

**CITY OF NORWALK  
BOARD OF ESTIMATE & TAXATION  
APRIL 6, 2009**

**ATTENDANCE:** Fred Wilms, Chairman; Mayor Richard Moccia; Leo Mellow; Michael Kolman; James Clark; James Feigenbaum; Michael Lyons.

**STAFF:** Thomas Hamilton, Finance Director; Ossie Lewis, Director of Management & Budgets; Mary Roman, City Clerk.

**OTHERS:** Hal Alvord, Director of Public Works.

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 p.m. by the Chairman.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**FEBRUARY 9, 2009 SPECIAL MEETING**

The following correction was made: On page 1, under “Staff”, the title of Mr. Lewis was corrected to “Director of Management & Budgets”.

**\*\* MR. WILMS MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS CORRECTED.  
\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**MARCH 2, 2009 REGULAR MEETING**

The following corrections were made: On page 1, under “Staff”, the title of Mr. Lewis was corrected to “Director of Management & Budgets”. On page 4, 1<sup>st</sup> paragraph, 4<sup>th</sup> sentence, the spelling of “Waypointe” was corrected. On page 5, under Item 2, 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph, 2<sup>nd</sup> sentence, “Mr. Clark” was corrected to “Mr. Mellow”.

**\*\* MR. WILMS MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS CORRECTED.  
\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**MARCH 25, 2009 PUBLIC HEARING**

The following correction was made: On page 8, 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph, the spelling of Rachel Menti’s name was corrected.

**\*\* MR. WILMS MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS CORRECTED.  
\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

## SPECIAL APPROPRIATIONS AGENDA

### \$49,000 FROM CONTINGENCY TO THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS FOR THE PURCHASE AND RENTAL OF UNIFORMS

Mr. Hamilton reviewed Mr. Lewis's memo and recommended approval. Mr. Alvord said the current rental cost is approximately \$40,000 per year.

Mr. Clark said it would be nice to integrate the intention that this is to be an expense every other year into the backup material. Mr. Hamilton said there is a small amount in next year's budget to cover new employees, etc.

**\*\* MR. WILMS MOVED: RESOLVED, THAT SUM NOT TO EXCEED \$49,000 BE AND THE SAME IS HERBY TRANSFERRED FROM CONTINGENCY TO THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS TO PAY FOR THE PURCHASE AND RENTAL OF UNIFORMS (ACCOUNT 01-4021-5276).**

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

## TRANSFER AGENDA

There were no transfers.

## OTHER BUSINESS

### ADOPTION OF TENTATIVE FY 2009-2010 OPERATING BUDGET

Mr. Hamilton said that the budget before the Board is consistent with the work of the Board last Thursday when they went through the open items list and essentially adopted the budget. There were two minor corrections:

1. A reduction of \$1,107 for the Grants Coordinator
2. The number was understated for the position of Environmental Compliance Officer in the Conservation Department by approximately \$13,000.

Mr. Hamilton said that the total is \$15,571 less than they had discussed. The tentative budget, to be forwarded to the Common Council, is \$278,731,067. The mill rates are essentially the same.

**\*\* MAYOR MOCCIA MOVED TO ADOPT THE FY2009-2010 OPERATING BUDGET IN THE AMOUNT OF \$278,731,067.**

Mayor Moccia complimented the Board of Estimate for being so diligent and non-partisan and he also complimented Mr. Hamilton and Mr. Davis and all the department heads who worked so hard. He said it has been a pleasure to serve with everyone on this board.

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Mr. Lyons suggested that the entire budget, minus the grant agencies, be approved.

**\*\* MAYOR MOCCIA WITHDREW HIS MOTION.**

**\*\* MAYOR MOCCIA MOVED TO ADOPT THE FY 2009-2010 OPERATING BUDGET MINUS THE GRANT APPROPRIATIONS.**

The Chairman said it has been a great process. They had to deal with the declining economy, the early retirement package, the reduction in revenues, revaluation, etc., and they have put together an essentially flat tax increase. They listened at the public hearing.

Mr. Lyons thanked Mr. Hamilton and Mr. Davis for another fantastic job, and Mr. Clark echoed Mr. Lyons' comments.

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

**\*\* MR. LYONS MOVED TO APPROVE THE GRANT AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS AS SET FORTH IN THE BUDGET.**

Mr. Wilms and Mr. Mellow recused themselves from discussion and vote on this item.

**\*\* MOTION PASSED WITH FIVE VOTES IN FAVOR, TWO ABSTENTIONS (WILMS, MELLOW).**

The Chairman said they had requested the formation of a joint finance committee with the Board of Education. The Board of Education has chosen Rosa Murray and Jack Chiamonte as their representatives. The Chairman designated himself and Mr. Mellow as the Board's representatives. At Mrs. Murray's request, an invitation has been given to Carvin Hilliard, Chairman of the Finance Committee, to also be a member of this joint committee.

The Chairman designated Mr. Feigenbaum as the Board's representative to NFCC.

### **APPROVE THE FY 2009-10 PROPOSED PARKING AUTHORITY BUDGET**

Mr. Hamilton said this budget represents the revised budget and is lower than what was originally proposed. The total budget is an increase of \$129,000, or 2.7%. Direct operating expenses are down by 1%; debt service was up a bit.

Mr. Alvord said on March 13<sup>th</sup>, two of the parking enforcement officers accepted early retirement.

Mayor Moccia said in his first week in office, there was a \$400,000 deficit; they no longer have that deficit. They are still working on incentives and working with businesses to make parking a tool.

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The Chairman said violations revenue has worked out very well.

Mr. Kolman asked how they got the on-street meter income and investment income up so much. Mr. Hamilton said investment income is a reflection on the fact that the Parking Authority now has a surplus. The funds are invested by the City Comptroller. Mr. Alvord said the deficit was actually \$680,000. They are now all automated. They are testing 30 meters that accept credit cards, which is working very well. They will also be testing a device that tells them when a space is empty.

- \*\* MR. FEIGENBAUM MOVED TO APPROVE THE FY 2009-10 PARKING AUTHORITY BUDGET.**
- \*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

### **APPROVE THE FY 2009-10 WPCA PROPOSED BUDGET**

Mr. Hamilton said that the WPCA has set sewer usage charges for next year. Residential will go up by \$10 to \$235. A planned major upgrade to the plant is one of the major drivers. The budget is an increase of \$877,000 or 6.7%.

The Chairman said he sits on the WPCA. There is a financial model that is in place that anticipates the significant upgrades in the system. There is a lot of needed work that needs to be done. There seems to be great public acceptance of increases in this fee.

- \*\* MAYOR MOCCIA MOVED TO APPROVE THE 2009-10 WPCA PROPOSED BUDGET.**

Mayor Moccia said that there was a study done and that study said to base the rates on consumption would actually increase the single family home cost because of some of the problems they have in obtaining the consumption information from the First Taxing District. He hopes the Common Council understands this. They cannot force conservation by raising the price on individual home owners. Mr. Alvord said that 70% of residential residential units would see an increase. If they go to a consumption based billing system, it would take 36 months and cost \$400,000 to implement.

- \*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

#### **FY 2008-09 FUND BALANCE PROJECTION**

Mr. Hamilton said that this information had been included in the members' packets. They are still tracking that they will end the year with a \$30,620,000 fund balance. In the budget for next year, they plan to use \$350,000, leaving \$27,100,000. In next year's budget, debt services will be flat; the pension contribution will have to go up to \$5,000,000. They want to keep between 5% and 10% in the fund balance.

The Chairman said they would need approximately \$22,000,000 to keep the fund balance at 28%. Mr. Hamilton said it would actually be \$24,000,000.

**\*\* MAYOR MOCCIA MOVED TO ADJOURN.  
\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl Telesco  
Telesco Secretarial Services