize garbage.

**\*\* MR. HEMPSTEAD MOVED THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION:**

**WHEREAS**, Section 1-289 of the Norwalk Charter requires that a majority of the Common Council vote to establish a specific spending limitation on locally funded expenditures during the process of establishing the next fiscal year's operating budget.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORWALK THAT:**

The maximum limit on total appropriations for the City of Norwalk for Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2012 shall be no more than \$278,140,966. This appropriation cap represents total expenditures of \$294,537,313 less estimated intergovernmental grants of \$16,396,347.

Be it further resolved that the result of this vote and resolution, together with the attached 2012-13 Budget Guide, be forward by the Clerk of the City of Norwalk to the Board of Estimate and Taxation.

Mr. Hempstead said that he was concerned about people on Section 8 or whose homes are under water. He said that it kills him to ask for \$1.9%. He said that Norwalk taxes are not cheap. The median in the fourth district is \$6,000 and on that basis 3.8% is a \$220.00 increase. He said that the Governor told the City deal with it, because of what it got last year. He said that if the State gives the City extra money, it would go directly to the Board of Education.

Mr. Watts asked what the Republican leader has done in Hartford. He said that he feels that Norwalk has been short changed for the last few years when we have had Republican leaders in Hartford.

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Mr. Hilliard said that they have to make a very important decision. He said that they all agree that they want more money from the State, but we still have a job to educate our kids. Mr. Hempstead said that the State has been under control of both Houses for the past 20 years.

Mr. Kydes said that it is important to realize that they were voted into office to be the fiduciary of the budget. High taxes will not bring new business into the City. He said that for the last seven years that he has been on the Common Council, he doubts they have every cut any Board of Education budget. He said that they decreased the amount of the increase. He said that as a parent, we all want the best for our children. Throwing money at the issue will not give them a better education. What is going to enlighten a child will be to have the proper system in which to learn.

Mr. Kydes suggested looking at the top heavy administrative slant at the Board of Education. He said that since he has been on the Common Council, they have never cut the Board of Education. Mr. Kydes said that he has heard a 6% increase, which he finds irresponsible. He said that he would love to have a 0% increase. He said that he has not had a raise in three years, but still has to pay a portion of his insurance. He asked why other people can't live in the real world. He asked why we have to support someone's pension and insurance. He said that it is time to tighten belts and open our eyes to reality.

Mr. Kydes said that the answer is to tighten our belts. Globally there is a major crisis. He said that he can live with a 1.9% increase, but can't vote for any more than that.

Mr. Miklave said that they have to be careful about the language they use when having these important debates. He said that this is a broken budget and the language of distrust is through around by both sides. He said that they need to be careful that they don't demonize people of good will that feel passionately. Mr. Miklave said that 1.9% is too radical of a cut. He said that he believes that 2.8% can fully fund the Board of Education budget.

Mr. Miklave said that regarding the question about why they have to support the pension and health benefits. He said that it is a promise the City made and a deal they made with the City employees. Mr. Miklave said that the reason why we keep those promises is because we gave our word and that is important and that is why we honor those promises.

Mr. Kydes said that is not the issue he is trying to present. He said that the public lives in one world and the public servants live in another world. He said that he was not

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talking about not honoring promises made. He suggested developing a more financially sound path to follow. He said that the fix is to look at the expense side.

**\*\* MOTION FAILED WITH THREE (3) VOTES IN FAVOR (MR. KYDES, MR. HEMPSTEAD AND MR. MCCARTHY) AND FOUR (4) VOTES IN OPPOSITION (MR. HILLIARD, MR. IGNERI, MR. MIKLAVE AND MR. PENA)**

**\*\* MR. MIKLAVE MOVED THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION:**

**WHEREAS**, Section 1-289 of the Norwalk Charter requires that a majority of the Common Council vote to establish a specific spending limitation on locally funded expenditures during the process of establishing the next fiscal year's operating budget.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORWALK THAT:**

The maximum limit on total appropriations for the City of Norwalk for Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2012 shall be no more than \$282,944,037. This appropriation cap represents total expenditures of \$299,340,384 less estimated intergovernmental grants of \$16,396,347.

Be it further resolved that the result of this vote and resolution, together with the attached 2012-13 Budget Guide, be forward by the Clerk of the City of Norwalk to the Board of Estimate and Taxation.

Mr. Miklave said that this represents a 3.8% mill rate which equals \$229.00 median property value increase in the fourth district.

Mr. Miklave said that he is putting this up as a place holder, but will vote against it.

**\*\* MOTION FAILED WITH NO VOTES IN FAVOR**

**\*\* MR. PENA MOVED THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION:**

**WHEREAS**, Section 1-289 of the Norwalk Charter requires that a majority of the Common Council vote to establish a specific spending limitation on locally funded expenditures during the process of establishing the next fiscal year's operating budget.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORWALK THAT:**

The maximum limit on total appropriations for the City of Norwalk for Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2012 shall be no more than \$282,944,037. This appropriation cap represents total expenditures of \$296,872,012 less estimated intergovernmental grants of \$16,396,347.

Be it further resolved that the result of this vote and resolution, together with the attached 2012-13 Budget Guide, be forward by the Clerk of the City of Norwalk to the Board of Estimate and Taxation.

This represents a 2.8% mill rate increase which equals \$171.00 median property value increase in the fourth district.

**\*\* MOTION FAILED WITH THREE (3) VOTES IN FAVOR (MR. MIKLAVE, MR. PENA AND MR. IGNERI) AND FOUR (4) VOTES IN OPPOSITION (MR. KYDES, MR. HEMPSTEAD, MR. MCCARTHY AND MR. HILLIARD)**

Mr. McCarthy proposed a 2.4% increase.

Mr. McCarthy asked for a recess and said that he withdrew his proposal.

A recess was called at 10:46 p.m.

The meeting resumed at 10:52 p.m.

Mr. Miklave said that there is not a majority vote for any proposal. The Chair has the authority to put this resolution on the Common Council floor. Mr. Hempstead said that the numbers have to go into the Common Council meeting packet tomorrow morning. Mr. Hamilton said that he needs to know the numbers. Mr. Hilliard said that he did not have to do that now. He would do it tomorrow.

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**\*\* MR. MIKLAVE MOVED TO ADJOURN**

**\*\* MOTION PASSED WITH FOUR (4) VOTES IN FAVOR (MR. HILLIARD, MR. MIKLAVE, MR. PENA AND MR. IGNERI) AND THREE (3) VOTES IN OPPOSITION (MR. KYDES, MR. HEMPSTEAD, MR. MCCARTHY)**

There was no further business and the meeting was adjourned at 10:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemarie Lombardi  
Telesco Secretarial Services



**MEMORANDUM**

DATE: March 1, 2012

TO: The Members of the Board of Estimate and Taxation  
The Members of the Planning Commission  
The Members of the Common Council

FROM: Richard Moccia, Mayor *RAM*

RE: Special Capital Appropriation – NPA Maritime Garage floor membrane replacement

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Attached is a special capital appropriation request in the amount of \$49,000 from the Norwalk Parking Authority (NPA) to replace the floor membrane in the Maritime Garage that is leaking over the commercial office space below.

The NPA will engage G.L. Capasso, Inc. to perform the work. Capasso was the lowest bidder for the structural repairs for the SoNo Railroad Station and whose bid has been reviewed and approved by the Desman Associates, the engineering firm engaged by the NPA.

The SoNo Railroad Station structural repair project is complete and has sufficient surplus funds to cover this membrane replacement request at the Maritime Garage. The Finance Director's statement concerning the most feasible means to finance this appropriation is attached.

**ACTION REQUESTED:**

1. Authorize a special capital appropriation in the amount of \$49,000 for the replacement of the floor membrane in the Maritime Garage above the commercial office space.  
Account: C0464
2. Authorize a reduction in the amount of \$49,000 to the approved capital appropriation for the SoNo Railroad Station structural repairs (Project #C0358), from \$952,000 to \$903,000.

Cc: Thomas Hamilton, Finance Director  
Hal Alvord, Public Works Director  
Fred Gildea, Comptroller  
Norwalk Parking Authority



DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE  
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

### MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 1, 2012

TO: Richard A. Moccia, Mayor  
The Members of the Board of Estimate and Taxation  
The Members of the Planning Commission  
The Members of the Common Council

FROM: Thomas Hamilton, Director of Finance

RE: Special Capital Appropriation – NPA Maritime Garage floor membrane replacement

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Attached is a special capital appropriation request in the amount of \$49,000 from the Norwalk Parking Authority (NPA) to replace the floor membrane in the Maritime Garage that is leaking over the commercial office space below.

G.L. Capasso, the low bidder for the membrane replacement at the SoNo railroad station garage, provided a quote of \$48,944 for the replacement of 7,800 square feet of existing membrane at the Maritime Garage. This membrane installation project involves the removal and replacement of the existing T joint caulking in addition to the removal and cleaning of the entire surface where the new membrane will be installed. This quote is lower than the cost per square foot of the competitively bid Sono Garage project's membrane work. In addition, G.L. Capasso, Inc. is a "Certified" installer of the required membrane and as such, the City will receive a 5 year warranty for the work.

The South Norwalk Railroad Station structural repair project is complete and came in below budget. There is a sufficient balance in the account that can be used to cover the costs of this membrane replacement request for the Maritime Garage.

I am recommending, therefore, that the appropriation for the South Norwalk Railroad Station structural repair, project #C0358, be reduced by \$49,000, from \$952,000 to \$903,000, and these proceeds be used to finance the replacement of the floor membrane at the Maritime Garage, project #C0464.

Cc: Richard Moccia, Mayor  
Hal Alvord, Public Works Director  
Fred Gilden, Comptroller  
Norwalk Parking Authority



## MEMORANDUM

February 28, 2012

To: Tom Hamilton  
Finance Director

From: Kathryn R. Hebert  
Administrative Services Manager

Re: **Capital Budget Request to Transfer Funds**

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On behalf of the Norwalk Parking Authority, I am requesting a transfer of funds in the Capital Budget from 0911 4095 5777 C0358 to 0910 4095 5777 C0464 in the amount of \$49,000.

The membrane located at the second floor of the Maritime Garage is leaking into the commercial/office space located below and compromising the garage structure. In order to properly repair this, the current membrane must be removed and replaced. G.L. Capasso, Inc. was the lowest responsible bidder for the structural repairs for the SoNo Railroad Station and we requested a change order for the Maritime Garage repair (attached). The Norwalk Parking Authority approved this request in November, but because the temperatures were getting colder, the Engineering Staff decided to wait until the Spring so that the waterproof/sealer would properly adhere.

The South Norwalk Railroad Station Structural Repair project is complete and came in way below budget. There is a balance in the account that can be used to cover the costs of the waterproofing repair at the Maritime Garage.

Thank you.

Cc: Hal Alvord, Director Public Works  
Fred Gilden, Comptroller  
Norwalk Parking Authority

**From:** Sweeney, Brian  
**Sent:** Friday, October 21, 2011 10:09 AM  
**To:** Hebert, Kathy  
**Subject:** RE: change order request

Kathryn – In the Maritime Garage, the only place there is a waterproofing traffic membrane is where there are garage floors over commercial /office space. In this situation, the membrane acts like roofing to protect the space. At other floors in the garage, leaks between individual floors do not create an issue and are not intended to be perfectly waterproof (By the way, the rest of the garage is good condition). The 7,800 sf area to have the new membrane installed is the same area where membrane was installed prior to the garage opening in 2004; this is to repair that membrane.

There will be no overtime allowed. The contractor and Laz will need to coordinate, maintaining traffic to do the installation.



**MEMORANDUM**

DATE: March 1, 2012

TO: The Members of the Board of Estimate and Taxation  
The Members of the Planning Commission  
The Members of the Common Council

FROM: Richard Moccia, Mayor 

RE: Special Capital Appropriation – NPA Emergency Generators

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Attached is a special capital appropriation request in the amount of \$120,000 from the Norwalk Parking Authority to purchase an emergency generator for the Maritime Garage.

The Maritime Garage did not have an emergency generator installed when the facility was built in 2003. When power is lost, it creates an unsafe and disruptive environment for the patrons and employees of the garage, and the potential for lost revenue from being unable to collect fees.

The competitive bidding process created a surplus in the South Norwalk Railroad Station emergency generator replacement account sufficient enough to purchase the requested generator for the Maritime Garage. The Finance Director's statement concerning the most feasible means to finance this appropriation is attached.

**ACTION REQUESTED:**

1. Authorize a special capital appropriation in the amount of \$120,000 for the purchase of an emergency generator for the Maritime Garage. Account: C0464
2. Authorize a reduction in the amount of \$120,000 to the approved capital appropriation for the purchase of an emergency generator for the Norwalk Railroad Station emergency generator (Project #C0498), from \$300,000 to \$180,000.

Cc: Thomas Hamilton, Finance Director  
Hal Alvord, Public Works Director  
Fred Gildea, Comptroller  
Norwalk Parking Authority



**MEMORANDUM**

DATE: March 1, 2012

TO: The Members of the Board of Estimate and Taxation  
The Members of the Planning Commission  
The Members of the Common Council

FROM: Richard Moccia, Mayor 

RE: Special Capital Appropriation – NPA Emergency Generators

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**ACTION REQUESTED:**

1. Authorize a special capital appropriation in the amount of \$120,000 for the purchase of an emergency generator for the Maritime Garage. Account: C0464
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Cc: Thomas Hamilton, Finance Director  
Hal Alvord, Public Works Director  
Fred Gilden, Comptroller  
Norwalk Parking Authority

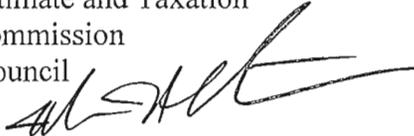


DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE  
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

## MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 1, 2012

TO: Richard A. Moccia, Mayor  
The Members of the Board of Estimate and Taxation  
The Members of the Planning Commission  
The Members of the Common Council

FROM: Thomas Hamilton, Director of Finance 

RE: Special Capital Appropriation – NPA Emergency Generators

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Attached is a special capital appropriation request in the amount of \$120,000 from the Norwalk Parking Authority to purchase an emergency generator for the Maritime Garage.

The Maritime Garage did not have an emergency generator installed when the facility was built in 2003. This garage is located in the SNEW electric service area and there are regular power disruptions, often times not related to any weather issues and without warning. In the months when there are weather outages, i.e. Hurricane Irene and Storm Alfred, the lack of emergency power becomes a particularly difficult problem. When the power is lost, none of the revenue control equipment is operational, the financial system goes down, safety and security equipment do not work, and residential and hourly parkers cannot get their cars out. Also, there are no lights in the offices, no heat or air conditioning, and it generally creates an unsafe, disruptive and frustrating situation for the patrons and employees of the garage, not to mention the potential for lost revenue from being unable to collect fees.

The competitive bidding process created a surplus in the South Norwalk Railroad Station emergency generator replacement account sufficient enough to purchase the requested generator for the Maritime Garage. I am recommending, therefore, that the appropriation for the South Norwalk Railroad Station emergency generator, project #C0498, be reduced by \$120,000, from \$300,000 to \$180,000, and these proceeds be used to finance the purchase of the emergency generator for the Maritime Garage, project #C0464.

Cc: Richard Moccia, Mayor  
Hal Alvord, Public Works Director  
Fred Gilden, Comptroller  
Norwalk Parking Authority



## MEMORANDUM

February 14, 2012

To: Tom Hamilton  
Finance Director

From: Kathryn R. Hebert  
Administrative Services Manager

Re: *CAPITAL BUDGET ACCOUNTS*

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Funding was approved for fiscal year 2012 to purchase an emergency generator for the South Norwalk Railroad station in the amount of \$300,000. This amount was based on estimates during the capital budget development. The NPA also requested \$200,000 to purchase an emergency generator at the Maritime Garage but this specific request was not approved.

The emergency generators for both facilities were desperately needed. The Maritime Garage did not have one installed when the facility was built in 2003 and the South Norwalk Railroad Station had an emergency generator installed in 1996, but was inadequate and antiquated (parts were no longer available for repair). Both facilities are located in the SNEW electric service area and the power tends to go out on a regular basis with no warning and many times not related to any weather issues. And, as we all remember, within two months we had Hurricane Irene and Storm Alfred. This always results in none of the revenue control equipment work, the financial system would be down, safety and security equipment would not work, residential and hourly parkers could not get their cars out, there were no lights in the offices, no heat, air conditioning, etc. Basically, it was extremely unsafe, disruptive and frustrating.

The NPA bid out both facilities to encourage more favorable bids and that is what we received. The combined bids for both facilities came in at \$298,950 (\$178,950 for the South Norwalk Railroad Station-300 KW and \$120,000 for the Maritime Garage-150 kw), below the approved capital budget.

There was a long lead time to purchasing and installing the emergency generators and given the upcoming winter months the paperwork was sent in to purchase the equipment and both emergency generators have been installed.

This project installation was fast tracked to minimize any disruption waiting for the next power outage.

\$300,000 was funded in the South Norwalk Railroad Station generator capital account (C0498). On behalf of the NPA, I am requesting a capital transfer of \$120,000 from account number (C0498) to the Maritime Garage account (C0464) to properly pay and reflect these capital expenses.

Thank you.

Cc: Hal Alvord, Public Works Director  
Fred Gilden, Comptroller  
Norwalk Parking Authority

## Barron, Robert

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**From:** Hebert, Kathy  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 14, 2012 3:13 PM  
**To:** Hamilton, Tom; Barron, Robert  
**Cc:** Alvord, Harold; Gilden, Frederic  
**Subject:** npa generators  
**Attachments:** letter tom hamilton generators capital budget transfer 2.14.12.doc

Hi,

If you recall our conversation a few weeks ago we purchased two generators, one for the sono rr station and one for the maritime garage, both came in under \$300,000. However, the \$300,000 was funded in the capital budget all under sono rr station generator. The original estimate for both generators was \$300,000 for the sono rr station and \$200,000 for the maritime garage. We achieved some economies of scale by going out to bid for both and again came in under \$300,000.

Unfortunately, the funding is all in the sono rr station capital account and we cannot pay for the purchase of the maritime garage generator from that account. I dropped the ball as far as the process goes and quite frankly did not realize that the account actually says 'sono rr emergency generator', as I was more concerned in getting favorable bids and installing the equipment since they were desperately needed for both these facilities. Both generators are installed and functioning.

I realize that the process is somewhat cumbersome to move money from one capital account to another, but it is really the only way to pay for this. Attached is a draft letter to start the process unless it makes sense to wait. Perhaps if there is a way to pay for the Maritime Garage generator now, then we could wait to cycle through the process to correctly reflect the payment in the Maritime Garage account.

Please let me know.

Thank you.

Kathryn R. Hebert  
Administrative Services Manager  
City of Norwalk  
125 East Avenue  
Norwalk, Ct. 06851  
[khebert@norwalkct.org](mailto:khebert@norwalkct.org)  
[www.norwalkct.org](http://www.norwalkct.org)

**[www.norwalkpark.org](http://www.norwalkpark.org)**

203-854-7736