MINUTES of the regular meeting of the Board of Estimate and Taxation held on Monday, March 19, 2012 in the Town Hall Meeting Room, Greenwich, CT.

Chairman Michael Mason called the meeting to order at 6:34 P.M., after which the members pledged allegiance to the flag.

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; Roland Gieger, Budget Director; John Crary, Town Administrator; Peter Siecienski, Chief, Fire Department

NON-Routine APPLICATIONS

ED-5 Board of Education – Release of conditions $250,000

Release of Conditions:

$ 50,000 to B6801689-59560-12149 Drainage Redesign by DTC
$ 35,000 to B6801689-59560-12149 MEP Redesign by P&W
$ 35,000 to B6801689-59560-12149 Extended Purchasing by Turner
$ 30,000 to B6801689-59560-12149 Asbestos Testing by EAS
$ 20,000 to B6801689-59560-12149 Asbestos Testing by Lab
$ 20,000 to B6801689-59560-12149 Additional AECOM Reports
$ 10,000 to B6801689-59560-12149 Additional Legal Support
$ 20,000 to B6801689-59560-12149 Miscellaneous Invoices
$ 30,000 to B6801689-59560-12149 Contingency
$ 250,000 from MISA

Mr. Pellegrino stated that to date, $19,230,000 has been appropriated for MISA, of which $5,384,836 has been spent or encumbered. Of the amount appropriated, $17,000,000 was
subject to release. To date, the BET has released $3,300,000, and of that amount, $3,248,867 has been spent or encumbered, which leaves the MISA building committee with $51,133 left to meet their obligations.

Mr. Pellegrino then gave an overview of the MISA Building Committee’s tasks and responsibilities, which include the current feasibility study with the EPA and DEEP. This request for funds is to finalize the feasibility study, which is needed to seek BSF authorization and then to seek bids. The requested funds will be used for 1) redesigning certain aspects of MISA, drainage and MEP; 2) asbestos testing inside the walls of the existing auditorium; and 3) professional fees to Turner, AECOM and legal counsel.

Upon a motion by Mr. Pellegrino, seconded by Mr. Finger, the Board voted 12-0-0 to approve the application.

PW-9  DPW – Additional Appropriation $200,000

Additional Appropriation:
$ 200,000 to Z315-59830-12199 GHS Soils Remediation
$ 200,000 from Capital Non-recurring

Mr. Pellegrino explained that $1,315,000 has been appropriated, of which $1,119,345 has been spent or encumbered, leaving $195,655 for this fiscal year. This request is to continue the investigative efforts required by the Town and the environmental regulators, which will lead to cost estimates by Fall 2012. Commissioner Siebert estimated the need for an additional $200,000 to meet scheduled testing needs this spring. Mr. Finger stated that this request is for the fields’ remediation, as opposed to the MISA project remediation.

Upon a motion by Mr. Pellegrino, seconded by Mr. Finger, the Board voted 12-0-0 to approve the application.

PW-5  DPW – Release of conditions $100,000

Release of Conditions:
$ 100,000 to Z345-59560-11134 King Street Firehouse

Mr. Pellegrino stated that the condition, “Subject to Release by the BET upon acceptance of a report for a solution to the septic system for the proposed King Street Fire Station and the determination if GEMS would be able to be stationed on this site”, has been met. Mr. Pellegrino also stated that although the Budget Committee was not willing to release the funds to continue the development of a fire station at this site at this point in time, they support the need for better fire protection in the Northwest corridor and want to work with the First Selectman to accomplish this goal. Mr. Pellegrino stated that the BET must make sure all appropriate questions are asked and potential solutions are addressed before committing funding to any given project, and he shared additional comments regarding current site issues, funding impact, as well as the desire to seek a comprehensive solution to a number of connected fire service and manpower issues.

Mr. Ramer commended Mr. Tesei, Mr. Monelli, and Chief Siecienski for their continued efforts to find a location in order to achieve good fire coverage for Northwest Greenwich, and proposed staffing alternatives and improved response times, and stated that the current site’s purchase was a logical decision at the time. Mr. Ramer also stated that the decisions made by the Budget Committee were entirely site specific, and the hard work of finding a good site has to continue.
A brief discussion followed regarding proposed alternate sites and plans to increase fire service.

Upon a motion by Mr. Pellegrino, seconded by Mr. Finger, the Board voted 0-12-0 to oppose the application.

**ROUTINE APPLICATIONS**

HD-6  Health – Approval to Use $2,703

Approval to Use:

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<td>$ 30</td>
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<td>State of CT Lead Grant</td>
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SE-8  Law – Additional Appropriation $161,000

Additional Appropriation:

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SUBJECT TO APPROVAL

Upon a motion by Ms. Kiernan, seconded by Mr. Pellegrino, the Board voted 12-0-0 to approve the applications.

**ASSESSOR’S REPORT**

Upon a motion by Ms. Tarkington, seconded by Mr. Ramer, the Board voted 12-0-0 to accept the Assessor’s Report.

**COMPTROLLER’S REPORT**

Mr. Mynarski presented the Comptroller’s Report to the Board and highlighted that the Workers Compensation Technician position vacancy has been put on hold in order for the ad hoc Steering Committee to further study the function. Mr. Mynarski also gave a brief update regarding the Assessor interviews planned for Wednesday, March 21, 2012.

A discussion followed regarding the defined contribution plan contract, as well as the importance of the data on non-public investment vehicles in the quarterly flash report.

Upon a motion by Mr. Norton, seconded by Ms. Tarkington, the Board voted 12-0-0 to accept the Comptroller’s report.

**ACCEPTANCE OF TREASURER’S REPORT SHOWING INVESTMENT PORTFOLIO ACTIVITY FOR THE PERIOD OF February 1, 2012 – February 29, 2012**

Mr. Norton briefly shared comments regarding the JPMorgan Chase accounts.
Upon a motion by Mr. Norton, seconded by Mr. Finger, the Board voted 12-0-0 to accept the Treasurer's Report.

BET STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Audit Committee Report

Mr. Mason referenced the recent Audit Committee report on Board of Education practices and requested that the Audit Committee provide a report in July on the implementation of the report’s recommendations. Mr. Norton shared comments regarding the function of the Audit Committee, including ensuring best business practices and appropriate internal controls. Mr. Norton commented that the Board of Education has agreed to periodic audits of their building maintenance and management area.

BET LIAISON REPORTS

Finance/Assessor Report

Ms. Tarkington reported that the Assessor Search Committee, which includes Ms. Tarkington, Mr. Finger, Mr. Mynarski, Mr. Crary, and the Assessor from Rye, NY (technical specialist), will interview four candidates for the Assessor position on Wednesday, March 21, 2012, and she gave an overview of the selection process. Ms. Tarkington also shared comments regarding the Assessment Appeals process, and Mr. Shipman was commended for his efforts as the Interim Assessor.

PLAN OF CONSERVATION & DEVELOPMENT (POCD) TASK FORCE

Mr. Mason noted that this is the last month that this item will be on the agenda. BET liaisons to the Housing Task Force, the Downtown Committee, the Transportation Committee and the Town Properties Committee reported on the delivery of final reports. Mr. Tesei thanked the BET liaisons and the other volunteers who served on these committees.

BET SPECIAL PROJECT TEAM REPORTS

BET IT Upgrade Report: Mr. Brady reported that he was working with Elaine Brown and testing an iPad for this purpose. He estimates that the project will be ready by July. Mr. Brady will prepare a memo for Mr. Mason with recommendations and questions for counsel.

Hay Implementation Committee: Mr. Pellegrino reported that this Committee will hold its first organizational meeting next week.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business to report.

NEW BUSINESS

Appointment of External Auditor

RESOLVED, that the Board of Estimate and Taxation in accordance with provisions of the Connecticut General Statutes and upon advice of its Audit Committee, hereby appoints
McGladrey and Pullen as the independent public accountants to conduct the annual audits of the Town of Greenwich for the next two (2) fiscal years, beginning July 1, 2012 and July 1, 2013, with the option of an additional 3 one year terms (2014, 2015, 2016), given approval of both parties.

Mr. Norton gave an overview of the selection process. A discussion followed regarding the contract terms, the selection process, and cost.

Upon a motion by Mr. Norton, seconded by Mr. Bedrosian, the Board voted 12-0-0 to approve the appointment of McGladrey and Pullen as independent accountants for the Town of Greenwich annual audits for fiscal years ending June 30, 2012 and June 30, 2013.

Discussion of BET Decision Night

Mr. Mason gave an overview of the Budget process and additional procedural details in preparation for the BET Decision Meeting, Thursday, March 22, 2012.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

BET Special Meeting, February 21, 2012

Upon a motion by Mr. Ramer, seconded by Ms. Tarkington, the Board voted 12-0-0 to approve the Special Meeting Minutes of the BET from February 21, 2012.

BET Regular Meeting, February 21, 2012

Upon a motion by Mr. Ramer, seconded by Ms. Tarkington, the Board voted 12-0-0 to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of the BET from February 21, 2012.

CHAIRMAN’S REPORT

Mr. Norton shared comments commending Mr. Mason’s preparation for the BET Decision Meeting and the importance of the public hearing on Tuesday, March 20, 2012.

Mr. Mason shared comments regarding his attendance at the Civilian Police Academy Alumni Event, the FOI seminar, Budget Overview Committee meeting, Greenwich Library Peterson Dinner, the Board of Education meeting, featuring MISA report, and the RTM District 7 meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon a motion by Mr. Goldrick, seconded by Mr. Brady, the Board voted 12-0-0 to adjourn at 7:34 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

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Maria Bocchino, Recording Secretary
SUBJECT TO APPROVAL