



MINUTES of the BET FY17 Budget Decision Day meeting of the Board of Estimate and Taxation held on Monday, March 21, 2016 in the Town Hall Meeting Room, Greenwich, CT.

Chairman Michael Mason called the meeting to order at 6:33 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 Weissler

**SUBJECT TO APPROVAL**

Selectmen: Peter Tesei, First Selectman. Drew Marzullo, Selectman

Staff: Peter Mynarski, Comptroller; Roland Gieger, Budget Director; Ben Branyan, Town Administrator; Melissa Jones, Senior Business Analyst; Tod Laudonia, Tax Collector; Peter Siecienski, Fire Chief; Robert Kick, Assistant Fire Chief; Joseph Siciliano, Director, Parks & Recreation; Tom Greco, Assistant Director Parks & Recreation

Other: Laura Erickson, BOE Chair; Barbara O'Neill, Vice Chair BOE; Jim Hricay, Managing Director of Operations BOE; Ron Matten, BOE Director of Facilities; Chris Alexander, TNW Director of Financial Operations; Ken Borsuk, Reporter, Greenwich Time; William Slocum, Reporter, Greenwich Sentinel; Linda Moshier, RTC Cos Cob District; Steve Walko, New Lebanon Building Committee; Claire Kilgallen, New Lebanon Building Committee

RTM: Arline Lomazzo, RTM member; Christopher Von Kesselring, RTM Member; Roz Nicasastro, RTM Member; Michael Wacek, RTM District 11; Erf Porter, RTM Member; Steve Warzoha, RTM Member

Mr. Mason opened the meeting by welcoming Board members and guests. He explained the process to be followed and identified the various reference materials as well as pointed out the Budget projected on the screen on the rear wall of the Town Hall Meeting Room. He then asked Mr. Drake to read the Budget line by line. Mr. Drake read each line item of the Budget and Ms. Tarkington seconded them. Items on which Board members made comments are

identified below, with the relevant votes.

## **PROPOSED FY 2016-2017 BUDGET**

### **GENERAL GOVERNMENT OPERATING**

#### **139-51010 Tax Collector - \$49,981.50**

- **Motion** – Upon a motion by Mr. Blankley, seconded by Ms. Kiernan, the Board voted 5-5-2 to reduce the Tax Collector salary by 50%. (Opposed: Weissler, Norton, Drake, Mason, Tarkington) (Abstain: Oberlander, Moriarty)

There was initial confusion on the vote. After discussion, Mr. Mason requested a re-count, and it was agreed that the vote was 5-5-2. Mr. Mason announced that the motion failed.

- **Motion** – Ms. Weissler made a motion, seconded by Mr. Norton that salaries of First Selectman, Selectmen, Town Clerk, Tax Collector, and Registrar of Voters should be approved as shown on page 10 of the Budget Book Salary Schedule.
- **Motion to Amend** – Ms. Kiernan then moved, seconded by Mr. Ramer, to amend the motion of Ms. Weissler to show the salary of the Tax Collector on the list at \$49,981.50. The Board voted in favor of the amendment 6-5-1 (opposed: Mason, Drake, Norton, Weissler and Tarkington; abstaining: Oberlander).
- **Vote on Amended Motion** – Upon a motion by Ms. Weissler, seconded by Ms. Tarkington, the Board voted 11-1-0 to approve the amended motion. (Opposed: Mason)
- **Motion to Reconsider the previous motion** – Ms. Weissler then moved to reconsider the salaries of the elected officials one by one. Mr. Ramer noted his objection, in that a motion to reconsider may be made under Roberts' Rule only by a member who voted in favor of the motion to be reconsidered. The motion was called to a vote by the Chair, and the motion failed 5-7-0 (opposed: Krumeich, Blankley, Kiernan, Ramer, Moriarty, Oberlander and Lash).
- **Motion to Reconsider Vote to Reduce Tax Collector's Salary**– Later, after a recess, it was reported by the Chair that the Town Attorney had been consulted at home by telephone during the break by a third party, and that the Town Attorney had advised that it was not in legal order to reduce the salary of the Tax Collector during his term.

Mr. Ramer thereupon made a motion to reconsider the motion to reduce the Tax Collector's salary, by reversing the reduction of \$49,981.50 in the Tax Collector's salary and instead making an equal reduction in the 100's salary line of the department of the Tax Collector to resolve any question as to legal order and permit closure of the Budget, and to request the further advice with the Town Attorney before the Board as to how the reduction properly may be applied to achieve its intended purpose. The motion was

seconded by Mr. Blankley. The motion passed 9-3-0 (opposed: Kiernan, Moriarty, Oberlander).

205-51980 Fire Fighting Force – New Positions \$383,016

Reason: To restore additional firefighters to the Budget.

Upon a motion by Mr. Ramer, seconded by Ms. Oberlander, the Board voted 4-8-0 on the motion to restore additional firefighters to the Budget. (Opposed: Weissler, Norton, Drake, Lash, Mason, Kiernan, Moriarty, Tarkington)

A440-57225 External Entities – \$2,500,000

Condition: Subject to release by the Board of Estimate and Taxation upon receipt and acceptance by the BET of a semiannual report for GEMS respecting its operations, personnel and finances.

Upon a motion by Mr. Lash, seconded by Ms. Kiernan, the Board voted 12-0-0 to approve the condition of release.

A901-57010 Fixed Charges – \$1,521,000 – Pension Contribution - Increasing the line item to \$22,021,000 from \$20,500,000 approved by the Budget Committee.

Reason: Proposal to fund the full amount determined by the Retirement Board since the \$20,500,000 approved by the BET Budget Committee includes the new experience Tables but does not include the Retirement Board modified assumptions for rate of return (6.75% down from 7%), inflation rate (2.25% down from 2.5%) and salary increases (0.25% higher than inflation).

Upon a motion by Ms. Tarkington, seconded by Mr. Ramer, the Board voted 12-0-0 to approve the increase.

911 Fixed Charges – \$700,000 – Sewer Taxes for Town-Owned Properties

A911-57500 – Payment in Lieu of Taxes Amount \$140,000

Reason: This final October 1, 2015 assessed value for Town owned properties increased by 40% over the October 2014.

Upon a motion by Ms. Tarkington, seconded by Mr. Ramer, the Board voted 12-0-0 to add \$140,000 to the Line Item, increasing the \$700,000 budgeted to \$840,000.

950 Fixed Charges – \$1,960,145 – Debt Service, Principal & Interest

Interest H450 57800 \$720,145  
Principal H450 57900 \$1,240,000

Reason: To transfer TNW debt service from TNW to the General Fund and to reduce the

General Fund Contribution to TNW in an equal amount.

Upon a motion by Mr. Norton, seconded by Mr. Mason, the Board voted 1-10-1 to transfer \$1,960,145 of The Nathaniel Witherell debt service appropriation to the General Fund. (Opposed: Krumeich, Blankley, Weissler, Drake, Lash, Kiernan, Ramer, Tarkington, Moriarty, Oberlander) (Abstain: Mason)

## **CAPITAL**

### 213 59120 Capital Police Department Motorcycles -\$74,000

Upon a Motion by Mr. Blankley, seconded by Ms. Kiernan, the Board voted 2-10-0 to reinstate the expenditure. (Opposed: Krumeich, Weissler, Norton, Drake, Mason, Lash, Ramer, Tarkington, Moriarty, Oberlander)

### 321 Asphalt Paving Program – DPW Highway Division – Amend \$3 million to \$5 million

Upon a motion by Mr. Ramer, seconded by Ms. Kiernan, the Board voted 6 – 6 to approve the proposed amended amount. (Opposed: Weissler, Norton, Drake, Mason, Lash, Tarkington) Motion failed.

### 312 59600 Capital – DPW Highway Division – Pemberwick Sidewalk - \$175,000

Reason: To reduce Pemberwick Road sidewalk project to proceed with the sidewalk, driveway improvements construction for segment from existing sidewalk from approximately Pemberwick Civic Center north to entrance, removal of storage shed, some tree removal etc. \$175,000.

Upon a motion by Ms. Tarkington, seconded by Mr. Lash, the Board voted 7-6 to reduce the \$250,000 request by \$75,000 to proceed with \$175,000 of the proposed work. (Opposed: Krumeich, Blankley, Kiernan, Ramer, Moriarty, Oberlander)

### 312 59610 DPW – Greenwich Avenue Streetscape and Repaving Implementation - \$300,000

Reason: To reduce the Greenwich Avenue Streetscape implementation to \$175,000 to complete a land survey to determine the current condition, ADA compliance and existing utility infrastructure.

Upon a motion by Mr. Lash, seconded by Ms. Tarkington, the Board voted 7-6-0 to reduce \$125,000 from the total \$300,000 project to complete the survey. (Opposed: Krumeich, Blankley, Kiernan, Ramer, Moriarty, Oberlander)

Upon a motion to amend by Ms. Oberlander, seconded by Mr. Ramer, the Board voted 6-6-0 to appropriate \$300,000: \$175,000 for the survey and condition the remaining \$125,000 upon the presentation to the BET on the result of the survey and an update from DPW. (Opposed: Weissler, Norton, Drake, Mason, Lash, Tarkington)

321 59560 DPW Holly Hill Resource Recovery Facility Construction - \$875,000

Upon a motion by Ms. Tarkington, seconded by Mr. Lash, the Board voted 7-6 to delete the appropriation of \$875,000 and defer the project. (Opposed: Krumeich, Blankley, Kiernan, Ramer, Moriarty, Oberlander)

Land Acquisition Capital – DPW – 1241 King Street for NW Fire House and GEMS Facility - \$2,000,000

Upon a motion by Ms. Weissler, seconded by Mr. Drake, the Board voted 3-9-0 to eliminate the land acquisition capital. (Opposed: Krumeich, Blankley, Kiernan, Norton, Mason, Lash, Ramer, Moriarty, Oberlander)

345 59560 - NW Fire Station A&E \$500,000

Reason: A tentative agreement for land acquisition requires final identification of the site. In the event that a closing does not occur on the 1241 King Street site, A&E funds remain available for the alternate site at 1327 King Street which would be a fire house only facility with estimated A&E funding reduced to \$300,000.

Condition: Subject to release by the Board of Estimate and Taxation upon receipt and acceptance by the BET of identification of construction site.

Upon a motion to amend by Mr. Ramer, seconded by Mr. Blankley, the Board voted 4-8-0 on an amendment to condition the A & E appropriation subject to release upon identification of a construction site and closing of contract title. (Opposed: Kiernan, Mason, Lash, Drake, Weissler, Moriarty, Norton, Tarkington)

Upon the original motion by Ms. Kiernan, seconded by Mr. Ramer, the Board voted 9-3-0 to condition the A & E appropriation subject to release upon identification of a construction site. (Opposed: Weissler, Drake, Tarkington)

345 59560 – DPW – Byram Fire Station Rehabilitation \$200,000

A motion was made by Mr. Lash, seconded by Ms. Tarkington, to delete this \$200,000 appropriation. This motion was amended by Ms. Moriarty, seconded by Mr. Ramer, to retain the appropriation but condition it upon a report from the Fire Administration, GEMS and First Selectman that addresses the space requirements for the public safety entities and proposed solutions. The Board voted 11-1-0 on this amendment (a condition). (Against: Norton)

The Board voted 11-1-0 on the motion, as amended (to retain the appropriation, but condition it). (Against: Norton)

345 59560 – DPW – Eastern Greenwich Civic Center \$520,000

Reason: To condition \$350,000. The remaining \$170,000 to be used for testing

environmental and hydrology of the building foot print and the parking lot.

Upon a motion by Ms. Tarkington, seconded by Mr. Lash, the Board voted 11-1-0 in favor of the motion providing \$170,000 immediately and to condition the balance of \$350,000 subject to release upon the BET receipt and acceptance of a satisfactory report on the results of the testing of environmental and hydrology matters. (Opposed: Moriarty)

680-59560 – Education – New Lebanon School Construction, Ball Field and Temporary Modular Classrooms \$2,611,058 for a total of \$34,659,058

Condition: Subject to release by the Board of Estimate and Taxation upon receipt and acceptance by the BET of:

With respect to \$2,297,738 for the temporary modular classrooms,

- 1) Plan for site and installation of the modular, including remediation plan if needed; and
- 2) OSF approval for reimbursement of the modulares.

With respect to the balance of \$32,361,320,

- 1) OSF approval for reimbursement of the construction project; and
- 2) Construction bids for the project.

Upon a motion by Ms. Kiernan, seconded by Mr. Ramer, the Board voted 12-0-0 for the increase of \$2,611,058 in the combined appropriation for modulars and construction funds for a total of \$34,659,058 subject to the above conditions, and

SUBJECT TO APPROVAL

Upon a motion by Mr. Drake to amend this approved appropriation by reducing the \$34,659,058 by \$300,000, seconded by Ms. Weissler, the Board voted 7- 6. (Opposed: Krumeich, Blankley, Kiernan, Ramer, Moriarty, Oberlander)

680 59560 Board of Education – Facility Master Plan - \$600,000

Upon a motion by Mr. Lash to reduce the Facility Master Plan appropriation from \$600,000 to \$400,000, seconded by Ms. Tarkington, the Board voted 7-6 to approve the reduction.

Upon a motion by Ms. Kiernan seconded by Mr. Ramer, to amend the original motion to appropriate \$600,000 and condition \$200,000 of this amount subject to release on an update to the BET on the scope and progress of the master plan, the Board voted 4-8-0. (Opposed: Weissler, Norton, Drake, Mason, Lash, Tarkington, Krumeich, Blankley)

680 59560 Board of Education – Cardinal Stadium, Feasibility Study - \$40,000

Upon a motion by Ms. Tarkington, seconded by Mr. Lash, the Board voted 7 – 6 to delete the \$40,000 appropriation. (Opposed: Krumeich, Blankley, Kiernan, Ramer, Moriarty, Oberlander)

680 59560 Board of Education – Athletics - \$850,000

Condition: Subject to release by the Board of Estimate and Taxation following the BET's receipt of evidence that the BOE, Board of Health and the Department of Parks and Recreation have considered and agreed on the product to be used.

Upon a motion by Ms. Oberlander, seconded by Ms. Kiernan, the Board voted 7 – 6 to condition the appropriation as above. (Opposed: Drake, Tarkington, Krumeich, Blankley, Norton, Ramer)

701 59090 Library – Digitization of Greenwich Time - \$50,000

Upon a motion by Ms. Tarkington, seconded by Mr. Lash, the Board voted 7-6 to remove the appropriation. (Opposed: Krumeich, Blankley, Kiernan, Ramer, Moriarty, Oberlander)

829-59830 Parks & Recreation – Tree Inspection Program - \$27,000

Upon a motion by Ms. Tarkington, seconded by Mr. Lash, the Board voted 7-6 to eliminate this appropriation. (Opposed: Krumeich, Blankley, Kiernan, Ramer, Moriarty, Oberlander)

K351 59560 Sewer Improvement – Holly Hill Relocation - \$2,711,000

Upon a motion by Mr. Lash, seconded by Ms. Tarkington, the Board voted 7-6 to eliminate the appropriation from the budget. (Opposed: Krumeich, Blankley, Kiernan, Ramer, Moriarty, Oberlander)

**FINANCING**

Sewer Improvement to be financed

Upon a motion by Mr. Drake, seconded by Ms. Tarkington, the Board voted 12-0-0 to approve the Sewer Improvement Fund amount to be financed to \$6,312,000.

Nathaniel Witherell

Upon a motion by Mr. Drake, seconded by Ms. Kiernan, the Board voted 12-0-0 to approve the Nathaniel Witherell budget of \$30,723,877.

TNW Costs: Means of Financing Shortfall in Pension ARC of \$1,521,000

Upon a motion by Ms. Weissler to allocate past service costs (the amortization of the unfunded liability) to Nathaniel Witherell and to the other revolving funds, seconded by Ms. Tarkington, the Board voted 5-7-0. (Opposed: Krumeich, Blankley, Mason, Norton, Lash, Kiernan, Ramer)

Upon a motion by Ms. Oberlander to reinstate the charges for “in kind” expenses to TNW, seconded by Ms. Moriarty, the Board voted 4-8-0. (Opposed: Krumeich, Moriarty, Blankley, Norton, Mason, Lash, Kiernan, Ramer)

Upon a motion by Ms. Kiernan to finance the increase of \$1,521,000 in the Pension ARC with an equal reduction to the capital tax levy, seconded by Mr. Blankley, the Board voted 5-7. (Opposed: Mason, Weissler, Norton, Drake, Lash, Tarkington, Ramer)

Upon a motion by Ms. Kiernan to finance the increase of \$1,521,000 in the Pension ARC with fund balance, seconded by Mr. Blankley, the Board voted 5-7. (Opposed: Mason, Weissler, Norton, Drake, Lash, Tarkington, Ramer)

Upon a motion to amend by Ms. Tarkington seconded by Ms. Kiernan to reduce the contribution to TNW by \$1,521,000 in order to finance the increase of \$1,521,000 in the Pension ARC, the Board voted 4-8. (Opposed: Weissler, Blankley, Norton, Drake, Mason, Lash, Ramer, Moriarty)

Upon a motion by Mr. Lash, seconded by Mr. Norton, to reduce the contribution to TNW by \$801,000, calculated to bring the annual mill rate increase to 3.00%, the Board voted 9-3-0. (Opposed: Kiernan, Moriarty, Oberlander)

Pension ARC Contribution - \$1,521,000 (this repeats a motion covered above)

Reason: The Town Attorney has opined that the BET should fund the Pension ARC of approximately \$22.0 million recommended by the Retirement Board instead of the \$20.5 million recommended by the Budget Committee.

Upon a motion by Ms. Tarkington, seconded by Mr. Norton, the Board voted 12-0-0 to approve the increase to ARC funding.

**RESOLUTIONS**

Resolution for the Senior Center #21

Upon a motion by Ms. Tarkington, seconded by Mr. Drake, the Board voted 12-0-0 in favor of the Resolution for the Senior Center.

Resolution for MISA Gifts #42

Upon a motion by Mr. Mason, seconded by Mr. Drake, the Board voted 3-9-0 to delete this resolution. (Opposed: Weissler, Krumeich, Blankley, Lash, Kiernan, Ramer, Oberlander, Krumeich, Tarkington). Motion failed.

Motion to Amend Bonding Resolution Authorizing the Issuance of \$62,850,000 General Obligation Bonds (maturity)

Upon a motion by Ms. Kiernan to change the word "fifth" to "twentieth year after their (maturity) date", seconded by Mr. Blankley, the Board voted 6-6. Motion failed. (Opposed: Weissler, Norton, Drake, Mason, Lash, Tarkington)



Upon an amendment moved by Ms. Kiernan, seconded by Mr. Lash, the Board voted 12-0-0 to modify the bonding resolution amount to \$61,931,000. The Board voted 12-0-0 to approve this modified amendment.

After Mr. Gieger recalculated the changes effected by the various votes, upon motion by Mr. Mason, seconded by Mr. Lash, the General Fund Budget was amended to be \$431,291,953.

Upon a motion by Mr. Lash, seconded by Mr. Mason, the Board voted 12-0-0 to accept the Budget as amended.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The next Regular Meeting of the BET is scheduled on Monday, April 18, 2016 in the Town Hall Meeting Room at 6:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

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Catherine Sidor, Recording Secretary

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William Drake, Clerk of the Board

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Michael S. Mason, Chairman

SUBJECT TO APPROVAL