

**CITY OF NORWALK  
HEALTH, WELFARE AND PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE  
JANUARY 26, 2017**

ATTENDANCE: Faye Bowman, Chair; Eloise Melendez, Nick Sacchinelli,  
Steven Serasis,

OTHERS: Assistant Fire Chief Gino Gatto; Chief Thomas  
Kulhawik; Margaret Suib, Fair Housing Officer; Diane  
Lauricella

**I. WELCOME AND ROLL CALL**

Ms. Bowman called the meeting to order at 7:40PM.

**\*\* MR. SERASIS MOVED TO SUSPEND THE RULES TO TAKE  
THE AGENDA OUT OF ORDER**

**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**1. REVIEW AND DISCUSS THE FOLLOWING DEPARTMENT  
OPERATING AND CAPITAL BUDGETS:**

a. Police Department

Chief Kulhawik reported on the highlights and said that the overall increase is 2.6% from the current fiscal year, and that originally it was 2.5%, but the IT department had requested an item by moved from their budget into the police budget. He said that this is based on the preliminary meeting with the finance department and that it still needs to go to the Board of Estimate and Taxation for approval.

Ms. Bowman asked about the increase for promotional testing and asked if there was testing done last year. Mr. Kulhawik said there was no test last year and that the tests are given every two years.

Ms. Melendez joined the meeting at 7:45PM

## **II . APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

December 8, 2016

**\*\* MS. MELENDEZ MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES  
\*\* THE MOTION PASSED WITH THREE VOTES IN FAVOR,  
NONE OPPOSED AND ONE ABSTENTION ( SACCHINELLI)**

## **III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Ms. Lauricella suggested that in this budget cycle that funding for noise meter training is included, and also to purchase additional noise meters. She said that she thinks it's a good thing for public health, as well as welfare and quality of life. Chief Kulhawik said that there would be no additional cost for training, and that it could be done while on duty.

Ms. Lauricella said NEON has been gone for some time and that there has been a non consistent delivery of social services. She said that she thinks it would be a wonderful idea to thoroughly discuss a Department of Social Services, and that it's worth discussing in an open forum.

## **IV. NEW BUSINESS**

### **ACTION ITEMS**

1. Authorize the Mayor, Harry W. Rilling, to enter into EQUIPMENT SHARING AGREEMENT for MULTI-TOWN/AGENCY EQUIPMENT COOPERATIVE through the Intertown Capital Equipment Purchase Incentive (ICE) Program.
2. Authorize the Mayor, Harry W. Rilling, to execute any and all documents necessary to accept funds related to the ICE Grant Program, which will be the City of Norwalk's share of the \$160, 037.00 grant.

Assistant Chief Gatto reported on the agreement said that there is a good possibility that our share will go down. Ms. Bowman asked if the total costs will need to be put out up front or just the local share? Chief Kulhawik said he believes just the local share.

**\*\* MR. SERASIS MOVED TO APPROVE THE ITEM AS FINALIZED BY THE CITY LAW DEPARTMENT**

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

b. Fire Department

Assistant Chief Gatto reported and said that the requested budget is \$18,902,308, and is a \$4,051 increase over fiscal year 2016-17, and is \$135,504 increase over the Pro Forma. He discussed the breakdown and said that 84% of the operating budget is for wages, including overtime and stipends, and another 11% is for other fixed costs such as utilities. He said the remaining \$648,467 of the requested budget are funds for all fire department divisions including operations, training, Fire Marshal's office, Emergency Management and outreach. He reported on the significant increases and said that there is a \$13,694 increase for the hydrant rental from the First District Water Department. Mr. Serasis asked if they service the hydrants. Assistant Chief Gatto said they replace them when they are damaged

and repair them when needed. He said that the total increases are \$117,554.

Assistant Chief Gatto reported on the capital budget request and said that there are only four items and include \$360,000 for the purchase of 50 self contained breathing apparatus, \$100,000 for renovations to the bathrooms at the Westport Avenue and Meadow Street stations to include making them more gender neutral, \$475,000 to replace the roof at the Apparatus Maintenance building and \$75,000 to purchase new response vehicles for the Fire Marshal and the Department Safety Officer. Mr. Serasis requested that Assistant Chief Gatto send Ms. Bowman what the amount is for rent of the fire station on VanZant Street?

**\*\* MR. SERASIS MOVED TO SUSPEND THE RULES TO TAKE THE AGENDA OUT OF ORDER**

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**1a. AUTHORIZE MAYOR, HARRY RILLING, TO EXECUTE ANY AND ALL DOCUMENTS NECESSARY TO APPLY FOR AND ACCEPT GRANT FUNDS FROM THE MARCH OF DIMES FOR THE COMENZANDO BIEN PROGRAM FOR THE PERIOD FEBRUARY 1, 2017 TO DECEMBER 31, 2017**

**1b. AUTHORIZE MAYOR, HARRY RILLING, TO EXECUTE ANY AND ALL AGREEMENTS, DOCUMENTS, INSTRUMENTS OR AMENDMENTS AS MAY BE NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT THE COMENZANDO BIEN PROGRAM FOR THE PERIOD FEBRUARY 1, 2017 TO DECEMBER 31, 2017.**

Mr. Callahan provided an overview of the program and said that it is a bilingual prenatal program designed for the use with pregnant women, and their supports to teach them about maintaining a healthy pregnancy. He said that the staff that currently runs the program have just been recognized by

the March of Dimes for this innovative and successful program and will provide \$20,000 of funding

**\*\* MR. SACCHINELLI MOVED TO APPROVE THE ITEM  
\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**2a. AUTHORIZE MAYOR, HARRY RILLING, TO EXECUTE ANY AND ALL DOCUMENTS NECESSARY TO APPLY FOR AND ACCEPT GRANT FUNDS FROM THE TOWN OF STRATFORD CONNECTICUT FOR THE PUTTING ON AIRS PROGRAM FOR THE PERIOD FEBRUARY 1, 2017 TO AUGUST 31, 2017.**

**2B. AUTHORIZE MAYOR, HARRY RILLING, TO EXECUTE ANY AND ALL AGREEMENTS, DOCUMENTS, INSTRUMENTS OR AMENDMENTS AS MAY BE NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT THE PUTTING ON AIRS PROGRAM FOR THE PERIOD FEBRUARY 1, 2017 TO AUGUST 31, 2017.**

**\*\* MR. SACCHINELLI MOVED TO APPROVE THE ITEM  
\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Mr. Callahan provided an overview of the program and said it is an educational based educational program regarding asthma, and is geared towards parents and to help them understand actions they can take to improve the environment. He said that his staff would be a resource for pediatricians to refer families, and they would be trained by the Stratford Health Department in making environmental assessments in the home, to identify triggers for asthma and help parents to elevate them. He said that Stratford would provide some reimbursement for any excess time, but most of the work would be done during normal business hours, but on occasion to accommodate families schedules they will work in the evening and on the weekends.

c. Health Department

Mr. Callahan reported and said most of the budget request is Pro forma however, they are requesting two positions and that both are currently funded by grants. He said that he first request is for a Program Coordinator, and that it's his fifth attempt to try and fund this through the city budget, and the reason for that is that the position is critical to administrating the Health Department, and it needs a stable funding source. He said the Project Coordinator plays a key role in six initiatives, and the likelihood of significant deduction in state aid and the importance of continuing these key initiatives make city funding for this position a priority. Mr. Serasis said that he agrees with this position and it necessary especially if they loss state funding. Ms. Bowman said this position has been talked about in the past and that it is a valuable position. Mr. Sacchinelli asked if the wage figures for the two full time positions are comprised from the current grant funding. Mr. Callahan said "yes".

Mr. Callahan said that the second position that are requesting is for a Health Education Associate, and they will coordinate the Fit Kids Program which currently services 1000 children in various after school programs, and will also be managing the social media, and they are finding that is key to marketing and is driving business to the door. He said this position will also provide staff support to the Mayors Bike Walk Task Force and the NorWalker program which has 40 walk routes throughout the city. He said that this position is currently funded by grants from the Connecticut Department of Public Health, the United Way and Pepperidge Farms.

Mr. Callahan said that are also requesting various part time positions in the preventive deceases department, and for this current fiscal year the approved budget was \$37,000, and the Pro Forma budget amount was \$52,000. He said for fiscal year 2018 the required amount is \$75,000. Ms. Bowman asked if the \$75,000 include the funding shortage in this fiscal year's budget. Mr. Callahan said "no" and that

they are short \$38,000, but that they will cover that cost this year through some savings from a position vacancy.

Mr. Callahan reported on the capital budget request and said that they are requesting \$24,000 for replace the waiting room partition wall, and that the current wall is over 20 years old, and is falling apart. He said the second request is for \$4,000 to build a basement storage enclosure.

d. Youth Services

No discussion.

e. Fair Housing

Ms. Suib reported and gave an overview of what Fair Housing is, and said she is the Fair Housing Officer and works with the Fair Housing Commission, and that they guide the policy issues that they take on each year. She provided examples of individual discrimination cases that they have had. She reported on the budget application and said that the total request is \$231,211.

f. Early Childhood

No discussion.

## **2. DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL SERVICES**

**\*\* MR. SERASIS MOVED TO TABLE THE ITEM**

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

## **V. OLD BUSINESS**

No discussion.

**VI. ADJOURNMENT**

**\*\* MS. BOWMAN MOVED TO ADJOURN**

**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Dilene Byrd

Telesco Secretarial Services