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**CITY OF NORWALK
BOARD OF ESTIMATE AND TAXATION
SPECIAL MEETING
MARCH 4, 2024
VIA TELECONFERENCE**

ATTENDANCE: Ed Abrams, Chair; Mayor Harry Rilling; Troy Jellerette;
Anne Yang (5:38 p.m.)

STAFF: Thomas Ellis, Director Management and Budgets; Irene Dixon, City
Clerk; James Walsh, Chief of Police

Mr. Abrams called the special meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Ms. Dixon called the Roll as indicated above. A Quorum was present.

The Board members welcomed Mr. Camacho back to the Board of Estimate and Taxation.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

February 12, 2024-Regular Meeting

**** MR. JELLERETTE MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS PRESENTED
** MOTION PASSED WITH ONE (1) ABSTENTION (MR. CAMACHO)**

2. SPECIAL APPROPRIATIONS AGENDA (Section A)

Ms. Dixon read the following resolution:

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RESOLUTION:

Requesting a Special Capital Appropriation from the Police Department in the amount of \$657,000 to purchase vehicles.

Chief Walsh explained that the Police Department was requesting \$657,000 for two electric vehicles that will be used by the Resource Officers at Norwalk High School and Brien McMahon High School and six Patrol cars.

Chief Walsh explained that the plan was to purchase two electric vehicles at \$55,000 each; however, the cost went up to \$12,000 from last year. In addition, they plan to decommission some of the older cars.

Ms. Yang joined the meeting at 5:38 p.m.

In response to Mr. Jellerette's question, Chief Walsh described the process used to find the best price for the vehicles. He noted they traveled to Massachusetts to find the vehicles.

Mr. Camacho asked where the money goes when cars are decommissioned and auctioned off. Mr. Ellis said that money goes into the general fund. Mr. Camacho asked if a cost comparison was done between hybrid and electrical vehicles run on renewable energy. Chief Walsh explained that there are variables. The American car industry is still recovering from covid and Law Enforcement is struggling to find energy renewal vehicles. He said the only one available is made by Ford, but there are maintenance issues with that vehicle.

There is no hybrid or renewal energy vehicle that is appropriate for everyday Police use for high speed, emergency braking or Officer safety.

**** THE REQUEST FOR A SPECIAL CAPITAL APPROPRIATION FROM THE POLICE DEPARTMENT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$657,000 TO PURCHASE VEHICLES WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY**

3. TRANSFER AGENDA (Section B)

There were no transfer requests this evening.

4. OTHER BUSINESS (Section C)

1. Contingency Tracker

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Mr. Ellis reported there were no transfer requests. The City is looking good for the balance of the year and there is \$593,000 remaining for the fiscal year.

2. Park Fund proposal -- presentation and discussion

**** MAYOR RILLING MOVED TO TABLE THIS ITEM**
**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

5. Additional Information (Section D)

The reminder of the agenda is for informational purposes.

Financial reports

- Tax Collector's Narrative - January 2024
- Tax Collector's Rep011- January, 2024
- Oak Hills Park Financials - January 2024
- Year-to-date Capital Budget Rep 011 - FY 2023-24
- Year-to-date Operating Expenditure Report - FY 2023-24
- Year-to-date Operating Revenue Rep011 - FY 2023-24
- Police Wages FY 2023-24
- Fire Wages FY 2023-24
- Public Works Wages FY 2023-24
- Year-to-date BOE Operating Expenditure Report FY 2023-24
- 2024 YTD Expenditure Budget Report (Summary by Division)

**** MAYOR RILLING MOVED TO ADJOURN**
**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

There was no further business, and the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 5:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemarie Lombardi
Telesco Secretarial Services

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ATTENDANCE: Ed Abrams, Chair; Mayor Harry Rilling; Troy Jellerette;
Anne Yang; Kendrick Constant (6:39 p.m.)

STAFF: Thomas Ellis, Director Management and Budgets; Irene Dixon, City Clerk; Tina Fogel, Director of HR and Personnel; Chief Gino Gatto, Norwalk Fire Department; Mario Coppola; Jeffrey Spahr, Corporation Counsel; Thomas Livingston, Chief of Staff; Chief James Walsh; Joe Dinho; Melissa Evans, Norwalk Police Department; Richard McQuaid, Town Clerk; Stuart Wells, Registrar of Voters

Mr. Abrams called the special meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

Ms. Dixon called the Roll as indicated above. A Quorum was present.

1. BOARD OF ESTIMATE & TAXATION – Budget Deliberations:

Mayor Rilling made opening remarks and expressed thanks to the Board and Department heads for their work on the budget. He said the Board would be reviewing each line. This is a very challenging year and this is a work in progress. He said they understand the need to provide services without overtaxing the people.

Mr. Abrams reviewed the Charter relative to the Board of Estimate and Taxation. He said their job is to be sure the budget in place is appropriate and they are not to comment on how the money is spent.

Mr. Constant joined the meeting at 6:39 p.m.

Mr. Ellis shared his screen and presented the FY2025 recommended operating budget.

Mayor / Chief of Staff

Mayor Rilling and Mr. Livingston were present to review the Mayor and Chief of Staff's budget requests. Mayor Rilling said they are looking to see if they can get some savings by partnering with the Board of Education for the DET function.

Corporation Counsel

Attorneys Coppola and Spahr were present to review their budget request. Mr. Jellerette asked about the Board of Education's recently hired attorney. Mr. Spahr explained that a lot of the work was being done by the City.

Town Clerk

Mr. McQuaid was present to review his budget request. Ms. Yang expressed her thanks to Mr. McQuaid. Mr. McQuaid acknowledged the staff. He reviewed his budget request.

Human Resources

Ms. Fogel was present to review her budget request. She noted her department request was status quo, except for their contractual obligations.

Registrar of Voters

Mr. Wells was present to review his budget request. He focused on the upcoming Presidential election.

Fire

Chief Gatto was present to review his budget request.

Police

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Chief Walsh was present to review his budget request.

Mr. Abrams thanked everyone for being so diligent with their budget requests. Mayor Rilling expressed his appreciation to the staff.

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

There was no further business, and the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 7:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemarie Lombardi
Telesco Secretarial Services