

**CITY OF NORWALK
FINANCE/CLAIMS COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
SEPTEMBER 8, 2016**

ATTENDANCE: Bruce Kimmel, Chair; John Kydes, Shannon O'Toole-Giandurco, Nick Sacchinelli

ABSENT: Douglas Hempstead, John Igneri, Travis Simms

STAFF: Fred Gilden, Comptroller

OTHERS: Lisa Biagiarelli, Tax Collector; Michael Stewart, Tax Assessor; Robert Barron, Finance Director

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Kimmel called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. A quorum was present. He announced that Mr. Hempstead, Mr. Igneri and Mr. Simms were unable to attend the meeting.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no one who wished to address the Committee at this time.

**APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE FOLLOWING FINANCE
COMMITTEE MEETING:**

July 14, 2016

**** MR. KYDES MOVED THE MINUTES OF THE JULY 14, 2016 MEETING.
** THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JULY 14, 2016
MEETING AS SUBMITTED PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

August 9, 2016

**** MR. SACCHINELLI MOVED THE MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 9, 2016
MEETING/
** THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 9, 2016
MEETING AS SUBMITTED PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Mr. Kimmel commented that Telesco Secretarial Services was providing excellent service.

CLAIMS COMMITTEE

**Receive the monthly Claims report; review and approve claims as required for
Claims Report dated:**

August 10, 2016

September 15, 2016

**** MR. KIMMEL MOVED THE ITEM.**

Mr. Kimmel asked about a recent judgment that had just occurred. Ms. Biagiarelli said that she did not know the details of the judgment. Mr. Michael Stewart, the Tax Assessor, explained that Diago had filed an appeal and the Tax Assessor's Office was able to work out a modest reduction rather than going to court. He said that it would have cost more to go to court than it was to grant the reduction.

Ms. Biagiarelli presented her report to the Committee.

**** THE MOTION TO RECEIVE THE MONTHLY CLAIMS REPORT; REVIEW
AND APPROVE CLAIMS AS REQUIRED FOR CLAIMS REPORT FOR
SEPTEMBER 15, 2016 PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Narrative on Tax Collections dated September 8, 2016 – Receive Report and
Discuss.**

Monthly Tax Collector's Report - Receive Reports and discuss:

July 31, 2016

August 31, 2016

Mr. Kydes asked about the sale of the boat slips. He had been told that there was no parking for the boat slips. Ms. Biagiarelli said that both she and Atty. Coppolla had read the condo documents and that neither of them believed that the parking was restricted to only the condo units.

Receive Oak Hills Authority Monthly Financial Statement for July 31, 2016.

Mr. Bob Barron said that the BET had asked the Authority to come in to report to them. He said that he had some concerns about the revenues because of the mild winter and extended play season. He reviewed the details of the item with the Committee.

Discussion on Senior Tax Relief.

Mr. Stewart said that Mr. Barron had taken the information and organized it into a clear and simple format.

Mr. Kimmel said that he was wondering what the Council could do. Mr. Barron said that the State limit on the local program was 10%. Norwalk currently has a .5% rate. Mr.

Barron reviewed the current figures as dictated by the ordinance and outlined in his hand out with the Committee.

Mr. Kimmel said that he would like to know what would happen if the City changed the percentage from .5% to .75% or 1%. Mr. Barron said that he would do those projections.

Mr. Barron then reviewed the details of a spreadsheet document that he distributed to the Committee members.

The discussion moved to the communication efforts that Mr. Stewart made last year. Mr. Barron said that it was clear from the fact that there was a smaller amount surplus left over from this past year than there was the year before.

Mr. Sacchinelli asked what would make this a useful program. Mr. Barron said that the objectives were to provide more people relief and more relief to those who qualify. He said that he would like to see incremental steps, but cautioned everyone about an increase that would drive up the mill rate. He added that the surplus funds are then put towards the Fund Balance.

Mr. Kydes asked about those who had applied. Mr. Stewart said that there were a number of people who had expressed interest in the program, but a number of them were above the top income level.

Ms. O'Toole-Giandurco asked about the flier in the tax bills. Mr. Stewart said that the Tax Bills had an extra line on it informing people about the tax relief. A flier was also sent with a utility bill.

Mr. Kimmel asked if those who qualified for the local tax relief would automatically qualified for the State Tax Relief. Mr. Stewart said that the State had a lower top limit than the City did.

Mr. Barron suggested that perhaps the Committee wanted to work on the tax relief marketing every other year and review or adjust the amounts on the alternate years. Mr. Kimmel said that he would like to have both items move forward consecutively.

Mr. Barron suggested that perhaps the Committee consider dividing the surplus among the program participants. Mr. Kimmel said that they would have to check the ordinance.

Mr. Kimmel said that if Mr. Barron would prepare work showing the various scenarios that they Committee had discussed.

ADJOURNMENT

**** MS. O'TOOLE-GIANDURCO MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

S. L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services