



MINUTES of the Special Meeting of the Board of Estimate and Taxation held on Tuesday, March 29, 2022 in the Town Hall Meeting Room, and with a Zoom link for the Public, Greenwich, CT.

Chairman Dan Ozizmir called the meeting to order at 9:15 A.M.

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

Staff: Aamina Ahmad, Assistant Town Attorney, Legal Department; Shira Davis, Executive Assistant to the Comptroller, Finance Department; Roland Gieger, Director, Budget & Systems Management, Finance Department; Peter Mynarski, Comptroller

Other: Don Conway, GCTV

Call to Order

Chairman Ozizmir introduced the Special BET meeting as an opportunity to discuss and vote on the Board's second read of recommended allocations of the American Rescue Plan Act.

Upon a motion by Mr. Ramer, seconded by Ms. Tarkington, to open the discussion, the BET voted 12-0-0. Motion carried.

1. ARPA as recommended by the Budget Committee

<u>ARPA Grant</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Purpose</u>
	\$31,399,117	Additional Appropriation American Rescue Plan Grant

- **Affordable Housing**

Upon a motion by Mr. Ramer, seconded by Mr. Selbst, to amend the appropriation to Affordable Housing by restoring it to \$1.8 million.

Ms. Moriarty began the general discussion by reminding the BET that the intent of the ARPA was to benefit sectors of the economy that had been negatively impacted by the pandemic and are not specifically addressed in the budget. The intent of allocations was to restore economic equity. Elements considered included: establishing eligibility, examining project timing, accountability and how the funds could be conditioned so that if not spent, could be reallocated to other projects rather than be returned to the Federal Treasury.

Ms. Ahmad remarked that to condition release of funds, a Declaration of Trust and a recommended minimum amount be granted to belong to the Trust. Mitigation of risk was considered because the Board was responsible for compliance. It was suggested that the Trust Agreement could be amended to include: conditioning and adding an Ordinance; Qualifications of expertise and discretion were proposed for the Trust's Trustees; responsibilities included selection criteria, defining the application process and auditing standards for the allocation's results.

The Board adjourned to separate Caucuses at 10:38 to return at 11:00 A.M.

Mr. Ramer made a motion, seconded by Mr. Selbst to withdraw the motion on the table.

1. Upon a motion by Ms. Moriarty, seconded by Mr. Weisbrod, to confirm the establishment of the Trust and condition the release of funds under the following terms:

Condition \$1,100,000 of the allocation for the Affordable Housing Trust upon:

1. Confirmation by the Trust that the use of funds shall be those eligible under the American Rescue Plan Act Final Rule; and
2. By 8/31/24, the Trust shall give notice to the BET of any funds that will not be committed by 12/31/24 and expended by 12/31/26, and any such funds shall be restored to the Town and shall be available for reallocation
3. establishment by trust of reporting and documentation requirements and access for required audits to substantiate compliance with American Rescue Plan Act Final Rule
4. confirmation of amendment to the Declaration of Trust to return unused ARP Act funds which will not be committed by December 31, 2024 and/or expended by December 31, 2026.

2. Upon a motion to amend the motion on the floor by Ms. Fassuliotis, seconded by Ms. Tarkington to amend the conditions proposed as:

Condition \$1,100,000 of the allocation for the Affordable Housing Trust upon

1. confirmation by the Trust that the use of funds shall be those eligible under the American Rescue Plan Act Final Rule;

2. By 8/31/24, the Trust shall give notice to the BET of any funds that will not be committed by 12/31/24 and expended by 12/31/26, and any such funds shall be restored to the Town and shall be available for reallocation;
 3. establishment of reporting and documentation requirements and access for required audits to substantiate compliance with American Rescue Plan Act Final Rule;
 4. confirmation of amendment to the Declaration of Trust to return unused ARP Act funds which will not be committed by December 31, 2024 and/or expended by December 31, 2026; and
 5. the release of \$600,000 is conditioned upon the Trust raising a matching amount up to \$600,000 by December 31st, 2023
3. Upon a motion to amend the motion on the floor by Mr. Ozizmir, seconded by Mr. Drake to amend the conditions proposed as:

Condition \$1,100,000 of the allocation for the Affordable Housing Trust upon

1. confirmation by the Trust that the use of funds shall be those eligible under the American Rescue Plan Act Final Rule;
2. By 8/31/24, the Trust shall give notice to the BET of any funds that will not be committed by 12/31/24 and expended by 12/31/26, and any such funds shall be restored to the Town and shall be available for reallocation;
3. establishment of reporting and documentation requirements and access for required audits to substantiate compliance with American Rescue Plan Act Final Rule;
4. confirmation of amendment to the Declaration of Trust to return unused ARP Act funds which will not be committed by December 31, 2024 and/or expended by December 31, 2026; and
5. the second \$550,000 shall be released dollar for dollar upon the Trust raising a matching amount up to \$550,000

The BET voted 7-5-0. (Opposed: Erickson, Selbst, Moriarty, Ramer, Weisbrod). Motion carried.

4. Upon a motion to reconsider, offered by Ms. Kreuzer, seconded by Mr. Ramer, to reconsider the matching amount (#5 in the approved condition) be amended to
400,000 shall be released dollar for dollar upon the Trust raising a matching amount up to \$400,000

The BET voted 8-4-0. (Opposed: Fassuliotis, Arora, Tarkington, Ozizmir) Motion to reconsider carried.

5. Upon a motion to extend meeting from 12PM to 12:30PM offered by Ms. Fassuliotis, seconded by Mr. Ozizmir. Approved by unanimous vote.
6. Upon a motion to extend meeting from 12PM to 1PM offered by Ms. Tarkington, seconded by Mr. Ozizmir. Approved by unanimous vote.
7. Upon a motion to amend offered by Mr. Ozizmir, seconded by Mr. Drake to amend the matching amount (#5 in approved condition) be amended to

450,000 shall be released dollar for dollar upon the Trust raising a matching amount up to \$450,000

The BET voted 8-4-0. (Opposed: Erickson, Moriarty, Weisbrod, Fassuliotis) Motion carried.

8. Upon the amended motion as amended, Mr. Ozizmir, made a motion seconded by Ms. Arora

Condition \$1,100,000 of the allocation for the Affordable Housing Trust upon

1. confirmation by the Trust that the use of funds shall be those eligible under the American Rescue Plan Act Final Rule;
2. By 8/31/24, the Trust shall give notice to the BET of any funds that will not be committed by 12/31/24 and expended by 12/31/26, and any such funds shall be restored to the Town and shall be available for reallocation;
3. establishment of reporting and documentation requirements and access for required audits to substantiate compliance with American Rescue Plan Act Final Rule;
4. confirmation of amendment to the Declaration of Trust to return unused ARP Act funds which will not be committed by December 31, 2024 and/or expended by December 31, 2026; and
5. \$450,000 shall be released dollar for dollar upon the Trust raising a matching amount up to \$450,000

The BET voted 8-4-0. (Opposed: Erickson, Moriarty, Weisbrod, Fassuliotis) Motion carried.

- **BOE/GPS Various School HVAC**

Mr. Ozizmir indicated we would come back to this item, indicating the allocation to School HVAC would be increasing after other potential cuts.

- **LIBRARY**

Upon a motion by Ms. Tarkington, seconded by Mr. Ozizmir, to delete \$100,000 from the ARPA allocation for antimicrobial ionization. The Board voted 7-6-0. (Opposed Erickson, Selbst, Kreuzer, Ramer, Weisbrod, Moriarty) Motion carried.

- **Nathaniel Witherell HVAC**

Upon a motion by Mr. Drake, seconded by Mr. Basham, to remove \$950 thousand for HVAC and reallocate the funds to GPS HVAC projects, which are higher priority. The BET voted 7-6-0. (Opposed: Erickson, Selbst, Kreuzer, Moriarty, Ramer, Weisbrod). Motion carried.

- **LIBRARY HVAC**

Upon a motion by Ms. Tarkington, seconded by Ms. Arora, to add \$325 thousand for HVAC to the Library, the BET voted 8-3-1. (Opposed: Erickson, Weisbrod, Selbst) (Abstain: Kreuzer)

- **BOE/GPS HVAC**

Upon a motion by Mr. Ozizmir, seconded by Ms. Tarkington, to add \$725,000 to School HVAC for a total of \$7,965,503 HVAC budget, the BET voted 7-6-0. (Opposed: Erickson, Selbst, Kreuzer, Moriarty, Ramer, Weisbrod). Motion carried.

Upon a motion by Ms. Arora, seconded by Mr. Ozizmir, to suballocate \$7,965,503 HVAC budget across various GPS projects as recommended in the FY23 budget as below:

ARP HVAC Allocations by GPS¹		
	School	FY23 HVAC
1	Cos Cob	\$293,000
2	CMS	\$20,000
3	Havemeyer	\$18,000
4	EMS	\$200,000
5	Glenville	\$264,000
6	Hamilton Ave	\$243,000
7	ISD	\$792,000
8	Julian Curtiss ²	\$1,815,503
9	New Lebanon	\$245,000
10	North Mianus	\$243,000
11	Old Greenwich	\$20,000
12	Riverside	\$243,000
13	GHS ³	\$3,569,000
TOTAL ARP HVAC Allocations		\$7,965,503

¹FY23 Recommended Capital Budget, Project Name: HVAC

²FY23 Recommended Capital Budget, Project Name: HVAC (JC Partial - FY25)

³FY23 Recommended Capital Budget, Project Name: HVAC - GHS

Specifically, Julian Curtiss HVAC would receive an allocation to ensure that the project was accelerated to FY23 from FY25, which was the requested BOE capital proposal.

Upon a motion by Ms. Moriarty, seconded by Mr. Weisbrod, to make an amendment to reallocate \$6.8 Million to Western Middle School, \$200,000 to Eastern Middle School, \$243,000 to North Mianus and the remaining amount to the Greenwich High School project.

There were discussions on the two different suballocations. Mr. Ozizmir suggested both motions be withdrawn and allow the allocations to be considered in the future. It was also recommended the existing allocations provided in the CIP sheet be deleted.

Ms. Arora withdrew her motion.

Ms. Moriarty withdrew her amendment.

Upon a motion by Mr. Ozizmir, seconded by Mr. Ramer, to remove sub-allocations on the CIP sheet, the BET voted 9-3-0. (Opposed: Erickson, Fassuliotis, Selbst). Motion carried.

- **Related Areas of Focus**

Upon on a motion by Ms. Kreuzer, seconded by Ms. Moriarty, to increase the First Selectman's Human Services Department budget by \$140,750 to \$1,000,000 and allocate the additional funds for the BANC school program, Client financial assistance, Tech Connect and decrease the GHS remediation project by same amount. The BET voted 6-6-0. (Opposed: Arora, Basham, Drake, Fassuliotis, Ozizmir, Tarkington). Motion failed.

Upon a motion by Ms. Moriarty, seconded by Mr. Ramer, to provide the 5 subaccounts in the DHS budget the flexibility to move funds within the five subaccounts as needed. There is no change to the total DHS budget of \$859,250. The BET voted 12-0-0. Motion carried.

- **Respond to Negative Economic Impact**

Upon a motion by Ms. Kreuzer, seconded by Mr. Selbst, to increase non-profit funding by \$150 thousand for the YWCA Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence program.

Ms. Kreuzer commented that the community does not have a program supporting victims of sexual assault and that those in need are sent to a Stamford program serving a large geographic area. Ms. Arora made a comment of why she was not supportive of increasing nonprofit funding to allocate to the YWCA. Specifically, Ms. Arora noted that the YWCA is: 1) a well-funded organization, with a \$22 million balance sheet, and a \$12 million endowment, and spends less than 20% of their operating expense on domestic abuse programs, 2) the YWCA was successful in accessing federal COVID programs, receiving close to \$1.5MM through the Paychex Protection Program while many of our other community nonprofits got much smaller, if any, allocations and finally 3) which was most concerning that the organization appears to be spending a lot of resources on political advocacy on issues contentious in our community, including supporting 8-30g and transit oriented development. The BET voted 6-6-0. (Opposed: Arora, Basham, Drake, Fassuliotis, Ozizmir, Tarkington). Motion failed.

- **Vote on the ARP Fund allocations**

Upon a motion on the American Rescue Plan Act items as amended, the Board voted 7-4-1. (Opposed: Erickson, Selbst, Moriarty, Weisbrod. Abstain: Kreuzer)

Adjournment

Upon a motion to adjourn by Ms. Erickson and seconded by Ms. Fassuliotis, the Board voted 12-0. The meeting was adjourned at 1:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Catherine Sidor, Recording Secretary

Nisha Arora, Clerk of the Board

Dan Ozizmir, Chairman

SUBJECT TO APPROVAL