

**CITY OF NORWALK  
FINANCE/CLAIMS COMMITTEE  
MARCH 8, 2018**

ATTENDANCE: Gregory Burnett, Chair; Travis Simms; Faye Bowman (7:24 p.m.)

STAFF: Lisa Biagiarelli, Tax Collector; Michael Stewart, Tax Accessor

**CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL**

Mr. Burnett waited until 7:15 p.m. to open the meeting to allow Committee members time to get to the meeting. He called the Roll. He announced that a quorum was not present; therefore, no action could be taken this evening.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

No members of the public were present this evening.

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

February 15, 2018

February 22, 2018

No action was taken this evening.

**CLAIMS COMMITTEE; RECEIVE THE MONTHLY CLAIMS REPORT;  
REVIEW AND APPROVE CLAIMS AS REQUIRED FOR THE CLAIMS  
REPORT DATED:  
MARCH 8, 2018**

Ms. Biagiarelli said there were claims in excess of \$10,000. Mr. Burnett will bring these claims to the full Common Council for their vote. Ms. Biagiarelli explained that the Committee will be seeing more of these claims because of the recent changes in the Federal Tax Code. Many people paid their taxes in December and then their escrow agent made payments in January.

**NARRATIVE ON TAX COLLECTIONS DATED MARCH 8, 2018 – REVIEW  
REPORT AND DISCUSS**

**MONTHLY TAX COLLECTOR’S REPORTS – REVIEW REPORTS AND  
DISCUSS: FEBRUARY 28, 2018**

Ms. Biagiarelli reported that her department will be working on the Tax Sale that will take place on Monday, July 23rd.

Ms. Bowman joined the meeting at 7:24 p.m.

Ms. Biagiarelli said the current tax collection is overstated by a small amount due to overpayment by the taxpayers. She said they are currently at 97.97% in collections and will know where they really are once they go through the refunds. She said they estimate they will collect \$4 million with the tax sale.

Ms. Biagiarelli described the tax sale process and noted that residents can pay their taxes up to the morning of the tax sale. After the tax sale, the property owner has a six-month redemption period to pay the bidder. The buyer can't do anything with the property until the six months are up.

**RECEIVE OAK HILLS AUTHORITY MONTHLY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR JANUARY 8, 2018**

Mr. Burnett said representatives from Oak Hills Park Authority attended last month's meeting and gave an update on how things were progressing. He said they still have the outstanding principle payment which they hope to pay in the May – June time period. They made a partial payment in September leaving a balance of \$79,000.

Mr. Burnett said he will ask Mr. Barron to provide him with a copy of the payment schedule from Oak Hills Park Authority.

**RECEIVE INFORMATION ON TAX RELIEF PROGRAMS FOR TH ELDERLY  
AND DISCUSS AND TAKE NECESSARY ACTION**

Mr. Stewart explained that this initiative came from the Common Council. He described the Tax Relief program for the elderly. He said last year they had hoped to have 1,100 people participate, but they ended up with 1,061. He said seniors are leaving Norwalk faster than they are being added. In addition, the income of people interested in the program is higher than the top of the limit. This year they are proposing to raise the limits in tier one and tier two.

Mr. Stewart said the people in the most need will get the most benefit from the program.

The Committee members discussed §103-6. Eligibility (F) regarding residents in the domicile who are aged 25 years and older whose income would be counted toward the limit. Mr. Simms suggested re-visiting this requirement. Mr. Burnett said they have to look at the cap otherwise they will be giving out less money to more people and he is not sure that will really help. Mr. Stewart offered to re-work the numbers. Ms. Bowman noted there may be a lot more people who will qualify for the program if the income limit was increased. Ms. Stewart said they are trying to get more people on the program.

Mr. Burnett asked Mr. Stewart to provide bullet points showing the positives in the present proposal that supports why it is being done.

Ms. Stewart said that people can apply for the program from February 1<sup>st</sup> to May 15<sup>th</sup>. Once they qualify for the program, it would be reflected in their July tax bill. They will then have to re-apply every two years.

The Committee members discussed how to get this information out to the elderly residents. Mr. Burnett suggested that the new Communications person could work on this. He said they need to find out the best avenue to communicate to the senior community.

Ms. Burnett asked Mr. Stewart to ask the Legal Department to add this item to the Ordinance Committee agenda.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There was no further discussion and Mr. Burnett closed the meeting at 8:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemarie Lombardi  
Telesco Secretarial Services