



MINUTES of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Estimate and Taxation held on Monday, February 22, 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

Selectmen: Jill K. Oberlander, Select-person

RTM: Nancy Better, (D-11); Janet McMahon, (D-8)

BOE/GPS: Peter Bernstein, Chair, Greenwich Board of Education (BOE); Joe Kelly, Member, BOE; Sean O'Keefe, Chief Operating Officer

Public: Ken Borsuk, Reporter, *Greenwich Time*; Clare Kilgallen, Parent, New Lebanon School; Horst Tebbe, GCTV; James Waters, Parent, GPS

### **Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance**

### **Request for Budget Adjustment**

### **ROUTINE APPLICATIONS**

<u>Number</u>	<u>Department</u>	<u>Purpose</u>
<b>ED-8</b>	<b>BOE</b>	<b>Release of Conditions</b>
\$1,731,000		Cardinal Stadium Phase 1

Mr. O’Keefe requested the release of conditions on \$1,731,000 for the completion of Cardinal Stadium Phase 1 based on receipt of Municipal Improvement (MI) status. A member of the BET commented that the Town Charter referred to a 30-day period after approval of MI status when the public could challenge the MI decision.

Ms. Moriarty made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ramer, to separate the two routine applications ED-8 from PS-1. The BET voted 12-0-0. Motion carried.

The Board voted 12-0-0 to approve the Motion as presented by the Budget Committee releasing conditions on \$1,731,000 for upon no challenge to the MI status before the challenge period expiration. Motion carried.

<b>PS-1</b>	<b>Parking Services</b>	<b>Release of Conditions</b>
\$1,000,000		Parking Services Budget

Upon a motion by Mr. Drake, seconded by Ms. Tarkington, to approve the release of conditions on the Parking Services \$1,000,000 appropriation, 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 acknowledgement that the 2020 Grand List was signed on January 27, 2021, prior to the deadline of January 28, 2021; 103 Appeals to the new tax assessments for Board of Assessment Hearings were received, 97 residential, 6 commercial and 0 for personal property. The real estate portion of the 2020 Grand List, the gross assessment increased to \$32,196,378,290, up from \$31,978,359,250 on October 1, 2019 Grand List. This reflects a gross taxable real estate increase of \$218,019,040 over last year’s gross taxable real estate. The total increase of the 2020 Grand List to the 2019 Grand list is \$257,061,003, assuming an estimated reduction to the Grand List by the BAA of \$45,000,000. Appeals Hearings will be held in March 2021.

Upon a motion by Mr. Ramer, seconded by Ms. Tarkington, 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. He was scheduled to provide a presentation on the Town’s finances to the BET Budget Committee Departmental Hearing the following day. Mr. Mynarski commented that blumshapiro, (an outside auditing firm now as Clifton Larsen Allen) was engaged to provide six audits to begin upon the completion and approval of the five FY21 audits underway. In response to a question from a BET member, Mr. Mynarski responded that revenues from credit card transactions were higher due to the increased volume of credit card use.

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 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**

No topic was scheduled for discussion.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

- **Approval of the Annual Report**

Chairman Mason introduced the topic commenting on the increased interest in the presentation of the Annual Report. Mr. Mynarski extended thanks to Ms. Elaine Brown for compiling it for 15 years before retiring and to her recent replacement, Ms. Shira Davis, for compiling this year's edition. Mr. Mynarski requested the postponement of voting on approval of the document for one month until comments and edits are inserted. In the interim, the draft will be posted on the web site.

Upon a motion by Ms. Erickson, seconded by Mr. Ramer, to postpone voting on approval of the Annual Report to the next meeting, the Board voted 12-0-0. Motion carried.

- **Engagement Letter for Outside Audit Services – (Clifton Larson Allen)**

As noted earlier in the meeting, Mr. Mynarski reported that an engagement letter had been provided by blumshapiro (now Clifton Larson Allen: CLA) as outside auditors to complete six audits in FY2022. After the Town was not able to hire a replacement for the Internal Auditor, blumshapiro had been engaged in FY2021 to proceed with five outstanding audits. Their work was found to be quite satisfactory. The Audit Committee had approved the next six audits and the CLA engagement letter.

The Board voted 12-0-0 to approve the Engagement Letter with CLA to complete six audits as outside auditors. Motion carried.

## **Chairman's Report**

Chairman Mason updated the BET on the following topics:

- The Governor is extending the Executive Order to hold virtual meetings through April 2021. BET Budget Workshop March 20 and BET Decision Day April 1 will be held as Hybrid Virtual & Town Hall meetings. Whether the BET Public Hearing of March 29, 2021 will be a virtual meeting is yet to be determined.
- A Resolution is being prepared for a draft ordinance to go to the RTM for a Housing Trust Fund which would be a vehicle for private donations and potential other revenue as a source of gap financing for projects seeking to add affordable housing units to the Town's inventory. Separately, P&Z is working on a plan to increase affordable housing and will be seeking a moratorium from the State with respect to meeting the 10% required to avoid 8-30(g) exemptions to TOG zoning regulations. The Greenwich League of Women Voters will hold a Zoom virtual dialogue with the Board of Education on March 1.

## **Approval of BET Meeting Minutes**

Upon a motion by Ms. Moriarty, seconded by Mr. Duus, to approve the Minutes of the Regular BET Meeting of December 15, 2020, the Board voted 12-0-0. Motion carried.

Upon a motion by Ms. Moriarty, seconded by Mr. Duus, to approve the Minutes of the Special Meeting and Executive Session on January 25, 2021 the Board voted 12-0-0. Motion carried.

Upon a motion by Ms. Moriarty, seconded by Mr. Duus, to approve the Minutes of the Regular BET Meeting on January 25, 2021, the Board voted 12-0-0. Motion carried.

Upon a motion by Ms. Moriarty, seconded by Mr. Duus. to approve the Minutes of the Special Meeting and Public Hearing of the Fire Study on January 28, 2021, the Board voted 11-0-1 (Abstain: Hess).

## **Adjournment**

Upon a motion by Ms. Fassuliotis, seconded by Mr. Weisbrod, the Board voted 12-0-0 to adjourn the meeting at 7:38 P.M. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,



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Catherine Sidor, Recording Secretary



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William Drake, Clerk of the Board



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Michael Mason, Chairman

The next Regular Meeting of the Board of Estimate and Taxation is on Monday, March 15, 2021 at 6:30 P.M.