



MINUTES of the regular meeting of the Board of Estimate and Taxation held on Monday, March 16, 2020, in the Town Hall Meeting Room, Town Hall, Greenwich, CT.

Michael Mason, BET Chairman, called the meeting to order at 6:36 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 (by Telephone)
Miriam Kreuzer (by Telephone)
Leslie Moriarty
Jeffrey S. Ramer (by Telephone)
Leslie L. Tarkington
David Weisbrod (by Telephone)

Staff: Lauren Elliott, Assessor; Roland Gieger, Budget Director; Vincent Marino, Town Attorney; Peter Mynarski, Comptroller

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

Public: Ken Borsuk, Reporter, *Greenwich Time*; David Chass, Vice President, Round Hill Volunteer Fire Station

The Chairman welcomed BET Members, Town staff and members of the public and requested a Motion to Suspend the Rules in order that the BET members calling in by telephone could participate and to add an item to the Agenda.

Upon a motion by Mr. Mason, seconded by Ms. Erickson, the Board voted 8-0-0 to Suspend Rules for all BET members to participate in voting for 30 Days and add an item to the Agenda. Motion carried.

Mr. Mason invited Mr. Marino to introduce himself to the audience as the new Town Attorney. Mr. Marino commented on his experience practicing municipal law and looks forward to leading the Town Law Department. Attorney Marino also discussed the creation of his new law firm Marino, Zabel & Schellenberg consisting of partners who recently split off from the law firm of Cohen & Wolf.

Mr. Mason asked First Selectman Camillo to present to the BET his office’s proposal to join a Public/Private Partnership. Mr. Camillo asked the BET to approve \$100,000 of seed money to participate in an emergency fund which is being discussed and negotiated between the Greenwich United Way and some private citizens. First Selectman Camillo remarked the group was hoping to raise up to \$5 million. The Town Attorney was asked and gave his opinion that the funds requested could be allocated under the emergency provisions of Section 28 of the Town Charter. The Board discuss the limitation and restrictions of various appropriation methods and concluded that a contribution could be made quickly through the First Selectman’s Office.

Upon a motion by Ms. Moriarty, seconded by Ms. Hess, the Board voted 12-0-0 to add an item to the Agenda to vote on the First Selectman’s request for \$100,000 to participate in the Public/Private Partnership for Emergency aid for residents due to the health emergency. Motion carried.

Upon a motion by Ms. Moriarty, seconded by Ms. Hess, the Board voted 12-0-0 to appropriate \$100,000 to participate in the Public/Private Partnership for emergency aid to Town residents due to the current health emergency. Motion carried.

Ms. Fassuliotis proposed an amendment to the motion that read, “Under the emergency powers granted to the BET by Section 28 of the Town Charter, motion to approve \$100,000 as an appropriation to an Emergency Fund through the First Selectman’s Office to address the emergency needs associated with the Town’s public health emergency.” Motion seconded by Mr. Drake. The Board voted 12-0-0 in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

Upon a motion by Ms. Fassuliotis, seconded by Mr. Drake, the Board voted 12-0-0 to approve the amended motion to appropriate \$100,000 for an Emergency Fund to address the Town’s health emergency needs associated with the Coronavirus. Motion carried.

The First Selectmen updated the BET on several emergency measures to be in place until April 3rd including closing Town Hall to the Public except by appointment, closing of Civic Centers and playgrounds but leaving the Tennis and Paddleball Courts temporarily open. Rotating staff and Department heads designating critical staff was discussed at the OFS weekly meeting for implementation until further notice.

REQUESTS FOR BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS

Mr. Mason asked the BET Clerk to move the Routine Applications for Budget Adjustments:

ROUTINE APPLICATIONS

<u>Number</u>	<u>Department</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Purpose</u>
PD-2	Police	\$29,988	Approval to Use Overtime Services & Benefits
FD-1	Fire Department	\$800,000	Release of Conditions

ED-10	BOE	\$1,055,000	Release of Conditions Cardinal Field Improvement
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Upon a motion by Mr. Drake, seconded by Ms. Tarkington, the Board voted 12-0-0 to approve the ROUTINE Applications. Motion carried.

ASSESSOR'S REPORT

In the absence of the Assessor (currently self-quarantined), the Liaisons to the Assessor's Office, Mr. Mason and Ms. Moriarty, provided highlights of her written report commenting that the Board of Assessment Appeals (BAA) process was completed with determination of assessed value settlements concluded for a lesser amount of reduction to the Grand List than previous year. Due to the Town health emergency, the possibility of delaying or suspending the ReVal is being considered.

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

COMPTROLLER'S REPORT

The Comptroller commented that the Finance Department is continuing to provide numerous analytical and informational reports to assist the BET and BET Budget Committee during its Budget deliberations and public hearings. He noted that a potential refunding opportunity has arisen on Sewer, Nathaniel Witherell and Sewer Assessment Debt. The net present value is being analyzed to ensure that savings would be more than 3% before a Resolution is drafted to present to the BET on April 2, and thereafter to the RTM. The Fire Study process has proceeded with the assistance of Mr. Branyan, and a draft is expected in May and a final version will be ready in June. Due to the Town health emergency, there is a possibility of delayed results of the Fire Study and realigning the priorities of the original schedule of internal audits.

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 Mr. Duus, the Board voted 11-0-1 (Abstained: Krumeich) to accept the Treasurer's Report. Motion carried.

BET Standing Committee Reports - No Standing Committee Reports were scheduled.

BET Liaison Reports - No Liaison Reports were scheduled.

BET Special Project Team Reports - No Special Project Team Reports were scheduled.

OLD BUSINESS

- **BET Schedule**

Mr. Mason reminded the BET that the Public Hearing on the Budget is scheduled in 12 days. Given the State regulations in place as a result of the statewide health emergency, large gatherings are prohibited and an 8:00 P.M. curfew is in effect. Live broadcast may satisfy the legal requirement but technical arrangements are still being finalized.

NEW BUSINESS

- **M/C Salary – Benefit Schedules for FY20-21**

Ms. Fassuliotis reported that the BET HR Committee considered a 2% increase in the M&C Compensation Pool and recommend a salary increase based on the following principles:

- Receive the maximum increase for consistently going beyond standard expectations and standing out as a performance leader and/or demonstrating performance in a special role or project. An employee who meets either or both of these criteria and does so in an exceptional manner to receive the maximum increase.
- An employee who meets either or both of these criteria and does so in an excellent manner to receive the maximum increase less 0.5%.
- An employee who meets expectations to receive the maximum increase less 1.0%.
- An employee who does not meet expectations shall not be eligible for a salary increase.
- Increase the contribution to health benefits from 10% to 12.5%.

Ms. Moriarty proposed an amendment to the increase the M&C salary pool by 2.25% based on the same tiered pool and reduce the employee healthcare benefit contribution to a 1% increase. Motion seconded by Mr. Ramer. The BET voted 7-5-0 (Opposed: Duus, Drake, Fassuliotis, Hess, Tarkington). Motion carried.

Ms. Moriarty made a motion to approve the amended motion, seconded by Mr. Ramer to increase the M&C salary pool by 2.25% with a 1% increase to 11% for healthcare contribution. The BET voted 8-4-0 (Opposed: Duus, Fassuliotis, Hess, Tarkington). Motion carried.

- **Registrars of Voters Salary for FY20-21 & FY21-22 (Elected Term)**

Ms. Fassuliotis reported that the HR Committee voted to increase the salary from \$38,000 each to \$52,000 and discontinue the stipends previously paid for non-General Elections

Ms. Moriarty proposed an amendment to the Registrars of Voters salaries to be \$40,000 for the first year of the elected term and \$42,000 for the second year with stipends of \$1,500 paid for to each Registrar for each Primaries and Special Elections. Motion seconded by Mr. Ramer. The BET voted 10-2-0 (Opposed: Erickson, Fassuliotis). Motion carried.

Ms. Moriarty made a motion to approve the amended motion, seconded by Mr. Ramer, to amend the salaries of the Registrars of Voters to be \$40,000 each for FY20-21, and \$42,000 each for FY21-22 with Stipends of \$1,500 paid to each for Primaries and Special Elections. Motion seconded by Mr. Ramer. The BET voted 10-2-0 (Opposed: Erickson, Fassuliotis). Motion carried.

- **Coronavirus Update** - Update and discussion previously with Mr. Camillo.

Chair's Report

Mr. Mason thanked the Finance Department and BET members for their dedicated participation. Mr. Weisbrod expressed his appreciation to Mr. Mason for the leadership in the unusual and challenging circumstances created by the health emergency.

Approval of BET Meeting Minutes

- Approve of the BET Meeting Minutes of February 24, 2020

Upon a motion by Mr. Ramer, seconded by Mr. Mason, the Board voted 11-0-1 (Abstain: Fassuliotis) to approve the Minutes of the Regular BET Meeting held on February 24, 2020 as amended. Motion carried.

Adjournment

Upon a motion by Mr. Weisbrod, seconded by Ms. Kreuzer, the Board voted 12-0-0 to adjourn the meeting at 7:52 P.M. Motion carried.

The next Regular Meeting of the Board of Estimate and Taxation is on Monday, April 20, 2020.

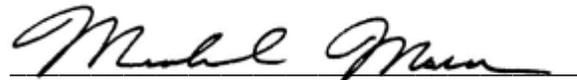
Respectfully submitted,



Catherine Sidor, Recording Secretary



William Drake, Clerk of the Board



Michael Mason, Chairman