

**CITY OF NORWALK
FINANCE/CLAIMS COMMITTEE MEETING
REGULAR MEETING
JULY 10, 2014**

ATTENDANCE: Bruce Kimmel, Chairman, Dave McCarthy,
Jerry Petrini (left at 7:35PM) David Watts (arrived at 7:20PM),
Douglas Hempstead,

STAFF: Thomas Hamilton, Finance Director
Lisa Biagiarelli, Tax Collector
Fred Gilden, Comptroller
Michael Stuart, Tax Assessor
Gerald Foley, Purchasing Agent
Lisa Burns, DPW Operations Manager
Chris Torre, DPW Superintendent of Operations

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Kimmel called the meeting to order at 7:00PM

1. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No one from the public was present.

**2. APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE FOLLOWING FINANCE COMMITTEE
MEETING JUNE 12, 2014**

**** MR. MCCARTHY MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**3. CLAIMS COMMITTEE: RECEIVE THE MONTHLY CLAIMS REPORT;
REVIEW AND APPROVE CLAIMS AS REQUIRED FOR CLAIMS REPORT
DATED JULY 10, 2014.**

No discussion.

**4. NARRATIVE ON TAX COLLECTIONS DATED JULY 10, 2014- RECEIVE
REPORT AND DISCUSS**

Ms. Biagiarelli reported on the year to date tax collection and said that the fiscal year closed on June 30, 2014, and that the tax collections were on target and slight ahead of last year, and that approximately 10 million dollars was collected on the current bills. She reported on the tax sale and said that the sale is ten days away, and that there are still 38 regular properties and 55 boat slips that are still in the sale. She said that she is hoping that more people come in to pay their back taxes prior to the sale date. She said that the main reason for the sale is not to transfer titles to properties, but to collect money and that it works well and have already collected in excess of \$4 million dollars since November.

**5. MONTHLY TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORTS- RECEIVE REPORTS AND
DISCUSS: JUNE 30, 2014**

No discussion.

**6. AUTHORIZE THE PURCHASING AGENT, GERALD FOLEY, TO ISSUE
PURCHASE ORDER TO NORTHEASTERN COMMUNICATIONS, INC.
FOR THE SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION HIGH-BAND RADIO SYSTEM
FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$132,594.00
ACCOUNT NO. 9154031-5777-C0313**

Mr. Hamilton said that the funding that is being requested is available in the capital project. Mr. McCarthy asked Ms. Burns if this is an emergency procurement. Ms. Burns said that it was not intended to be and that it was identified as a need from the service provider Northeastern Communications in December, and that the capital budget request had already been submitted. She said that the current system is over 30 years old and that the replacement parts are no longer available. She said that the project has been bid by the State and that there is a State contract and that better pricing was obtained through negotiations. Mr. Torre said that it is critical from an operational standpoint that the Supervisors are able to communicate with their staff and each other during storm events. Mr.

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Petrini asked if the radio's were ever requested in the capial budget in subsiquant years. Ms. Burns said "no" and that things began to fail in December and were not aware they would no longer be serviced. Mr. Petrini asked if this were to go out to bid how long it would take. Mr. Foley said that a specification would need to be developed and that because it's a radio system it is more complex and that he estimates three to four months. Mr. Hempstead asked if the State had bid on this particular job. Ms. Burns said "yes" for the radio system. Mr. Hempstead said that he has concerns not going out to bid on a project of this magnitude. After further discussion Mr. Kimmel requested that Ms. Burns and Mr. Torre attend the next Commom Council meeting to answer any further questions.

**** MR. MCCARTHY MOVED TO APPROVE THE ITEM.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED WITH THREE IN FAVOR (PETRINI, MCCARTHY AND KIMMEL) AND TWO OPPOSED (HEMPSTEAD AND WATTS).**

7. DISCUSSION ON TAX RELIEF PROGRAMS FOR THE ELDERLY

Mr. Stewart discussed the local elderly tax relief program and said that basically there are two scenarios, and that one scenario involves no changes in the income limits, and the only thing that would change are the benefits that the individuals can receive. He said that there will only be changes to tier I which are the people with the lowest income level. He said that the final scenario is taking the two scenario and doing the same thing but increasing the enrollment in each of the scenarios by five, ten and fifteen percent. Mr. Watts asked how the tax relief program will be advertised. Mr. Stewart said that the information is posted on the city's website, and there are also flyers available in the Tax Assessors office. Mr. Kimmel said once the numbers are in place it will discussed on how it gets advertised broadly. Mr. McCarthy said that the information is also available through the Senior Center and there are a significant number of senior citizens that have access to that information

8. GENERAL DISCUSSION THAT OVERTIME, RETIREMENT, OTHER UNANTICIPATED COSTS AND DROP PLAN WOULD HAVE DURING A GIVEN BUDGET YEAR.

Mr. Kimmel said that this item will be discussed at next month's meeting when all members of the committee are present. Mr. Hamilton said that he did put together some history on the regular and overtime wages for the Police Department, the Fire Department and Combined Dispatch and asked what other information is needed. Mr. Kimmel said he would like information on how the contingency is developed, and if the overtime is done for other departments the same way that it is described it is done for the Police Department, and he would also like information on the impact of the DROP plan.

9. RECEIVE BOARD OF ESTIMATE AND TAXATION APPROPRIATIONS
DATED: JULY 7, 2014

Mr. Hamilton said there was a meeting but there were no special appropriations.

10. DISCUSSION ON COUNCIL EXPENDITURE BUDGET

Mr. Hempstead said that the expenditure budget is a work in progress and asked the committee members if they had any comments. Mr. Watts suggested that the budget be divided equally between the caucuses and each caucus can determine how their budget is spent, or to have the leadership of the Council decide how it is spent. After further discussion it was decided to put the item on the next Common Council meeting agenda for discussion

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:00PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Dilene Byrd
Telesco Secretarial Services