

**CITY OF NORWALK
FINANCE CLAIMS COMMITTEE
JUNE 11, 2009**

ATTENDANCE: Carvin Hilliard, Chairman; Amanda Brown; Anna Duleep;
Michael Geake; Douglas Hempstead; Richard Bonenfant (7:38 p.m.)

STAFF: Thomas Hamilton, Finance Director; Fred Gilden, Comptroller;
Lisa Biagiarelli, Tax Collector

OTHERS: Diane Barry, DB&R Consulting; Carol Gavrielidis; Mary Gutchilds;
John Gutchilds; Edwin Camacho

Mr. Hilliard called the meeting to order at 7:34 p.m.

**1. CLAIMS COMMITTEE: RECEIVE THE MONTHLY CLAIMS REPORT; REVIEW
AND APPROVE CLAIMS AS REQUIRED FOR CLAIMS REPORT DATED
JUNE 11, 2009**

Ms. Biagiarelli reported that the Committee has to vote on this by virtue of the amount,

Mr. Bonenfant joined the meeting at 7:38 p.m.

Ms. Biagiarelli said that the amount reflects two cycles for 94 Taylor Avenue – 94 Taylor Properties.

**** MS. BROWN MOVED TO ACCEPT AND REFUND THE OVERPAYMENT AS
STATED IN THE CLAIMS REPORT
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**2. NARRATIVE ON TAX COLLECTIONS DATED JUNE 11, 2009 – RECEIVE
REPORT AND DISCUSS**

**3. MONTHLY TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT DATED MAY 31, 209 – RECEIVE
REPORT AND DISCUSS**

Ms. Biagiarelli reviewed her written report. She explained that their collections were at 97.96% at the end of May, which is down slightly from last year. This decline was anticipated due to the outstanding collections in the prior year.

Ms. Biagiarelli said that they are working on the business personal tax levy and have collected approximately \$600,000 since September 2008. The list is on their website.

New tax bills are being prepared and will be mailed next week. The tax bills will be payable by August 3rd. In addition, they will be able to receive credit card payments at the window. Mr. Hamilton said that he was happy to see the Unys system working better this time to get the tax bills out.

Mr. Hempstead asked what dollar amount they planned to collect. Mr. Hamilton said that they plan for the tax revenues to come in close to budget; however, the real estate conveyance tax is off by \$3 million. Ms. Biagiarelli said that the delinquent collections are saving them. She requested that Committee members let her know when they receive their bills, so she will know right away if there is a problem.

**** MS. BROWN MOVED THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:**

- 4. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, RICHARD A. MOCCIA, TO EXECUTE GENERAL LIABILITY INSURANCE PLACEMENTS FOR THE FY 2009 -10 FISCAL YEAR WITH (TO BE DETERMINED) IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED (\$ TO BE DETERMINED). ACCOUNT #168510-5418**
- 5. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, RICHARD A. MOCCIA, TO EXECUTE PROPERTY INSURANCE PLACEMENT FOR THE FY 2009-10 FISCAL YEAR WITH TO BE DETERMINED IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$TO BE DETERMINED. ACCOUNT # 168510-5418**

Mr. Hamilton introduced Ms. Barry. She explained her role and the steps that were taken during the re-marketing procedure. She said that it was challenging to get “apples to apples” comparisons from each company and reviewed their services.

Mr. Hamilton said that the City has not had many claims; there have been two or three in the past 22 years that exceeded \$1 million. This tries to protect the City from catastrophic claims. He noted that there are assets on hand in the event of a big claim.

The Committee reviewed the comparisons. Mr. Hamilton noted that CIRMA writes programs specifically for municipalities and they provide auto physical coverage with a \$2,500 deductible. They are the only carrier to provide that.

Mr. Hempstead asked for a description of the School Leadership policy. Ms. Barry said that it is similar to a Directors and Officers policy. Mr. Hamilton said that the City handles insurance for the Board of Education. He added that an allocation is done for all City departments.

Ms. Barry offered to summarize the claims. She said that specific guidelines have to be followed. Mr. Brown asked if the City was covered for terrorism. Ms. Barry said that coverage was waived, because the Federal government covers municipalities in the event of a terrorist act.

**** MS. BROWN MOVED TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, RICHARD A. MOCCIA, TO EXECUTE GENERAL LIABILITY INSURANCE PLACEMENTS FOR THE FY 2009 -10 FISCAL YEAR WITH CIRMA IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$325,000 ACCOUNT #168510-5418**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**** MR. BONENFANT MOVED TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, RICHARD A. MOCCIA, TO EXECUTE PROPERTY INSURANCE PLACEMENT FOR THE FY 2009-10 FISCAL YEAR WITH H. D. SEGUR IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$255,902. ACCOUNT # 168510-5418**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**** MR. BONENFANT MOVED THE FOLLOWING ITEM FOR DISCUSSION:**

6. REPORT ON FEES IN LIEU OF PARKING

Mr. Hamilton said that as of June 4, 2009 the fees in lieu of parking balance was \$345,620. He provided a copy of the ordinance. Mr. Geake said that he asked the Mayor for the fund balance, what was spent over the past few years and how many parking spaces are being added when businesses are being charged \$20,000. Mr. Hamilton said that some work has been done at the Yankee Doodle Garage and at Haviland Street. Mr. Geake said that he wanted to know how much was being collected for parking spaces and how much is being spent. Mr. Hamilton said that he never saw the questions and was not prepared to answer Mr. Geake's questions. Mr. Geake said that he sent those questions to Mayor Moccia and to Mr. Alvord.

Mr. Hamilton said that he will do more research on what was collected and how much was spent. Mr. Bonenfant asked how much each parking space costs. Mr. Geake said that they cost approximately \$20,000.

Comments were received from the public. Ms. Gavrielidis said that she paid \$120,000 for six parking spaces and now has to pay to park her car. Mr. Hamilton explained that the fee in lieu of parking is intended to satisfy the Zoning parking requirements and that she was not buying parking spaces.

Mr. Hempstead explained that he was on the Zoning Commission and the fee in lieu was to offset the fee to build the Maritime parking garage that would provide parking for the businesses in South Norwalk. However, there have never been enough fees collected. Mr. Hamilton said that the proceeds have to be used for maintenance; and not put into the general operating budget. In addition he said that he did not believe that they have to tie the use to the specific area where the fees are collected.

Mr. Geake said that he is concerned; this has been on the books a long time. People have been charged for a goodly amount of parking spaces. He said that people are being told they need

parking spaces, but asked if the City is providing the same amount of spaces they are selling. The number that they need has to equal the same number of spaces being provided.

Mr. Bonenfant said that if people pay for spaces, it makes their business more valuable. He asked where the spaces were leased from and who gets to lease the spaces.

Mr. Hempstead explained that this is a Zoning regulation and suggested talking to them about tightening up the regulation. The intent of the regulation was for the parking rights to run with the property. He said that he would like to know where the money has gone.

Ms. Duleep asked Mr. Hamilton if they could get an idea of what has been spent. Mr. Hamilton said that they are not near to the amount that was spent on the Maritime garage. Ms. Duleep said that she would like to understand intent of the fee in lieu regulation.

Mr. Hamilton said that he believes that Planning and Zoning has this information and will send a request to Mr. Greene from this Committee. Mr. Hilliard said that the Committee will revisit this next month.

**** MR. GEAKE MOVED THE FOLLOWING ITEM:**

7. RECEIVE BOARD OF ESTIMATE AND TAXATION APPROPRIATIONS FROM JUNE 1, 2009

Mr. Hamilton said that this was an internal transfer from the Board of Estimate and Taxation.

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**** MR. GEAKE MOVED TO RECEIVE THE FOLLOWING ITEM:**

8. FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES: RECEIVE MINUTES FROM JOINT SERVICES STUDY GROUP APRIL 30, 2009

Ms. Brown and Mr. Geake requested a copy of the list.

Ms. Duleep said that a school employee asked her if the Board of Education has looked into comparable retirement plans. Mr. Hamilton said that the City would not be supportive of that unless the Board of Education eliminates a significant number of positions. He said that he had a conversation with Dr. Corda who said that they do not have excess staff and would not eliminate any positions. He explained that the expense of early retirement would be covered by the City's budget. In addition, post employment benefits are driven by collective bargaining agreements. Mr. Hilliard said that there would be savings if a number of teachers retired and were replaced by first year teachers. Mr. Hamilton said that in the past the Board of Education has offered a cash inducement in order for people to take their retirement.

**9. RECEIVE CAPITAL PROJECTS QUARTERLY STATUS REPORT DATED
MARCH 31, 2009**

Mr. Hamilton said that this is a quarterly which provides status updates.

- ** MS. BROWN MOVED THE FOLLOWING ITEM:**
- 10. APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE FOLLOWING FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETINGS: MAY 14, 2009 AS PRESENTED**
- ** MOTION PASSED WITH TWO (2) ABSTENTIONS (MS. BROWN AND MR. GEAKE)**

- ** MS. BROWN MOVED TO ADJOURN**
- ** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

There was no further business and the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemarie Lombardi
Telesco Secretarial Services

