

**CITY OF NORWALK
BOARD OF ESTIMATE AND TAXATION
REGULAR MEETING
DECEMBER 3, 2018**

ATTENDANCE: Edwin Camacho, Chair; Mayor Harry Rilling; James Feigenbaum;
James Frayer; Troy Jellerette; Artie Kassimis; James Page

STAFF: Robert Barron, Chief Financial Officer; Angela Fogel, Director of
Management & Budgets; Donna King, City Clerk;
Steve Kleppin, Planning & Zoning Director

Mr. Camacho called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Ms. King called the Roll. A quorum was present.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

November 5, 2018 – Regular Meeting

- ** **MAYOR RILLING MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS PRESENTED**
- ** **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

2. SPECIAL OPERATING APPROPRIATIONS AGENDA (Section A)

Mr. Barron explained the item. He said this is a request from the Planning and Zoning Department to satisfy remaining obligations to the City's Plan of Conservation and Development consultant. The total amount spent will not exceed the budget.

- ** **MAYOR RILLING MOVED THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION:**

RESOLVED, THAT A SUM NOT TO EXCEED \$18,937 BE AND THE SAME IS HEREBY TRANSFERRED FROM UNALLOCATED CONTINGENCY (ACCOUNT #01-9600-5900) TO THE PLANNING & ZONING DEPARTMENT FOR THE PLAN OF CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT (ACCOUNT #01-3730-5254).
- ** **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

3. **TRANSFER AGENDA** (Section B)

Mr. Barron explained the request. He said the surpluses were created due to the delay in filling some vacancies in the Police Department. The transfers are being requested to cover over time for extended medical leave and intermittent leave for other employees.

**** MR. FEIGENBAUM MOVED TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING TRANSFERS:**

FISCAL YEAR 2018-19:

POLICE DEPARTMENT:

From	To	Amount
01-3010-5110 Wages & Salary – Regular	01-3065-5120 Wages & Salary – Overtime	\$5,000
01-3010-5110 Wages & Salary – Regular	01-3066-5120 Wages & Salary – Overtime	\$3,565
01-3061-5110 Wages & Salary – Regular	01-3066-5120 Wages & Salary – Overtime	\$16,435
01-3061-5110 Wages & Salary – Regular	01-3062-5120 Wages & Salary – Overtime	\$3,633
01-3065-5110 Wages & Salary – Regular	01-3062-5120 Wages & Salary – Overtime	\$2,608
01-3065-5110 Wages & Salary - Regular	01-3061-5120 Wages & Salary – Overtime	\$4,000
	Total	\$35,241

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

4. **OTHER BUSINESS** (Section C) None

5. **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION** (Section D)

Mr. Barron reported that they are benefiting from the re-organization.

Special Appropriation

Status of Contingency

Financial report

- Oak Hills Financial Status – October 2018

Mr. Barron said Oak Hills does not have a lot of income this time of year. As of October 31, 2018, they had \$56,000 in the bank. He said he will be meeting with them next week and hopes to be able to report on solution at the next meeting.

Oak Hills has receivables of about \$15,000. Mr. Barron said he hoped with no payments this year, they would have had more funds in the bank. He added that he believed they utilized their line of credit last year. In response to Mr. Jellerette’s question, Mr. Barron

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said he would have to check to see if there was a pay down last year. He believes they should have paid about \$164,500 this year.

- Year-to-date Capital Budget Report – FY 2018-19
- Year-to-date Operating Expenditure Report – FY 2018-19
- Year-to-date Operating Revenue Report – FY 2018-19
- Year-to-date BOE Operating Expenditure Report – FY 2018-19

Salary accounts

- Police – FY 2018-19
- Fire – FY 2018-19
- Public Works – FY 2018-19

- Tax Collector’s Narrative – October 2018
- Tax Collector’s Report – October 2018

Mr. Barron reported that more than 50% of the revenue collected this fiscal year was due to the Tax Sale. This year they are tracking at 99%. He noted that Norwalk has one of the highest tax collection rates in the State. He said that Ms. Biagiarelli does a great job.

Mr. Barron said that last month he asked for approvals for the re-organization. He said he will bring the organizational structure to the Committee at the next meeting. Mayor Rilling will be interviewing two candidates on Friday for the position of Chief of Operations and Public Works.

Mr. Jellerette asked how the re-valuation works and what to expect. Mr. Barron described the steps taken to get the message out to residents. Mayor Rilling asked Mr. Barron to develop an Op Ed that was released on Friday to let people understand the process.

The assessment of the property does not drive taxes, but rather what it costs to run the City drives taxes. In general, residential properties are going up less than half of what commercial properties are going up.

The Board of Assessment appeals hearings will take place in March. Bills will be sent in June. Mayor Rilling said he is looking for people to serve on the Assessments Appeal Board.

Mr. Camacho asked if the grand list will expand with the opening of the mall. Mr. Barron said in the forecast for the upcoming year, he has the mall coming on line on October 1, 2019. The City will get nine of the 12 months at 50% of the value. Mayor Rilling asked if that will result in an increase in the value of the mall property. Mr. Barron said he will check on that. He said he will send the value of the mall property to the Board members.

Mayor Rilling said he sent a message to the departments to come in flat except for contractual mandates. If not, they must make a strong case to justify their request. He said the last thing he wants to see is an increase in property taxes that people can not afford to pay. He said he is not approving additional personnel except for those already approved.

Mr. Barron noted departments have very small discretionary accounts.

Mayor Rilling said the Board of Education is asking for a \$12.7 million increase that equates to about a 4% mill rate increase for the Board of Education alone. Mr. Barron expressed concern about the Board of Education's budget request. He will provide the Board of Education's last year's actuals and this year's forecast to the Board of Estimate and Taxation.

**** MR. FEIGENBAUM MOVED TO ADJOURN**
**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

There was no further business and the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 7:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemarie Lombardi
Telesco Secretarial Services