

**CITY OF NORWALK
BOARD OF ESTIMATE & TAXATION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES – APRIL 6, 2026
VIA ZOOM VIRTUAL CONFERENCE**

ATTENDEES: Mayor Barbara C. Smyth, Ed Abrams, Joseph Andrasko, Kendrick Constant, Troy Jellerette, Artie Kassimis, Ms. Yang.

OTHERS: Marsha Elbourne, Tom Ellis, Jared Schmitt, Diana P., Robert Stowers, Ken Hughes, Kimberlee Kinsella.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Abrams called the meeting to order.

II. ROLL CALL

Ms. Elbourne called the roll and reported that a quorum was present.

III. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

- A. Regular Meeting: March 2, 2026**
- B. Special Meeting: March 3, 2026**
- C. Special Meeting: March 4, 2026**
- D. Special Meeting: March 5, 2026**
- E. Special Meeting: March 9, 2026**
- F. Special Meeting: March 11, 2026**
- G. Special Meeting: March 23, 2026**
- H. Public Hearing: March 25, 2026**

Mr. Abrams requested a motion to add discussion of open items on the FY27 operating budget to the other business section.

****MR. KASSIMIS SECONDED THE MOTION TO ADD DISCUSSION OF OPEN ITEMS ON THE FY27 OPERATING BUDGET TO OTHER BUSINESS.
THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. THE ITEM WAS ADDED.

Mr. Abrams requested a motion for acceptance of the minutes. Ms. Yang had submitted written updates earlier. Mr. Jellerette noted that he was an attendee at one meeting on page 51 of 184 of the package and requested spelling corrections from Padolli to Bidolli in the redevelopment section. Mr. Kassimis noted a name correction on page 2 of the March 2, 2026, minutes.

****MR. KASSIMIS MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING MARCH 2, 2026; THE SPECIAL MEETING MARCH 3, 2026; THE SPECIAL MEETING MARCH 4, 2026; THE SPECIAL MEETING MARCH 5, 2026; THE SPECIAL MEETING MARCH 9, 2026; THE SPECIAL MEETING**

MARCH 11, 2026; THE SPECIAL MEETING MARCH 23, 2026; AND THE PUBLIC HEARING MARCH 25, 2026 AS AMENDED.

****THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. THE MINUTES WERE APPROVED AS AMENDED.**

IV. SPECIAL APPROPRIATION AGENDA

A. TECHNICAL CORRECTION OF THE COMMON COUNCIL ACTION OF MARCH 24, 2026, ITEM VII.A.12

Authorize the Mayor, Barbara C. Smyth, to execute a sole source purchase order on behalf of the Norwalk Police Department for the purchase of (1) one police rescue vehicle for a total not to exceed \$361,000.00 Account #(092-63010-5777-C0858)

Mr. Ellis explained the technical correction to the Common Council action of March 24, 2026, Item VII.A.12, noting the new account number and corrected formatting for the sole source purchase of one police rescue vehicle.

****MR. KASSIMIS MOVED TO APPROVE THE TECHNICAL CORRECTION OF THE COMMON COUNCIL ACTION OF MARCH 24, 2026 ITEM VII.A.12 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE A SOLE SOURCE PURCHASE ORDER ON BEHALF OF THE NORWALK POLICE DEPARTMENT FOR THE PURCHASE OF ONE POLICE RESCUE VEHICLE FOR A TOTAL NOT TO EXCEED \$361,000.00 ACCOUNT #(092-63010-5777-C0858).**

****THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

B. Authorize a special capital appropriation in the amount of \$361,000.00 to be transferred from the Communications Upgrade Project (account # 092-13610-5777-C0638) to the City's Police Department for the purchase of a new Police Rescue Vehicle (account number # 092-63010-5777-C0858). Approvals for the transfer are required from the Board of Estimate & Taxation, Planning & Zoning Commission, Finance & Claims Committee, and City Council.

Mr. Ellis presented the authorization for the special capital appropriation and transfer from the Communications Upgrade Project.

****MR. KASSIMIS MOVED TO AUTHORIZE A SPECIAL CAPITAL APPROPRIATION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$361,000.00 TO BE TRANSFERRED FROM THE COMMUNICATIONS UPGRADE PROJECT (ACCOUNT # 092-13610-5777-C0638) TO THE CITY'S POLICE DEPARTMENT FOR THE PURCHASE OF A NEW POLICE RESCUE VEHICLE (ACCOUNT NUMBER # 092-63010-5777-C0858).**

****THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

V. TRANSFER AGENDA

Mr. Ellis introduced the FY2025-2026 transfer for the Registrar of Voters. Ms. P. explained the \$4,000 transfer from the wages and salary temporary account to election supplies in preparation for an anticipated August 11th primary, including training materials, supplies, signage, and deposits for alternate polling locations due to abatement and HVAC work at three sites. Mr. Jellerette and Mr. Kassimis asked questions regarding the primary and facility rental costs.

****MR. KASSIMIS MOVED TO APPROVE THE TRANSFER OF \$4,000 FROM THE WAGES AND SALARY TEMPORARY ACCOUNT TO ELECTION SUPPLIES FOR THE REGISTRAR OF VOTERS.**

****THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Mr. Schmitt introduced the transfer from contingency for grounds and facilities miscellaneous. Mr. Stowers and Mr. Hughes explained the \$175,000 request to cover shortfalls in part-time and temporary accounts for summer peak season staffing, including beach and grounds maintenance, due to the absence of prior-year carryovers. A spreadsheet detailing account shortfalls based on prior-year actuals was reviewed. Mr. Jellerette, Mr. Kassimis, Ms. Smyth, Mr. Andrasko, and Mr. Abrams asked questions regarding the accounts, urgency for hiring, and budgeting practices. Mr. Schmitt addressed the transition away from carryovers.

****MR. KASSIMIS MOVED TO APPROVE THE TRANSFER OF \$175,000 FROM CONTINGENCY FOR THE GROUNDS AND FACILITIES MISCELLANEOUS ACCOUNT WITH ALL NOTED ISSUES.**

****MR. ABRAMS ABSTAINED.**

****THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

VI. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Appointment of Auditors to Audit FY 2025-26 Mr. Schmitt explained that the appointment complies with state requirements to report the auditor to the Office of Policy and Management.

****MR. JELLERETTE MOVED TO APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS TO AUDIT FY 2025-26.**

****THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

B. Contingency Tracker FYE 2026 Mr. Ellis reported the contingency balance entering the month at \$295,000, reduced by the \$175,000 transfer to \$120,000 with two and a half months remaining in the fiscal year. Discussion occurred regarding potential needs and the Halstead incident reimbursement. Mayor Smyth noted an update would be available by the end of the week.

C. NPS Construction-Monthly Project Update March 2026 The monthly project update was provided as additional information in the packet.

Discussion of open items on the FY27 operating budget followed. Mr. Abrams reviewed open items and comments submitted by Ms. Yang, including the million-dollar Register of Voters expense and per-voter cost, grant funding availability for TMP (headcount versus capital), headcount and salary adjustments for redevelopment and fair rent, the fire department station maintenance shift from the fire budget to the buildings budget, education grant adjustments, city-owned properties, and opportunities for sponsorship or self-funding of events. Mr. Schmitt addressed fully loaded compensation multipliers at approximately 53 percent for fringe benefits and responded to other items. Mayor Smyth noted ongoing work on budget revisions. Mr. Jellerette expressed support for a 4 percent overall blended budget increase with full pension funding and no refinancing.

VII. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

A. Financial Reports

- 1. Oak Hills Park Authority Monthly Financial Statements for February 2026**
- 2. Narrative on Tax Collections dated February 2026**
- 3. Monthly Tax Collector's Reports dated February 2026**
- 4. Year-to-date Capital Budget Report - FY 2025-2026**
- 5. Year-to-date Operating Expenditure Report - FY 2025-2026**
- 6. Year-to-date Operating Revenue Report - FY 2025-2026**
- 7. Police, Fire & DPW Wages - FY 2025-2026**
- 8. Year-to-date BOE Operating Expenditure Report - FY 2025-2026**

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

****MR. KASSIMIS MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. THE MOTION PASSED.
THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:50 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Courtney Baldwin
Recording Secretary