1. BET Public Hearing Documents

Documents:

SUB_TO_APP_BET_PUBLIC_HEARING_MINUTES_03-20-12.PDF
APPROVED_BET_PUBLIC_HEARING_MINUTES_03-20-12.PDF
MINUTES of the Public Hearing of the Board of Estimate and Taxation held on Tuesday, March 20, 2012 in the Auditorium at Central Middle School, Greenwich, CT.

Chairman Michael Mason called the meeting to order at 7:02 P.M.

Board members in attendance:

Michael S. Mason, Chairman
Arthur D. Norton, Vice Chairman
Mary Lee A. Kiernan, Clerk
Gregory Bedrosian
Robert Brady
William R. Finger
Sean Goldrick
Randall Huffman
Marc V. Johnson
Joseph L. Pellegrino
Jeffrey S. Ramer
Leslie L. Tarkington

Selectmen:  Peter Tesei, First Selectman

Staff:  Peter Mynarski, Comptroller; Roger Lulow, Superintendent, Board of Education; Peter Siecienski, Chief, Fire Department; Robert Kick, Assistant Chief, Fire Department; Caroline Baisley, Director, Health Department; Tod Laudonia, Tax Collector; Samuel Deibler, Director, Commission on Aging; Carmella Budkins, Town Clerk; Michael Chambers, Director, Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Agency; Dave D’Andrea, Operations Manager, Griffith E. Harris Golf Course; C. Nick Edwards, Human Services Provider, Social Services Department; Daniel Warzoha, Emergency Management Director

Mr. Mason gave an overview of the Budget process, and then explained the format of this evening’s Public Hearing regarding the proposed FY2013 Budget.

PUBLIC HEARING

Joan Caldwell, RTM District 10 – Shared concerns regarding budget priorities and the lack of a Northwest Greenwich firehouse.

Peter Quigley, RTM District 7, Land Use Committee – Shared comments in support of reinstatement of $31,000 to Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Agency for digitization program, a Hydrology Engineer, and he shared concerns regarding storm drain infrastructure plans.

Dr. Marilyn Ross Cahn, Board of Health, RTM District 6 – Shared comments in support of a fully funded Public Health Emergency Preparedness Coordinator position, and shared concerns
regarding unexpected epidemics such as the H1N1 influenza virus, as well as the importance of disaster planning and the consequences of failure to plan ahead.

Lisa Beth Savitz, President, PTA Council – Shared comments in opposition to the March reductions in the Board of Education budget, and in support of the continued progress of BOE capital projects. She also shared comments regarding school financing linked to student outcomes, as well as observations about the size and diversity of the district, and the need for early childhood intervention.

Pam Speer and Colette Rogers, Friends of High School Performing Arts – Shared comments in support of continuation of the MISA project.

Peter Tesei, First Selectman – Shared comments in support of a fully funded Public Health Emergency Preparedness Coordinator position, funding for the Volunteer Firefighter healthcare stipend and for additional overtime staffing at the Glenville fire station to improve coverage in the Northwest of Greenwich.

Sam Deibler, Director, Commission on Aging – Shared comments in support of the Senior Center interior renovation, particularly the bathrooms, highlighting the need to accommodate wheelchairs and bring the building up to ADA guidelines.

John Pugni and Sandy Kornberg, Greenwich Volunteer Firefighters Association – Shared concerns about volunteer healthcare coverage and support for the Volunteer Firefighter healthcare stipend.

Nick Edwards, RTM District 8, Health & Human Services Committee – Shared concerns regarding the Social Services budget and allocation of department funds. He requested removal of $50,000 from regular salaries and $100,000 from external entities, and urged consideration of using Community Development Block Grant staff for external entities and community development work.

Laura Erikson, Co-President, GHS PTA – Shared comments in support of MISA.

Karen Fassuliotis, RTM District 7 – Shared comments in opposition to MISA project, concerns about environmental problems and MISA cost increases, and in support of a fully funded Emergency Preparedness Coordinator.

Angela Hyland, RTM District 7, Finance Committee – Shared comments in opposition to MISA project, and suggested value engineering the project and using zero-based budgeting going forward.

Michael Chambers, Director, Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Agency – Shared comments regarding the agency’s budget and revenues, and requested reinstatement of $27,000 for digitization program.

Michael Carter, RTM District 6, Land Use Committee – Also requested reinstatement of $27,000 for Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Agency digitization program.

Lucia Jansen, RTM District 7 – Shared comments in support of a larger general fund balance, implementation of the debt policy, and delaying any other capital projects due to Nathaniel Witherell, MISA, fields remediation and the Central Fire Station project. She requested
postponing Holly Hill, Byram Pool, additional schools projects and the second round of funding for MISA, citing the impact on tax increases.

Nick Edwards, RTM District 8, Health & Human Services Committee – Shared additional concerns regarding the Social Services Department budget.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:52 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

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Maria Bocchino, Recording Secretary

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Mary Lee Kiernan, Clerk of the Board

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Michael S. Mason, Chairman

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