



MINUTES of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Estimate and Taxation held on Monday, March 15, 2021 in a virtual Zoom webinar, Greenwich, CT.

Chairman Michael S. Mason called the meeting to order at 6:32 P.M.

Board members in attendance:

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

Staff: Lauren Elliott, Assessor; Department; Roland Gieger, Director, Budget & Systems Management, Finance Department; Peter Mynarski, Comptroller

RTM: Nancy Better, (D-11); Irene Dietrich, (D-8) Health & Human Services

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

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Request for Budget Adjustment

ROUTINE APPLICATIONS

<u>Number</u>	<u>Department</u>	<u>Purpose</u>
FD-2	Fire Department	Transfer
\$30,000		Tuition Payments - TOG Employees

Upon a motion by Mr. Drake, seconded by Ms. Tarkington, to approve FD-2 \$30,000 for Tuition. The Board voted 12-0-0. Motion carried.

FI-5	Finance Department	Transfer
\$500,000		Insurance Policies

Upon a motion by Mr. Drake, seconded by Ms. Tarkington, to approve FI-5 transfers of \$500,000 for Excess Liability Insurance premium. The Board voted 12-0-0. Motion carried.

NON-ROUTINE APPLICATIONS

FD-1	Fire Department	Additional Appropriation
\$231,610		Payment for OT Services

Ms. Tarkington reported that the Budget Committee had discussed the additional appropriation and voted 4-0-0 to approve the Application.

Upon a motion by Mr. Drake, seconded by Ms. Tarkington, to approve the additional appropriation of \$231,610 for COVID related overtime, the Board voted 12-0-0. Motion carried.

ASSESSOR'S REPORT

The Town Assessor Ms. Elliott, highlighted the following items from her written monthly report: The Board of Assessment Appeals (BAA) has completed their hearings on the October 1, 2020 Grand List. The total reduction to the Real Estate portion of the Grand List is \$19,434,590, less than the original estimate of \$45,000,000. The estimated adjustment to the Grand List is an increase of 1.30% over FY2021 Budget, based on \$32,196,378,290, up from \$31,978,359,250 on October 1, 2019. The 2021 ReVal will resume inspections of the 1,200 outstanding properties and is planned to complete its work by June. Updating the BET on the PILOT project of potentially taxable property at some non-profit locations, Ms. Elliott noted that responses were received and appointments for further dialogue will be made. The 2020 Grand List will not be affected by the non-profit discussions.

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

Comptroller Mynarski asked if there were any questions about his monthly written report and commented that he had engaged Clifton Larsen Allen to assist with the GASB-87 Project aggregating all Town leases. Responses to the RFP for a Financial Advisory Service included the new firm joined by Mr. Lindsay, the Town's long time prior advisor. Mr. Mynarski shared that the Town of West Hartford was preparing a Pension Obligation Bond for \$350,000,000 to reduce its unfunded pension obligation. The BET expressed interest, and the Investment Advisory Committee is currently discussing the same strategy for Greenwich.

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

BET Standing Committee Reports

No reports were scheduled.

BET Liaison Reports

No reports were scheduled.

BET Special Project Team Reports

No reports were scheduled.

OLD BUSINESS

- **Approval of the Town's Annual Report**
The BET considered the Annual Report and elected to approve it with minor scrivener's corrections and other de minimus modifications.

Upon a motion by Ms. Erickson, seconded by Ms. Moriarty, the Board voted 12-0-0 to approve the Annual Report. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Acceptance of the Federal and State Compliance Report for the Year Ending June 30, 2020**

Upon a motion by Mr. Drake to approve the State Single Audit of June 30, 2020 after several authorized extensions, the Board voted 12-0-0 to approve and forward it the State Office of Policy and Management (OPM). Motion carried.

- **Approval to Use Clifton, Larson, and Allen (CLA) to provide GASB-87 Leasing Assistance**

Mr. Drake reported that the Audit Committee had voted 4-0-0 to approve CLA providing assistance for the detailed research and preparation of the new Audit requirement related to lease accounting.

The Board voted 12-0-0 to approve the engagement of CLA to assist in preparation of the GASB-87 Report. Motion carried.

- **BET Meetings – schedule impacts for the latest Executive Orders from Hartford effective March 19, 2021**

The Governor is extending the Executive Order to hold virtual meetings through April 2021. BET Public Hearing on its proposed Budget is planned to be hybrid virtual with the BET present in Town Hall on March 29 at 6:30 P.M; Questions can be submitted through a form available on the Town website. The BET will hold its Budget Workshop as a hybrid meeting on March 30 at 11:30 A.M. The BET Decision Day meeting is on April 1; its start time will be posted. If a second Decision Day Meeting is required to complete its voting, that meeting will be held on April 6, 2021, start time to be posted.

Chairs Report

Chairman Mason updated the BET on the following topics:

- Mr. Mason asked the BET members to be available to visit RTM meetings during April and May before the RTM budget vote.
- Mr. Mason noted that a groundbreaking event for Cardinal Stadium recently took place and was attended by Ms. Erickson and Mr. Mason.

Approval of BET Meeting Minutes

Upon a motion by Mr. Drake, seconded by Ms. Moriarty, to approve the Minutes of the Regular BET Meeting of February 22, 2021, the Board voted 12-0-0.

Adjournment

Upon a motion by Ms. Erickson, seconded by Ms. Kreuzer, the Board voted 12-0-0 to adjourn the meeting at 7:29 P.M. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Catherine Sidor, Recording Secretary

William Drake, Clerk of the Board

Michael Mason, Chairman

The next Regular Meeting of the Board of Estimate and Taxation is on Monday, April 19, 2021 at 6:30 P.M.