



MINUTES of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Estimate and Taxation held on Tuesday, February 22, 2022 in a virtual Zoom webinar, Greenwich, CT.

Chairman Dan Ozizmir called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M.

Board members in attendance:

Dan Ozizmir, Chairman
Michael Basham, Vice Chairman
Nisha Arora, Clerk
William Drake
Laura Erickson
Karen Fassuliotis
Miriam Kreuzer
Leslie Moriarty
Jeffrey S. Ramer
Stephen Selbst
Leslie L. Tarkington
David Weisbrod

Staff: Lauren Elliott, Assessor; Department; Roland Gieger, Director, Budget & Systems Management, Finance Department; Blaize Levitan, Assistant Director, Parks & Recreation; Alan Monelli, Superintendent, Building Construction and Maintenance, Public Works Department; Peter Mynarski, Comptroller; Joseph Siciliano, Director, Parks & Recreation.

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Ozizmir asked for a moment of silence to recognize the passing of Alice P. Melly and her contributions to the Town as a member of the Representative Town Meeting, President of the Greenwich Library, a Director of the Greenwich Hospital, and member of the Board of Estimate and Taxation, where she served from 1992-2001, and was Chairman from 1998-2001.

Request for Budget Adjustments

NON-ROUTINE APPLICATIONS

<u>Number</u>	<u>Department</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Purpose</u>
PR-1	Parks & Recreation Z822 2002 22378	\$150,000	Release of Conditions Field Master Plan Design

Ms. Tarkington commented that the Parks & Recreation (P&R) requested the release of conditions on \$150,000 to continue work on the Field Master Plan based on fulfilling the Conditions of Release: Key Findings and the costs breakout of water table testing, soil sample testing and research for placement of drainage or the initial parks selected include: Upper Havemeyer, Moretti, Central Middle School sport field, Binney Park sport field and Eastern Greenwich Civic Center. The completion of this design phase would provide a baseline for each site and would allow prioritized based on findings. The Budget Committee voted 4-0-0. Motion carried.

Upon a motion by Mr. Ozizmir, seconded by Ms. Tarkington, to approve the Release of Conditions on \$150,000 for the P&R Field Master Plan Design, the Board voted 12-0-0. Motion carried.

PS-1	Parking Services	\$1,000,000	Release of Conditions
	G219 Various		Parking Services Budget

Ms. Tarkington reported that the Parking Department’s year-to-date financial statement had been approved by Mr. Gieger after adjusting Parking Service Operating and Capital Budgets. The Budget Committee voted 4-0-0. Motion carried.

Upon a motion by Mr. Ozizmir, seconded by Ms. Erickson, to approve the Release of Conditions on \$1,000,000 for the Parking Services Budget, the Board voted 12-0-0. Motion carried.

PW-2	Public Works	\$4,040,000	Additional Appropriation
	B345 56560 22326		Eastern Greenwich CC

Ms. Tarkington reported that even the lowest bid responding to the Eastern Greenwich Civic Center RFP had exceeded the original estimated costs by \$4 million. The Committee learned that requests by Planning & Zoning and the Architectural Review Board, as well as the supply chain cost increases were responsible for the higher cost beyond Public Works estimates. The Budget Committee voted 3-0-1 with Ms. Arora abstaining. Ms. Arora noted that her abstention at the Budget Committee was due to two reasons – first, that the bid for this proposal had gone out during the 3rd and 4th quarter of 2021 when supply/demand for certain materials including steel were at unprecedented highs. Second, Ms. Arora noted an item on the bid document for \$2.6MM site work did not have a public works estimate.

Upon a motion by Mr. Ozizmir, seconded by Ms. Tarkington, to approve the additional appropriation of \$4,040,000 for the rebuilding of the Eastern Greenwich Civic Center, the Board voted 12-0-0. Motion carried.

BET Members Fassuliotis, Moriarty, Selbst and Ozizmir expressed their thanks to Mr. Monelli on his upcoming retirement and expressed appreciation for his professionalism, knowledge, and contribution to the Town as Superintendent of Building Construction and Maintenance for the Department of Public Works.

FI-2	Finance Department	\$4,040,000	Authorizing Bonding Resolution
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Mr. Mynarski commented that the amount of the Bonding request will be bonded in January 2023. Ms. Tarkington reported that the Budget Committee voted 4-0-0.

Upon a motion by Ms. Moriarty, seconded by Ms. Tarkington, to authorize a Bonding Resolution of \$4,040,000 to finance the additional appropriation for the Eastern Greenwich Civic Center, the Committee, and the Board voted 12-0-0. Motion carried.

Upon a motion by Ms. Tarkington, seconded by Ms. Moriarty, to move the Board of Assessment Appeals from a Routine Application to a Non-Routine Application, the Board voted 12-0-0. Motion carried.

BA-1	Board of Assessment Appeals	\$3,500	Additional Appropriation
	A136 51300		Temporary Salaries

Ms. Tarkington remarked that the Chairman of the Board of Assessment Appeals, made a request for an additional appropriation of \$1,000 for temporary salaries for temporary salaries in anticipation of a higher volume of residential appeals during following the 2021 Grand List Residential Property Revaluation.

Upon an amended motion by Ms. Tarkington, seconded by Ms. Moriarty, to amend the appropriation from \$3,500 to \$4,500 for temporary salaries for Board of Assessment Appeals Hearings, the Board voted 12-0-0. Motion carried.

Upon an amended motion by Mr. Basham, seconded by Ms. Erickson, to approve an appropriation of \$4,500 for temporary salaries for Board of Assessment Appeals Hearings, 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 received 650 to 675 tax appeals for Hearings in March; Senior Tax Relief applications started to come in on February 1st and need to be returned by the deadline of May 16th, 2022. The Assessor suggested that the BAA adjustments could possibly be as much as \$220,000,000 but would likely not exceed 2015's revaluation adjustments of \$162,000,000. A member of the Committee asked if the Assessor had considered placing the application online in the Department's area on the Town's website. Ms. Elliott was commended by another Committee member for accomplishing the Grand List Revaluation without having to request an extension unlike the 2001, 2005, 2010 and 2015 Revaluations which all utilized the 30-day extension.

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 drew the Board's attention to topics in his written Report for possible discussion or questions: the importance of increasing residents' awareness of all of the Town's Capital Projects; as a result of a recent sale of MUNIS software, its name will become Enterprise

ERP (Enterprise Resource Planning) with an enhanced integrated application; the names of RFP responders for the new External Auditor 5-year contract will not be made public until the Audit Committee interviews the applicants and the Purchasing Department agrees. The incumbent's contract ends June 30, 2022; the history of the OPEB Trust Fund and recent changes were discussed. The OPEB Trust fund was initially formed by the town as a special revenue fund and run by BET members – it became a trust fund in January 2008 and formed its own board of four members. The OPEB trust Board has lost two members and can no longer assemble a quorum. While the OPEB Trust Board issue is unresolved, solutions are being explored. The Vanguard OICO for the Trust assumed investment responsibilities for the Trust Portfolio as of February 1, 2022.

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 Ms. Moriarty, the Board voted 12-0-0 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

No topic was scheduled for discussion.

NEW BUSINESS

- **2021 Annual Report**

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

Approval of BET Meeting Minutes

Upon a motion by Mr. Selbst, seconded by Ms. Tarkington, to approve the Minutes of the Regular BET Meeting held on January 18, 2022 as amended for two scribe's errors, the Board voted 12-0-0. Motion carried.

Chair's Report

Chairman Ozizmir thanked the Budget Committee, all Department heads, and staffs for the efforts made to accomplish presentations at the annual Departmental Hearings. He noted that the Board may be asked for additional interim appropriations to address Central Middle School repairs from the Board of Education. This is due to the findings from the engineering report that cited potential safety concerns at Central Middle School. These interim requests would require special meetings – first with Budget Committee on Monday, February 28, and then with the full BET Tuesday, March 1st.

Adjournment

Upon a motion by Ms. Kreuzer, seconded by Mr. Basham, the Board voted 12-0-0 to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 P.M. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Catherine Sidor, Recording Secretary

Nisha Arora, Clerk of the Board

Dan Ozizmir, Chairman

The next Regular Meeting of the Board of Estimate and Taxation is on Thursday, March 24, 2022 at 6:30 P.M. and will be either virtual, a hybrid or in-person meeting depending on COVID-19 status.