

**CITY OF NORWALK
SPECIAL FINANCE/CLAIMS COMMITTEE MEETING
FEBRUARY 22, 2017 AGENDA**

ATTENDANCE: Bruce Kimmel, Chairman; Tom Livingston; Travis Simms; Doug Hempstead; John Kydes; John Igneri; Steve Serasis; Eloisa Melendez; Nick Sacchinelli

STAFF: Robert Barron, Finance Director; Lunda Asmani, Director of Management and Budgets

WORKSHOP ON THE OPERATING BUDGET WITH CITY FINANCE DEPARTMENT

Chairman Kimmel called the meeting to order at 7:26 p. m. A quorum was present.

Mr. Barron came forward to present the Operating Budget. He reviewed what the budget's impact will be by taxing district. He stated that the proposed Board of Education increase is \$6,000,000. He stated that the Board requested an increase of 17,100,000.

Mr. Barron stated that the recommended budget uses \$2,000,000 of the fund balance. Mr. Barron stated that the median percent fund balance of the 17 AAA rated communities as rated by Moody's, is Norwalk's target fund balance.

Mr. Barron stated that two or three years out, there could be a significant increase in the grand list, but he does not see that happening in the short term. He stated that the grand list has additions, but it also has losses such as Manresa Island, which will be a loss of \$50,000.

Mr. Barron stated that moving all city employees to Connecticut Partnership 2.0 would save about \$400,000, and moving retirees would save up to \$700,000. He stated that according to union contracts, the plan must a like plan or better.

Mr. Barron stated that in the Governor's budget proposal, municipalities will have to pay 1/3 of teacher's pension benefits, but that the city can collect property tax from Norwalk Hospital.

Chairman Kimmel stated that 85% of the City's budget covers promises made to active employees and retirees. 7% of the budget goes to debt services. He stated that 8% of the budget is left to cover everything else, such as fixing sidewalks and tree trimming. Chairman Kimmel stated that if debt service gets to 15%, we are bankrupt.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:48 p. m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Blaney
Telesco Secretarial Services