

**MINUTES  
BOARD OF ESTIMATE & TAXATION  
OCTOBER 5, 2009**

**ATTENDANCE:** Fred Wilms, Chairman; Michael Kolman; Michael Lyons; James Feigenbaum; Leo Mellow; James Clark (7:35).

**STAFF:** Ellen Wink, City Clerk; Thomas Hamilton, Finance Director; Ossie Lewis, Manager of Budgets & Systems.

**OTHER:** Dr. Lynn Moore.

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by the Chairman.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**SEPTEMBER 8, 2009 REGULAR MEETING**

The following correction was made: On page 5, the last sentence should read as follows: "The Board went into Executive Session at 7:01 p.m. and reconvened into Public Session at 7:54 p.m. The meeting was adjourned at 7:54 p.m."

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

**SPECIAL APPROPRIATIONS AGENDA**

There were no special appropriations.

**TRANSFER AGENDA**

There were no transfers.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

**RESOLUTION REDUCING THE BOARD OF EDUCATION'S FY 2009-10  
OPERATING BUDGET BY \$1,440,222 AND RESOLUTION REDUCING THE FY  
2009-10 APPROVED STATE REVENUE FROM THE EDUCATION COST  
SHARING GRANT BY \$1,440,222**

Mr. Hamilton said this is a bookkeeping change. The Board of Education will receive the same amount of money from the State through the Federal Stimulus Bill. This will leave the Board of Education with the same amount originally approved.

At 7:35 p.m., Mr. Clark arrived at the meeting.

Mr. Kolman asked if the Board of Education expected to receive the money from the city and from the state. Mr. Hamilton said that he had spoken to Mr. Cook, who expected exactly what he was recommending.

Mr. Clark said there was no reduction; Mr. Hamilton agreed.

Mr. Kolman asked if the Board of Education new it would be receiving the money from the Federal Stimulus Bill when they submitted their budget. Mr. Hamilton said they did not know it at that time. Sec. 19 specifically addressed this issue, and it was dated June 19<sup>th</sup>.

**\*\* MR. WILMS MOVED TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION REDUCING THE BOARD OF EDUCATION'S FY 2009-10 OPERATING BUDGET BY \$1,440,222 AND THE RESOLUTION REDUCING THE FY 2009-10 APPROVED STATE REVENUE FROM THE EDUCATION COST SHARING GRANT BY \$1,440,222.**

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

#### **ADDITIONAL BUSINESS**

#### **OAK HILLS FINANCIAL STATUS – JUNE, JULY & AUGUST 2009**

Mr. Hamilton said they had received the June numbers for Oak Hills. They are doing okay, although a little worse than last year.

Mr. Kolman inquired about the \$350,000 in the Wachovia account. Mr. Hamilton said Oak Hills is independent; this money does not come back to the City.

Mr. Wilms said Oak Hills is invited back each year in the fall to review their financials. This year, this will take place at the November meeting.

Mr. Hamilton will review the contract with Oak Hills and provide copies of the contract to Board members.

#### **TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT – AUGUST 2009**

Mr. Hamilton reviewed this report. He said the way the numbers are reported by the Tax Collector and how they show up in the audit report is different. They use modified accrual accounting, but the Tax Collector does not. The Tax Collector shows 98.67% as a collection rate but the audit collection rate will be different. We need to tie the numbers from the Tax Collector into those from the audit, which means backing out July and August.

The Chairman said they have to keep a close eye on the Tax Collector's results.

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Mr. Hamilton said they are planning a tax sale in July 2010, which will hopefully drive up the tax collection rate for 2009-10.

The Chairman requested a breakout on the conveyance tax between residential and commercial.

Mr. Hamilton said he is predicting a shortfall in interest income. In June, their total blended yield dropped by about 25 to 30 basis points and dropped by 2.75% to approximately 2.3%. The short terms investments are less than 1%. The Chairman said that the blended rate seemed to be pretty good.

The Chairman said he sees some areas of stabilization in the report, but they have to be mindful of the tax collection report.

### **FIRST QUARTER FUND BALANCE – FY 2009-2010**

Mr. Hamilton reviewed this schedule and said they lost \$300,000 from what they had anticipated they would receive when they adopted the budget. They took a hit from the Pequot grant. The Chairman pointed out that it is difficult because the State is still working on its budget when Norwalk's is adopted.

Mr. Hamilton noted that this affects the fund balance in terms of what will be available next year. They are not expecting to hit their tax collection by \$1,465,000.

The Chairman said they will be going into next year's tax season naked. Mr. Hamilton said there is a huge pension liability that hits next year. Mr. Mellow asked about the rating agencies. Mr. Hamilton said Moody's is prescient; they said if the city's fiscal circumstances change, they expect the city to reconsider the decision to draw from its fund balance next year.

Mr. Lyons said they are talking about the fact that they will be \$10,000,000 behind next year. Mr. Hamilton said he will have to tell department heads that they will have to come in with flat budgets.

The Chairman said they have another five to six months where something could change.

### **2010 TENTATIVE BET MEETING SCHEDULE**

Mr. Hamilton reviewed this schedule and asked members to notify him of any changes.

**OTHER BUSINESS (CONT'D)**

**UPDATE ON THE BOARD OF EDUCATION'S LABOR CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS**

- \*\* MR. CLARK MOVED TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS THE BOARD OF EDUCATION'S LABOR CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS.**
- \*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The members went into Executive Session at 8:10 p.m. and reconvened into Public Session at 9 p.m. No action was taken.

- \*\* MR. CLARK MOVED TO ADJOURN.**
- \*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl Telesco  
Telesco Secretarial Services

