

**CITY OF NORWALK
HEALTH, WELFARE & PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
MAY 28, 2009**

- ATTENDANCE:** Michael Geake, Chairman; Laurel Lindstrom; Steve Serasis.
- STAFF:** Tim Callahan, Health Department Director; Linda Wilock, Youth Services Director; Lisa Marshalko, Youth Services; Frank Favano, Police Department.
- OTHERS:** Diane Lauricella; Diane Cece.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 p.m. by the Chairman, who noted that there was not a quorum present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

APRIL 23, 2009

Due to the lack of a quorum, this item was not discussed.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

EQUIPMENT PURCHASE

Mr. Favano reviewed his memo, noting that this request was for 10 sets of accessories for the previously approved rifles. They will be looking for the addition of another 15 sets of rifles and accessories in next year's Capital budget, which will be presented to this committee next month.

Ms. Lindstrom asked about the amount of \$9,400. Mr. Favano explained that this amount would cover 10 sets of accessories.

Committee members were all in favor of this item.

**** THE CHAIRMAN SAID HE WOULD MOVE THE FOLLOWING TO THE COMMON COUNCIL:**

AUTHORIZE THE PURCHASING AGENT TO EXECUTE A PURCHASE ORDER ON BEHALF OF THE POLICE DEPARTMENT TO MAR-VEL INTERNATIONAL, INC., THE LOW BIDDER, FOR THE PURCHASE OF

10 SETS OF ACCESSORIES FOR THE RECENTLY PURCHASED COLT MODEL 6940 LAW ENFORCEMENT CARBINES, FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$9,400. FUNDS TO BE TAKEN FROM FEDERAL ASSET FORFEITURE ACCOUNT #0300002660.

YOUTH SERVICES

QUALITY ENHANCEMENT GRANT

Ms. Wilock and Ms. Marshalko reviewed Ms. Wilock's memo. Ms. Wilock said it is the companion piece to the School Readiness grant, which may be revived by the state. If this comes through, they will put it for exactly what they have this year. There is no City match. It is used for professional development and supplies for children. The amount of the grant is \$63,414.

Mr. Serasis asked if classrooms would be added; Ms. Wilock said they are not anticipating any additions.

Committee members were all in favor of this item.

**** THE CHAIRMAN SAID HE WOULD FORWARD THIS ITEM TO THE COMMON COUNCIL:**

AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, RICHARD A. MOCCIA, TO EXECUTE ANY AND ALL DOCUMENTS NECESSARY TO APPLY FOR AND ACCEPT GRANT FUNDS FROM THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES FOR THE 2209-2011 QUALITY ENHANCEMENT GRANT PROGRAM, AND AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, RICHARD A. MOCCIA, TO EXECUTE ANY AND ALL AGREEMENTS, DOCUMENTS, INSTRUMENTS AND AMENDMENTS THERETO AS MAY BE NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT THE QUALITY ENHANCEMENT GRANT PROGRAM.

YOUTH SERVICES BUREAU ENHANCEMENT GRANT

Ms. Wilock said they had not expected this grant to be awarded, but now find that it may be. She noted that the youth at Roodner Court have asked for etiquette lessons at NEON.

Committee members were all in favor of this item.

**** THE CHAIRMAN SAID HE WOULD FORWARD THIS ITEM TO THE COMMON COUNCIL:**

AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, RICHARD A. MOCCIA, TO EXECUTE ANY AND ALL DOCUMENTS NECESSARY TO APPLY FOR AND ACCEPT GRANT FUNDS FROM THE CONNECTICUT STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION UNDER THE YOUTH SERVICE BUREAU ENHANCEMENT GRANT PROGRAM FOR 2009-2011 AND AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, RICHARD A. MOCCIA, TO EXECUTE ANY AND ALL AGREEMENTS, DOCUMENTS, INSTRUMENTS AND AMENDMENTS THEREO AS MAY BE NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT A YOUTH SERVICE BUREAU ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM, PURSUANT TO SUCH GRANT FUNDING.

CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH GRANT

Ms. Wilock said they now have a planning grant from the Connecticut Health Foundation, which will end at the end of June. They have a core team with the City, Norwalk Public Schools and the Children's Mental Health System, which put together a plan in hopes of receiving an implementation grant. Ms. Marshalko is working on a budget.

Committee members were all in favor of this item.

**** THE CHAIRMAN SAID HE WOULD FORWARD THIS ITEM TO THE COMMON COUNCIL:**

AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, RICHARD A. MOCCIA, TO EXECUTE ANY AND ALL DOCUMENTS NECESSARY TO APPLY FOR AND ACCEPT GRANT FUNDS FROM THE CONNECTICUT HEALTH FOUNDATION FOR THE 2009-2016 FOR IMPLEMENTATION FUNDING FOR THE COMMUNITY IMPLEMENTATION PLAN (CIP) AND AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, RICHARD A. MOCCIA, TO EXECUTE ANY AND ALL AGREEMENTS, DOCUMENTS, INSTRUMENTS AND AMENDMENTS THERETO AS MAY BE NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT THE COMMUNITY IMPLEMENTATION PLAN.

Mr. Serasis commended Ms. Wilock on her dedication.

OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Diane Cece said she had filed a complaint with the Chairman last month about the style and substance of the agenda. This committee complies with the substance of the law but they don't comply with the spirit, as follows:

1. The agenda does not identify action items vs. discussion items.
2. The agenda items do not include the dollar amounts.
3. The action items are not written in the style including the dollar amounts.
4. When are the backup materials made available to the public?
5. If the committee takes up items as action items, that is not specified.

The Chairman said, unlike other committees, they have multiple departments under them. Mr. Callahan said prior to this administration, the agenda came from the Mayor's Office. These agendas are done the way he does the agenda of the Board of Health. This is the first time this has been criticized. The Chairman said State law recently changed as to what has to be posted and when. Mr. Callahan said he can post agendas on the web. The ideal solution would be to return the responsibility of the agenda to the Mayor's Office.

Discussion took place on the idea of making the agenda the responsibility of Darlene Young, the Assistant City Clerk. Mr. Serasis suggested if departments cannot provide the information before the meeting, may those items shouldn't be included on the agenda. Ms. Lindstrom agreed that this responsibility should go to Ms. Young.

Mrs. Cece said Mr. Callahan had received the information as to the cost of each item. Mr. Callahan said he does not have the time to put together the agenda as it was being requested. He further pointed out that every item on the agenda is an action item.

Diane Lauricella, speaking for the League of Women Voters, asked if they could consider placing public comment at the beginning of the agenda, pointing out that she appreciates that this committee does have public comment. She said that the public does not attend meetings because of the lack of robustness of the agenda. The agenda does not have enough on it to excite people. IT is very willing to scan in documents regarding backup materials. She would like the format of the agenda to be changes. The tenor of these agendas is very sleepy, even at the Board of Health. The agenda is anemic. She would love to see the responsibility given to someone in the Mayor's Office. The LWV suggests that these meetings take place at City Hall, rather than in the Health Department. Members of the various departments should attend these meetings. Mr. Callahan pointed out that this creates a time and one-half situation.

Ms. Lauricella said at the next meeting, she would like to see the Platt Street property put back on the agenda. It is still an ongoing health problem. She was surprised that the Mayor and the Corporation Counsel felt that the Chairman had no right to consult with a professional.

Ms. Lauricella said there was a public hearing yesterday on aquifer protection regulations. The League requested that the City departments make comments at this hearing and was told that no one was asked a question. This is a myopic way to do an important piece of legislation. The Chairman said they were not asked by Alexis Cherichetti or Jackie Lightfield to do so. Ms. Lauricella asked that this committee to write to the Zoning Commission to include them immediately on bum slips. She thanked Mr. Closter of the Health Department for printing up state water well information.

Regarding the Blast Program, a Lyme disease education program, raised by Ms. Lauricella, Mr. Callahan said this was a public forum to get the message out to people who have interaction with children. It was a \$50,000 grant to the City. Ms. Lauricella said for the next meeting, she will have more information. She would like to see this discussed in terms of the chemicals used to combat ticks; she was opposed to spraying.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl Telesco
Telesco Secretarial Services

