

**CITY OF NORWALK
BOARD OF ESTIMATE AND TAXATION
REGULAR MEETING
JANUARY 6, 2020**

ATTENDANCE: Edwin Camacho; Chair; Mayor Harry Rilling; Ed Abrams;
Sheri Brown; James Frayer; Troy Jellerette

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

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

Mr. Camacho and Mayor Rilling welcomed Ms. Brown and Mr. Abrams to the Board of Estimate and Taxation.

1. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

December 1, 2019-Regular Meeting

**** MR. JELLERETTE MOVED TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES AS PRESENTED**

**** MOTION PASSED WITH THREE (3) ABSTENTIONS (MR. ABRAMS; MS. BROWN AND MR. FRAYER)**

2. **SPECIAL OPERATING APPROPRIATIONS AGENDA**

There were none this evening.

3. **TRANSFER AGENDA**

There were none this evening.

4. **OTHER BUSINESS**

No other business was discussed this evening.

5. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Special Appropriation

Status of Contingency

Ms. Fogel updated the Board on the status of the contingency. As of December 2, 2019 \$366,600 was appropriated and the balance is \$736,827.

The following was for informational purposes.

Financial Report

- Oak Hills Financial Status – November 2019

Ms. Fogel reported that Oak Hills was doing better and they have a positive cash flow. In addition, they now have a strong restaurant revenue.

Mr. Jellerette asked for an update on the restaurant lease. Mayor Rilling said that it is being worked on. He believes they are learning toward recommending a one-year lease for now. He said he will have more information when Mr. Dickens provides him with a final report.

- Year-to-date Capital Budget Report – FY 2019-20

Ms. Fogel reported that the capital budgets are all on track. Mr. Dachowitz is focused on cash flow and bonding.

- Year-to-date Operating Expenditure Report –FY 2019-20

Ms. Fogel reported that the departments are below 50% of their operating budget; however, Public Works is at 59%. In response to Mr. Abram's question, Mayor Rilling explained that the data is provided to the department heads to see if there are any red flags. He added that a lot of departments come in under budget.

Mr. Camacho said this is not always a fair representation, because some departments do not spend evenly throughout the year.

- Year-to-date Operating Revenue Report – FY 2019-20

- Year-to-date BOE Operating Expenditure Report – FY 2019-20

Mr. Jellerette asked if there was an indication on the Board of Education budget.

Mayor Rilling said they have to take a strong, hard look at the budget. It was reported that the Board of Education is looking at a 6.5% increase. He said they will have meetings to look at what they are requesting.

Mayor Rilling noted that the money recently appropriated for home visits was a stop gap. They are also looking at other options; there could be tier one funds available for unaccompanied minors. There are more young people coming into the system. They are also working on projections relative to the demographics so they can budget accordingly.

Mr. Jellerette asked about the status of the proposed new Norwalk High School. Mayor Rilling said they had a meeting today and they are going to move forward with the 80% reimbursement. He said he asked the team to create a time schedule so he could bring it to the Board.

The new Norwalk High School is moving forward and they are looking at architectural designs. The estimated cost is \$200 million and the cost to the City of Norwalk will be \$40 million.

Mr. Jellerette asked if they will be able to recoup the \$11 million. Mayor Rilling said that they spent \$5 million and have \$6 million left.

Mayor Rilling said they have to have something before the State by June 30, 2020 to be on the priority list.

Mr. Jellerette asked about the status of the South Norwalk school. Mayor Rilling said they are looking to figure out how they can find pocket parks in South Norwalk so the residents will have park space.

Ms. Brown asked about the demographics of the new Norwalk High School. Mayor Rilling said there will probably be a lottery for out of town students. Five hundred students will be enrolled in the Arts program; 500 in P-tech and 1,000 main stream.

Mr. Jellerette asked about out of district tuition and said he thought there was going to be a reduction. Ms. Fogel said she would have to confirm with Mr. Hamilton. Mayor Rilling noted that the numbers would have been higher if they did not bring the students back into the District. Mr. Camacho said he was concerned that they used 84.4% of the budget and there are still five – six months left in the fiscal year. Ms. Fogel said they transferred \$26,291 and expect the \$4.6 million will get them to the end of the fiscal year.

- Tax Collector's Narrative – November 2019
- Tax Collector's Narrative – November, 2019

Salary Accounts

- Police – FY 2019-20
- Fire – FY 2019-20
- Public Works – FY 2019-20

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

There was no further business and the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 7:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemarie Lombardi
Telesco Secretarial Services