

**CITY OF NORWALK  
BOARD OF ESTIMATE AND TAXATION  
SPECIAL MEETING  
FEBRUARY 9, 2015**

ATTENDANCE: James Clark, Chair; Mayor Harry Rilling; Anne Yang Dwyer;  
James Feigenbaum; Gregory Burnett (7:34 p.m.)

STAFF: Thomas Hamilton, Finance Director; Robert Barron, Director of  
Management and Budgets; Donna King, City Clerk;  
Fire Chief Dennis McCarthy; Hal Alvord, Director, Public Works

Mr. Clark called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m. and Ms. King called the Roll. A quorum was present.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – January 5, 2015

Mr. Burnett joined the meeting at 7:34 p.m.

The following corrections were made to the minutes:

Page 1: Date should read, January 5, 2015; correct spelling: Ms. Anne Yang Dwyer and Mr. James Feigenbaum. Correct Mr. Clyde Mount, throughout.

Page 3: West Chester should be Westchester

Page 4: first paragraph, correct “noting that the value of living” should be changed to “noting that the cost of living”

Page 5: third paragraph, brand list should be changed to grand list

Page 8: fifth paragraph – remove the word more from the end of the paragraph

Page 10: first sentence - forecast should be forecasts

**\*\* MR. BURNETT MOVED TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES AS CORRECTED  
\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**SPECIAL APPROPRIATIONS AGENDA**

There were no special appropriations this evening.

**TRANSFER AGENDA**

Mr. Barron reviewed the transfer requests.

**\*\* MS. YANG DWYER MOVED TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING:**

Police Department

<b>From</b>	<b>To</b>	<b>Amount</b>
01-3053-5461 Centralized Fuel	01-3022-5743 Radios, Mobile Units, Walkie-Talkies	\$27,000

This transfer is to cover the cost of 10 Walkie-Talkies. The current radios are outdated and have a high rate of failure. They are also no longer able to be repaired when they do break. Finance has approved use of the department's anticipated fuel surplus to purchase these radios.

Ms. Yang Dwyer said that philosophically, the savings should stay within the City.

<b>From</b>	<b>To</b>	<b>Amount</b>
01-3620-5262 Other Machinery-Equipment	01-3042-53247 Firearm Supplies	\$5,000

This transfer is to cover the cost of firearm supplies for the training division to year end. The increasing cost of ammunition as well as the mandatory replacement of Taser cartridges has led to the anticipated deficit in this account. While this transfer is within the \$5,000 limit that can be processed by the Management and budget Office, a total of \$2,950 has already been moved into this account, so the additional funds put it well over the transfer limit.

**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**OTHER BUSINESS**

**\*\* MAYOR RILLING MOVED TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE REDUCTION OF THE APPROPRIATION FOR THE NEW FIRE HEADQUARTERS PROJECT FROM \$13,600,000 TO \$13,030,908 (ACCOUNT NUMBER 0912-3100-5777-C0466)**

Mr. Hamilton explained the item. He said that the project is essentially complete with a small balance for a few outstanding bills.

**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**\*\* MS. YANG DWYER MOVED TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE CLOSEOUT OF THE WESTPORT AVENUE ADDITION/RENOVATION PROJECT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$4000,000 (ACCOUNT NUMBER 0915-3100-5777-C0556)**

Mr. Hamilton explained the item. He said that this is a closeout of the Westport Avenue project, which has an available balance of \$400,000. The City is proposing to re-prioritize how the funds should be spent. A total of

**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**\*\* MR. FEIGENBAUM MOVED TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A SPECIAL CAPITAL APPROPRIATION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$35,000 TO FUND A STUDY OF FIRE PROTECTION AND EMERGENCY SERVICES IN THE WESTPORT AVENUE/CRANBURY NEIGHBORHOOD (ACCOUNT NUMBER 0915-3110-5777-C0556)**

Mr. Hamilton explained the item. He said that they are looking at all options, including adding a sixth station, relocating the Westport Avenue station, renovating the Westport Avenue station or doing nothing.

**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**\*\* MAYOR RILLING MOVED TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A SPECIAL CAPITAL APPROPRIATION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$934,092 TO FUND RENOVATIONS AND TO UPGRADE FIRE FACILITIES AT THE NEW CANAAN AVENUE STATION, AND TO UPGRADE FACILITIES AT THE REMAINING STATIONS AND AT THE REPAIR FACILITY AT 100 FAIRFIELD AVENUE (ACCOUNT NO. 0915-3110-5777-C0557)**

Mr. Hamilton explained the item. He said that by closing the prior accounts, they get \$934,000 to renovate and upgrade the facilities at the New Canaan Avenue station and to upgrade facilities at the remaining stations and at the repair facility at 100 Fairfield Avenue. The New Canaan Avenue station is 50 years old and when things broke, they were abandoned. The building has slowly degraded and there is dead equipment hanging from the ceiling.

Ms. Yang Dwyer said that she did not feel that there should be a dollar for dollar use for the surplus. Mr. Barron explained that when funds have already been borrowed, and there is a surplus, the funds have to be used. Mr. Hamilton said that the New Canaan Avenue station is 50 years old and is going to need work soon; this avoids the need to put it in the capital budget. Mayor Rilling added that this is an unusual situation, but sometimes a decision has to be made outside of the process, because it is the right thing to do. This is an opportunity to get the project done at today's dollars and the funding is available.

Mr. Barron said that this request follows the capital request process and has to go before the Common Council for approval. Mr. Hamilton said that this item is on the Finance Claims Committee agenda.

**\*\* MOTION PASSED WITH ONE (1) ABSTENTION (MS. YANG DWYER)**

**\*\* MAYOR RILLING MOVED TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CLOSURE OF THE BUCKINGHAM-LOCKWOOD DRAINAGE PROJECT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$867,155 (ACCOUNT NO. 0909-4027-5777-C0421)**

Mr. Hamilton explained that this project was funded in 2009 for \$3.4 million. He said that there were areas in the City that had severe flooding. The City increased the capacity of the storm drains; the project is complete and came in under budget. The intention of this appropriation is to continue watercourse maintenance.

The Board members discussed other areas in the City that have experienced flooding.

Ms. Yang Dwyer said that these two projects are about 10% of the total capital budget. She asked at what level is it where you can make these interagency transfers and at what point do you send it back into the general pool. Mr. Hamilton explained that in this case, the department requested a substantial appropriation in the capital budget. They saw this as an opportunity to reduce the request. This is a high priority request to address flooding in the City.

Ms. Yang Dwyer suggested that going forward they go through the process to give committees the opportunity to weigh the projects against other projects. Mr. Clark said that in terms of process, they have gone through this before and of the same magnitude.

**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**\*\* MR. BURNETT MOVED TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A SPECIAL CAPITAL APPROPRIATION IN THE**

**AMOUNT OF 867,100 FOR THE WATERCOURSE MAINTENANCE  
PROJECT (ACCOUNT NO. 0914-4024-5777-C0440)**

**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**PRESENTATION OF THE FY 2015-2016 RECOMMENDED OPERATING  
BUDGET**

Mr. Hamilton gave a Power Point presentation outlining the 2015/2016 recommended operating budget. The conclusion is as follows:

- Budget is balanced plan of operations requiring a 2.2% tax levy increase and results in an average mill rate increase of 1.4%
- Board of Education 2.7% budget request is fully funded
- City expenditure growth is limited to 2.5%
- Combined City-BOE debt service budget is increasing by 5.7%
- Recommended budget maintains all existing services; funds one new Recreation & Parks position funds the residential bulky waste pick up and downtown street sweeping programs; funds eleven (11) new police vehicles; increases the City contribution to the OPEB Trust Fund by \$500,000; funds the Headstart Pre-school program with an appropriation of \$355,000 and funds two new outside grant agencies (Person to Person and Carver Center School Transitions Program) at \$25,000 each.

Ms. Yang Dwyer commended the Mayor and the Finance staff for coming in with a reasonable estimate of a tax levy. Mayor Rilling said that the budget package was sent out with a mandate to the department heads to come in with a 2% increase. He said that Mr. Hamilton and Mr. Barron brought him a very good budget, where they were able to fund departments without over taxing the residents.

**REVIEW OF FY 2013-14 AUDITED RESULTS OF OPERATIONS**

Mr. Hamilton reviewed the fy 2013-2014 audited results of operations. He noted that there are 18 Triple A rated communities in Connecticut. As of June 30<sup>th</sup>, the WPCA and Parking Authority had positive financial results. The insurance fund also had a positive year. The City had a successful, positive year.

Ms. Yang Dwyer recognized the capacity of the Finance Department and their ability to save the City money.

**KEY REVENUE REPORT – YTD**

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The report was distributed at the meeting and briefly reviewed.

**\*\* MR. FEIGENBAUM MOVED TO ADJOURN  
\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

There was no further business and the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 9:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemarie Lombardi  
Telesco Secretarial Services