



MINUTES of the regular meeting of the Board of Estimate and Taxation held on Monday, July 20, 2020, held as a Virtual Webinar, Greenwich, CT.

Michael Mason, BET Chairman, called the meeting to order at 1:12 P.M., after which the members pledged allegiance to the flag.

Board members in attendance:

Michael S. Mason, Chairman
Karen Fassuliotis, Vice Chair
William Drake, Clerk
Andreas Duus III
Laura Erickson
Debra Hess
Elizabeth K. Krumeich
Miriam Kreuzer
Leslie Moriarty
Jeffrey S. Ramer
Leslie L. Tarkington
David Weisbrod

SUBJECT TO APPROVAL

Staff: Aamina Ahmad, Ass't Town Attorney; Benjamin Branyan, Town Administrator; Lauren Elliott, Assessor; Roland Gieger, Director, Budget & Systems Director, Finance Department (Dept.); James Heavey, Police Chief; Valerie Maze Kennedy, Ass't Town Attorney; Vince Marino, Town Attorney; Peter Mynarski, Comptroller; Megan Zanesky, Risk Manager

Selectmen: Fred Camillo, First Selectman; Jill Oberlander, Select-person; Lauren Rabin, Selectwoman

RTM: Peter Berg, (D-8), Chairman, Land Use Committee (Cmte.); Danyal Ozizmir, (D-5), Vice Chair, BOC, Chairman, Labor Contracts Cmte.; Irene Dietrich, (D-8), Health & Human Services Cmte.

BOE/GPS: Clare Kilgallen, Co-President, New Lebanon PTA; Alexandra Stevens, Media Specialist, GHS

Public: Ken Borsuk, Reporter, *Greenwich Time*; Horst Tebbe, GCTV

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chairman Mason suggested that there was no need for the Executive Session. The Board agreed. He thanked the Town IT and Media Departments for enhancing the Town's Virtual Meeting capability.

REQUESTS FOR BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS

NON-ROUTINE APPLICATIONS

<u>Number</u>	<u>Department</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Purpose</u>
Se-1	First Selectman P935 57350	\$30,000	Additional Appropriation Settlement – Martin v. TOG, Greenwich Public Library

Ms. Fassuliotis reported that the Law Committee had reviewed the merits of the case and voted 2-0-0 to accept the settlement.

Ms. Tarkington reported that the Budget Committee voted 4-0-0 to recommend the Additional Appropriation of \$30,000 to the full BET in settlement of Martin v. TOG, Greenwich Public Library.

Mr. Mason asked Mr. Drake to take a Roll Call vote on the Additional Appropriation of \$30,000 in settlement of Martin v. TOG, Greenwich Public Library. The Board voted 11-1-0 (Opposed: Mason). Motion carried.

PD-1	Police Z213 59000	\$310,022	Additional Appropriation Body Cameras
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First Selectman Camillo, as the Town's Police Commissioner, reported that the acquisition of Body Cameras for the Police Department required an appropriation of \$310,022 for the purchase of 160 cameras and maintenance and storage fees of \$173,000 to cover years 2-5. He noted that police in many of CT's large cities already used body cameras and the State was offering a partial reimbursement for their purchase. He recommended the initiative as a safety device that would have long term savings by reducing risk. He proposed putting it on the RTM's September Agenda. The Board expressed the need for more information about the contract's details and recommended further discussion either off-line or at a special meeting. The Town Attorney suggested additional contract language. Mr. Camillo withdrew the application. Mr. Mason asked Ms. Fassuliotis and Ms. Moriarty to organize BET member questions. A discussion of the Body Cameras initiative is scheduled with the Board, the First Selectman, Police Chief Heavey and the Axon Corporation at a virtual meeting to be held on Thursday, July 23.

ROUTINE APPLICATIONS

<u>Number</u>	<u>Department</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Purpose</u>
FL-1	Finance B various depts & codes	\$882,864	Bond Authorization Closeout Reduce Bond Authorization
SL-1	School Lunch S670 52130	\$27,000	Transfer Food Transportation

Upon a motion by Mr. Drake, seconded by Ms. Tarkington, the Board voted unanimously to approve Routine Applications FL-1 for \$882,864 Bond

Authorization Closeout and SL-1 for the transfer of \$27,000 to the School Lunch Fund for food deliveries during the COVID-19 pandemic The Board voted 12-0-0. Motion carried.

ASSESSOR'S REPORT

The Town Assessor Ms. Elliott highlighted items from her written monthly report: the Assessor's Office is working with the Tax Collector's Office responding to a high volume of inquiries from taxpayers seeking clarification of the Tax payment deferral program; residential appraisers will begin fieldwork visiting permitted building construction sites and thereafter make appointments with owners. No interior visits are planned at this time; the First Selectman received approval from the State Office of Policy & Management (OPM) of his request to move the date of the Town's 2020 ReVal to October 2021; one new commercial real estate tax appeal, in addition to the six residential appeals previously filed, are pending against the 2019 Grand List.

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

COMPTROLLER'S REPORT

The Comptroller Mr. Mynarski drew the Board's attention to topics in his Report: the Fire Study Steering Committee reviewed the first draft of Matrix's Report and submitted questions for additional information; after reviewing the second draft, the Fire Study was circulated to the First Selectman and the Fire Department; Boomershine's Actuary, Greg Stump, will make a preliminary Report to the Retirement Board on July 30, 2020 regarding recommendation for interest and discount rate assumptions; an election of a new Retirement Board member is scheduled for next week; and, despite the COVID-19 Tax deferral of July's payment until September, \$67 million has been received to date which excludes bank escrow payments anticipated before the end of July. Mr. Mynarski recognized Ms. Lynch, the Assistant to the Treasurer, for monitoring and sharing tax cash inflow daily. Chairman Mason thanked Ms. Moriarty and Ms. Tarkington for their work submitting documentation to closeout Hamilton Avenue and MISA building projects totaling approximately \$10 million to meet the State's June reimbursement procedure deadline.

Upon a motion by Ms. Tarkington, seconded by Ms. Moriarty, the Board voted 12-0-0 to accept the Comptroller's Report. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Upon a motion by Ms. Tarkington, seconded by Mr. Ramer, the Board voted 11-0-1 (Abstain: Krumeich) to accept the Treasurer's Report. Motion carried.

BET Standing Committee Reports

None

BET Liaison Reports

None

BET Special Project Team Reports

None

OLD BUSINESS

- **Review of proposed format of Fund Balance Chart**
No discussion
- **Update – School Reimbursements**
Discussion within the Comptroller’s Report

NEW BUSINESS

- **New Building Committee – Greenwich High School Security Entrance Building**
Mr. Mason commented that the feasibility study, Arts & Engineering Study and the BOE Education Specifications (Ed Specs) have been approved. He proposed that he participate as the BET representative on this Building Committee and asked for additional support from the BET Education Liaisons and Mr. Drake.

Mr. Mason asked for a motion to add an Item to the Agenda.

Mr. Ramer made a motion, seconded by Mr. Drake to add an Item to the Agenda. The Board voted 12-0-0. Motion carried.

- **Insurance Risk Management**
Ms. Zanesky, the Town’s Risk Manager, commented that as discussed during a recent Audit Committee meeting with the Town’s insurance agent, Gallagher, casualty premiums were higher this year than expected, due to conditions in the insurance markets. That Committee considered adding an additional layer of General Liability insurance to supplement its current \$3 million retainage and \$30 million liability insurance. The Audit Committee members were in agreement that the prior levels of insurance should be maintained for FY 2021.

Mr. Drake made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ramer, to transfer \$107,269 insurance saving from FY2020 insurance, to purchase \$5 million of additional General Liability coverage in FY2021. The Board voted 12-0-0. Motion carried.

Chair’s Report

Mr. Mason thanked all who have been attending and supporting the BOE planning process for re-opening Greenwich Schools in the Fall

Approval of BET Meeting Minutes

Upon a motion by Mr. Drake, seconded by Ms. Tarkington, the Board voted 12-0-0 to approve the Minutes of the BET Special Webinar Meeting of June 12, 2020. Motion carried.

Upon a motion by Mr. Drake, seconded by Ms. Tarkington, the Board voted 12-0-0 to approve the Minutes of the Regular BET Webinar Meeting of

June 15, 2020 with the understanding that they might need to be amended in the future due to delay in delivery. Motion carried.

Adjournment

Upon a motion by Ms. Hess, seconded by Mr. Weisbrod, the Board voted 12-0-0 to adjourn the meeting at 2:26 P.M. Motion carried.

The next Regular Meeting of the Board of Estimate and Taxation is on Tuesday, September 21, 2020.

Respectfully submitted,

Catherine Sidor, Recording Secretary

William Drake, Clerk of the Board

Michael Mason, Chairman

SUBJECT TO APPROVAL