

1. No Agenda

There is no agenda for this meeting. Please see the meeting minutes.

2. Minutes Subject To Approval - March 17

Documents:

[MINUTES SUBJECT TO APPROVAL - BET PUBLIC HEARING - 03 17 16.PDF](#)

3. Approved Minutes - March 17

Documents:

[APPROVED PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES - BET PUBLIC HEARING - 03 17 16.PDF](#)



MINUTES of the Public Hearing of the Board of Estimate and Taxation held on Tuesday, March 17, 2016 in the Town Hall Meeting Room, Greenwich, CT.

Chairman Michael Mason called the meeting to order at 7:04 P.M.

Board members in attendance:

Michael S. Mason, Chairman  
Arthur D. Norton, Vice Chairman  
William Drake, Clerk  
John Blankley  
Mary Lee A. Kiernan  
Elizabeth K. Krumeich  
James A. Lash  
Leslie Moriarty  
Jill K. Oberlander  
Jeffrey S. Ramer  
Leslie L. Tarkington  
Nancy S. Weissler

SUBJECT TO APPROVAL

Selectmen: Peter Tesei, First Selectman

Staff: Peter Mynarski, Comptroller; Melissa Jones, Senior Business Analyst; Peter Siecienski Chief, Fire Department; James Heavey, Chief, Police Department

Other: Mike Bocchino, CGA Rep. 150 District; Fred Camillo, CGA Rep. 151 District; Irene Parisi, BOE Director of Curriculum & Professional Development; Steve Warzoha, RTM Member; Arline LoMazza, RTM Member; Andy Duus, RTM Member; Erf Porter, RTM Member

Mr. Mason gave an overview of the Budget process, and then explained the format for the evening's Public Hearing regarding the proposed FY2017 Budget...

### **PUBLIC HEARING**

Katherine Du – Brunswick Student Safe Rides Committee – spoke in support Safe Rides Organization and the value of the program to the safety of the Community and Greenwich youth.

Peter Negril – Safe Rides Program – spoke in support of \$18,000 Grant for youth transportation by TAG on Friday and Saturday nights between 10:00 P.M. and 1:00 A.M. costing \$800.00 per night for 72 nights during the school year. The Grant offsets 1/3 of the program cost, \$42,000 is

raised through TAG fundraising and the Town allocation of \$18,000 completes funding for the program.

Lucia Jansen – RTM Member, BOC Chair – spoke in support of: 1) BET guidelines; 2) in opposition to the increases in personnel head counts; 3) in opposition to the 13 Departments with budget increases over 2%; 4) in opposition to the 9.49% increase in the Capital projects for FY17; 5) in opposition to the \$2 million purchase of land for the NW Fire Station; 6) in opposition to the Retirement Board's reduction of projected rate of return; 7) in opposition to the Nathaniel Witherell shortfall and in support of requiring a written Business Plan including a written Revenue plan for the Short Term Rehabilitation Unit; 8) in support of reducing the BOE Budget \$1.24 million in the Administration Department area; 9) in support of eliminating \$325,000 of funds from the BOE budget; 10) in support of reducing the allocation to the Eastern Civic Center Study plan by \$100,000.

Dr. Carl G.R. Carlson – RTM Member – spoke in opposition to raising taxes and the plight of the middle class.

John Dolan – RTM Member – spoke in opposition to underfunding the Pension System contribution. He also spoke in support of longer term borrowing to fund the New Lebanon School construction; 2) in support of lowering the high cost of debt.

Erik Maziarz – Lt. Fire Department – spoke in support of funding additional fire fighter staffing.

Rommen Nogay – Greenwich resident – spoke in support of making The Nathaniel Witherell a municipal department; 2) spoke in opposition to the purchase of a new property for the NW Fire House; 3) in support of selling the current property acquired for building the Fire House adjacent to the Griffin Golf Course...

Nicole O'Conner – Member, Byram Neighborhood Association – spoke in support of funding for the construction of a new New Lebanon School building.

Bob Tuthill – RTM Member – spoke in support of: 1) not cutting the Building Committee's Budget for the finishing and furnishings of the New Lebanon School; 2) in support of building a NW Fire House; 3) in support of increasing the fire fighter staffing for Byram, Cos Cob, Sound Beach and the new NW Fire House.

Eric Maurer – RTM Member District 4, Byram resident – spoke in support of right-sizing the New Lebanon School building to accommodate its potential future capacity.

Peter Sherr – Riverside Resident, BOE Member – spoke in support of auditing enrollment projections and the capacity plan for the New Lebanon School; 2) spoke in opposition to transferring 45 kindergarten students into the new school; 3) spoke in opposition to changing programs in other schools.

Mike Bocchino – CGA Legislative Representative 105<sup>th</sup> District – spoke in support of: 1) the planned size of the New Lebanon School; 2) in support of getting the project into the State reimbursement cue as quickly as possible; 3) in support of upgrading Cardinal Stadium with a Public/Private Partnership for fundraising.

Clare Kilgallen – Member New Lebanon PTA, Building Committee member - spoke in support of the planned size of the new New Lebanon School and its ability to meet the State's racial balance standards.

Diego Sanchez – President PTA New Lebanon School – spoke in support of the proposed size of the planned New Lebanon School. Nine children who attend New Lebanon School came to the podium with Mr. Sanchez.

Barbara Riccio – Principal, New Lebanon School - spoke in support of the BOE due diligence to accurately project the size of the future school's population and the corresponding requirement for right-sizing the school building...

Ms. Klare Monaco – Teacher, New Lebanon School - spoke in support of right-sizing the school and providing the students with the enhancements and enrichments enjoyed by other Greenwich public school students. She read three (3) letters from current New Lebanon students who described their satisfaction with the neighborhood school while supporting a new building and requesting a Science Lab...

Michael Trogni – PTA Council President - spoke in support of TOG Budget and BOE Budget.

Karen Fassuliotis – RTM District 7 Vice Chair - spoke in opposition to ReVal estimated tax increases; 2) in opposition to purchasing the new property for the NW Fire Station; 3) in opposition to the BOE additional headcount which was beyond BET guidelines; 4) in opposition to funding The Nathaniel Witherell debt; 5) in opposition to the proposed cost of the New Lebanon School project rather than building a functional school for less cost.

Matt Brooks – Greenwich Fire Department and Secretary of the Fire Fighters Union – spoke in support of increasing fire fighter staffing by 4 immediately and allowing 7 “floaters” to save overtime costs.

Alex Capozza – Greenwich resident - spoke in support of increasing fire fighter staffing; 2) in support of \$200,000 for Byram Fire House upgrades.

Christopher Sadys – RTM Member District 1 - spoke in opposition to the NW Fire House and a combined GEMS facility.

John Thompson – Byram Volunteer Fire Fighter - spoke in support of upgrading Byram Fire House.

Rosalind Nicastro - RTM Member - spoke in support of upgrading Byram Fire House.

Allen Williams – President, NW Greenwich Association - spoke in support of NW Fire House; 2) in support of 3-man fire fighter staffing across the whole Town; 3) in support of Public/Private Partnership funding for Cardinal Stadium.

Fred Camillo – CGA Legislative Representative 151<sup>th</sup> District - spoke in support of Public/Private Partnership funding for Cardinal Stadium.

Douglas Campbell Jr. – Riverside Resident - spoke in opposition to artificial turf as a health risk.

Michael Jellicka – representing the Youth Football League - spoke in support of Public/Private Partnership for funding the Cardinal Stadium; 2) in support of funding a Score Board immediately; 3) in support of funding Phase 1 study of re-carpeting the GHS playing field; 4) in support of funding a feasibility study for the future uses of the Stadium area.

Richards Comizio – Greenwich resident - spoke in support of funding the upgrading of GHS Cardinal Stadium's safety and aesthetics.

Hilary Gunn – RTM Member District 7- spoke in opposition to the installation of flashing lights in front of private schools.

Susan Foster – Riverside Resident - spoke in opposition to artificial turf installation in Riverside; 2) spoke in opposition to the three year funding plan for EMS FY18-FY22.

Arline Lomazzo – RTM Member, Chair PW Committee - spoke in support of sewer piping changes at Holly Hill facility.

Kimberly Fiorello – RTC Member District 7 – spoke in opposition to public spending and in support of fiscal restraint.

Andrea Blume – Pemberwick/Glenville Association Chair – spoke in favor of the Pemberwick Park sidewalk project Phase 1 to solve safety and ADA accessibility issues.

Vin DeMarco – Pemberwick/Glenville Association – spoke in support of funding Pemberwick Park sidewalk project in compliance with ADA accessibility.

Mr. Drake thanked attendees for their interest and expressing their opinions to the BET. Mr. Mason thanked attendees for their participation in the FY17 Budget process and for sharing their opinions and information with BET members to assist them to make informed decisions.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

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Catherine Sidor, Recording Secretary

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Bill Drake, Clerk of the Board

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Michael S. Mason, Chairman



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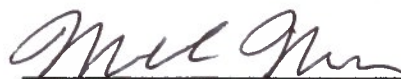
Respectfully submitted,



Catherine Sidor, Recording Secretary



Bill Drake, Clerk of the Board



Michael S. Mason, Chairman