CITY OF NORWALK FINANCE/CLAIMS COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING MARCH 11, 2010

ATTENDANCE: Nicholas Kydes, Chair; Kelly Straniti, Andrew Conroy;

Nora King, David Jaeger, Douglas Hempstead

STAFF: Thomas Hamilton, Finance Director; Fred Gilden, Comptroller;

Lisa Biagiarella, Tax Collector; Al Palumbo, Assistant Tax Collector; Karen del Vecchio, IT Director; Lt. David Wrinn,

Norwalk Police Department

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Kydes called the meeting to order at 8:15 p.m.

Approve the Minutes of the following Finance Committee Meetings: February 11, 2010.

- ** MR. HEMPSTEAD MOVED THE MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 11, 2010.
- ** THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 11, 2010 AS SUBMITTED PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Claims Committee: receive the monthly Claims report, review and approve claims as required for Claims Report dated March 11, 2010

** MS. STRANITI MOVED THE ITEM.

Ms. Biagiarella said that there was one claim that was in excess of \$5,000, which was a duplicate payment.

** MS. KING MOVED TO APPROVE THE REFUND OF THE DUPLICATE TAX PAYMENT FOR QUATRELLA & RIZIO, LLC AS LISTED ON THE MARCH 11, 2010 TAX COLLECTOR'S CLAIM REPORT.

** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Narrative on Tax Collection dated March 11, 2010 - Receive the Report and discuss.

Ms. Biagiarella introduced Mr. Palumbo, who is the assistant tax collector. The delinquent collections have increased significantly, and the regular collections have increased also. The title searches for the delinquent properties are moving forward and the notification letters have been mailed to the property owners. A number of owners

City of Norwalk Finance/Claims Committee Regular Meeting March 11, 2010 Page 1 have paid their bills. The liens will be filed in the next week. An improved tax sale website is being created with an interactive map in the next month that will show where the properties involved in the tax sale are located. This will be at the same time that the boards are placed in the lobby. The sale is scheduled for July 19, 2010.

Ms. Biagiarella reviewed the fact that if a property is three years in arrears, the payments must be made in full once it becomes part of the tax sale. The opening bid is all the taxes, and the City's fees. Ms. Biagiarella pointed out that the City was only interested in collecting the back taxes on the parcel, not on making a profit. Overbids are then turned over to the Superior Court for payment to any of the lien holders. The mortgage holders can file for any overbid amounts and they also have the opportunity to pay the taxes before the property goes up for sale in order to regain complete control of the parcel for future sale. Discussion about the details of the process followed.

Letters were sent to 230 residents last time. By the actual auction, there were only 8 properties left on the list. This year, it is roughly the same dollar amount, but a different number of residences. A discussion about the various details of property values and procedure followed.

Monthly Tax Collector's Report Dated February 28, 2010 – Receive Report and discuss.

** MR. CONROY MOVED THE ITEM.

It was pointed out that the previous discussion had covered all the material in the February 28th report.

** THE MOTION TO RECEIVE THE MONTHLY TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT DATED FEBRUARY 28, 2010 AS SUBMITTED PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Authorize the Purchasing Agent to issue purchase orders for the purchase of 15 NetMotion licenses (Mobility XE Licenses with Policy Module and 1 year warranty) for the Norwalk Police Department for an amount not to exceed \$5,156.25, account 09090600-5777-C0375 (budgeted IT Capital Expense).

** MR. JAEGER MOVED THE ITEM.

Ms. delVecchio and Lt. Wrinn came forward and gave a brief overview of the project. This item had been previously approved in 2008. 35 of 50 licenses have already been purchased for various Police vehicles. One key factor is the protection against Lost Connections and Application Crashes, which means that if the vehicle is in a dead zone, the screen retains the information. Ms. delVecchio said that this is wonderful software

City of Norwalk Finance/Claims Committee Regular Meeting March 11, 2010 Page 2 package. When the bid for competitive pricing went out, lower bids did come in, so the final expense should be under \$5,156.25.

** THE MOTION TO AUTHORIZE THE PURCHASING AGENT TO ISSUE PURCHASE ORDERS FOR THE PURCHASE OF 15 NETMOTION LICENSES (MOBILITY XE LICENSES WITH POLICY MODULE AND 1 YEAR WARRANTY) FOR THE NORWALK POLICE DEPARTMENT FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$5,156.25, ACCOUNT 09090600-5777-C0375 (BUDGETED IT CAPITAL EXPENSE) PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Authorize the Mayor, Richard A. Moccia, to submit an application to the State of Connecticut for grant funds provided under the State of Connecticut's Local Capital Improvement Fund for 2010 Entitlement (\$616,531).

** MR. HEMPSTEAD MOVED THE ITEM.

Mr. Hamilton said that this was an annual grant that the City applies for. The funds are used to support the Capital budget. It is applied against the paving projects. The objective is to move the projects through as quickly as possible. When asked why Stamford has so much more, Mr. Hamilton said that he believed that it was based on how many miles of road the municipalities have. He pointed out that State determines the final amount. The formula for this determination is outlined in #3 of the FAQs in the information packet. The discussion then moved to why Norwalk's grant amounts flatlined.

** THE MOTION TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, RICHARD A. MOCCIA, TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION TO THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT FOR GRANT FUNDS PROVIDED UNDER THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT'S LOCAL CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND FOR 2010 ENTITLEMENT (\$616,531) PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

ADJOURNMENT

- ** MS. STRANITI MOVED TO ADJOURN.
- ** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

The meeting adjourned at 8:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services

City of Norwalk Finance/Claims Committee Regular Meeting March 11, 2010 Page 3