



MINUTES of the Public Hearing of the Board of Estimate and Taxation held on Tuesday, March 18, 2014 in the Town Hall Meeting Room, Greenwich, CT.

Chairman Michael Mason called the meeting to order at 7:02 P.M., after which the members pledged allegiance to the flag.

Board members in attendance:

Michael S. Mason, Chairman
Arthur D. Norton, Vice Chairman
William Drake, Clerk
John Blankley
William R. Finger
Sean Goldrick
Randall Huffman
Marc Johnson
Mary Lee Kiernan
Jeffrey S. Ramer
Leslie L. Tarkington
Nancy Weissler

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

Staff: Peter Mynarski, Comptroller; Peter Siecienski, Chief, Fire Department

Other: Sandy Kornberg, Volunteer Fire Fighter; Sean Turpin, Glenville Volunteer Fire Fighter; members of the Public

Mr. Mason welcomed the audience and explained the process for making remarks to the Board and audience. He noted that there is three-minute speaking limit per person with a second opportunity for speakers to address the Hearing at the end of the speaker list or to talk with individual BET members after the conclusion of the Hearing. He identified Mr. Drake as the BET's Clerk who would be calling the Speakers to the podium and Mr. Mynarski who would be timing each speaker and alerting them to their remaining 30-seconds to speak.

Jack Stoecker, Mianus River Watershed Council, spoke in favor of reinstating the Conservation Commission's request for changing its part time employee position to a full time position.

Nancy Chapin, Conservation Commission Member, spoke in favor of reinstating funding for the Conservation Commission request to increase a part time position to full time.

Gayle Hagegard, Conservation Commission Member, spoke in favor of reinstating funding for the Conservation Commission request to increase a part time position to full time.

Bill Rutherford, Conservation Commission Chairman, spoke in favor of reinstating funding for the Conservation Commission request to increase a part time position to full time.

David Landsman spoke in favor of reinstating funding for Greenwich Commons in the FY15 Budget.

Peter Tesei, First Selectman, spoke in favor of increasing Fire Department staffing, reinstating funding for Greenwich Commons in the FY15 Budget and earmarking insurance reimbursement for damaged trees as tree replacement funding.

Matt Brooks, Greenwich Firefighters Local 1042, spoke in favor of increasing Fire Department staffing.

Gerrit Argento, RTM member, spoke in favor of TOG establishing a higher standard of presentation of financial aspects of requests for funding.

Lucia Jansen, BOC Committee of RTM, spoke in opposition to increasing firefighter staffing and in favor of developing a strategic plan for the Fire Department and a review of its defined benefit retirement plan.

Mike Wacek, RTM member District 11, indicated that the majority of District 11 opposed increasing the firefighter staff at this time.

Joan Caldwell, RTM District 10, spoke in favor of adding fire department staff and a NW fire station.

Allen Williams, NW Greenwich Association President, spoke in favor of a NW fire station and a "fly car" for the Glenville station.

Peter Malkin, Greenwich Tree Conservancy member, spoke in favor of reinstating funding for Greenwich Commons and applying insurance proceeds to planting trees at Island Beach Parking Lot.

Shari Shapiro, Executive Director Kids in Crisis, spoke in favor of funding the Teen Talk program in the Greenwich middle schools.

John Raben, Board of Directors Chairman GEMS, spoke in favor of adequate funding for GEMS.

James Boutelle, Executive Director TAG, spoke in favor of reinstating full funding as TAG requested.

Mary Hull, Greenwich volunteer and board member, spoke in favor of reinstating funding for Greenwich Commons in the FY15 Budget.

Cindy Lyall, Junior League Board Chairperson, spoke in favor of TOG funding for Byram Pool.

Barbara O'Neill, BOE Board Chairperson, spoke in favor of fully funding BOE's request for a 2.1% budget increase and MISA soil remediation and construction contingency funds. She noted the District had reduced the cost of Digital Learning and deferred the installation of a new roof on the GHS gymnasium.

Erin Senft, parent New Lebanon School student, opposed the consultant feasibility study expenditure for New Lebanon School, indicating the over-crowding there was obvious.

Lisa Harkness, President PTA Council, spoke in support of BOE Operating and Capital Budgets.

Valerie Stauffer, RTM member District 7, opposed BOE request for 2.1% budget increase.

Clare Kilgallen, parent New Lebanon School student, spoke in favor of the consultant feasibility study expenditure.

Shelly Cryer, Greenwich resident, spoke in favor of fully funding the MISA project.

Jessica von Brachel, parent New Lebanon School student, spoke in favor of fully funding the BOE budget request and New Lebanon consultant feasibility study expenditure.

Tia von Brachel, New Lebanon School student, spoke in favor of fully funding the BOE budget request and New Lebanon consultant feasibility study expenditure.

Mike Bocchino, New Lebanon School PTA and President of Byram Neighborhood Association, spoke in favor of fully funding the BOE budget request and New Lebanon consultant feasibility study expenditure.

Peter Alexander spoke in favor of soil, water and environmental testing in Byram and elsewhere.

Peter Quigley, RTM member Land Use Committee, spoke in favor of increased spending on storm drain infrastructure.

Vince DiMarco, member Pemberwick-Glenville Neighborhood Association, spoke in favor of projects that add value to neighborhoods.

Bob Tuthill, RTM member District 4 Finance Committee, spoke in support of increasing Fire Department staffing, New Lebanon School consultant study and establishing a NW Fire Station.

JoAnn Messina, Executive Director Tree Conservancy, spoke in favor of earmarking insurance reimbursement money for planting trees in the Island Beach Parking Lot and for reinstating funding for the Conservation Commission request to increase a part time position to full time.

Eric Maurer, spoke in favor of funding the New Lebanon consultant feasibility study expenditure.

Christine Edwards, RTM member BOC Committee, spoke in favor of fully funding the Fire Department, TAG requests, and a future request from the Senior Center.

Richard Muskus, President TAG Board of Directors, spoke in favor of reinstating the full TAG funding request.

Janine Gerald, TAG van driver, spoke in favor of reinstating the full TAG funding request.

Ann Hotchkiss, TAG client, spoke in favor of reinstating the full TAG funding request.

Diego Sanchez, parent New Lebanon School student, spoke in favor of fully funding the BOE budget request and New Lebanon consultant feasibility study expenditure.

Chief Peter Siecienski, TOG Fire Chief, thanked the BET for engaging in the process to consider fully funding the Fire Department budget request.

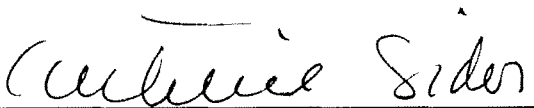
Gary Silberberg, Conservation Commission, spoke in favor of reinstating funding for the Conservation Commission request to increase a part time position to full time.

Don Conway, RTM member, spoke in support of the New Lebanon School's consultant feasibility study, funding TAG, and the Byram Pool Project.

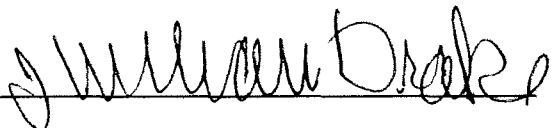
There being no further members of the public requesting an opportunity to speak, Mr. Mason expressed his thanks and appreciation for the public appearing at the Hearing to advocate for budget expenditures that they considered to be significant to Greenwich's quality of life. He invited the public to attend the Decision Hearing on Thursday, March 20, 2014 at 5:00P.M. to listen to the BET's deliberation.

The Hearing was unanimously adjourned at 8:20 P.M.

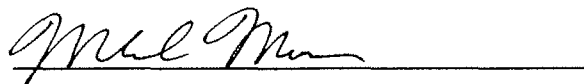
Respectfully submitted,



Catherine Sidor, Recording Secretary



William Drake, Clerk of the Board



Michael S. Mason, Chairman