

**CITY OF NORWALK  
BOARD OF ESTIMATE  
& TAXATION  
SPECIAL MEETING  
FEBRUARY 11, 2013**

**ATTENDANCE:** Fred Wilms, Chair; Mayor, Richard Moccia; Erik Anderson;  
James Clark; John Federici; James Feigenbaum; Michael Kolman

**STAFF:** Thomas Hamilton, Finance Director; Robert Baron, Budget  
Director

Mr. Wilms called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. and announced that a quorum was present.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

January 7, 2013 – Regular Meeting

The following corrections were made to the minutes of January 7, 2013:

Page 1: Correct “ahs” to “has”

Page 4: Correct “submitted” to “submitting”

**\*\* MR. WILMS MOVED TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES AS CORRECTED  
\*\* MOTION PASSED WITH TWO (2) ABSTENTIONS (MR. CLARK AND  
MR. FEIGENBAUM)**

**SPECIAL APPROPRIATIONS AGENDA (Section A)**

List of Resolutions

**Advertised Items**

**Fiscal Year 2012-2013**

\$6,887.04 from Increased Revenues-Police

**\*\* MAYOR MOCCIA MOVED THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:**

**RESOLVED, THAT A SUM NOT TO EXCEED \$6,887.04 BE AND THE  
SAME IS HEREBY TRANSFERRED FROM INCREASED REVENUES  
TO THE POLICE DEPARTMENT TO COVER OVERTIME EXPENSES  
ACCOUNT #01-3042-5120**

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\$13,427.47 from Increased Revenues-Police

**RESOLVED, THAT A SUM NOT TO EXCEED \$13,427.47 BE AND THE SAME IS HEREBY TRANSFERRED FROM INCREASED REVENUES TO THE POLICE DEPARTMENT TO COVER OVERTIME EXPENSES ACCOUNT #01-3035-5120**

Mr. Baron explained the items; he said that they are a pass through.

**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**\*\* MR. WILMS MOVED THE FOLLOWING ITEM:**

\$150,000.00 from Contingency-Oak Hills Park Authority

**RESOLVED, THAT A SUM NOT TO EXCEED \$150,000 BE AND THE SAME IS HEREBY TRANSFERRED FROM CONTINGENCY TO THE OAK HILLS PARK AUTHORITY TO COVER OPERATING EXPENSES**

**ACCOUNT # 01-6110-54BB**

Mr. Baron explained the item. He said that the Oak Hills Park Authority provided their financials and indicated that they would have a cash flow problem for the remainder of the year. Their cash flow was positive until November, but the negative cash flow began in December. They anticipate a break-even situation by the end of the fiscal year.

The Oak Hills Park Authority is proposing taking \$150,000 from the City in the form of a loan. Mr. Hamilton noted that this item is on the agenda as a special appropriation, even though it is a loan.

Mr. Hamilton explained that the City of Norwalk owns the property and Oak Hills Park is operated as a City Department. The Oak Hills Park Authority was created in 1997 to operate the Park on behalf of the City.

Ms. Pat Williams reported that there are no revenues coming in and they do not anticipate any for a few months. They do not have enough funds to cover payroll and utilities. Mr. Wilms noted that this is a seasonal cash flow problem and this is what always happens.

Ms. Williams said that they are on target with their budget; their revenues are short. Mr. Wilms said that based on their spread sheet, they have kept their expenses per the budget; what is behind are the lower than expected revenues. Ms. Williams explained that they increased rates last year, which offset the reduced number of rounds played. In addition, they now have more amenities in place. She said that they are hoping that a driving range could drive up the volume.

Mayor Moccia said that if the Golf course was closed tomorrow, the City still has to pay the debt service. Mr. Hamilton added that the debt service has to be paid and the City owns the land and it is a City golf course. Mayor Moccia said that this is one of the amenities that the City of Norwalk offers to its residents. He reiterated that if Oak Hills closed tomorrow, the City would be responsible for paying the debt service.

Mr. Wilms said that from a business perspective, it is a revenue problem. Mr. Baron said that in October, they lost an entire weekend due to people preparing for Hurricane Sandy. Other storms also impacted their revenues.

Mr. Clark said that he was concerned that the projections he has seen seem to be overly optimistic; he said that he wants the park to be successful, but they need to be stewards of the taxpayers' money. He suggested that they may need to change their model. Mayor Moccia said that several of the people who made those projections are no longer on the Authority on the staff.

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

Report on Special Appropriations

Justification/Back-up material

**TRANSFER AGENDA (Section B)**

**\*\* MR. WILMS MOVED TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING TRANSFERS:**

**PUBLIC WORKS DEPT:**

<b>From:</b>	<b>To:</b>	<b>Amount</b>
01-4025-5322    Chemical Labs	17-4045-5332 Motor Vehicle Parts	<b>\$33,000</b>

**RECREATION & PARKS:**

<b>From:</b>	<b>To:</b>	<b>Amount</b>
01-6023-5140    Salary&Wages –P/T	01-6031-5298    Other contractual Svcs	<b>\$5,000</b>
01-6036-5130    Salary&Wages –Temp	01-6031-5297    Other contractual Svcs	<b>\$3,500</b>
01-6031-5322    Chemical Labs	01-6031-5298    Other Contractual Svcs	<b>\$1,600</b>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$10,100</b>

**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**OTHER BUSINESS (Section C)**

Presentation of the Recommended FY 2012-13 Operating Budget.

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Mr. Hamilton explained that the budget will be on the City's website tomorrow. He said that tonight is the kick off of the budget season. He gave a Powerpoint presentation of the FY 2013-14 Budget Presentation, dated February 11, 2013.

The recommended budget is \$311,317,270

4.88% overall expenditure increase:

- 5.3% gross increase (2.7% net) for Education
- 34.4% increase for pension contributions
- 2.8% net increase for City

3.9% average tax increase

Median Single Family 4<sup>th</sup> District taxes of \$6,338, an increase of \$250.

Mr. Hamilton reviewed the major funding initiatives. A discussion ensued. Mr. Wilms said that with this budget, the Board of Education's request, including the restoration of Library Aids will be funded, there will be no layoffs, the Common Core standards will be funded and it funds three new Police Officers. In addition, it will fund the operation of the new Norwalk Museum at the Lockwood House. The first full year of outsourced garbage collection services and single stream recycling generated in excess of \$1 million in financial benefit to the City.

Mayor Moccia said that the amount the City gets from ECS is substantially behind other cities. He said that they can't count on the amount yet.

The budget does not include the Governor's proposal to exempt property tax on the first \$28,000 for cars. Mr. Wilms said that this creates significant uncertainty.

#### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION (Section D)**

Summary of Special Appropriation

Status of Contingency

Financial Reports

Oak Hills Financial Status – December 2012

Year-to-date Capital Budget Report – FY 2012-13

Year-to-date City Operating Budget Report - FY 2012-13

Year-to-date BOE Operating Budget Report - FY 2012-13

Tax Collector's Report – January 2013

Tax Collector's Narrative – January 2013

Key Revenue Report – YTD January 2013

Salary accounts

Fire Overtime

Dispatch Overtime

Police Overtime

**\*\* MR. WILMS MOVED TO ADJOURN  
\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

There was no further business and the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 9:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemarie Lombardi  
Telesco Secretarial Services