

**CITY OF NORWALK  
BOARD OF ESTIMATE & TAXATION  
REGULAR MEETING  
MAY 6, 2013**

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

STAFF: Erin Herring, City Clerk; Thomas Hamilton, Finance Director;  
Robert Barron Director of Management & Budgets

Mr. Wilms called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. Ms. Herring called the Roll. A quorum was present.

**APPROVAL OF FY 2013-14 OPERATING BUDGET & TAX RATES**

Mr. Barron explained the item and said that the information was provided in the meeting packets. He explained that there were three areas where expenses were decreased: Public Works, Information Technology and Settled Contracts. The proposed final budget is \$636,420 less than the budget cap set by the Common Council and \$430,035 than the Tentative approved budget. The budget cap is the expenses less the intergovernmental revenue.

Mr. Hamilton explained that a home in the fourth district with a median assessed value of \$287,945 will pay \$243.13 more.

Mr. Barron highlighted final FY 2013-14 Board of Estimate and Taxation proposed budget.

Mr. Kolman suggested splitting \$636,000 into three groups and returning a third to the taxpayers, a third to the Board of Education and putting a third into the fund balance. Mayor Moccia explained that the problem is that they need to leave reserves because they are not sure how much the City will get from the State. Mr. Hamilton added that he did not think they could make adjustment because they do not have a basis to make them. Mayor Moccia said that it was unfortunate that they are at the mercy of other entities. He said that he has been in Hartford several times in the past month and a half and said that the Governor's budget does not serve Norwalk well.

Mr. Kolman asked what reserve will be tapped if they do not get State aid. Mr. Hamilton said that he does not know what the final numbers will look like. If the State aid that the Board of Education anticipates does not come in, they will look

for other strategies to bridge any gaps. The Governor had proposed eliminating a number of grant programs.

Mayor Moccia talked about LCIP and said that school safety is very important. He said that he believes that those funds can be used for school safety. He stressed that the number one priority outside of education is school safety.

Mr. Wilms said that he noticed a shift in conversations with the Board of Education this year. He said that he had formal meetings with them and the books are more professionally presented and found that he was able to have regular conversations with them. Mr. Wilms said that he felt they came out with a reasonable request and that they were on a very good track until the bombshell came from the State. He said that he will continue to have conversations with the Board of Education to find a way to bridge the gap.

**\*\* MAYOR MOCCIA MOVED APPROVAL OF FY 2013-14 OPERATING BUDGET & TAX RATES AS PRESENTED**

Mr. Wilms said that no budget is perfect and that he wishes he could find a way to make everyone happy. There will always have to be compromises. He said that they have a balanced budget within the Common Council cap. The budget allows them to hire three new Police officers who will be stationed in the schools. He added that he likes that groups are being held accountable.

Mr. Wilms said that he supports this budget; it is a compromise and represents that they are turning a corner. Mayor Moccia agreed.

**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY BY ROLL CALL VOTE WITH SIX (6) VOTES IN FAVOR (MR. WILMS; MAYOR MOCCIA; MR. ANDERSON; MR. FEDERICI; MR. FEIGENBAUM; MR. KOLMAN)**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES** - April 1, 2013 - regular meeting

The following corrections were made to the minutes of April 1, 2013:

**Page 2:** Library, last sentence revision

“He added that he has reviewed this with the Library Director who spent a good deal of time...”

Delete the remainder of the sentence and replace with:

“Restructuring the schedule of the part time staff to remain within the Library’s budget while still providing coverage for the absence of a full time worker on a long term sick leave. “

**Page 4:** Key Revenue Report, name revision

Mr. Baron should be Mr. Barron

**Page 5:** Other Business, first sentence revision:

“Mr. Barron noted that the Oak Hills authority has provided the financial reports that is required and there...”

Keep the remainder of the sentence but replace the above with

“Mr. Barron noted that the Oak Hills Authority has provided the February financial reports and that there...”

**\*\* MR. WILMS MOVED TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF APRIL 1, 2013 AS CORRECTED**

**\*\* MOTION PASSED WITH ONE (1) ABSTENTION (MR. ANDERSON)**

#### **SPECIAL APPROPRIATIONS AGENDA SECTION A**

Mr. Barron explained that this appropriation is to cover the remaining costs associated with Storm Sandy. FEMA pays 75% of the cost to restore to pre-storm condition. Mr. Hamilton said that they do not know when they will get FEMA reimbursement. He noted that they just received notification that FEMA approved their submission for Hurricane Irene that took place in August 2011.

**\*\* MR. WILMS MOVED THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION:  
RESOLVED, THAT A SUM NOT TO EXCEED \$240,000 BE AND THE SAME IS HEREBY TRANSFERRED FROM FUND BALANCE TO VARIOUS ACCOUNTS TO COVER THE REMAINING OPERATING EXPENSES RELATED TO STORM SANDY  
(ACCOUNT # VARIOUS)**

**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

#### **TRANSFER AGENDA SECTION B**

Legal:

Mr. Barron explained that the transfer is needed to cover costs associated with appraisal services that were previously handled by the Assistant Corporation Counsel.

- \*\* MR. FEIGENBAUM MOVED TO APPROVE THE LEGAL TRANSFER AS SUBMITTED IN THE AMOUNT OF \$70,000 FROM SALARY & WAGES - REG TO OTHER PROF. SERVICES**  
**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Town Clerk/Management & Budgets:

Mr. Barron explained that the transfer is needed to cover the costs due to the absence of an employee who is out on paid leave.

- \*\* MR. WILMS MOVED TO APPROVE THE TOWN CLERK/MANAGEMENT & BUDGET TRANSFER AS SUBMITTED FOR THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF \$23,000 FROM SALARY & WAGES REG TO SALARIES & WAGES - TEMPORARY (\$18,000) AND SALARIES & WAGES - REG TO SALARIES & WAGES - OVERTIME (\$5,000)**  
**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

DPW:

Mr. Barron explained that this transfer is needed to upgrade the Customer Service software. Cityworks no longer supports the old software.

- \*\* MR. WILMS MOVED TO APPROVE THE DPW TRANSFER SUBMITTED IN THE AMOUNT OF \$44,050 FROM DISPOSAL TO IT SERVICES**  
**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Historical Commission:

Mr. Hamilton explained that this is a transfer from the Other Professional Services account to the Salary & Wages - temp account. He said that the Historical Commission hired a part time Curatorial Assistant and the work has now started to move and catalogue the collection.

Mr. Anderson said that he sits on the Historical Society and is excited to see this take place.

- \*\* MR. FEDERICI MOVED TO APPROVE THE HISTORICAL COMMISSION TRANSFER SUBMITTED IN THE AMOUNT OF \$27,120 FROM OTHER PROF. SERVICES TO SALARY & WAGES - TEMP**  
**\*\* MOTION PASSED WITH ONE (1) ABSTENTION (MR. ANDERSON)**

**OTHER BUSINESS SECTION C**

**\*\* MR. FEDERICI MOVED TO APPROVE THE FY 2013-14 WPCA BUDGET**

Mr. Hamilton explained the item. He said that there is no increase in the sewer rates. The most significant change is a substantial increase in the debt service. He said that this budget draws down upon the reserves. The budget includes an additional position for a GIS Analyst. Mayor Moccia said that Norwalk historically has the lowest sewer rate.

**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION SECTION D**

Oak Hills Financial Status - March 2013

Summary of Special Appropriation - FY 2012-13

Status of Contingency - FY 2012-13

Financial Reports

- 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 - April 2013
- Key Revenue Report - YTD April 2013

Salary Accounts

- Fire Overtime
- Dispatch Overtime
- Police Overtime

**\*\* MR. FEIGENBAUM MOVED TO ADJOURN**

**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

There was no further business and the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 8:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemarie Lombardi  
Telesco Secretarial Services

