

**CITY OF NORWALK
FINANCE COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
AUGUST 13, 2015**

ATTENDANCE: Bruce Kimmel, Chair; John Igneri, Jerry Petrini, Douglas Hempstead, David McCarthy, Travis Simms

STAFF: Thomas Hamilton, Finance Director; Fred Gilden, Comptroller; Lisa Biagiarelli, Tax Collector (7:14 p.m.)

CALL TO ORDER.

Mr. Kimmel called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. A quorum was present.

Mr. Kimmel said that the Committee had just received an electronic budget document from Oak Hill Authority and the Committee did not have time to review it. He requested that the reports be sent out earlier to the Committee members. Mr. Gilden made a note of this.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.

There was no one present who wished to address the Committee at this time.

**APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE FOLLOWING FINANCE
COMMITTEE MEETING:**

July 9, 2015.

**** MR. IGNERI MOVED THE MINUTES OF THE JULY 9, 2015 MEETING.
** THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JULY 9, 2015
MEETING AS SUBMITTED PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

A resolution appropriating \$1,200,000 for the payment of an inverse condemnation settlement relating to the construction of a new police headquarters and authorizing the issuance of \$1,200,000 general obligation bonds for the City to meet said Capital Appropriation.

**** MR. PETRINI MOVED THE ITEM.**

Mr. McCarthy said that he had spoken with Mr. Hamilton regarding some confusion on the issue. Mr. Hamilton said that the Council had authorized the claim at the request from the Corporation Counsel. He gave a brief overview of the issue involving the City taking a parking lot when the new Police Station was constructed. The judge ruled against the City and this involves a global settlement. He said that this was a good settlement for the

inverse condemnation suit. The City is appealing the ruling. This has been reviewed with the bond counsel and would be a short bond of between 5 and 10 years. It would not be bonded until next year because the City currently has enough funding in the Capital account.

Mr. Hamilton said that the Council had authorized a bond refunding but the market terms were not favorable at that time. However, the market terms have become more favorable recently. While the City could use money from the fund balance but Mr. Hamilton felt it was not necessary.

Ms. Biagiarelli joined the meeting at 7:14 p.m.

Mr. Hempstead asked for clarification on how this motion should be made. Mr. Hamilton explained it was a stand alone approval. The action before the Committee is not connected to the settlement. Discussion followed about the details involving the Redevelopment Agency. Mr. Kimmel pointed out that Atty. Coppola would be present at Tuesday's meeting to clarify any remaining details.

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Claims Committee: receive the monthly Claims report: review and approve claims as required for Claims Report dated August 13, 2015.

Narrative on Tax Collection dated August 13, 2015- Receive Report and discuss.

Monthly Tax Collector's Reports - Receive Reports and discuss. July 31, 2015.

Ms. Biagiarelli said that the department had just wrapped up the current month's collections. She distributed copies of her reports to the Committee members. During the most recent collection period, the last day for payment was ten days earlier on August 3rd. Many payments were received on August 3rd and the department is up to date on posting as of earlier in the day. Delinquent notices will begin next week. The letters are called "demand notices" as required by law.

There is an issue with the DMV, which is closed for the past week until August 18th. They are changing how they identify people and the vehicles. The Tax Department will now have to add two additional fields in their records for the new identification numbers. The DMV has been working on this for a number of years. It not only involves the Tax Department but also car dealers, and various other agencies. The goal is to have more DMV services available online. Previously, the DMV had two separate databases, one for drivers' licenses and a second one for vehicles. These two databases were not linked together. The new system will have access to both sets of information. The onus will be the City to provide the accurate information to the DMV. Ms. Biagiarelli listed a number of potential issues that could develop because of this.

Mr. Petrini asked if the department has received a list of vehicles information. Ms. Biagiarelli said that they had been given some information but the information did not mesh well with the information that the department already had on file.

Mr. Hempstead complimented Ms. Biagiarelli on the high rate of collection. He said that in the past years, he has seen the percentage steadily increase. Mr. Hempstead asked if this new procedure was part of the State car tax cap. Mr. Hamilton said that the billing has remained with the local municipalities as far as he knew. He suggested asking CCM for an analysis on the final Senate bill.

Mr. Simms commended Ms. Biagiarelli for the great job that she has done over the years. Ms. Biagiarelli said that her department appreciates the support.

Ms. Biagiarelli then reviewed the two Special Requests that were as a result of Court rulings. Mr. Kimmel asked where the funds came from. Mr. Hamilton said that it was a reduction in revenue and this was included in the budget. Every year, the Tax Department and Finance Department estimates a certain amount to be included for potential refund payments. The actual amounts of the refunds are then drawn from this account.

**** MR. HEMPSTEAD MOVED TO RECEIVE THE MONTHLY CLAIMS REPORT: REVIEW AND APPROVE CLAIMS AS REQUIRED FOR CLAIMS REPORT DATED AUGUST 13, 2015.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

ADJOURNMENT.

**** MR. MCCARTHY MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services