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**CITY OF NORWALK
BOARD OF ESTIMATE AND TAXATION
VIA TELECONFERENCE
JANUARY 9, 2023**

ATTENDANCE: Mayor Harry Rilling; Ed Abrams; James Frayer; Troy Jellerette;
Artic Kassimis; Edwin Camacho (6:53 p.m.)

STAFF: Lisa Biagiarelli, Tax Collector; Henry Dachowitz, CFO;
Irene Dixon, City Clerk; Thomas Ellis, Director of Management and
Budgets

OTHERS: Bill Hodel, Director of Facilities Management, Norwalk Public Schools

Mayor Rilling called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m.

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

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

December 5, 2022 – Regular Meeting

The following correction was made to the minutes – correct Mr. Abrams’ first name from Al to Ed.

**** MR. ABRAMS MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS AMENDED
** MOTION PASSED WITH ONE (1) ABSTENTION (MR. FRAYER)**

2. SPECIAL APPROPRIATIONS AGENDA (Section A) None

3. **TRANSFER AGENDA** (Section B) None

4. **OTHER BUSINESS** (Section C)

Requesting an extended due date and payment period for the 2021 grand list for Motor Vehicle Supplemental billing. This is in accordance with the requirements of CGS 12-142.

Ms. Biagiarelli reported that the collection rate for December is comparable to last December, despite the billing going out two- and one-half weeks late. In October 2022, they went through an upgrade that impacted their ability to get the tax bills out. The Tax Department typically sends pro-rated motor vehicle bills out at the same time; however, the Department still does not have those bills in their system. Ms. Biagiarelli said she made a decision to proceed with the rest of the billing.

Ms. Biagiarelli said she was asking for a delay for the motor vehicle billing for 15,000 items. She said she is working with the Tax Assessor's office and is seeking a due date of March 1, 2023 with the tax due by April 1, 2023. She said she will be going before the Finance Claims Committee on Thursday. If this request is approved, this will be an entirely different billing.

Mr. Kassimis asked if the upgrade had been completed. Mr. Dachowitz explained the process and noted that Ms. Biagiarelli had done yeoman's work to get the other bills out. He described the problems with the Department of Motor Vehicles. Ms. Biagiarelli said there were still very major issues that are impacting collections. She said they can't bill and they can't collect.

Mr. Abrams asked if there would be any meaningful impact to the budget by pushing the payment date to April 1st. Ms. Biagiarelli explained that the motor vehicle component is their smallest and will not impact the fiscal year. She said the lion's share of the levy is the real estate tax; however, they were sent out in November and a lot of payments came back in December.

Ms. Biagiarelli said she is worried about the delinquent activity, because they are dealing with this delay and fielding phone calls from residents looking for their tax bills. She said she will keep everyone apprised on the collection rate.

Mr. Jellerette requested that the disposal passes will not expire due to the delay.

**** MAYOR RILLING MOVED TO GRANT AN EXTENDED DUE DATE AND PAYMENT PERIOD FOR THE 2021 GRAND LIST FOR MOTOR VEHICLE SUPPLEMENTAL BILLING. THIS IS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF CGS 12-142.**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Ms. Dixon read the following Resolution:

RESOLUTION, REQUESTING A SPECIAL CAPITAL APPROPRIATION FROM THE NORWALK PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$425,000 FOR THE SILVERMINE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

Mr. Holmdel described the layout of the parking lot at the Silvermine Elementary School and said it is a safety issue. He noted there were some design delays, State approval delays and delays due to Covid. When the bids for the project came back, the lowest, responsible bid came in at \$1,744,000 from B & W Paving & Landscaping, LLC. Mr. Holmdel said they are requesting a Special Capital Appropriation in the amount of \$425,000 to improve the parking lot at Silvermine Elementary School.

Mr. Camacho joined the meeting at 6:53 p.m.

Mayor Rilling asked if B & W Paving & Landscaping, LLC was a Norwalk company. Mr. Holmdel said they are not a Norwalk company and are located near the MA border. Mr. Holmdel said they were the lowest bidder.

Mr. Frayer asked what caused the increase in cost. Mr. Holmdel explained it was a lump sum bid; however, they received the bid in 2019. Since then, prices have increased considerable. He noted there was no change in the scope of the plan.

Mr. Camacho asked if the nine projects will be abandoned. Mr. Holmdel said they will repurpose the funds and the projects will not be part of the Board of Education's capital request; however, they may see a request for funding for paving. In addition, he said he suspects that in the future the request for curriculum and text books will come back.

**** MAYOR RILLING MOVED TO APPROVE A SPECIAL CAPITAL APPROPRIATION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$425,000 TO INCREASE THE APPROPRIATION TO FUND 092155010-5775-C0790 (SILVERMINE DRIVEWAY IMPROVEMENT). TIS CAPITAL APPROPRIATION SHALL BE FUNDED THROUGH \$425,000 OF BONDS OR NOTES OF THE CITY SHALL BE ISSUED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS AND TERMS SET FORTH IN THE ORIGINAL BOND RESOLUTIONS THAT AUTHORIZED THE ISSUANCE OF THE BONDS OR NOTES OF THE CITY FOR PROJECT #09233110-5777-C0829**

AND REQUEST THE CITY CLOSE OUT THE FOLLOWING PROJECTS;

COMMON CORE STANDARDS	\$13,593.00
DISTRICT PAVING & CONCRETE	\$20,565.00

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ASBESTOS ABATEMENT PROGRAM	\$11,700.00
CURRICULUM MATERIALS & TEXTBOOKS	\$1,100.00
CURRICULUM MATERIALS & TEXTBOOKS	\$3,396.00
FACILITIES MASTER PLAN	\$45,000.00
ENERGY CONSERVATION PLAN	\$110,000.00
KENDALL MEDIA CENTER	\$69,480.00
DISTRICT PAVING & CONCRETE	\$150,166.00
	\$425,000.00

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

5. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION (Section D)

Financial reports

- Oak Hills Park Budget – November 2022

Mr. Jellerette asked for a follow up on the restaurant and if they have been making their payments.

- Oak Hills Park Audit June, 2022
- Year-to-date Capital Budget Report – FY 2022-23
- Year-to-date Operating Expenditure Report – FY 2022-23
- Year-to-date Operating Revenue Report – FY 2022-23
- Police Wages FY 2022-23
- Fire Wages FY 2022-23
- Public Works Wages FY 2022-23
- Year-to-date BOE Operating Expenditure Report FY 2022-23
- Tax Collector's Narrative – October 2022
- Tax Collector's Report – October 2022

Mr. Camacho reported that he was at a Democratic Town Committee meeting where he was elected to fill Ms. Johnson's recently vacated position on the Common Council. He will be an at large member of the Common Council and will be submitting his resignation from the Board of Estimate and Taxation.

Mayor Rilling thanked Mr. Camacho for his leadership on the Board of Estimate and Taxation, noting he was a champion for the City's budget. Mr. Jellerette said it was a pleasure working with him. Mr. Frayer told Mr. Camacho that he did a great job and thanked him for his leadership. Mr. Camacho thanked Mr. Ellis, Ms. Biagiarelli and Mr. Dachowitz. Mr. Dachowitz said he looked forward to working with Mr. Camacho on the Common Council. Mr. Abrams told

Mr. Camacho that his leadership will be missed and congratulated him on this great opportunity. Mr. Kassimis told Mr. Camacho that he knew how to run a smooth meeting and that he always had the best interest of the City at heart.

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

There was no further business, and the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 7:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemarie Lombardi
Telesco Secretarial Services