

**CITY OF NORWALK  
BOARD OF ESTIMATE AND TAXATION  
PUBLIC HEARING  
March 20, 2019**

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

STAFF: Angela Fogel, Director of Management and Budgets; Donna King,  
City Clerk

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Camacho called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM and asked Ms. King to call the roll. Members were in attendance as indicated above, and there was a quorum present.

**1. BOARD OF ESTIMATE AND TAXATION PUBLIC HEARING ON THE  
FISCAL YEAR 2019-20 OPERATING BUDGET.**

Mayor Rilling said that this has been a challenging year for the budget and the Board of Estimate and Taxation has worked closely with the Norwalk Public Schools and have put together a budget that can be adopted. He said with a healthy fund balance, responsible spending and budgeting, and the department heads working closely with his office and monitoring the budget on a regular basis feels that they have put together a budget that the City of Norwalk can adopt. He said that the policy is to maintain a fund balance of 7.5% and felt comfortable in withdrawing down from this year to help offset some taxes and the current fund balance is 14.6% of the operating budget. He said the fund balance belongs to the taxpayers of the City of Norwalk and he would like to use any opportunity to help offset some tax increase or in some cases to lower taxes when possible.

Diane Lauricella

Ms. Lauricella stated that she is always surprised that more citizenry does not participate and suggested that next year there are more publicly oriented discussion on how the budget process occurs and that it is helpful for people to know what their paying for as part of their property taxes. She said she is very interested in helping to save money and suggested the board look to budget where the values lay, and there are items that the board has not been given enough information from the departments and she looks forward to having a special meeting with Mayor Rilling regarding cuts to spending. She said she is here to help as she has tried in the past to cut spending and add revenues.

Ms. Lauricella discussed the issue with the Public Works Department and the way waste streams are handled within the city and the way they interact with other departments to reduce the cost of waste. We are very lucky that we have a contract with City Carting and there is a single stream recycling program, but what she has read about the description of the city's program needs to be removed from the document because it states the city has a highly successful collection and disposal service and "it just ain't so" and that more savings can be achieved. She said a reduced waste stream needs to be put together for recycling which will reduce waste that is produced, and it certain sections of the city there are still people putting recycling in their trash and no matter what the staff has said there is no way that they know that there is not trash in recyclables. Currently in the contract with City Carting the city pays roughly \$88 to \$90 a ton to dispose of waste and gets paid roughly \$17.50 a ton for recycling. She also said she was also hoping to reduce the cost of utilities by having a more comprehensive energy management program and there is not a comprehensive renewable program in the school system therefore, she does not think they deserve to receive the \$6 million dollars from the rainy day fund because they have not turned over everything, and no matter what they say they have not reduced their costs and that they are not doing all they can because they are unwilling to listen at the Board Of Education about how they can save money, and she is hoping that the Board of Estimate and Taxation will have a meeting regarding that soon. There also needs to be a more robust grants program with a full time position in the Finance Department because it would pay for itself, and the departments are not experts in grant writing and she would like to see additional money spent on zoning and health enforcement of a toxics consultant so they Health Department can hire them when needed. She said she if very pleased with the POCD but a sustainability coordinator needs to be hired.

Mr. Camacho called for a recess at 6:50PM.

Mr. Camacho called the public hearing back in session at 7:00PM.

There were no other speakers who wished to come forward.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**\*\* MR. FEIGENBAUM MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dilene Byrd

Telesco Secretarial Services