

**CITY OF NORWALK
FINANCE & CLAIMS COMMITTEE
DECEMBER 13, 2018**

ATTENDANCE: Greg Burnett, Chair, John Kydes

ABSENT: Ernest Dumas, Travis Simms, Nick Sacchinelli, Douglas Hempstead, John Igneri

OTHERS: Lisa Biagiarelli, Tax Collector; Brian McCann; Bill Ireland

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Burnett called the meeting to order at 7:20PM.

2. ROLL CALL

Chair Burnett called the roll. No quorum was present.

3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public comment.

4. APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE FOLLOWING FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETINGS: NOVEMBER 8, 2018

There were corrections to the minutes of the November 8, 2018 meeting as follows:

- 1) On page 2, 4th paragraph, within the sentence "...they took steps to rectify the situation therefore sale the blight office negotiated a lower fee." The word 'after' to be inserted: "...they took steps to rectify the situation therefore after sale the blight office..."
- 2) On page 2, "MR. BURNETT MOVED TO ...FROM THE BLIGH OFFICE..." The word 'BLIGH' to be replaced with the word 'BLIGHT'.
- 3) On page 3, paragraph 2, "Ms. Biagiarelli...to pay taxes before property goes to tax sale." 'Before property goes to tax sale' to be replaced with 'the end of the redemption period'.

4) On page 3, “Ms. Angela Fogel...the remaining \$600,000 would come from the...” The number ‘\$600,000’ to be replaced with ‘\$650,000’.

5) On page 4, “RECEIVE OAK HILLS...SEPTEMEBER 30, 2018”. The word SEPTEMEBER’ to be replaced with ‘SEPTEMBER’.

The minutes could not be approved without a quorum.

**5. CLAIMS COMMITTEE: RECEIVE THE MONTHLY CLAIMS REPORT,
REVIEW AND APPROVE CLAIMS AS REQUIRED FOR CLAIMS REPORT
DATED: DECEMBER 13, 2118**

The tax collector Lisa Biagiarelli presented several claims.

The first claim was a refund of blight fees to Mrs. Wolf. Brian McCann and Bill Ireland requested a refund of \$11,500 to Christine Wolf. Although Mrs. Wolf received notice, Mr. McCann reached out to Mrs. Wolf to explain the circumstances. Mrs. Wolf, an elderly person, needed ‘special’ consideration to fix the blight. Her son came to the office. An offer was extended that if the blight was removed, half of the blight fees would be removed. Apparently, that message was not properly conveyed to Mrs. Wolf. The tax sale proceeded and the property was sold. Shortly after the sale, a son-in law approached. He agreed to abate the blight within thirty days. Since the tax sale collected \$21,500, a negotiated amount of \$11,500 would be abated if completed within thirty days. A reduction in blight assessments is fairly ‘routine’. As per Mr. McCann, Mrs. Wolf is due the refund having lived there; and given the way her son treated her.

To avoid the situation moving forward, Mr. McCann said they were proceeding with a strict foreclosure. Subsequently, Ms. Biagiarelli indicated the property owner sold the property.

Ms. Biagiarelli presented a second claim for \$13,000 claim; which was a duplicate payment.

Although Ms. Biagiarelli requested approvals, the Board could not approve (at this time) without a quorum.

**6. NARRATIVE ON TAX COLLECTIONS DATED DECEMBER 13, 2018 -
RECEIVE REPORT AND DISCUSS.**

In a letter dated December 13, 2018 to Mayor Harry Rilling, the Board of Estimate and Taxation, the Finance & Claims Committee, Ms. Biagiarelli reported that “As of the end of November, 2018, five months into the current fiscal year, we had collected nearly \$172 million, or 52.84% of our \$325 million adjusted tax levy.”

In sum, the tax bills are in the mail. The tax collections are on target. So far, there have been six (6) redemptions.

**7. MONTHLY TAX COLLECTOR’S REPORTS - RECEIVE REPORTS AND
DISCUSS: NOVEMBER 30, 2018**

The Chair accepted the narrative and report as information.

8. 2019 SCHEDULE OF FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The Board received a ‘2019 Finance & Claims Committee Key Operating Budget Meeting Dates’ notice.

The next Council meeting is scheduled for January 8th.

From the City of Norwalk Board of Estimate and Taxation December 3, 2018, for the fiscal year 2018-19, a special appropriations advertised item:

“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).”

**9. RECEIVE BOARD OF ESTIMATE AND TAXATION
APPROPRIATIONS FROM DECEMBER 3, 2018**

Mr. Burnett suspended the rules to add a ‘technical correction’ for the January 8, 2019 Council meeting to the agenda:

Rescind the Council Approval of October 23, 2018:

Authorize the Purchasing Agent to issue purchase orders to Eagle View, a sole source provider, for the acquisition of aerial photography of the entire City of Norwalk, for an amount not to exceed \$23,530.50 per proposal Q-23970, GSA contact number GS-35F-0801N, account 09190600-5777-C0375.

Approve as Revised:

Authorize the Mayor, Harry W. Rilling, to execute an Agreement with Pictometry International Corporation, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Eagle View, a sole source provider, for the acquisition of aerial photography of the entire City of Norwalk, for an amount not to exceed \$23,530.50 per proposal Q-23970, GSA contract number GS-35F-0801N, account 09190600-5777-C0375.

Mr. Burnett indicated that the amount remains the same along with the scope of work. This shall be added to the Council meeting on January 8, 2019.

10. RECEIVE OAK HILLS AUTHORITY MONTHLY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR OCTOBER 31, 2018

Mr. Burnett said still awaiting a report. There is no reason to discuss at this time.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:54PM

Respectfully submitted,

BMS
Telesco Secretarial Services

City of Norwalk
Finance & Claims Committee
December 13, 2018
Page 4 of 4